

When Jesus comes as the King of Kings, where will Israel be? How do they fit into the end time prophecies?

DAY ONE

In the first chapter of Revelation, John wants us to understand that Jesus is coming again and every eye will see Him. What about Israel? When Christ returns where will Israel be? It is vitally important that we understand this. To understand this will help us to understand so many other events like the beast, the judgment of Babylon, and the millennial reign of Christ.

1. We want to start this study by looking at various views of interpretation when it comes to Biblical prophecy. Depending on which view you hold, will greatly affect the way you look at these prophetic passages.

a. **PRETERISM** - this is a term that comes from the Latin word that means "past." Those holding to this view would see many of the prophetic events as having already taken place. Most would believe that the prophecies of Matthew 24, Revelation, and other passages have already been fulfilled. There are different extents of this view - they are mild, moderate, and extreme. The moderate would hold that the Millennium is the kingdom which Jesus established with His first coming, with Christians reigning now as kings on the earth. Some teach an early date for the writing of Revelation (before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD) making the temple referred to in Revelation the one which was destroyed in 70 AD and the seven kings of Revelation 17:1-6 being the Roman Emperors around the time of Nero.

Preterism - Past

b. **HISTORICISM** - is a view that holds that the current church age is the tribulation or Daniel's 70th week. This view is based on a day-by-day theory so that the 1260 days of Daniel and Revelation refers to literal years rather than days. They try to figure out when the antichrist, in the form of the Roman Church and the Papacy, came into power and then add 1260 years to it to discern when Jesus will return and bring an end to the reign of the antichrist. Those who hold to Historicism will try to parallel the events of the current church age with the prophecies of Revelation. For example, they see the 6th seal of Revelation 6

being the Barbarian invasions of the Goths and the Huns around 365 AD. The first trumpet is seen as Alaric and the Goths invasions of the Western Roman Empire (395-410 AD). They take a spiritualistic approach to the Word of God.

Historicism - Present

- c. FUTURISM - is a view that sees the events of Revelation 6-20 as yet to be fulfilled and will correlate with Daniel's 70th week, the day of the Lord, and the 1000-year reign of Christ on earth. Futurists hold to a literal interpretation of the Word allowing for figures of speech and symbolic language.

Futurism - Future

- d. IDEALISM - does not interpret prophetic time passages literally because they do not believe that timing is important or knowable. An idealist will look for principles and lessons they can learn through these passages.

Idealism - Timeless

- 2. If John wrote the book of Revelation about 95 AD, then he wrote it after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. If this is true, then the promise of the Lord's coming again in Revelation 1:7 is very significant, for this verse not only promises that every eye will see Him in His coming but so will the nation of Israel. In other words, though Jerusalem was destroyed by Titus and the Jews were scattered to the four corners of the earth, the nation of Israel would not be lost and go the way of other nations. Israel would exist as Israel!

Read the following verses and note how they show that "those who pierced Him" is a reference to the Jews. Mark every reference to the Jews with a star of David. ✠
As you read each passage, answer as many of the "5 W's and H" questions as you can. These verses are printed out for you on pages 10-11.

- a. Acts 2:22-24

b. Acts 3:12-17

c. Acts 4:1-2, 8-11

3. Is God finished with the nation of Israel? To answer that question, ask, "Has God fulfilled His promises to Israel? Have all the prophecies regarding this nation come to pass in a literal way?"

a. Read Romans 11:1-29 which is printed out on pages 12-13. Again, use the Star of David to mark every reference to the Jews (Israelites) and then list below what the text says in respect to Israel.

b. Now, should this passage be taken literally. Explain your answer in as much detail as you can.

- i. Northern Kingdom of Israel
 1. 10 tribes
 2. Capital: Samaria
 3. First king - Jeroboam - followed by 18 evil kings
 4. Many times referred to Ephraim
 5. This kingdom existed for 209 years
 6. In 722 BC they were taken captive by Assyria when Hoshea was king of Israel

 - ii. Southern Kingdom of Judah
 1. 2 tribes (Benjamin and Judah)
 2. Capital: Jerusalem
 3. First king - Rehoboam - followed by 11 bad and 8 good kings
 4. This kingdom existed for 345 years
 5. They were taken captive by Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar in three stages
 - a. 605 BC - Daniel and friends taken
 - b. 597 BC - Ezekiel and 10,000
 - c. 586 BC - Jerusalem destroyed

 - c. 70 years captivity from 605 to 536 BC
 - i. 538 BC - Decree is made by Cyrus to return to rebuild
 - ii. Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah - started rebuilding the temple in 536 BC
 - iii. This captivity was over in 536 BC when the remnant of the Jews returned to Jerusalem and eventually rebuilt the temple and the walls of Jerusalem.

