

GODS' TIME CAPSULE



GODS" determined plan for the Ages by Mark Krysiuk

But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the scroll until the end of time. Many will go back and forth *and* search anxiously [through the scroll], and knowledge [of the purpose of God as revealed by His prophets] will [greatly] increase."

Daniel 12:4 Amp.



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We are all locked into a time structure that we must live out our earthly days in. Even the forces of darkness have been sealed in this inescapable time capsule. But the God of heaven has shown us how it will unfold and what to look for. He opens the eyes of those who, with childlike faith trust Him. The book of Hebrews gives us the definition of how to live in this time capsule. It is the biblical definition of faith. It is defined as THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN. It is a tangible SUBSTANCE if we live in that reality and there is indisputable EVIDENCE that manifests itself in this natural world if we know what to look for. If we are looking with the eyes of faith, we will see that it is a masterful plan that requires us to simply believe what he said. We must "live by faith." Living in simple childlike faith just the way He set it up, is the most powerful and carefree way to live, so let's begin our journey as we discover the realities and eternal benefits of GOD'S TIME CAPSULE. Mark Krysiuk

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Introduction

In the digital age in which we live, the age which has given us unprecedented access to untold volumes of information that exist on the planet, you would think that there would be a flood of reason, common sense and truth emerging from the Christian community during these times. And with all of the events that are taking place including major shifts in governmental policies, artificial Intelligence, worldwide social unrest as well as behaviors that defy common sense, it would seem logical that many would begin to contemplate where we are heading and begin a serious study of what was, what is and what is to come. Yet for some reason it seems as though much of the organized Christian world has very little desire to know the undeniable truths contained in the prophecies that have been put forth and fulfilled since the Hebrew prophets penned them centuries ago. The facts are staggering but everyday church going people at large seem to have little or no interest in recognizing the value of the dílígent study of eschatology. Many ask" can you prove the prophecies of the bible are true?" and to that I give a resounding "absolutely" and much of history verifies it.

Any honest seeker of truth has to study the facts as they are presented with an unbiased eye and a willingness to accept facts that have been tested and proven to be valid. Many in today's society immediately put up a wall when it comes to the topic of these prophecies of the ancient Hebrew prophets. The plain fact of the matter is that there are so many historical and biblical examples of serious men of God and their quest to know and understand these

scriptures and how God applauded such efforts that if you just read the text, which I assume any honest fact seeking Christian would do, it is hard to deny the validity of their content. In fact, Jesus himself in the gospel of Luke chapter 19 verses 43 and 44 told his generation that their demise was at hand because they did not know the hour of their visitation. Whether we want to believe that or not history shows that their demise did come just as he predicted. The truth is if they had been studying the writings of the prophets, they would have known that indeed the time of the suffering savior had come. There were very clear and precise predictions regarding His arrival and mission. They could have easily tested his credentials against what was predicted and determined if he truly was the predicted suffering savior. Jesus said many times "be ye not deceived" but how can people "not be deceived" unless they know where to find these truths or how to discern the hour in which they live? Some of the 'great men of our day have rightly said that we are living in a time that the bible has more to say about than any other time period mentioned in history including the times that Jesus walked the earth. A clear study of the prophetic scriptures will bear this out. Daniel the prophet was greatly beloved of God and was a student of eschatology. In the 9th chapter of Daniel, verse 2 he says that he had understood from the prophecies in Jeremiah the times that were determined upon Jerusalem. That means he studied eschatology and was expecting things to occur. The apostles were looking for the messiah when Jesus showed up in Israel. It would seem that they were aware of the scriptures regarding eschatology and were looking for his appearance. John the Baptist was expecting him when he sent his followers to ask Jesus "are you the one or should we look for

¹ Chuck Missler

another?" A greatly beloved disciple of the New Testament was the apostle John and he ended up writing the book of revelation. A book in which God promises a special ²blessing unto those who read <u>and</u> <u>take heed of its contents</u> or those who study eschatology.

I have spent the better part of my life studying these last day's bible prophecies and have not just studied them but tested their validity and found them to be amazingly accurate. Lately as I look out unto the world at large, I am beginning to notice that there is a hidden group with heightened curiosity regarding the writings of the ancient prophets and what they foretold was to come in the final days. It would seem the time is ripe for a plain sense clear explanation of what it is that we are currently living through. People are sensing that we are on the precipice of something, but they don't know where to turn for answers. So, it is incumbent upon those of us that see this need to fill the void if you will, by laying out the things that have been revealed in a clear and undeniable fashion in order to ignite a fire in the people of the world and stir up the smoldering ashes of a once on fire truth seeking Christian community.

One of the best ways to bring this out is to look at it through the hourglass of time. It seemed obvious to me that in order for some of the scriptural events that have come to pass to have happened exactly as predicted by the God of the bible, who has given us the information before it happened in striking detail, he must have been outside of what we know as time. In other words, as we understand time on a linear line God must have the entire line in front of him and he is able to know the end from the beginning so to speak. After some study I found that in the beginning Adam and Eve, before the fall had

² Rev. 1:3

no age or real time constraints. There was no real time at that point; they just walked with God in timeless eternity in the cool of the day. After the fall it seems that not only humanity alone, but Satan also was locked into a time capsule or time dimension with a beginning and an end, that would seem to be the very thing that would bring his kingdom its final defeat. So, humanity was removed from the timeless garden; Man's years were numbered and Satan's effort to rebel against the Almighty and to exalt himself to the status of God was limited to a determined time frame.

There is much to be gained by understanding the time capsule which we live in and the titanic struggle that is happening beyond the veil of this dimension. It becomes apparent as you dig deeper that God has also purposely closed the door for us to physically see into the supernatural dimension of spirits and does not give us easy access to breach that barrier. Satan and his cohorts on the other hand have made every effort to come from the other side of their spiritual dimension in defiance of God, to deceive and influence those they can from the human race to act in rebellion against the creator willingly or unwillingly. At first thought you might say, "Why has God limited my ability to see into the very realm that has celestial beings in it who are trying to cause my demise?" But what you will find as we begin this journey is a masterful plan that will yield everlasting benefits and seal the fate of our adversary in such a final way that there will be no chance of it ever resurrecting in eternities to come. A plan that on the surface seems unfair but is designed to cause us to simply trust that the God of the bible, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is well aware of what is happening and has always had a plan to deal with it. Not only does he have a plan, but he created the entire scenario to show us what a loving God he is. Although we live inside

this time capsule, God is asking us to put the energy and focus of our lives on living outside the time capsule in timeless eternity just as He explains it to us solely by trusting that what He tells us is reality. The book of Hebrews gives us the definition of living like this. It is the biblical definition of faith. It is defined as THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN. It is a tangible SUBSTANCE if we live in that reality and there is undisputable EVIDENCE that manifests itself in this natural world if we know what to look for. If we are looking with the eyes of faith, we will see that it is a masterful plan that requires us to simply believe what he said. We must "live by faith." Living in simple childlike faith just the way He set it up is the most powerful and carefree way to live, so let's begin our journey to discover the realities and eternal benefits of GOD'S TIME CAPSULE.

Mark Krysíuk

Chapter 1

The Times of the Gentiles

Within the capsule of time that God has set in motion for the human race there are many different time frames that have proven to be accurate and predictable. As we examine the big picture what we can see is that God has laid out time frames for certain groups of people and that he has communicated to us well in advance so that we would be assured that he knows the end from the beginning and has been gracious enough to tell us what will happen before it happens so that we can rely on His word. No other book or God can claim such a thing. He has spread these prophecies out over many centuries so we would see His omniscient ways. You see humans have a tendency to think that the generation that they live in is the only one that matters when in reality God has been working to bring his plan of redemption to completion for generations and the generation we live in now is only one part of that plan. Granted it may be one of the most exciting generations to live in but without the groundwork that has been laid throughout the ages past we would have no prophecies or biblical proof to rely on.

What we are going to look at here is the time frame of the unbelieving nations of the world that is still ongoing today as are the other groups that we will see. It is what the bible calls "the times of the gentiles". What we need to first establish is that God has certain groups of people on the earth. One of those groups is the nation of Israel and the Jewish people, another is the unbelieving world called gentiles. There is a third group (The church) that has been taken out of both groups, but we will explain these group's time frames later. For now, what we will look at is a group of people called gentiles that are outside of Gods people Israel. When Gods' people turned from him, he revealed a time frame for the unbelieving world to be set over the earth. In the book of Daniel, he lays out the history, (in advance) of all these gentile nations that will rule the world until the coming of the messiah to reign from David's throne in Jerusalem. The prophecy of these kingdoms or nations has been so accurate that none can deny that it has happened to the letter until this present day and for anyone to think that the final pieces of this prophecy will not happen as stated would be to put it mildly "not logical". Within this prophecy in the book of Daniel is another time frame for the nation of Israel that is marked out to the day, but we will go over this in greater detail later on.

So, let's look at these scriptures in Daniel that have so clearly laid out this history of gentile nations and the fulfillment of these prophesies. This particular prophecy can be found in Daniel chapter 2.

To set the stage we need to look at the history of the nation of Israel. As we will see looking back at history God has predicted things that will happen in the future and sent His prophets to deliver the message to His people. It is one of Gods' best methods for showing the world that he is truly the almighty. In this instance as we look back, we see that Israel had been in rebellion against God and after many warnings by His prophets, as predicted, he uses the gentile kingdom of Babylon to overtake the Jewish nation and bring them into captivity. As was done in many kingdoms that were captured in ancient times the well-schooled and learned ones were trained for service in the kingdom that they were now forced to live in. Daniel and

his friends apparently met the criteria that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon was looking for to serve in his court. They were trained and became part of the wise men in the king's assembly of counselors. Chapter 2 of the book of Daniel tells the story of a dream the King had and how no one in the kingdom could tell the king what his dream was and what it meant. Nebuchadnezzar decided that if the wise men could not solve this dream mystery, then they were no longer needed, and he would have them all killed. Daniel when he heard of the King's decree asked if he could have some time to answer the King's demand. It was granted and starting in the book of Daniel chapter 2 verse 31 you will see that after Daniel and his friends spent time seeking the God of Israel in prayer, it was revealed to him in astonishing detail. Daniel tells the king his dream and the interpretation. The vision shows the amazing ability of the God of Israel to reveal the entire world history of gentile world powers, in chronological order from the time of Nebuchadnezzar's dream until the second coming of Jesus to rule and reign over the earth. The dream of an image of gold, silver, brass and iron as interpreted by Daniel has unfolded exactly as was stated and has but the final piece left unfulfilled to finish the dream. We will dig deeper into the dream and see that there is a time frame that God has laid out for the nations of the world to rule and reign and it had a starting point and it has an end point that has been set by God and it will happen exactly as he has planned it. Let's read the scripture from Daniel chapter 2 as the prophet tells the king his dream:

Verse 31 - Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible

Verse 32 - This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

Verse 33 - His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

Verse 34 - Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

Verse 35 - Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Verse 36 - This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

The interesting thing about this dream is that it was given to an unbelieving ruthless gentile king. Which related to the gentile world powers of his kingdom and those that would come. The king had no reason to even listen to this young Hebrew man but the fact that no one was found that could bring closure to the kings' unrest regarding this troublesome dream. The fact is that the king was so troubled by the dream that he needed to find out what it was and what it meant. Should Daniel have been wrong there would be no reason for the king to spare their lives but spare them he did and more.

The next important part of the story is that this dream was not left for us to guess at its meaning, for Daniel was not only given the dream but its interpretation. Let's read on and see how the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob shows the king and us his plan for the ruling of nations throughout the ages until the time of the second coming of his son Jesus to rule from David's throne in Jerusalem.

Verse 37 - Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

Verse 38 - And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold

Verse 39 - And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

Verse 40 - 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 <u>and bruise</u>.

Verse 41 - And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' 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.

Verse 42 - 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.

Verse 43 - 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.

Verse 44 - 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.

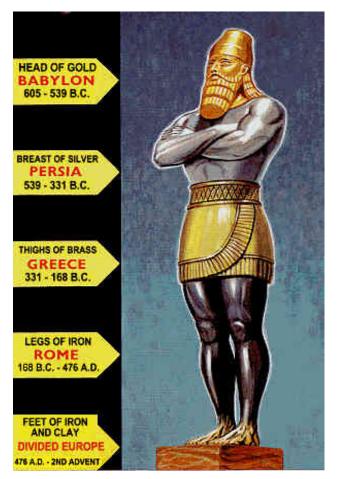
Verse 45 - Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

So what did the king think of this young Hebrew and his revelation of the dream and it's interpretation? Lets read on....

Verse 46 - Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.

Verse 47 - The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

To the king Daniel and his revelation of the dream were amazing, but we have the ability to see this dream from the future or the present day and see that in fact not only did Daniel reveal and interpret the dream, but history shows us that these kingdoms named in the chart below came to pass exactly as predicted with the metals used to describe them showing to be completely accurate. What makes this even more amazing is the Book of Daniel gives clear internal dates that prove its validity, such as in chapter 1 verse 1 "the third year of the reign of king Jehoiakim," (1:1), history shows us that the date of this is 606 BC; or in chapter 2 verse 1 "the second year of the reign of king Nebuchadnezzar, " (2:1), that is, 603 BC; these dates are marked in our history books and are irrefutable evidence and yes that means that this prophecy of the nations was written somewhere around 600 years before Jesus was even born. And who was the nation that was ruling at the time of Jesus? It was the 4th kingdom that was of iron, Rome. This gives us a good indication of where we are on this timeline and a clear point of reference as to how much of the time clock is left. Let's look at the chart below and make some observations that will show us where we are.



As we look at this chart above of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, any student of history can see that the head of gold was indeed the Babylonian empire that ruled from 605 to 539BC and just as predicted after this kingdom came the Medes and Persian Empire represented by the silver portion of the image that was in power from 539 until 331 BC. The brass Empire was that of Alexander the great, the Grecian Empire that maintained power from 331 to 168 BC, which led into the Roman Empire that had an eastern and western portion represented by the 2 legs and Ruled from 168 BC to 476 AD. The Roman Empire that was in power while Jesus walked the earth fulfills some very important prophecies that give us many details regarding where we are on the current prophetic timeline. So, this leaves the feet and toes of the image, which I labeled Rome 2 or Divided Europe, which have been in existence since 476 AD. We shall cover this time period in a soon to come chapter for reasons we shall see as we dig into the prophet Daniel a bit more.

In Daniel chapter 9, which is a study in and of itself, we see Daniel in prayer, and he is visited by an angel who lays out the time frame of the next group of people we shall look into and that is the nation of Israel. Within the explanation of this time frame Daniel is told that the last period of time on earth would be that of a one-world ruler that would emerge out of the Empire that destroys the temple at Jerusalem after the crucifixion of Jesus. History tells us that Rome was that Empire and the final form of Rome would be that of the nations represented by the feet and ten toes of the vision or what I have labeled as Rome 2. In order for this new form of Rome to be the final form scriptures tell us that the nation of Israel must be back in their homeland again. In other words, no uniting of the territories of the old Roman Empire would be of any prophetic consequence unless the nation of Israel was established back in its biblical homeland. There were many scoffers of this before May 14th 1948, but when Israel was once again established after being scattered throughout the entire earth for 1900 years, in its native homeland, the world was

astounded. There were some bible teachers that were diligent students of the prophetic scriptures in those days before 1948 and did not waiver regarding the prophecies of Israel, one of which I was a student of and that was H.A. Ironside. He wrote many commentaries around 1920 or so and was emphatic regarding the nation of Israel and said that he wasn't sure how and he wasn't sure when but in order for these scriptures to come to pass Israel must once again be established in its homeland. Thank God for those that have gone before us and have not tried to fit scriptures into unscriptural scenarios but have plainly trusted that what God said would be, would come to pass.

To fully explain this prophetic scenario, we must move on to the next group of people and their time frame. That is the nation of Israel.

Chapter 2

The Jewish people and Jerusalem

This chapter will be the thread that pulls this entire time capsule into perspective. You see in order for God to get a message to the entire world through all the ages and to show his mercy and grace to all mankind he choose to use a man that became a family, that became a nation, that brought forth the messiah, the son of the living God. Once you see this thread throughout the ages you can see his masterful plan for all of humankind. It does not show that the Jewish people were better, in fact they are representative of all mankind and as you look at the foolish things the children of Israel have done, you can clearly see how we also have been partakers of the same flawed human nature.

This thread of the people of Israel started in the book of Genesis after the sin of Adam and Eve when God said to Satan "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed". It is very important to note that this titanic struggle that has been unfolding in this time capsule is the fight that rages between God and his adversary Satan. It is also important to note that I call it a fight, but it is not a fight at all. God is God and there is none other. He has chosen to allow this scenario to unfold as his teaching tool for all mankind. He has given his adversary every chance to show us who he is and what his nature is and given us the best seat in the arena, in order to put the evidence before us and allow us to use our free will to choose which side we will align with. With the scriptures showing that Jesus would come from the nation of Israel It is no wonder that through the ages the nation has been in the cross hairs of satanic attack. They were made slaves by the nation of Egypt for 400 years, so God miraculously freed them, and how? He sent 2 guys with a stick. That just shows how in charge God is. When they showed up to take the Promised Land that God had given them there were giants living there to try and stop the plan of God. History is filled with those that wanted to wipe out the Jewish race. Isn't it amazing that of all the people on the earth the Jewish nation has been the most hated and maligned in all of history? From the baby Moses to the slaughtering of all infants in Jesus' time to the crucifixion to Hitler and even to the nation of Israel today, that is surrounded by their enemies on every side. Gods' adversary knows that if they (the Jewish people) are eliminated God's plan is thwarted and Satan wins.

As we follow the nation of Israel through the ages, we see how God has used them to accurately tell his story. If there is one thing, we can say about the nation of Israel is that they are meticulous keepers of history through the scriptures. He has used them to show the world what he expects concerning Godly living with His law. Not that they were able to follow it. He has used their prophets to foretell the end from the beginning and show us that he is who he said he is. He has shown his wonder working power time and time again with his miracles and spot on fulfillment of prophecies. But most importantly of all he needed a race of people to bring forth His son into humanity.

The Seed and The Bloodline

One of the rarely studied areas of scripture is the flood of Noah and it's causes. The story itself is well known enough but the reasons for it are largely attributed to the moral condition of humanity at the time. There may be some validity in that but as you look closer at the scripture and let the original text speak for itself you begin to see that there was more going on in the world at that time than just moral decay. The pure seed concept is not something commonly taught in bible seminaries yet many of the early church fathers taught this concept. So, letting the text speak for itself is something all truth seekers should consider. Let's read the verses and notice what the text is saying:

Gen. Chapter 6: 1-13

1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

² That the <u>sons of God</u> saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

Wait, what does the biblical term for sons of God mean? The term Sons of God in the original language means a direct creation of God. Humans after Adam and Eve are not direct creations of God, we come from Adam. So, are we reading that heavenly beings or angels who were direct creations of God in rebellion, left the heavens and came to earth to mingle their seed with the seed of men? This means Angels (direct creations of God) left the heavenlies and came to earth. Let's read on.

³And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

⁴ There were giants in the earth in those days; and also, after that, when the <u>sons of God</u> came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, <u>the same became mighty</u> men which were of old, men of renown.

This verse confirms the fact that indeed the human seed had been infiltrated by heavenly beings. A plan of Satan to dilute the seed of men so the coming messiah could not be born of a pure human seed.

⁵And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Let's note here that when corrupt heavenly beings began to infiltrate the earth and breed offspring that was of a corrupt seed that is when God acted. There seemed to be no one that wanted to continue life as God had laid it out. But God had someone holding to his ways.

⁶And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

⁷And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

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⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

What was different about Noah?

⁹ These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and (**perfect in his generations**), and Noah walked with God.

The word used here indicates that Noah was not only upright but that his seed was not corrupted by any heavenly being. Perfect in his generations doesn't mean he was perfect; it indicates that his seed or gene pool had not been corrupted. It was preserved without angelic gene contamination, for God still needed a pure bloodline to bring forth his son.

¹⁰ And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹ The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

¹² And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

¹³ And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. You see it was through a man (Adam) that we were separated from God and it could only be through a man (Jesus) that we could be reconciled. The pure seed of men needed to be preserved in order for the messiah to come forth. When you fully get that concept, you will be forever humbled that God would ask his son to leave the glories of heaven to come down and save all mankind. Without the pure seed and Israel, messiah could not come.

God preserved the pure seed and is also a keeper of his word. He indeed has promised a future for Israel and even though they were scattered throughout the entire planet for 1900 years and were thought never to be re-gathered again God Indeed re-established them again in their original homeland. It was a complete fulfillment of bible prophecy that had been laughed to scorn in the years prior to its fulfillment but shows the exact precision of the early prophets' predictions. Which begs the question:

Should we be taking these scriptures Literally?

In this modern era, we have seen many raise the question regarding the taking of bible prophecies literally or just figuratively? There is one sure way to determine how these prophecies are to be interpreted and that is to look at many of the old prophecies and see how they were fulfilled. The first coming, life and crucifixion of Jesus is a great way to determine how God fulfills prophecy. Does He do it literally or figuratively? Let's look at the stats. Mathematically speaking, the odds of anyone fulfilling this amount of prophecies are staggering. Mathematicians put it this way: 1 person literally fulfilling 8 prophecies: 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000

1 person literally fulfilling 48 prophecies: 1 chance in 10 to the 157th power

1 person literally fulfilling 300+ prophecies: Only Jesus!

It is the magnificent detail of these prophecies that mark the Bible as the inspired Word of God. Only God could foreknow and accomplish all that was written about the Christ. This historical accuracy and reliability set the Bible apart from every other book and record. I could list many fulfilled prophecies here but for the sake of space I will pick a few irrefutable key ones.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED BY JESUS

Let's look at the prophecy of where Jesus was to be born. It is found in the book of Micah.

The Messiah Will Be Born In Bethlehem

Mícah 5:2 – "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village in Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past."

About the Prophecy of Micah

Micah was an eighth century B.C. prophet. That is correct 800 years before Jesus was born. He lived at the same time as the prophets Amos, Hosea and Isaiah. The Book of Micah tells how the judgment of God will fall on Samaria and Jerusalem due to sin, and afterwards, God will give restoration.

Micah describes a wonderful future where the city of Bethlehem will give birth to a ruler greater than David. He also prophesies of a time when Jerusalem will become the religious center of the world.

The Fulfillment of this prophecy is found in 3 different places. The census mentioned in Luke is historical proof.

Matthew 2:1-6 – "Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen His star as it arose, and we have come to worship Him.' Herod was deeply disturbed by their question, as was all of Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law. 'Where did the prophets say the Messiah would be born?' he asked them. 'In Bethlehem,' they said, 'for this is what the prophet wrote: 'O Bethlehem of Judah, you are not just a lowly village in Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'"

Luke 2:4-5, 7, 15 – "And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was obviously pregnant by this time. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped Him snugly in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn. When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, 'Come on, let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'"

John 7:42 - "For the Scriptures clearly state that the Messiah will be born of the royal line of David, in Bethlehem, the village where King David was born." I would say that this prophecy was fulfilled exactly as stated, wouldn't you? Let's look at another. The Messiah Will Be Born of A Virgin is prophesied in the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 7:14 – "All right then, the Lord Himself will choose the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel – 'God is with us.'"