 - d. They stayed in the land until Titus destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD, and then they were dispersed a second time.

 - e. The books of Ezra, Esther, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi are called "post-exilic" books because they relate the state of the nation of Israel after the Babylonian Captivity and the return to the land of Israel from 536 BC on.
3. Now we will look at some cross-references that talk about the nation of Israel and the coming of Christ to earth in such a way that not only will He be seen by those who pierced Him but also by all those who dwell on the earth. Look at each passage. Read it carefully asking the "5 W's and H". Watch carefully for any mention of the Jews and/or the nation of Israel. Especially watch what will happen to Israel and when.
- a. Read through Matthew 24 to familiarize yourself with the chapter. You can find this chapter written out for you on pages 14-16.

- b. Read through Matthew 24:1-31 and mark every reference to Israel of the Jews with a Star of David.
 - c. List what you learn about Israel in respect to the second coming of Christ in Matthew 24:1-31.
4. Now we are going to go to two other chapters that we studied in part 3. Ezekiel 36-37 is written out for you on pages 17-22. Ezekiel was prophesying from Babylon where he was taken as a captive in 597 BC, the second siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar.
- a. Carefully read through the following assigned verses, and then once again note all you learn about Israel and the coming of the Lord. Note whether the reference is to the restoration to the land after the 586 BC dispersion or after the 70 AD dispersion, to Jesus' first coming or to His second coming, and how you know. As you write out the "when" of these events, make sure you use Scripture to support your view.

b. Ezekiel 36:8-38 - watch carefully the progression of events. Especially not **when** the Spirit is put within them in relation to their return to the land.

c. Ezekiel 37:21-28 - watch for and mark the word "forever."

DAY FOUR AND FIVE

1. Read through Zechariah 12-14, which is printed out on pages 23-27. These are exciting chapters, and you will learn much. Remember that Zechariah is a post-exilic book which means it was written after the remnant returned from Babylon and was in the process of rebuilding the temple. The books of Ezra and Haggai are companion books. As you read mark the following things.

- a. "in that day" and every pronoun or synonym that refers to "that day."
- b. Every reference to Israel, Jerusalem, or any of the land belonging to the Jews, along with their synonyms and pronouns, using a Star of David.
- c. Any reference to the nations, along with its synonyms and pronouns.
- d. Watch for time phrases or words that show progression of events.
- e. Record all you learn about Israel, the Lord's coming, and events that surround His coming. Is this passage referring to events which came between 536 BC and 70 AD **OR** are they still to be fulfilled?

Interpreting Revelation in the
Light of Biblical Prophecy
Lesson 1
Israel's Future

2. When you finish your observations, record what you have learned about Israel, the Lord's coming, the events surrounding His coming, and whether this passage is referring to events which came between 536 BC and 70 AD - OR - if they are still to be fulfilled.

Acts 2:22-24

22 “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—

23 this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

24 But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Acts 3:12-17

12 But when Peter saw *this*, he replied to the people, “Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?

13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, *the one* whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him.

14 But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,

15 but put to death the Prince of life, *the one* whom God raised from the dead, *a fact* to which we are witnesses.

16 And on the basis of faith in His name, *it is* the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

17 “And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also.

Acts 4:1-2, 8-11

1 As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple *guard* and the Sadducees came up to them,

2 being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of the people,

9 if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well,

10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this *name* this man stands here before you in good health.

11 He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, *but* WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER *stone*.

Romans 11:1-29

1 I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

2 God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in *the passage about Elijah*, how he pleads with God against Israel?

3 “Lord, THEY HAVE KILLED YOUR PROPHETS, THEY HAVE TORN DOWN YOUR ALTARS, AND I ALONE AM LEFT, AND THEY ARE SEEKING MY LIFE.”

4 But what is the divine response to him? “I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL.”

5 In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to *God's* gracious choice.

6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

7 What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened;

8 just as it is written,

“GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR,
EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT,
DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY.”

9 And David says,

“LET THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP,
AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION TO THEM.

10 “LET THEIR EYES BE DARKENED TO SEE NOT,
AND BEND THEIR BACKS FOREVER.”

11 I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation *has come* to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.

12 Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be!

13 But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,

14 if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save some of them.

15 For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will *their* acceptance be but life from the dead?

16 If the first piece *of dough* is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too.

17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree,

18 do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, *remember that* it is not you who supports the root, but the root *supports* you.

19 You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.”

20 Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear;

21 for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either.

22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

23 And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

24 For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural *branches* be grafted into their own olive tree?

25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written,

“THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION,
HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.”

27 “THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM,
WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.”

28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of *God’s* choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;

29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Matthew 24

1 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.

2 And He said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.”

3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

4 And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.

5 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many.

6 You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end.

7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

8 But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.

9 “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

10 At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

11 Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

12 Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.

13 But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

14 This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

15 “Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

17 Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.

18 Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.

19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

20 But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.

21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

22 Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

23 Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There *He is*,' do not believe *him*.

24 For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

25 Behold, I have told you in advance.

26 So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, *or*, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe *them*.

27 For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

31 And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

32 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near;

33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door.

34 Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

37 For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

40 Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

41 Two women *will be* grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

42 “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

43 But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

44 For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think *He will*.

45 “Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?

46 Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.

47 Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

48 But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time,’

49 and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards;

50 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour which he does not know,

51 and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Ezekiel 36

1 “And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say, ‘O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD.

2 Thus says the Lord GOD, “Because the enemy has spoken against you, ‘Aha!’ and, ‘The everlasting heights have become our possession,’

3 therefore prophesy and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “For good reason they have made you desolate and crushed you from every side, that you would become a possession of the rest of the nations and you have been taken up in the talk and the whispering of the people.’””

4 Therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD. Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains and to the hills, to the ravines and to the valleys, to the desolate wastes and to the forsaken cities which have become a prey and a derision to the rest of the nations which are round about,

5 therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Surely in the fire of My jealousy I have spoken against the rest of the nations, and against all Edom, who appropriated My land for themselves as a possession with wholehearted joy *and* with scorn of soul, to drive it out for a prey.”

6 Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel and say to the mountains and to the hills, to the ravines and to the valleys, “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and in My wrath because you have endured the insults of the nations.’

7 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, ‘I have sworn that surely the nations which are around you will themselves endure their insults.

8 But you, O mountains of Israel, you will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel; for they will soon come.

9 For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you will be cultivated and sown.

10 I will multiply men on you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities will be inhabited and the waste places will be rebuilt.

11 I will multiply on you man and beast; and they will increase and be fruitful; and I will cause you to be inhabited as you were formerly and will treat you better than at the first. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.

12 Yes, I will cause men—My people Israel—to walk on you and possess you, so that you will become their inheritance and never again bereave them of children.’

13 “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Because they say to you, “You are a devourer of men and have bereaved your nation of children,”

14 therefore you will no longer devour men and no longer bereave your nation of children,’ declares the Lord GOD.

15 “I will not let you hear insults from the nations anymore, nor will you bear disgrace from the peoples any longer, nor will you cause your nation to stumble any longer,” declares the Lord GOD.’”

16 Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,

17 “Son of man, when the house of Israel was living in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds; their way before Me was like the uncleanness of a woman in her impurity.

18 Therefore I poured out My wrath on them for the blood which they had shed on the land, because they had defiled it with their idols.

19 Also I scattered them among the nations and they were dispersed throughout the lands. According to their ways and their deeds I judged them.

20 When they came to the nations where they went, they profaned My holy name, because it was said of them, ‘These are the people of the LORD; yet they have come out of His land.’

21 But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went.

22 “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.

23 I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.

24 For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.

25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

26 Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

28 You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

29 Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you.

30 I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations.

31 Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations.

32 I am not doing *this* for your sake,” declares the Lord GOD, “let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel!”

33 ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt.

34 The desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passes by.

35 They will say, ‘This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified *and* inhabited.’

36 Then the nations that are left round about you will know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places *and* planted that which was desolate; I, the LORD, have spoken and will do it.”