Isaiah 9:6-7 – "For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on His shoulders. These will be His royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His ever expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice from the throne of His ancestor David. The passionate commitment of the Lord Almighty will guarantee this!"

About the Prophecy of Isaiah

The prophet Isaiah lived in Jerusalem in the eighth century B.C. The book of Isaiah is one of the four major prophetic books in the Old Testament, along with Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel.

Chapter 7 of Isaiah was written about 735 B.C. (almost 800 years before Jesus was born) King Ahaz was on the throne and Isaiah was sent with the message that God was sending Judah a sign – this sign would be a child called "God is with us."

The Fulfillment

Matthew 1:20-23 – "As he considered this, he fell asleep, and an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. 'Joseph, son of David,' the angel said, 'do not be afraid to go ahead with your marriage to Mary. For the child within her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.' All of this happened to fulfill the Lord's message through His prophet: 'Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and He will be called Immanuel (meaning, God is with us).'"

Again, fulfilled just as predicted.

The Messiah Will Enter Jerusalem Triumphantly. This prediction was fulfilled to the day as we will see in the next section.

Zechariah 9:9 – "Rejoice greatly, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey – even on a donkey's colt."

About the Prophecy of Zechariah

Zechariah the prophet came from a priestly family. He was a visionary, who with the prophet Haggai worked on the rebuilding of the Temple. The New Testament Gospels quote Zechariah more than any other prophet.

Part one of the book of Zechariah was written in 520 B.C. Zechariah spoke about the judgment and salvation of God and about the coming Messiah who would be a priest, governor, humble king and afflicted shepherd.

The Fulfillment

John 12:12–15 – "The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A huge crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet Him. They shouted, 'Praise God! Bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel! Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: 'Don't be afraid, people of Israel. Look, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt.'"

Again, fulfilled exactly as predicted!

The Messiah Will Be Betrayed For 30 Pieces of Silver Zechariah 11:12-13 – "And I said unto them, 'If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord." (KJV)

About the Prophecy of Zechariah

In chapter 11 of the book of Zecharíah, again around 500 years before Jesus was born, the prophet refers to 30 shekels of sílver as a "goodly price." This amount also refers to the amount paid for the life of a slave. Zecharíah's prophecy speaks about the amount paid for the Lord and His life.

The precision of this prophecy is astounding and hard to deny that God authored it.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 26:14-16 – "Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests and asked, 'How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?' And they gave him thirty pieces of silver. From that time on, Judas began looking for the right time and place to betray Jesus."

Matthew 27:3-4a – "When Judas, who had betrayed Him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and other leaders. 'I have sinned,' he declared, 'for I have betrayed an innocent man.'"

Truly amazing and clearly fulfilled exactly as predicted!

The Messiah's Garments Will Be Divided by Casting Lots

Psalm 22:18 – "They divide My clothes among themselves and throw dice for My garments."

About the Prophecy of The Psalms

Again, Psalm 22 is a psalm of King David. In this hymn he describes an execution. The early portion of the psalm speaks of the Messiah's suffering and the later portion describes the universal deliverance He made possible.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 27:35 – "After they had nailed Him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for His clothes by throwing dice." Mark 15:24 – "Then they nailed Him to the cross. They gambled for His clothes, throwing dice to decide who would get them." John 19:23-24a – "When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided His clothes among the four of them. They also took His robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said, 'Let's not tear it but throw dice to see who gets it.' This fulfilled the Scripture that says, 'They divided My clothes among themselves and threw dice for My robe.'"

Again, Fulfilled Exactly!

The Messiah Will Be Buried In A Rich Man's Tomb Isaiah 53:9 – "He had done no wrong, and He never deceived anyone. But He was buried like a criminal; He was put in a rich man's grave."

About the Prophecy of Isaíah

Once again, the Great Prophecy of the Suffering Servant reveals the incredible purpose of God in sending the Messiah to suffer for our sins. Isaiah wrote this chapter in the eighth century B.C. He foretold that the Messiah would die and be buried in a rich man's grave.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 27:57-60 – "As evening approached, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who was one of Jesus' followers, went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to him. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance as he left."

These historically accurate predictions, and there are many others, and their fulfillment should at least get you to consider the fact that God is working his plan in this world, and it should spark your curiosity as to what he says is about to take place next? One more thing to consider regarding the taking of his word literally should be the words of Jesus himself from Matt. 5:18 that said, "not one jot or tittle of this word will pass away until all be fulfilled". A jot and a tittle in the Hebrew Are like saying in our vernacular not the dotting of an I or the crossing of a T will be missed in everything I say but everything will be fulfilled. That kind of means that if he said it is going to happen then it is literally going to happen just like he said it would.

The church and the world have misunderstood the nation of Israel for the longest time, it has been the cause of much confusion and hatred in the church and in the world. If you want to understand the past, present and future place of Israel in the world there is a perfect candidate to explain it. It is none other than the apostle Paul.

Paul was himself a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin. He was raised a Pharisee and was originally named Saul. He was a hater of the church and in fact was on an assignment to destroy it when Jesus interrupted his mission. His letter to the Romans has 3 distinct chapters that lay out where Israel is today and what their ultimate destiny will be. It is found in Romans chapters 9, 10 and 11. What does Paul say?

11 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

Paul says, no Israel has not been totally rejected, but what then? Chapter 11 Verse 11 says:

"I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

So, God through their fall has opened the door for another group of people (The Church) to obtain His mercy and grace. We shall look

closer at this in a future chapter. Will Israel fulfill its purpose and be redeemed before Jesus returns? Paul says in Chapter 11 verse 25-27:

²⁵ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

²⁶ And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

²⁷ For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

This nation of Israel that is at the center of time has been locked into a time frame of their own. To follow what God has set in motion for this nation will give you amazing insights regarding the state of the world and its current place on the historic clock. You see the prophecies that have been foretold regarding Israel and their gathering together in these last days brings us to the very brink of the final fulfilment of the last prophecies that will culminate with the end of this time capsule and the setup of the final throne in Jerusalem from which Jesus shall reign. Isn't it interesting that despite all the marvelous land that is in the world to be sought after by nations that Jerusalem is the focus of everything happening on the world scene today? Because it is the place that God will setup his throne when Jesus returns to rule.

Gabriel the angel of God that was sent to Daniel, recorded in the book of Daniel chapter 9 verse 24 said it best. It is the complete layout of the time capsule that has been set in motion for the nation of Israel. This verse gives us an indication of how close we are as it references Israel and the holy city Jerusalem. The prophecy clearly states that seventy groups of seven year periods are marked out for Israel and Jerusalem It says " Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and the 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."

This "seventy weeks" prophecy is what I call the kingpin of prophecy and Jesus is right smack in the middle of it. It is a study that needs to be done by every serious believer and is the subject of our next undertaking. The staggering fulfillments that have taken place in these group of scriptures we are about to look at are among some of the most amazing in the entire Bible. If you want to understand prophecy and where we are on the prophetic clock, these 4 verses in Daniel should be the foundation of your homework. Without understanding these verses, you can wander around in prophecy limbo for a lifetime. But if you master these verses it will give you a clear compass setting and all other prophecies will fall into place. So, let's look at the revealing of bible truths that will root you and ground you and solidify your faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Chapter 3

The Seventy Weeks of Years

These 4 verses in the book of Daniel are known as the prophecy of the 70 weeks. Understanding these verses correctly will keep you from going into a ditch as you learn of God's plan for man.

The prophecy is for the nation of Israel and that is the first key to understanding these scriptures. One might say what does that have to do with me? Actually, everything, just because you are not a part of the nation of Israel doesn't mean you cannot understand or be affected by it. In order for God to bring his message to the world He chose a man (Abraham), who had a family (Isaac and Jacob), who became a nation (Israel) to bring forth the messiah (Jesus). These verses layout God's plan for the nation of Israel and the final establishment of the nation and the throne of David that Jesus will rule from at the end of the age. The 70 weeks are weeks of years or groups of sevens that are determined upon the people of Israel. As you study these verses you will see that 69 of the 70 groups of sevenyear periods have already taken place. A specific time frame is laid out to mark the first coming of Jesus (which was fulfilled to the day). In verse 26 you see that messiah is cut off but not for himself, which predicted Jesus dying for us, and the destruction of Jerusalem (which happened exactly as predicted by the Romans in 70 AD). What remains is one week of years or one 7-year period known as the seventieth week of Daniel. The last 7 years is broken into 2 sections, the first 3- and one-half years or 42 months and the last three and

one half known as the great tribulation. Verse 27 states when the final week begins (a benchmark that begins when a new world ruler confirms a covenant with Israel), it also states that In between these 2 time periods the final world ruler will desecrate the Jewish temple. Jesus called this the abomination of desolation (Matt. 24:15) spoken of by Daniel the prophet. I encourage all students of the Bible to master these 4 verses. They contain the keys to understanding where we are on the prophetic time clock.

It's important to look at this closely so we don't get lost in the wording of this amazing prediction. Many read and take wording from the bible and try to fit it into what they have been told or have read as a puzzle with pieces. The challenge is that they guess at the picture without having it completed so to speak. There are also many things that are put into the puzzle based on the common knowledge of church and religious thinking that have been passed down through the ages. The serious student can weed these things out and put together a clear picture by understanding who is speaking in the scripture and whom they are speaking too. In these verses in Daniel the Angel Gabriel is speaking. Let's note that if these predictions come to pass exactly as stated then two clear pieces of information can be taken away from it. If this proves out, then:

1) God has the ability to see and communicate the future with precise accuracy

2) That there is indeed a realm of spirit beings that we do not see but they do exist and can intervene in the affairs of men.

Let's look at the verses in question and determine some facts. Daniel 9:24 states:

" Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and the 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."

The first part of the verse clearly tells us whom we are talking about. It is spoken to Daniel who is part of the nation of Israel and it says that 70 weeks are determined upon THY PEOPLE and upon THE HOLY CITY, which is Jerusalem. So, this is a prophecy for ISRAEL not the United States or Europe or China or any other nation. If we want to see if this prediction has and will come to pass, we need to look at ISRAEL. The verse speaks of 70 weeks of years or 70 sevenyear periods. To determine if these predictions were accurate, we can look at the first portion of it and compare it with known history. To do this, we have to clearly mark out the time periods that are used. Again, this is for ISRAEL and that nation and its calendar all throughout scripture is marked out in 360-day years. That is proven not just by history but also by the last part of the time frame that is referenced in other parts of the bible as two halves' of 1260 days, which turns out to be 3 and a half 360-day years. The references to this I will list the footnote references in the back of the book for the fact checkers because it would take up too much space here.

So, let's see how accurate this prophecy actually was. The prophecy gives a pinpoint prediction that would have to happen so precisely that it would be undeniable if it actually came to pass. So, let's see what was predicted in Daniel chapter 9 and verse 25, it states the following: "Know, therefore, and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah, the Prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks:

So, this prophecy is given to Daniel because his city Jerusalem has been destroyed and he understood from the prophecies of Jeremiah that the time was near for it to be restored. The prediction states that from this decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah (the Prince) will be 7 + threescore (60) + 2 = 69 weeks or 69 sevens. Could the Angel actually predict to the prophet Daniel the day 483 years in the future that the Messiah would present himself as king? Well let's look a little closer at the timing. 483 years that have 360 days per year turns out to be 173,880 days. So how do we know when it started? Well turns out in Nehemiah chapter 2 that King Artaxerxes gives the decree to rebuild the wall and the city in the Jewish month of Nissan in the year 445BC. That's March 14th 445 BC. To see the actual math done precisely see the book by Sir Robert Anderson called "The Coming Prince" it Lays out the days in stunning detail. Now it is important to note that in order for this prophecy to be fulfilled there would need to be a person that met all the strictest credentials of the Jewish Messiah (which include some amazing predictions of their own) living 483 years later. Not only living but living in the middle east part of the world. Not only living in the middle east part of the world but in Israel, in the area of Jerusalem and known as a religious leader well enough to be presented as Messiah the king. Well turns out if you are willing to do your homework which does take a lot of study you will see that 173,880 days after the decree was made turns out to be (April 6th 32AD) the day Jesus rode on a donkey fulfilling other predictions, into Jerusalem in the

famous triumphal entry where the people declared "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord". The religious leaders were so upset that the crowd was *proclaiming him as king* they told Jesus to tell them to stop. Jesus replied if they stop the rocks would cry out. Meaning this day has been ordained and if they didn't proclaim it the very earth would cry out. The prediction was fulfilled TO THE DAY. Verse 26 continues and says that after the 69th week Messiah will be cut off. The literal translation means to be killed. Jesus indeed was killed, and the verse goes onto say that he will be killed but not for himself. Again, Jesus was killed, and it was for the sins of the world as the scriptures state. It continues in verse 26 with the prediction that the people of the "prince that shall come" will destroy the city and the sanctuary. Indeed, the Roman legions destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple or sanctuary in 70AD just as predicted.