37 ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “This also I will let the house of Israel ask Me to do for them: I will increase their men like a flock.

38 Like the flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so will the waste cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”””

Ezekiel 37

1 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones.

2 He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, *there were* very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, *they were* very dry.

3 He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, You know.”

4 Again He said to me, “Prophecy over these bones and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.’”

5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, ‘Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.

6 I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.’”

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

8 And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them.

9 Then He said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.’””

10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

11 Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.’”

12 Therefore prophecy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel.

13 Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people.

14 I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it,” declares the LORD.”

15 The word of the LORD came again to me saying,

16 “And you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, ‘For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions’; then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.’

17 Then join them for yourself one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand.

18 When the sons of your people speak to you saying, ‘Will you not declare to us what you mean by these?’

19 say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will put them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.”’

20 The sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes.

21 Say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;

22 and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms.

23 They will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God.

24 “My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them.

25 They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons’ sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever.

26 I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever.

27 My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.

28 And the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.”””

Zechariah 12

1 The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel.

Thus declares the LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him,

2 “Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah.

3 It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.

4 In that day,” declares the LORD, “I will strike every horse with bewilderment and his rider with madness. But I will watch over the house of Judah, while I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.

5 Then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, ‘A strong support for us are the inhabitants of Jerusalem through the LORD of hosts, their God.’

6 “In that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem again dwell on their own sites in Jerusalem.

7 The LORD also will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem will not be magnified above Judah.

8 In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David *will be* like God, like the angel of the LORD before them.

9 And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

10 “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

11 In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

12 The land will mourn, every family by itself; the family of the house of David by itself and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself and their wives by themselves;

13 the family of the house of Levi by itself and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself and their wives by themselves;

14 all the families that remain, every family by itself and their wives by themselves.

Zechariah 13

1 “In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.

2 “It will come about in that day,” declares the LORD of hosts, “that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered; and I will also remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land.

3 And if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who gave birth to him will say to him, ‘You shall not live, for you have spoken falsely in the name of the LORD’; and his father and mother who gave birth to him will pierce him through when he prophesies.

4 Also it will come about in that day that the prophets will each be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies, and they will not put on a hairy robe in order to deceive;

5 but he will say, ‘I am not a prophet; I am a tiller of the ground, for a man sold me as a slave in my youth.’

6 And one will say to him, ‘What are these wounds between your arms?’ Then he will say, ‘*Those* with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.’

7 “Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd,
And against the man, My Associate,”

Declares the LORD of hosts.

“Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered;
And I will turn My hand against the little ones.

8 “It will come about in all the land,”
Declares the LORD,
“That two parts in it will be cut off *and* perish;
But the third will be left in it.
9 “And I will bring the third part through the fire,
Refine them as silver is refined,
And test them as gold is tested.
They will call on My name,
And I will answer them;
I will say, ‘They are My people,’
And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”

Zechariah 14

1 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you.
2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.
3 Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.
4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.
5 You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, *and* all the holy ones with Him!
6 In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle.

7 For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light.

8 And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter.

9 And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be *the only one*, and His name *the only one*.

10 All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin's Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's wine presses.

11 People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security.

12 Now this will be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth.

13 It will come about in that day that a great panic from the LORD will fall on them; and they will seize one another's hand, and the hand of one will be lifted against the hand of another.

14 Judah also will fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be gathered, gold and silver and garments in great abundance.

15 So also like this plague will be the plague on the horse, the mule, the camel, the donkey and all the cattle that will be in those camps.

16 Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

17 And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them.

18 If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no *rain will fall* on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

19 This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

20 In that day there will *be inscribed* on the bells of the horses, “HOLY TO THE LORD.” And the cooking pots in the LORD’S house will be like the bowls before the altar.

21 Every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to the LORD of hosts; and all who sacrifice will come and take of them and boil in them. And there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts in that day.

Interpreting Revelation in the
Light of Biblical Prophecy
Lesson 1
Israel's Future

Who is the antichrist? How will we recognize him? Where will he come from? What will he do? What is he like?

We will answer these questions this week and next as we look at this very important person who will play a key role in the end times.

DAY ONE

We are going to look at what the book of Revelation has to say about the beast and then compare John's description with other Scriptures. Remember that as we wade through these prophecies, it is very important to put aside our own thoughts and ideas and allow God to teach us through His Word and through His Spirit. Make sure you begin your study in prayer, and ask that the Lord would make your heart teachable.

1. Remember that John not only wrote the book of Revelation, but he also wrote the gospel of John and three epistles or letters. Let's start with the epistles that John wrote and see what he had to say about antichrists and the antichrist, then we will move on to the book of Revelation. Record what you learn from these verses in the space provided and then transfer the important information to the chart at the end of this lesson called "Antichrist, the Beast, and His Kingdom." You will find the chart on pages 35-38. You may note that there are more references on this chart than what we are going to explore this week. That is because we will continue this study next week.
 - a. I John 2:18-23

b. I John 4:1-6

c. II John 1-9

d. Revelation 11:7 - make sure you read the context of this verse

2. Now read Revelation 13. Once again, read carefully and watch how the different personages relate to one another. Keep asking the "5 W's and H" questions. Remember to record this information on the "Antichrist, the Beast, and His Kingdom" chart.

a. Carefully note all time references.

b. Note the relationship of this beast with the one introduced in Revelation 13:11.

DAY TWO THROUGH FIVE

1. Read over all these instructions carefully before you start. That will help you to prepare a plan of attack! Over the next four days, we are going to read through Revelation 14-19. You can use your Revelation papers from the previous classes or read this out of your Bible. I would strongly recommend that you use your worksheets so that you can mark them as you read. You can also mark in your Bible if you choose. I do!
 - a. Mark any reference to the beast and its synonyms and pronouns.
 - b. Carefully observe and record what is taking place with the beast and his kingdom and how he relates to the other events that occur in Revelation. Take your time with this assignment and really think about it. This was written so that the church might know the things that must shortly take place. The more you study, the more you familiarize yourself with the text, the more you keep comparing Scripture with Scripture, the greater your understanding will be and the better prepared you will be for the future.
 - c. Record any important insights on your chart.
2. When you come to Revelation 17:8-11, give very special attention to what the Scripture has to say about the beast. Don't try to figure out what it means just yet, simply observe carefully and exactly what it says. Record your insights below. If you are up for a challenge, draw a visual diagram of these verses so that you understand them and can picture them in your mind.

3. As you have studied, you might come up with all kinds of questions about the beast. If you did, that's great! It shows that you are thinking and processing the information you have read. If you have any questions about this beast that are unresolved, write them down in the space below.

4. Now it is time to process all the information that you have taken in from Revelation. From what you have read and studied this far, see if you can answer the questions below. You may not have answers for all of these questions, and that's okay. You may find the answers in next week's lesson as we compare Scripture with Scripture. Be as thorough as you can be, and take the time to write down chapter and verse of where you found your information.

a. Where does the beast come from?

b. Where does he get his power?

c. What is the extent of his power and for how long does he have this power?

d. What is his rule like?

e. Who are his associates?

f. What is his relationship with Babylon?

g. What happens to his kingdom? How? When?

h. What is his end? How? When?

| The Antichrist, The Beast, and His Kingdom | |
|---|------------|
| I & II John | Revelation |
| | |

| The Antichrist, The Beast, and His Kingdom | |
|---|----------|
| Daniel 7 | Daniel 9 |
| | |

| The Antichrist, The Beast, and His Kingdom | |
|---|------------------|
| Daniel 11-12 | II Thessalonians |
| | |

The Antichrist, The Beast, and His Kingdom

Matthew and Mark

Daniel's book offers us a skeletal system to prophesy. It produces a framework for all Biblical prophetic passages. When it comes to understanding the beast of Revelation, it only makes sense to return to the framework to see what Daniel says. That is where the majority of our study will be for this week. For some of you, this will be review. For others, hold on tight and do the best you can. These are some heavy passages, but so very important to our subject.