So, what does this mean to us? Well I can tell you that if 69 of the 70 weeks that were determined upon Israel have come to pass with this precision then we should look at the final 7 years of this prophecy and see exactly what we are to expect in the fulfillment of this prediction.

Another interesting thing that begins to emerge as we consider all these predictions is that the Jewish prophecies and the Gentile world rulers' vision from the earlier chapters, we looked at in Daniel chapter 2 have something that seems to be in alignment with one another. If we notice in this prophecy regarding the Jewish state that after The Messiah is cut off and Jerusalem destroyed, the 70-week clock seems to stop. Just as in the gentile vision after the 4th kingdom or Rome I and as the Jewish nation is scattered the vision is on hold. First, we notice that without Israel established in their homeland, as a nation the coming world ruler cannot confirm a covenant as stated in verse 27, to start the final week. Is there an explanation for this gap in the time clocks that God has laid out for us to see? Indeed, there is, and it is a most fascinating development in the prophetic time clock.

It appears there is another group of people on the earth that we alluded to earlier that are in a time capsule of their own. It seems that after being ignored by the gentile group at first and rejected by the very group of people he had chosen, God turns to the entire gentile world one final time and opens up a way for anyone that wants to come unto Him and learn of Him an opportunity to do so. He forms an entirely new group of people called the Church. No, it's not the buildings that people attend every week but what the original language calls "the ecclesia" or the called-out ones. This group, started by Jesus himself, as do the others, has a definite starting point and a definite end point. In fact, the forming of this group has put the entire final countdown on pause until it is completed. This time period is what I call "THE GAP" It is clearly explained and laid out as we will see in the next chapter. It is one of Gods' final appeals to reach all mankind before the final week. Let's take a closer look.

Chapter 4

The GAP

As we shall soon see Israel's' failure to recognize Jesus as their coming King, has opened the door for the unbelieving gentile world to become a part of Gods eternal family. The most amazing part is He has made it as simple as just believing he is the one true God, turn from your old ways and believe that Jesus is the savior of mankind, to get in. Another amazing fact in regard to this time capsule is that He has put all other timelines on hold until this final stage is completed.

Israel's timeline stopped after week 69 when Jesus was crucified, and Jerusalem destroyed. The gentile world timeline stopped after Rome one had scattered Israel throughout the entire world. Notice the timelines were stopped when Israel was removed as a nation from the world scene. So, on both timelines there is but 1 week of years left to start counting when the final events begin to take place.

So, what are we waiting for? Funny you should ask that because Israel cannot start its final countdown until the church is complete. Paul says:

Romans 11:25

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

You see God has Israel on hold until He has appealed to all the gentile world and all that will believe have come in. Fullness of the gentiles meaning the full portion of people that will come out of the gentile population. That does not exclude some Jewish people from believing; in fact, he uses the bringing in of gentiles to provoke the Jewish people to jealousy. As stated in Chapter 11 verse 11:

"I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

So, the gap is a pause in the count down in order for God to make a final appeal to the world, telling them to take a look around and take stock of the times in which you live. The church has been spreading this message to the world for the better part of 2000 years. The gospel has been preached in every language on the planet. Has the church been a shining example of what Jesus would have us to be? No history paints some sad stories of the failures we have to our account. Yet despite it all, by His grace we have managed to spread the good news throughout the world and as the years wind down we continue to look at what He has said and are now seeing very clearly that these prophecies were given for signs to us that are becoming clearer and clearer as the day approaches.

With all the information that is available there can be no excuse for missing the signs. In fact, as we look at what Jesus has said regarding the time of his return you will see that the earth, the nations, the sun, moon, and stars will all begin to show forth signs like a woman in labor as the day approaches. There is little doubt that we could list all these signs as growing in intensity in the very days in which we are now living.

The earth is giving forth more earthquakes, storms, floods and fires each and every year. The nations are having increases in wars and rumors of wars as well as riots, terrorism, famine, plagues and distress of governments each and every day. Economies are teetering on the brink of collapse all over the world and the nations of the final week prophecies as we will see, are gathering around Jerusalem just as predicted.

As we begin to look at what the bible predicts for the end of the age and the final week of Daniels prophecy you can see that these signs and prophecies were given as a final warning to the nations and just as the former prophecies were fulfilled exactly as stated you can be assured that the final pieces will happen just as He said they would.

We have shown how the predictions of the past have come to pass and history has recorded their accuracy. Now we shall look at the present and future as presented in these prophecies so we can get a picture of how the final pages of history will read. Indeed, we shouldn't look at these prophetic scriptures as possible outcomes but rather as a look at history before it comes to be written. For as surely as the others were written in advance so shall these final days be so.

At this stage I encourage those that are willing to consider these facts to do just that. Do not base your opinion on what others have said regarding the church or the Christian faith or the bible or anything else. Don't even take my word for it but study it out for yourselves. Take a leap of faith and ask God "If you are real and these things be so, reveal yourself to me that I might know you" and see how He shows himself.

There are many rebuttals out there, some that even challenge the validity of the book of Daniel, stating how it is so accurate that it could not have possibly been written before these time periods happened. God leaves no stone unturned even in this, for 300 years before the prophecies of Daniel came to pass regarding Jesus, the bible was translated into Greek by seventy scholars, (called the Septuagint) and the contents of the writings of Daniel were sealed in history as accurate. They could not have been forged afterwards if they were translated 300 years earlier. I have tested these prophecies and found them to be so accurate that you would have to lie to yourself to not conclude that God is real and He has told us these things before they happen so we would have no other conclusion to reach but that they were given by divine inspiration.

The groundwork of the past has been laid out by that which was foretold, we can now discover some of the most amazing prophecies in the bible. As I have written before there are more details written in prophecy about the time in which we are now living than any other time in history. The prophecies regarding the final years of history are so detailed, so precise and there are so many that you can see that as this is beginning to take place there was a clear effort to overwhelm us with undeniable facts regarding where we are in time.

Astounding Prophecies for our times

You are going to see prophecies concerning nuclear wars, access to information and live video transmissions throughout the entire world that were not even a consideration when written. Stunning prophecies showing what nations would be present and which ones would begin to align with one another to form coalitions against Gods people Israel. You will see how Jerusalem will become the center of attention for the entire world. We will look at each group in their individual time capsules and show how God brings each one to their conclusion. As I said before each one had a starting point, and each will have and end point. In fact, you will see how those that have become part of the third group called the church will be removed out of the way so the unbelieving gentile world timeline and Gods' nation Israel's' timeline will collide to usher in the end of the age!

The times in which we are about to enter into will be the most exciting, discernable and the most biblically chronicled series of events in all of scripture. Daniel was one of the most beloved of Gods prophets and after his visions were explained to him, he says in Chapter 12 Verses 8-10,

V8 And I heard, but I understood not. Then said I, O Lord, what shall be the end of these things?

V9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel; for the words are closed up and sealed *<u>till the time of the end</u>*.

VIO Many shall be purified, and made white, and tested, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

These scriptures have been sealed up until the times in which we are now living. Many prophecies of future events made no sense to those who penned them or the people of those days, but now they are clearly coming into focus and painting a picture of history before it comes to pass.

The GAP in which we are now living in is quickly closing and what is just on the horizon is clearly spelled out for us to see. The nation of Israel, the gentile world and the Church are about to close out their history books and God has given each group a clear chance to come into a saving relationship before the doors of eternity close. Yes, there are portions of each group that need to assess their current condition and God has a final word for each. As we look through these prophecies you can see the hand of God on all peoples and nations and His masterful plan for the ages.

As Jesus spent 3 years with his disciples on a daily basis, you would imagine that they must have asked him some of these questions regarding the end of days and his reign as king. For they were under the impression that He had come to set up his kingdom and were unaware of the fact that He came as a suffering savior the first time and would return as the reigning king the second. That is why they were confused when he told them he would be betrayed to the authorities and crucified. Indeed, He had much to say regarding the times in which we live and a careful look at his words on the subject will bring us clear details of the final stages of history.

Chapter 5

The Olivet Discourse

There is no better way to start this portion of the work but to embark upon a detailed look at the predictions of Jesus from what is known as the Olivet discourse. If you are not familiar with these scriptures it is at a time when Jesus' ministry is coming to an end and the disciples are bragging about the magnificent structures of the Jewish temple, thinking that he would be impressed at the temple that they had prepared for him to rule and reign from. Jesus tells them that not one stone of the temple will be left standing and that all of it will be destroyed. Which we should note happened exactly that way. When the Roman legions destroyed the temple, they were supposed to get the gold out as the spoils, but history shows that the temple caught on fire, and it burned so hot that the temple gold melted. The soldiers had to take the temple apart stone by stone to get the gold that had melted fulfilling Jesus' prediction that not one stone upon another would be left standing.

So, the disciples ask the question: "when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the age? This is exactly what we want to know is it not? Before we look at his answer let's remember to look at, to whom is he speaking? What's the background and time frame he was in at that time?

One of the best Christian teachers of this day, Chuck Missler makes some very noteworthy rules to follow when reading these scriptures. The first being precision or being very precise regarding what is written. The disciples asked 3 questions:

- 1) When shall these things be? Regarding the destruction of the temple.
- 2) What shall be the signs of your coming?
- 3) What shall be the signs of the end of the age?

As we look at these scriptures it is important to note that these signs Jesus is going to show us are recorded in 3 of the gospels. Matthew, Mark and Luke. Truth be told I have read these for the last forty years and have always made them out to be 3 accounts of the same thing. It wasn't until I was listening to a teaching from Chuck Missler that I was encouraged to go back and study them afresh and to pay attention to the details of each account. When I did two clear facts emerged that changed my mindset of trying to harmonize the gospels.

The first thing you realize is that the Matthew and Mark accounts clearly state that they were a private briefing with four disciples on the mount of olives at night, answering the questions regarding the end of the age. The Luke account turns out to be an open teaching in the temple during the day. In fact the account in Luke starts the same as the other accounts but when it gets to verse 12 rather than saying after this happens then that will happen, he says "but before all these signs" and goes on to describe the destruction of the temple that took place in 70A.D. answering the question regarding the destruction of the temple, and in verse 24 he says you will be led away captive into all nations. And that is exactly what happened. The Matthew account seems to walk right through the destruction of Jerusalem and speaks of the abomination of desolation in a future temple in a future time when Israel is restored to their land after being led away into all nations. Let's take a look at His response from Matthew Ch 24 verses 3-14 regarding the end of the age:

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

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

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

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

All these are the beginning of sorrows.

NOTE THAT THE PREVIOUS VERSE IS THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS.

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

NOTE THAT THIS WAS NOT THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM IN 70A.D. AS THEY WERE NOT HATED OF ALL NATIONS AT THAT TIME.