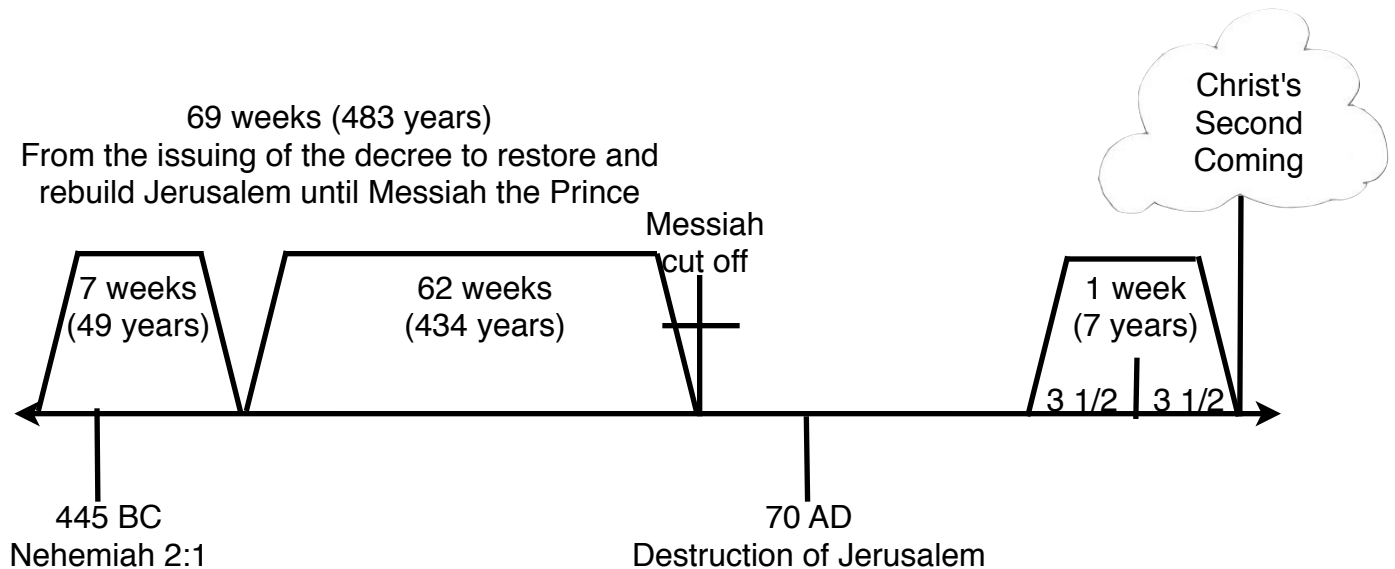
DAY ONE

1. We are going to begin by looking at Daniel 9:27. The context of this verse is Daniel 9:24-27. This is printed out for you on page 50. Read through this passage carefully and pay particular attention to verse 27.
2. Daniel 9:24-27 is a prophecy that covers seventy weeks of time in which six things will be accomplished regarding Daniel's people, the Jews, and their holy city, Jerusalem. The word translated "weeks" is literally "sevens"; therefore, it could say "seventy sevens have been decreed." For the most part scholars agree that these seventy sevens are seventy sevens of years, or, to say it another way, 490 years.

This seventy sevens, or weeks, is described as a period of seven weeks and sixty-two weeks which equals sixty-nine weeks. However, before the last week of the seventy is described, Daniel is told what will happen after the sixty-two weeks (now a total of sixty-nine weeks). Messiah will be cut off and the city and sanctuary will be destroyed. Then there is a description of the final week of the seventy.

As we look back at this prophecy historically, we can see an exact fulfillment with the exception of the final seventieth week. After the sixty-nine weeks (483 years composed of 360 days per year), Jesus was crucified; therefore, Messiah was cut off. Then in 70 AD, Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed when Titus, a Roman general, besieged the city. Therefore, it is assumed that this last seven-year period has not yet occurred but is still future and correlates with the time of the antichrist, the beast, the man of lawlessness.

Interpreting Revelation in the
 Light of Biblical Prophecy
 Lesson 3
 The Beast/Antichrist



3. Now let's answer some questions. If the "he" of Daniel 9:27 puts a stop to sacrifice and grain offering,
- what group of people would be making blood and grain sacrifices?
 - where would they offer these sacrifices?
 - when will the sacrifices come to a halt? Why?
 - If a week lasts seven years, then what amount of time passes after the sacrifices are stopped?
 - What happens to the one who makes desolate? (Makes desolate can be translated "cause horror.")

4. Read Daniel 9:27 once again. Write exactly what will happen in this seventieth week.

5. If you hold to the interpretation that the "he" of Daniel 9:27 refers back to the "prince who is to come" in verse 26, then this prince is from the people who destroyed Jerusalem and the temple, will make a covenant with the many, and then will break the covenant in the middle of the week. If this is true, let's reason through a few things.

If the week is a period of seven years, then after three and one half years (time, times, and half a time or 1260 days or 42 months), **he (the prince who is to come)** will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering.

On the wing of abominations will come **one** who makes desolate. **He** will do this until a complete destruction is poured out on **him**, the **one** who makes desolate. The text also tells us that this destruction has been decreed or prophesied.

Does Daniel 9:27 correlate with other Scriptures that deal with the beast of Revelation? That's what we want to find out.

6. Although there is no specific mention of the beast or the antichrist in this prophetic passage, record what you learn about the "he" of Daniel 9:27 on last week's chart "The Antichrist, the Beast, and His Kingdom," located on page 36.

Now read all that you recorded on your chart. Do you see any parallels between the "he" of Daniel 9 and the beast of Revelation? If so, note them by coloring or underlining them in the same color on the chart.

7. Now let's look at II Thessalonians 2:1-12. This is located on page 51. Read it carefully and mark every reference to the man of lawlessness, including any synonyms and pronouns which refer to him. Then list everything you learn about the man of lawlessness on the chart "The Antichrist, the Beast, and His Kingdom," on page 37.

8. Do you see any parallels between the beast of Revelation, the "he" of Daniel 9:27, and the man of lawlessness? If so, color all the parallels in the same color so you can spot them easily.

DAY TWO

1. Today we go back to Daniel. This time we are going to read through Daniel 7. This has a significant prophet message, so observe it carefully. It is written out for you on pages 52-54. Read through Daniel 7 and mark the following words along with their pronouns and synonyms:
 - a. Fourth beast
 - b. Ten horns
 - c. Another horn
 - d. Saints
2. Now list everything you learn about "another horn" (first mentioned in Daniel 7:8) and later referred to as "he" in verses 24 through 26. Record this list on the chart "The Antichrist, the Beast, and His Kingdom," on page 36.
3. Now if you see any parallels between the horn of Daniel 7, the "he" of Daniel 9, the man of lawlessness of II Thessalonians 2, and the beast of Revelation, then color them the same color as you did yesterday.

DAY THREE

1. The book of Daniel is so accurate in its prophetic descriptions that some scholars believe it had to have a later date of authorship, that it could not have been written by the Daniel described in the book itself! However, those who take such a position must doubt God's omniscience and ability to tell us what is going to come to pass before it happens.

When you study the book of Daniel, especially chapters 11 and 12, it is obvious from history that the events prophesied in Daniel 11:36-12:12 have not yet been fulfilled as have the events immediately preceding them in Daniel 11:1-35.

Neither have any of the prophecies of Daniel 2 that deal with the ten toes, nor those of Daniel 7 that deal with the fourth beast and the little horn, nor those in Daniel 9 that deal with the seventieth week.

In light of all this, your assignment for today is to carefully observe Daniel 11:36-45. It is printed out on page 55 of this lesson. Mark every reference to "the king" of Daniel 11:36, along with every pronoun or synonym that refers to him.

c. Mark everything you learn about the time of distress and "how long will it be to the end of these wonders." Then write out your insights below.

2. On the chart "The Antichrist, the Beast, and His Kingdom," list everything you learned about the king of Daniel 12.
3. Now if you see any parallels between the king of Daniel 11-12 and the other passages that you have recorded on this chart, color them in similar ways. When you complete this assignment, think about what you have seen and what you have learned about the beast of Revelation.

DAY FIVE

1. Mark 13 and Matthew 24 are printed out on pages 57-62 of this lesson. They are parallel passages, so we want to look at both of them together. As you do this, watch for and mark the following:
 - a. Any references to the abomination of desolation
 - b. Any reference to the tribulation
 - c. Any reference to time
 - d. Any reference to the coming of the Lord
2. Now put all the pertinent information that you gleaned from Mark and Matthew on the chart "The Antichrist, the Beast, and His Kingdom," on page 38. Note every reference to the beast/the abomination of desolation in the same color, just as you have done previously. Watch the parallels to time, and if they relate, color them in the same colors.
3. Finally, study all the information you have collected on the charts "The Antichrist, the Beast, and His Kingdom." Putting all this information together, write a description of the antichrist/beast. You might want to categorize your information in a special way, for example, his beliefs, his military tactics, his alliances, etc. Think about the information you would want to know about this person and categorize it in a way that will be the most helpful and memorable to you.