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

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**.

So, one important point to keep in mind is the trigger for the final week of seven years to start. Remember we read it in Daniel chapter 9 verse 27 where it states that he (meaning the final world ruler) will confirm a covenant with many (Israel included) for seven years. This seven-year period is the final week of Daniels prophecy and once that happens the final clock once again starts to tick. In this last seven years the world will go from peace and security to utter chaos.

Jesus warns the disciples to be aware and don't be deceived by anyone saying that I am the Christ, as this ruler will bring the ultimate peace in the middle east and will be heralded as the messiah.

He gives a brief synopsis of history regarding wars and earthquakes and famines that shall increase. As we get to verse 15 Jesus tells them that when they see "the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet" RUN! This abomination is a Jewish term that is a desecration of the Jewish temple. Not just the temple but the most holy part of the temple called the holy of holies. This means that someone other than the authorized priest will enter this part of the temple and desecrate it by committing an unholy act there.

Let's also note that none of this could have happened before 1948 as Israel was not a nation until that time. They had been scattered throughout the world since the destruction of the temple at Jerusalem in 70 A.D. This re-gathering of Israel from the four corners of the earth to be once again established in their homeland is the greatest sign to date, that we have entered into the final days and that prophecies that have laid dormant for centuries are now coming to the forefront of world events. Yet 1948 was only the start of the fulfillment because Israel must have Jerusalem back in their possession in order for prophecies to be fulfilled. As we see from history in 1967 Israel was invaded by Egypt, Jordan and Syria all surrounding nations in a move by their enemies to wipe them off the map. But did they loose with such great odds against them? No in fact they gained more land and regained Jerusalem that set the stage for the final countdown to begin. Also note that in order for this abomination to take place in the Jewish temple the 3rd Jewish temple needs to be built. At the time of this writing the temple priestly garments, temple furniture and instruments for the setting up of this temple worship are already built and ready for implementation.

Jesus said the following signs would be the beginning of sorrows:

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

A better rendering of the beginning of sorrows would be birth pains. We all know birth pains start out slight and slow but increase in frequency and intensity. They also don't stop once they start. It would be hard to argue that these birth pains have not started. They are clearly growing in frequency and intensity all the time.

The best clock to watch is the nation of Israel. They were scattered throughout the entire earth for 1900 years but are now back in their homeland just as the prophets predicted.

Lets look at the predictions by the ancient Jewish prophets regarding Israel and their re-gathering again to their homeland in the final days. In the book of Ezekiel starting in chapter 36 God says that the land of Israel will go from a barren wasteland to lush vegetation. It's interesting to note that all the occupied land of Israel is flourishing while the surrounding Arab land is barren dessert.



In the next chapter of Ezekiel, 37 God gives the prophet a vision of the dry bones of the nation of Israel and asks the prophet can these bones live again? He tells the prophet to speak to the dry bones and tell them to live. Indeed, he does and indeed they do come to life and God tells the prophet that they will one more time be brought back from the 4 corners of the earth and be planted again in their land in the middle east. Seeing the fulfillment of this prophecy is indeed one of the clearest signs that we live in the final days of history. But the next chapter of Ezekiel, chapter 38 tells of one of the great earmarks of the final days of Israel. It is known as the Ezekiel 38 war, which predicts an invasion of Israel by Russia, Iran, Turkey, Libya and Ethiopia. At the date of this writing this union has been formed and Russian troops along with Iran and Turkey are in Syria on the border of Israel stockpiling weapons and troops. This prophecy speaks of divine intervention by God to destroy the attacking armies and gives some descriptions of the aftermath that clearly describe the cleanup from a nuclear exchange. Lets take a look at the details.

CHAPTER 6

THE WAR OF GOG AND MAGOG

We will read these 2 chapters in their entirety, they are stunning indeed, and note that the nations mentioned from the biblical names refer to Russia (Magog), Iran (Persia), Turkey (Togarmah), Libya and Ethiopia. These nations as we speak have gathered around the goal of destroying Israel for spoil. Many of them are gathering troops in Syria at the time of this writing. The prophet speaks of this happening in the Latter days when God has gathered his people from among the nations. We are watching this prophecy unfold in the news during these days!

Notice the prophecy from the prophet Ezekiel:

38 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ² "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, ^[a] Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, ³ and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. ⁴ I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company *with* bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. ⁵ Persia, Ethiopia, ^[b] and Libya^[c] are with them, all of them *with*shield and helmet; ⁶ Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah *from* the far north and all its troops—many people *are* with you.

⁷ "Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them. ⁸ After many days you will be visited. *In the latter years* you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword *and* gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely.⁹ You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you."

¹⁰ 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day it shall come to pass *that* thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: "You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'— ¹² to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste

places *that are again* inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land. ¹⁹ Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, 'Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?'"

¹⁴ "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know *it?*¹⁵ Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. ¹⁶ You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. *It will be in the latter days* that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes." ¹⁷ Thus says the Lord GOD: "Are *you* he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?

Judgment on Gog

¹⁸ "And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," says the Lord GOD, "*that* My fury will show in My face. ¹⁹ For in My jealousy *and* in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: 'Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, ²⁰ so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who *are* on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.' ²¹ I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains," says the Lord GOD. "Every man's sword will be against his brother. ²² And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who *are* with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. ²³ Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD."

Gog's Armies Destroyed

39 "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, ^[a] Meshech, and Tubal;² and I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel. ³ Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand. ⁴ You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who *are* with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and *to* the beasts of the field to be devoured. ⁵ You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken," says the Lord GOD.⁶ "And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD.⁷ So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not *let them* profane My holy one in Israel.⁸ Surely it is coming, and it shall be done," says the Lord GOD. "This *is* the day of which I have spoken.

⁹ "Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelins and spears; and they will make fires with them for seven years. ¹⁰ They will not take wood from the field nor cut down *any* from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons; and they will plunder those who plundered them, and pillage those who pillaged them," says the Lord GOD.

The Burial of Gog (Will take 7 months)

" "It will come to pass in that day *that* I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call *it* the Valley of Hamon Gog.^[b] ¹² For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. ¹³ Indeed all the people of the land will be burying, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified," says the Lord GOD. ¹⁴ "They will set apart men regularly employed, with the help of a search party, ^[c] to pass through the land and bury those bodies remaining on the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make a search. ¹⁵ The search party will pass through the land; and *when anyone* sees a man's bone, he shall set up a marker by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog. ¹⁶ *The* name of *the* city *will* also *be* Hamonah. Thus they shall cleanse the land."

Note here that the scripture speaks of special men dedicated to the task of burial as the fire and brimstone judgment leaves the bodies contaminated just as a nuclear war would cause.

¹⁷ "And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Speak to every sort of bird and to every beast of the field:

"Assemble yourselves and come; Gather together from all sides to My sacrificial meal Which I am sacrificing for you,

A great sacrificial meal on the mountains of Israel, That you may eat flesh and drink blood.

¹⁸ You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, Drink the blood of the princes of the earth, Of rams and lambs, Of goats and bulls, All of them fatlings of Bashan.
¹⁹ You shall eat fat till you are full, And drink blood till you are drunk, At My sacrificial meal Which I am sacrificing for you.

²⁰ You shall be filled at My table With horses and riders, With mighty men And with all the men of war," says the Lord GOD.

Israel Restored to the Land

²¹ "I will set My glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them. ²² So the house of Israel shall know that I *am* the LORD their God from that day forward. ²³ The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to Me, therefore I hid My face from them. I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. ²⁴ According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them."

²⁵ "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name— ²⁶ after they have borne their shame, and all their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, when they dwelt safely in their *own* land and no one made *them* afraid. ²⁷ When I have brought them back from the peoples and

gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, ²⁸ then they shall know that I *am* the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer. ²⁹ And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord GOD."

These scriptures speak of bringing Israel back from among the nations of the earth. That has already happened. It also talks about Magog or Russía from the north with its allies attacking Israel for spoil. Israel has prospered in recent years and has discovered large amounts of natural gas and oil that make it a great spoil if it could be conquered. These nations are already aligned together and have amassed troops and weapons on the northern border of Israel. Only the lighting of the fuse would need to happen, and the Ezekiel 38 war would erupt in the Middle East. It's important to note that these prophecies have to do with the nation of Israel and the unbelieving gentile nations. This war may well bring the world to the brink of the final confirmation of the covenant that starts the final 7year clock of the 70th week of Daniel. In order to get a clearer picture of these final prophecies and their fulfillment we need to layout the most logical timeline that seems to line up the 3 groups and their prophetic completions side by side. To do this, we need to show the final culmination of the 3rd group (the church) and how God deals with them as it is more than likely the next event that will ultimately stun the world and rock the world's population to its core. It may be one of the most outrageous doctrines in the bible but the one thing that is clear is that it is mentioned multiple times and eluded to in so many other ways that it cannot be denied. Jesus himself when dictating his 7 letters to John regarding the church in chapters 2 and 3 of the book of Revelation clearly tells some of the churches you have been over comers and I will keep you from the very time of chaos that is about to take place on the earth. To other churches He says that if you do not change your ways you will be left on the earth with the unbelieving world to go through the chaos ahead. We will now look at what is known in the study of eschatology as "The Rapture of the Church".

Chapter 7

The Rapture of the Church

The subject we are approaching now will show the end of the time period for the third group called the church. When I say the end, I mean as stated on the onset that each group has a designated period of time that is determined upon them, and God has set it in motion from the start and it will happen just as He predicted it would. The Church started on the day of Pentecost as Jesus predicted and will end its earthly mission on the day the rapture takes place. Not all Christian churches embrace the predictions in the bible regarding this event, however Jesus himself told the apostles in Johns gospel, the 14th chapter:

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Again, he is speaking in a private meeting to His disciples and clearly mentions receiving them unto Himself not coming to earth to meet them. As we begin to understand Gods entire plan for mankind and read the text, it is very clear that this event is one of the greatest sources of hope and expectation in the true church today. Let's also look at the predictions of this event that were revealed to the apostle Paul.

First it is important to note that Paul had been a Jewish student taught by one of the great teachers of the day and had been on a mission to wipe out the church when Jesus appears to him and knocks him off his horse stricken with blindness. After Paul receives the healing of his sight from another Christian brother, he finds himself in need of the truth. In the first chapter of the book of Galatians Paul tells the story of how he went into the wilderness to get the revelation of his message directly from Jesus. Let's take a look, Paul in the first chapter verses 11 - 17 says:

11 I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. 12 I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.13 For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. 14 I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased 16 to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being. 17 I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went

ínto Arabía.

Here Paul states he did not go to talk to the other apostles but went to the desert to seek God and get the truth directly from him. Also, important to point out is that when Paul started preaching one of his first Letters that he wrote was to the church of Thessalonica. He was there for 3 weeks and taught them about this event known as the rapture. After departing Paul hears that these new believers are concerned about their family members that have died before Christ's return. In 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verses 13 – 18 he gives the following explanation:

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be <u>caught</u> <u>up</u> together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

This is one of the clearest explanations of the rapture in scripture. It explains that at some point in history Jesus will appear in the sky and with a trumpet blast and will take all believing Christians up to meet Him in the air. As was stated earlier regarding the nation of Israel is that blindness in part has come to the people of Israel until: THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES COMES IN. That means when the last determined person that God has called into the church comes to a believing knowledge of Christ it will be completed and that group of people will have fulfilled their determined purpose. Then Jesus himself will come and take the believing group of Christ followers unto himself to meet Him in the air.

Below you can see the Timelines for all 3 groups. Notice the Gentiles and Israel are on a collision course with the return of Jesus at what is called the battle of Armageddon at Christ's' final return to earth. When the church is taken He comes in the air and not to the earth, FOR the Church. When He returns for the final second coming as King of Kings 7 years later He comes WITH the Church.

Gentiles TimelineChurch Age
StartJesus CrucifiedJesus Returns
Juli 1Juli 10
Babel-Egypt-Babylon-Medo/Persia-Rome 1Rome 2AntiChrists 10 Nations
baber Egypt Babyon Wedof Fersia Romer - Rome 2 - Antiennote to Rationo
Israel's TímelíneChurch Age
IsraelJesus Crucified/Jews GoneBack1948Final 7 years-Jesus Returns
IsraelJesus Crucified/Jews GoneBack1948Final 7 years-Jesus Returns
IsraelJesus Crucified/Jews GoneBack1948Final 7 years-Jesus Returns <u>Church's Timeline</u>
IsraelJesus Crucified/Jews GoneBack1948Final 7 years-Jesus Returns
IsraelJesus Crucified/Jews GoneBack1948Final 7 years-Jesus Returns <u>Church's Tímelíne</u> PentecostGospel PreachedRapture
IsraelJesus Crucified/Jews GoneBack1948Final 7 years-Jesus Returns <u>Church's Timeline</u>

The Jewish wedding Model

The relationship of Jesus and the Church is referred to many times in the scriptures as a bride (the church) and the bridegroom (Jesus). This Jewish wedding model is used in many ways to show how Jesus relates to the church and how this relationship will be modeled. Below we see the outline of the Jewish

Gods' Time Capsule

wedding process and we begin to see how Jesus is following this pattern with his bride the church.

In a Jewish wedding ceremony First we have:

1) The Ketubah: Betrothal, the bride is chosen and accepts.

Note the church was chosen, believers accept Christ, (Eph 5:32"FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."

Eph 5:33 This is a great mystery, but **I speak concerning Christ and the <u>church</u>.**

Next we have:

<u>2) Payment of the purchase price</u>: A price is paid to the Jewish father for the bride.

In the church, 1 Cor 6:19-20, Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Then we see:

<u>3) The bride Set apart:</u> Then the bride would begin to ready herself for the return of the bridegroom and the wedding.

In the church we are (sanctified) 1 Cor 6:11, And such were some of you. But you were washed, **but you were sanctified**, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Next in order:

<u>4) The Bridegroom departs:</u> to the fathers' house to build an addition for his bride and himself.

Jesus has presently left to the Fathers house Jn 14:2, In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. <u>I go to prepare a place</u> <u>for you.</u>

He is:

- Preparing room additions for us Jn 14:1-3 and the Bride or the church should be preparing for his imminent return

5) At an unknown hour: The time of the bridegrooms' return was unknown to the bride.

No one knows the day, or the hour of Christs' return for his church.

6) Surprise gathering: The bride would wait for a shout to announce a surprise arrival of the groom to receive his bride and take her to the fathers house for the wedding.

Surprise Arrival pre-ceded by a shout 1 Thess 4:16-17, For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven <u>with a shout</u>, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Then

7) Huppa, Wedding : When the bride and groom arrive at the fathers house there was a wedding ceremony.

The church and Jesus in heaven for the Marriage supper. Rev. 19:9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God.

Now notice how Jesus talking to his disciples in Jn:141-3 now makes more sense:

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions;(homes he is preparing for us) if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.(the buiding of an addition for the bride and bridegroom) **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; (the rapture of the church and the

coming for the 5 prepared virgins in Matt. 25) that where I am, *there* you may be also. (We are taken to heaven as in 1Thess 4:17). For the wedding feast)

Jesus in Luke 21:36 told us, the church to pray that we might be accounted worthy to escape all these things that are coming upon the earth and stand before the son of man. "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

It is noteworthy that Jesus gave us all the things needed for us to be prepared at his coming for his church. In the book of Revelation chapters 2 and 3 Jesus himself gives the church 7 letters to cover all the issues the church would go through on earth before he returns. It is 7 report cards to the churches and he clearly maps out the things we do well and the things that cause us to get off track. He gives clear promises to those that overcome and heed his warnings. But he also gives the assurance of grave consequences to those who do not. He says to some churches that if they do not repent, they will go into great tribulation or this final 7 years of chaos to come upon the earth. To those that do overcome he tells them that they will be kept from the very hour or time of tribulation that will come upon the whole earth. A clear depiction of the rapture of the church before the great tribulation begins.

These are solemn words indeed for those that take lightly what is about to transpire here on earth. As you read through the utter destruction that overtakes the planet when this period begins it is no wonder Jesus called it a time of trouble that never has been before, nor ever will be again. As you read through Matt. 25 and the parable of the 10 virgins you clearly see that Jesus likens the church to the bride that is awaiting the return of the bridegroom (just as in the Jewish wedding model) who comes to surprise his bride. You can also see that all were virgins and that all of them were expecting his sudden arrival. You also see that 5 did not take it as serious and were not prepared when he suddenly arrived. The parable states that "those that were ready" entered into the wedding ceremony and the door was shut! The unprepared 5 come back after preparing themselves only to find the door shut and entry into the wedding has been sealed off to only those that were ready at the time of his coming.

These words should indeed cause us all to take a moment of pause. I am sure many will say "what does being ready consist of?" I guess the best place to start would be in the seven letters to the seven churches of revelation chapters 2 and 3. Here is the only time Jesus speaks directly to the churches, telling them what they are lacking and how they should get ready for his return. Let's see what he says:

To the first church Ephesus Rev. 2:1-7 He commends them for their diligence but tells them they have left their first love. They are so busy with the business of the king (or their so-called work for God) that they are not spending time or having a personal relationship with the king. Whenever Jesus was asked about getting into heaven, he always talked about relationship with him and not the deeds that they did. To those that didn't get in he tells them "I never knew you". That is a HUGE warning for us all.

<u>To the church at Smyrna</u> Rev. 2:8-11 He has nothing bad to say about them. They were under great persecution and thought that they were in bad shape, poor and destitute. Jesus says quite the opposite. He tells them that they are rich and to just hang on. That should let us know what true success really is in the eyes of the Lord, another VERY important thing to take note of.

<u>To the church at Pergamos</u> Rev. 2:12-17 He writes and commends them saying even though they live in the midst of evil they haven't denied Jesus. But tells them that they hold to bad teaching and doctrine in their midst and allow Idols and fornication. This is sounding an alarm that any practice which puts you before Jesus is a road to destruction, and once again Jesus gives us fair warning that such ways lead to separation from him. He calls on anyone that is practicing such things to Repent.

To the church at Thyatira Rev. 2:18-29 He writes that they have works of service and charity but they allow spiritual teachers and so called prophetess' to seduce the people into fornication. He states that he has given these teachers space to repent but they have not. Anyone who follows these teachings will be judged. It is a somber warning to know Jesus personally as well as his word and do not follow the doctrines of men. To the church at Sardís Rev. 3:1-6 He says that they have a name but they are almost dead. He warns them to be ready and tells them that for the ones that are not ready he is going to come as a thief in the night (like the 5 foolish virgins) and they will be caught unaware. This is a clear warning to be ready for his return by living for Christ and by your continued relationship with Jesus. He stresses to them to be watchful for his return (just like the 5 wise virgins).

To the church at Philadelphia Rev. 3:7-13 He has no rebukes at all. He says they have a little strength and that they have kept his word. He tells them that for them is an open door (like the door that was open for the 5 wise virgins) and that he will not shut it on them. He promises to keep them from the hour or time of tribulation that is coming on the entire world to try or test <u>all those that dwell on the earth</u>. This is a clear reference to the prepared church being raptured before the great tribulation that will come in the final seven years of history that we have been alluding too, again Jesus giving clear instruction on how to be prepared and watchful for his soon return.

<u>To the church at Laodicea</u> Rev. 3:14-22 He has a somber and very strong warning. He tells them that they are Luke-warm and complacent concerning their relationship with him. He goes so far as to say he will spit them out. He comments that they are saying they are rich and in need of nothing, but really, he tells them they are poor, blind and naked. Unfortunately, this is a clear depiction of a lot of the modern-day churchgoers today. They live very comfortably and don't want anything to upset their lifestyle. He actually says he is outside knocking on the door hoping someone will let him in. He says those I love I rebuke in hopes that they will *turn around*, (another word for repent). He encourages them to do whatever they need to do to get their eyes opened and reset their relationship with him. He tells them if they answer the door when he knocks, he will come in and have fellowship with them. Once again, he gives a clear description of where some Christians are at and clear instructions to save them from the coming time of testing that is coming on all that dwell on the earth.

These 7 letters are directly from Jesus to the church. To read, and indeed heed these warnings is vital for the last day believers and it clearly was penned that way for our instruction and warning.

The 3 Groups

As Paul addresses the church in First Corinthians, he is instructing them regarding how to act around certain groups of people. He tells them of the liberty they have in Christ but encourages them to do whatever is best for those around them. If using your liberty regarding what you eat or drink will cause someone of another group to stumble in their understanding of Jesus, he says than be wise and help them grow by not exercising your liberty. He addresses the church regarding all the groups of people that they may run into and he says:

³² Give no offense, neither to the <u>Jews,</u> nor to the <u>Gentiles</u>, nor to the <u>church of</u> <u>God</u>, 1Cor 10:32

Here we clearly see Paul telling the church all the groups of people that are on the earth. He labels them, Jews, Gentiles or the Church, without understanding these groups and Gods plan for each one, it is very easy to get lost, or off track regarding the teachings on the return of Jesus.

<u>To the Church</u> Jesus is returning to receive us unto himself to those that are ready.

<u>To the Jew</u> he is returning as the reigning king to reign in Jerusalem from David's throne just as the angel explained to Mary before Jesus was conceived.

<u>To the Gentile</u> or the unbelieving world, he will return to judge the earth and every eye will see him as he comes in the clouds with his Church.

As you can see, very soon Jesus will come for his church and the world will enter into what the bible calls the seventieth week of Daniel. That final week of years or seven years of tribulation that will come upon the whole earth to test them that dwell on the earth. Indeed, God has shown us what is to happen during those years of cataclysmic judgement. Let us step through the veil and see what God has revealed regarding this final seven years of testing, wrath and tribulation.

Chapter 8 The Great Tribulation

As we approach this portion of the times that are yet to come upon the earth, It is vital to understand that what proceeded this time was 6000 years of God appealing to humanity to receive the grace and pardons he offers to mankind. Sending Jesus, the son of God down to earth to die for us showing that he has spared nothing in trying to reach humanity.

In a nutshell, In the beginning God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit said, "Let US make man in our image". God is Love and when we (mankind) were created we were love as well, as we were made in his image. But he told us if you decide to do it your own way you would surely die, another clear warning from a heart of love. We decided to go our own way and indeed our spirit of love died, and we went from, being love to, needing love. From that moment on you can trace humankind and everything we have sought after back to the need of filling that missing love part that was lost. From the drugs we take to the success we seek to the prostitute on the street, it is all in the quest to fill that missing portion of man that died that infamous day in the garden.

In Luke 19:10 Jesus said he came to seek and to save that which **was** lost. If he is looking for something that **was** lost, it must mean that before it was lost, it was in its rightful place. You see when you receive the spirit of God or as Jesus said become born again, you are now back in the place of being love again. Unfortunately, we have been told that we now have to fix this old man that has lived without love for its entire life, but Paul says quite the opposite. He says do not fix the old man but reckon him dead. In other words, don't follow the old you but as he says, it is no longer I that live but Christ that lives in me. He says I am crucified with Christ and I don't live by my old self any longer. You see the act of baptism is supposed to be a symbol of going under the water or being buried with Christ in death and rising again or coming up from the waters of baptism to a new man that lives by Christ in you the hope of glory. A plan that is dependent on the God in us and not us trying to be like God. As we begin to look at the final years of this age, we will see a world that has, after thousands of years of Gods attempts to reach out to us, experience a final culmination of judgments that unravel on the earth. Everything mankind has built to replace God is judged and destroyed. The world is turned over to total evil and its destructive power. During this time anyone that is clinging to Jesus the true God will be hunted and despised. The Jewish nation will accept a world leader they think is their messiah but will actually be the great deceiver Satan. He will perform false miracles, signs and wonders to deceive the masses, but a remnant of the Jewish nation will realize they have been deceived and the tribulation that ensues is of a magnitude that has never been seen before. So, let's set the stage and step through the veil that God has opened for us to get a glimpse of the coming tribulation.

Now we shall look first from the throne room as court is called to order and the Members of the Godhead, Saints and Angels are gathered and the ceremony begins. We pick it up in Rev. Chapter 4 verse 1-4 John writes:

[Rev 4:1-4 NKJV]

1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door [standing] open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard [was] like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

The Apostle John is continuing to relay the vision, he has just finished describing the church age on the Earth, he is now taken to heaven to see what MUST take place after the church age has ended. You see it MUST TAKE PLACE. Not maybe or possibly but it Must. After God has reached out over and over again to humanity He will say, the time has come, the final stage of this earthly plan must take place, John continues:

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and [One] sat on the throne.

John is taken to the throne room and God the father is seated on the throne. And the scene is described as all those present are listed in the next few verses.

3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and [there was] a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. 4 Around the throne

[were] twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones, I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

Let's determine who these 24 Elders are and who do they represent? If we look further into the book of Revelation, we see these 24 elders singing a song that gives us an understanding of who they are.

[Rev 5:8-10 NKJV] 8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, <u>And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."</u>

So, the song states that this group has been redeemed from every tribe, tongue and nation. That clearly indicates that it is not just 24 individuals but representative of a group of people from every nation on the earth. It also states that they have been redeemed by His blood, which means that they are not angels. Only mankind can be redeemed. And finally, it states that they have been made kings and priests of God. That only leaves one group of people and that is the church.

So far we have God the father on the throne with the church present on 24 thrones around Gods throne. Verse 5 reveals the next participants.

[Rev 4:5 NKJV] 5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire [were] burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Here we see that the next part of the Godhead The Holy Spirit is present, shown here as the seven Spirits of God. The next group to be revealed are called the 4 living creatures that Worship God day and night. These are I believe as stated 4 actual angelic creatures that worship at the throne of God day and night as stated in verse 8:

[Rev 4:8 NKJV] 8 [The] four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

In order for this ceremony to proceed the paperwork must be present to show its validity. In Chapter 5 verse 1 we see that the Father has the scroll in his hand.

[Rev 5:1 NKJV] 1 And I saw in the right [hand] of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

The scroll contains the "things which must take place after this" written in its sealed sections. The key to this entire ceremony is that the only one who can open this document is some one who has the credentials to do so. There then goes out a decree, in the throne room, asking who is worthy to open this document. Let's see what transpires:

[Rev 5:2-5 NKJV] 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. 4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

So the call goes out and there doesn't seem to be anyone who qualifies to open the scroll and John begins to weep. But one of the elders comes to John and says:

5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

[Rev 5:6-7 NKJV] 6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Here we see the last member of the Godhead, the risen Christ, He is worthy to take the scroll and open it and indeed he takes it from the Fathers hand and now the final period of time that was foretold by the prophets is now ready to begin. Only Jesus could buy back the authority mankind lost in the garden and now after thousands of years of God reaching out to mankind for them to return to Him, we have reached the final countdown. This ceremony MUST and WILL take place after the church's appeal to the world has reached its fruition and the church is removed. Remember Paul wrote regarding this in the book of Romans when he said:

[Rom 11:25 NKJV] 25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel <u>until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.</u>

Gods' Time Capsule

God has reached out in history first to mankind before the nation of Israel was established, then to the nation of Israel, but they rejected Jesus when he came to them. So, He made his final appeal to the unbelieving gentile world after Israel rejected him and here Paul states that after the fullness of the gentiles have come in, the church will be removed and the attention will turn back to the Jewish nation for the final 7 years of humanity. As we will see, the calamities that come upon the earth to get them to repent are, as Jesus stated, so bad that there has never been nor ever will be anything like it and if those days were not cut short no flesh would be saved.

Because of the severity of what is about to take place and its description is so detailed and cataclysmic, I will list it in a point-by-point overview that culminates with the return of Jesus to the earth with the church to rule and reign for 1000 years.

Many have looked at the words of this book of Revelation as just stories or metaphors of events that have already transpired. It is hard for the human mind to comprehend the things that are about to come upon this earth. Remember we have seen that God will do exactly what has been written exactly the way it was written. The people of Noah's day laughed at him because he said it was going to rain and watched him build a boat in his yard for 120 years. Up to that time it had never rained on the earth for Genesis 2 verse 6 says But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. So, the people of his day laughed him to scorn when he said the earth will be flooded because no such thing had ever occurred. Jesus said as it was in the days of Noah so shall it be at the coming of the son of man. Jesus also mentions Lot who lived in Sodom and told his family that God was going to destroy the city with fire and brimstone from the sky. His 2 sons in law laughed and were destroyed in the destruction of the city. Lot was removed before it fell. The things that are about to transpire have never happened before and people have a hard time breaking that comfortable paradigm they have been living in. The World has entered the birth pangs that Jesus spoke about and there is no turning back. We are seeing the forming of one world governments and one world economies as well as a one world religion. We are seeing the stage being set for things to happen that are to the normal

mind unthinkable. Let's list just some of the events that will transpire that will rock the mindset of this normal world.

*The nations to the north of Israel who are already in place, will invade like a swarm from Israel's' northern border and God will supernaturally defeat them in front of the entire world. Ez. 38,39 (see Ch. 6)

*Jesus will appear in the air and remove all those who believe in Him as savior before that dreadful period begins. The dead in Christ will have their graves opened and the living believers will be caught away to all meet the Lord in the air. That sounds crazy but make no mistake the times we are entering will be filled with never before scenes such as this. 1 Thess 4:16-17, For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

*Elíjah and Moses will appear to the world in Israel and do supernatural signs and wonders. Fire from their mouths, stopping the rain, plagues. Rev.11:3 And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

v.4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.

V.5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

V.6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

*After 3 ½ years of ministry in Jerusalem Elijah and Moses will be killed and their bodies will lie in the streets for 3 days. The entire world will watch as life enters back into them, and they will stand on their feet and be taken to heaven before the whole world. Rev.11:7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

V.8_And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

V.9_Then *those* from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.

V.IO_And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

V.11_Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.

V.12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

*Demon locusts will come up from the pit and torcher men for 5 months. It will be so grievous that men will want to die but will not be able too. Rev.9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

V.3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

V.4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

V.5 And they were not given *authority* to kill them, but to torment them *for* five months. Their torment *was* like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.

V.6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

*Men will be forced to worship the one world ruler who suffers a mortal head wound but comes back to life. Those who do not follow him will not be able to buy or sell and will be hunted down and killed. Rev 13:14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

V.15 He was granted *power* to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

V.16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

V.17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

*The waters of the earth will be poisoned and turn to blood and All sea life will die. Rev 16:3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead *man*; and every living creature in the sea died.

*Men will hide in rocks and caves in hopes that the rocks will fall on them because the wrath of God has come, and they know that no one can stand against Him. <u>Rev 6:15</u> And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

V.16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

V.17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

*Asteroids will hit the earth causing tsunamis, poisoning the water, and making all those who drink sick. Rev 8:10 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

V.11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

*100-pound hail will fall from the sky crushing anything in their path. Rev 16:21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, *each hailstone* about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

*At least 2/3 of the earth's population will die from hunger, war, pestilence, and wild beasts. Rev 6:8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth. Rev 9:18 By these three *plagues* a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.

*The world economic, religious, and political systems will be judged and destroyed. Rev 18:21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw *it* into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.

*The final battle of Armageddon will take place in Israel where all the armies of the nations of the world will gather to fight against Jesus when he returns and when they are defeated the blood will be up to the horses' bridles. Rev 14:19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

V.20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

These are but a small portion of the catastrophes that will befall the earth in the not-too-distant future. So, why would God allow such catastrophes to take place? He has extended his hand of grace to the entire world for thousands of years. The judgement has been set and we are living in the last days of his appeal to humankind to turn to Him. The reason why many have sensed that something is about to transpire is because the clear signs that Jesus and the prophets have spoken about are now coming into view. God has said that in the end you would see these things begin to take place. My hope is that you would look at what is now happening and take the time to focus on the opportunity that God gives to all those who call on his name. The exact timing is not known but the season is clearly upon us. Soon the door will close and the final events that bring this world to its ultimate end will begin. I pray you are spared from that time of judgement.

Chapter 9

The Door is Closed, and the Books are Opened

As we reach the culmination of these three groups and see how each one is brought to its conclusion a couple of things become apparent. The first is that those who choose to focus their lives on the hereafter rather than the here and now seem to have a clearer understanding and a better eternal outcome shown to them in the scriptures.

The second thing we see is that no one is exempt from standing before the great judge and king to give account for the life lived here on the earth. Indeed, it seems to be what is best explained as, administered on a sliding scale but indeed no one will escape His judgement. By the term sliding scale I am referring to the scripture that says to whom much is given much is required which seems to indicate that to whom little was given less would be required. It is also referenced in the parable of the talents where one is given 10 another 5 and another only one. It was expected of those who received them to put them to good use. Those with 5 were not expected to produce as much as those with 10. Yet all were expected to use what God had given them for the benefit of the kingdom. The goals that were expected to be achieved were determined by the giver of the talents and not by what we would classify as success. This leads us to the greatest question of all. How can we determine what the giver of the talents is expecting from us? And the answer lies in communication and relationship. The place to start is clearly in His word. It gives us clear direction as to where we should put our time and attention. It also provides us with indicators of our progress. These signs that are given indicate that you are showing forth evidence of Christ operating in your life. Jesus told us that you would know the true followers by their fruit. I believe the reference here is to the fruits of the Spirit mentioned in the 5th chapter of the book of Galatians. It is Love, Joy, peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control. Let's not miss the fact that these are fruits, and they are not gifts. Gifts are given freely and are unmerited while fruits, on the other hand take time and nurturing to grow and manifest. Those that are truly following Christ will manifest these fruits in their lives. Jesus clearly stated that my sheep hear my voice and the voice of another they will not follow. He also stated that not everyone that calls themselves followers of Christ will enter into the kingdom but those who hear and obey the voice of the father. That presupposes that His voice can be heard and obeyed.

The group that is held most accountable for this type of life is the church. And those that teach in the church are held to an even higher standard. It is fairly clear that over the last 2000 years of church history we have not been accentuating this area of spiritual growth. As we will see ALL will stand before Him and the books will be opened. The opening of the books means that every idle word, deed, and intent of the heart are recorded, and we will be held accountable for each one. The most important part of this accounting is the intent of the heart in all we do. It is pretty clear that some will do good deeds for selfish reasons and all these deeds will be burned up and deemed worthless while the smallest of other acts done with a pure heart and right motives will be greatly rewarded. Just as stated by those that said to the Lord when did we feed you or come to visit you in prison? And Jesus said when you did it to the least of these you did it for me.

As we take stock of our own lives it would benefit us greatly to consider our motives in all we do as everyone will stand before Him with the books opened. To those that believed not in God they will be held accountable for the very witness of creation in all its majesty, and as stated in the book of Romans it is declared in no uncertain terms that creation has shown it to them, and they are without excuse. To the Jewish believer who has the law and the prophets to follow they will be held responsible for following and heeding their words and their prophecies. To the church of Jesus who have been given the very Spirit of God dwelling within them, teaching and guiding them they will be responsible for making use of that inward witness and relationship. To those in the church Paul mentions the judgment seat of Christ which according to his letter To the Corinthians, is not a determination of entrance into the kingdom, but a granting of rewards or lack of rewards. The danger here is for those that think they are part of this group but are doing it for themselves and are deceived into thinking that they are following Christ. Jesus himself said that MANY in that day will come to him and say Lord, Lord have we not prophesied and cast out demons in your name? A clear reference to ministers and ministries that profess Jesus as their

Lord. And his response was I never knew you! To those that are part of this group called the church this should give us all great pause. The clear indication of this scripture is that in order to be part of this group you MUST know him. Just as you get to know someone here in the natural, so is it with Christ. We have to spend time, talk, listen, and get to know the character of him. If that seems strange to you then it would seem that a-lot of your focus is on this natural life, and you haven't yet spent sufficient time cultivating how to listen and follow the Holy Spirit on the inside that was given to lead and guide us in all truth. Let's also note that MANY in that day would come and say they thought they were following Jesus but were not. He clearly mentions that this is not a few misguided people but MANY.

The reality here is that religion is NOT relationship with Jesus. Going to church and doing good works in his name does not mean that you are in relationship with him. This indeed is a hard lesson for many people, as Jesus mentioned in the parable of the sowing of the seed that one type of seed was the one choked by the cares of this life and the desire for other things. For too many Christians this is a hard pill to swallow as it means that all the things that you have spent your life acquiring could actually be a deterrent to your relationship with Christ which according to Jesus is the primary goal.

So, we can see what is meant by the books shall be opened but what was meant when Jesus said that the door shall be closed? It is mentioned in Matthew chapter 25 in the parable of the ten virgins. These 10 were expected to be prepared and waiting for the bridegrooms return, which could happen at any time, meaning they needed to always be ready. It shows that when Jesus returns that those that are ready were granted entrance but those that were not prepared had the door closed on them and upon their request to have the door opened Jesus once again states that I never knew you. So apparently, they knew who he was, but a relationship was never established, and He did not know who they were. I take this to indicate that when Christ comes for his church, those that truly know him will be removed from the coming 7 years of judgement and calamity soon to come upon the earth, while those that did not would be left to endure it. The church of Philadelphia mentioned in the 3rd chapter of the book of Revelation is told that Jesus opens doors that no one shuts and shuts doors that no one opens. These believers are told that Jesus will keep them from the hour or time of trial that is coming upon the entire earth.

As we read all these passages one can clearly see that God is making every effort to make us aware and to give us ample warning and prepare us for what is about to take place here on earth.

So let us take advantage of the extended hand of grace given by God and make true preparation getting our hearts right and our relationship with Jesus established and in its proper place.

Chapter 10 Living In the Last Days

In the last chapter we covered certain aspects of the heavenly perspective of our lives and how from Gods' perspective, it differs from what we perceive to experience here in the earthly realm. Being born of the natural man or of water, as Jesus put it gives us only an earthly perspective of life, yet the bible is saturated with the spiritual aspect of life and how it is filled with an array of celestial beings that are just beyond or natural ability to see. Within the realm of this spiritual world rests many of the keys to living a life that is unmoved by the challenges of our earthly existence. In the Gospel of John Jesus explains to Nicodemus that being born of water or natural birth is just the earthly part of your life, but true life comes from being born of water and the Spirit. Notice how Jesus tells Nicodemus that unless he is born of the Spirit, he cannot even see the kingdom of God.

[Jhn 3:3-6 NKJV] 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, <u>he cannot see the kingdom of God."</u>

As most people would say while living only in the natural state "how can one be born twice"?

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus replies by saying that which is born of the flesh is flesh but that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water <u>and</u> the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

So why is this so important when it comes to living in these last days? Well, the apostle Paul when writing to the church at Ephesus explained to them that once you have been born of the Spirit your enemies are not people or flesh and blood but beings of the unseen world of the spirit. [Eph 6:12 NKJV] 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places].

Isn't it interesting that as we begin to look at the bible from beginning to end, we see that this titanic struggle of good verses evil is actually a set up. Let me explain what I mean.

It is clear from the book of Genesis that before man was created Satan had already fallen or rebelled, because he was in the garden in his fallen state when he tempted Eve. So, at this point in history God could have just disposed of Satan and maintained a perfect garden. Or God could have chosen not to put a tree in the garden which was the tree of knowledge of good and evil, yet he did. Let's look a little deeper. Let's go to the oldest book of the bible and recount the story of Job. Many are confused regarding this book but let's pull some obvious facts from it that will help us grow up into maturity. This is a very interesting portion of scripture. Notice that God called a meeting and Satan was present:

[Job 1:6-12 NKJV] 6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

Also note that God asked Satan where he had been. As if He didn't know already, (a set up).

7 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

Also notice that God provokes Satan to jealousy regarding Job and how he is living a godly life.

8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that [there is] none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

Let's stop here and note that Man was created after Satan and one third of the angels had fallen. Then in the garden, after the angelic fall, God sets up a scenario to allow Satan to corrupt mankind. His purpose was to show that

created mankind will fellowship with me because I am a loving God and yet you and your group of angels after living in the perfection of the heavens rebelled. These angelic hosts that rebelled are what we mentioned earlier as the principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this age that we are fighting against. Let's also remember that all these celestial beings were created by Christ and for his purposes as Paul writes in the book of Colossians:

[Col 1:16 NKJV] 16 For by Him (Jesus) all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Isn't that interesting that Satan and his angelic hosts are created beings that Jesus himself created for his own purposes? After Jesus came to earth, he called the disciples and created the church. In the book of Ephesians Paul calls the church a mystery but notice what one of the purposes of the church was.

Paul writes to the Ephesians:

[Eph 3:9-10 NKJV] 9 and to make <u>all see</u> what [is] the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 <u>to the intent</u> that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known <u>by the church</u> to the principalities and powers in the heavenly [places],

Paul says that Gods wisdom will be made manifest to these principalities and powers in heavenly places how? By the church!

God expected Satan to tempt Adam and Eve and for them to fall and set in motion this time frame that locked Satan into his final demise. God in the garden told Satan that he would be at enmity with the seed of the women and that Satan would bruise her seeds heal but her seed would crush his head. That seed if you follow the seed of Eve would be Jesus. Returning to Job we see Satan telling God that Job or mankind only follows you because they want **to be blessed**. **He tells** God that if Job didn't have those blessings, he would curse you to your face.

9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 "Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 "But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" 12 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has [is] in your power; only do not lay a hand on his [person]." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Interesting, note that Satan needs permission from God to do anything. Also, interesting to note is that from an earthly perspective, which is what most Christians see in this story, Job is put to the ultimate test out of no fault of his own. The entire scenario was a set up provoked by God to show Satan that his rebellion was wrong and that when Gods' love and mercy are manifest to mankind there will be those that follow and fellowship with Him because they desire too, even though they have the choice to go in any direction they choose.

So how does this help us live in these last days? As you can see, just as Paul stated we are not wrestling against flesh and blood. To paraphrase, your neighbor, your family member, your coworker is not your enemy. We are walking out a life that is showing those around us and those in the spiritual world that we live for and trust in the God of heaven. That should cause us to walk upright and righteous at all times. Many scriptures come to mind when we see it from this perspective. We are ambassadors for Christ.

[2Co 5:20 NKJV] 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore [you] on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

That means we are here to represent Him. I have found that the easiest way to live this out is found in a scripture from the book of the prophet Micah:

[Mic 6:8 NKJV] 8 He has shown you, O man, what [is] good; And what does the LORD require of you but to <u>do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?</u>

Peter also had many places where he encouraged us to walk with God in a holy lifestyle.

[IPe 1:22-23 NKJV] 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with

a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

I think you will find as you walk out your life in this manner you will begin to live in a way that brings to life this scripture found in the Psalms:

[Psa 37:23 NKJV] 23 The steps of a [good] man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

Your steps or life will be ordered of God. You will be where you need to be when you need to be there. That does not mean that everything will just be wonderful and peaceful. But consider this, the people that need to see, know, and hear the truth are in desperate places, going through desperate times. As Jesus said, I did not come for the healthy but for the sick.

[Mar 2:17 NKJV] 17 When Jesus heard [it], He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call [the] righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

With boldness, compassion and faith we should live a righteous life before men without fear of repercussions. In doing this we will be prepared and in the proper mindset to live in these last days. My hope is that we all can go and do likewise.

Conclusion

As we bring this to a conclusion let's make some very clear statements that are undeniable. We know by the yet to be fulfilled prophecies that certain things <u>WILL</u> take place.

There <u>WILL</u> be a one world money system. That will enslave all both small and great.

There <u>WILL</u> be a global tyrannical government.

There <u>WILL</u> be a Sataníc world ruler.

Christians <u>WILL</u> be removed to meet the Lord in the air.

A severe seven-year period of unimaginable destruction is going to come. And many other prophecies of catastrophe's that will take place are clearly laid out and <u>WILL</u> take place.

What we don't know is HOW God will bring them to pass or the exact order in which they will transpire. What is evident is the fact that we are in the final stages of history. Does that mean a day, a week, a year or 10 years is not completely clear. The signs of the end are everywhere at this stage. Does 10 or 15 years seem like a long time to you? That means that in your lifetime or surely in your children and grandchildren's lifetimes the end will come. The door will close, and the books will be opened. Are you, your friends, family, children, and grandchildren prepared for the final days of history? What will you be found doing in the last chapter of this world? There is a verse in the book of proverbs that talks about properly using the information provided to you. I look at these prophecies as clear warnings of what is coming upon the world. There is no question that they will happen just as God has stated. That verse says:

Proverbs 27:12 (NLT) A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

The consequences of ignoring the prophets that foretold of these days are far too great to ignore. It is my prayer that we spend the rest of our time cultivating a relationship with Jesus. That we seek the Holy Spirit within us to lead and guide us into all truth.

My prayer is:

That if you are part of the group called the Gentiles or unbelieving world you would see the need to call out to Jesus and receive that Spirit on the inside that needs to be birthed.

That if you are of the Jewish religion, you would read your Old Testament scriptures afresh and see that Jesus was the promised one and that he was the suffering Messiah and the soon coming King. Notice that the Jewish nation was told what their future would be, and it has played out exactly as the prophets foretold.

That if you are part of the church of Jesus Christ you would renew your walk with Him and begin to rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance and that you would take stock of your life and the seriousness of the hour in which we now find ourselves. For we were created to live in just such a time as this. The door will soon close and anyone that is not removed in the catching away of the church will be destined to go through the most horrific time of calamity that this world has ever known. There are many people that we interact with every day that are unaware of the calamity that is about to befall them. Family members, coworkers, friends, and acquaintances alike are heading headlong into the final hours of this world system and its ultimate destruction.

May we prepare ourselves for the day that will soon befall us all. For the hourglass of this time capsule is about to pour out its final grains of sand.

Marananthah, Come Lord Jesus!

Footnotes

Pg 33 – <u>Three different terms</u> are used to describe the splitting of the 7-year tribulation into 2 halves. 1260 days $\approx \frac{1}{2}$ of the 7 years then the Jewish year would be 1260 times 2, divided by 7 and that would equal a 360 day year.

 Time, times and half a time: time = 1 year, Times = 2 years and half a time = 6 months.

Daniel 7:25

He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand For a <u>time and times and half a time.</u>

Daniel 12:7

Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who *was* above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that *it shall be* for a **time, times, and half a time**; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these *things* shall be finished.

Revelation 12:14

But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a <u>time and times and half a time</u>, from the presence of the serpent.

2) 1260-day scriptures.

Revelation 11:2-9

But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* forty-two months. And I will give *power*to my <u>two witnesses</u>, and they will prophesy <u>one</u> thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in <u>sackcloth</u>."

Revelation 12:6

Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

3) Forty-two months.

Revelation 11:2

But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* <u>forty-two months</u>.

Revelation 13:5

And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for <u>forty-two</u> <u>months.</u>