4. Finally, I want you to look at Revelation 17:7-13. This is a very difficult passage to interpret, yet I feel that we must examine it a little more carefully if we are going to do justice to our study of Revelation.

a. Write out below how the beast is described in Revelation 17:7

b. On the chart below, fill in what you understand about the heads of the beast from simply observing Revelation 17:9-11

THE SEVEN HEADS OF THE BEAST

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

c. How is the beast referred to and/or described in Revelation 17:8, 11?

d. Do you see any distinction or delineation at all between the beast as described in Revelation 17:11 and the seven heads? What, if anything, is the distinction?

- e. Read Revelation 17:12-17. Although the beast is described in Revelation 17:7 as having seven heads and ten horns, which is also the way he is described in Revelation 13, it seems that in Revelation 17:12-17 the term "beast" is distinguished in a way separate from the ten horns. What do you see as the distinction between the beast and the ten horns in these verses?
- f. Do you think there is any relationship between the beast as described in Revelation 17:8, 11-17 and the little horn of Daniel 7:8, 11, 19-22, 24-26? Record your insights below.
- g. Daniel 2:36-45 makes it clear that from Nebuchadnezzar's time until the God of heaven sets up His kingdom there will be four kingdoms "which rule over all the earth." The fourth kingdom is comprised of iron, and then feet and toes of iron and clay. In the description of this kingdom, emphasis is put on the ten toes, and we are told that in the days of those ten kings (represented by the ten toes) the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed (Daniel 2:41-44).

The ten toes of Daniel 2 parallel the ten horns of Daniel 7. However, in Daniel 7 we are given the additional insight of the little horn that arises after the ten horns. This horn is different (Daniel 7:24). Then we are told that the dominion of the little horn will be taken away and destroyed forever and the saints of the Highest One will be given the kingdom and all dominions will serve and obey Him.

Do you think there is a possibility that the beast **who is the eighth and one of the seven** could be a man who becomes the leader of the final "version" of the fourth kingdom? This could be why we are specifically told that he has the eyes and mouth of a man and he utters great boasts (Daniel 7:8, 11, 20; cf. Daniel 11:36; Revelation 13:5; II Thessalonians 2:4).

It also seems from Revelation 13:18 that God is careful to let us know that the number of the beast is the number of a man rather than an empire.

Now in light of all that we have seen, let's look at a possible scenario or interpretation of Revelation 17:7-11. This is an interpretation of what the seven heads might be.

THE SEVEN HEADS OF THE BEAST

Five
Fallen

1. **Egypt** - ruled over Israel for 400 years

2. **Assyria** - conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 BC

3. **Babylon** - conquered the Southern Kingdom of Judah in 605 BC, destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 586 BC

4. **Medo-Persian Empire** - ruled over Israel

5. **Greece** - ruled Israel except during the Maccabean period

Four
Kingdoms
of
Daniel 2:7

6. **Rome** - ruled from the time they conquered Greece right through the time when John wrote Revelation; therefore, the sixth head is referred to as "one is" (Revelation 17:10)

7. **The one that had not yet come and when he comes "must remain a little while"** - Since, according to Daniel 2, there were to be only four kingdoms before God set up His kingdom, it seems this would have to be a "revived fourth kingdom," a form of a revived Roman Empire. (The fourth kingdom had legs of iron and feet of iron and clay.)

8. **The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction** - This is probably the little horn, part of the seventh kingdom, who comes to power after the ten kings, conquers three, then becomes the world ruler.

He is the prince of the people who destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD, and he makes a seven-year covenant with the many. He sustains a fatal wound and is healed. The world wonders, then worships and follows him. The false prophet sets up an image of the little horn because of his resurrection and threatens death for those who do not worship the image. The little horn then declares himself to be "God," sets up an abomination of desolation in the rebuilt temple of the Jews, and puts a stop to the Jews' sacrifices and grain offerings; for after all, he is God! So for three and a half years (time, times, and half a time) he rules the world, and persecutes Israel except for those who apostatize and worship him.

Interpreting Revelation in the
Light of Biblical Prophecy
Lesson 3
The Beast/Antichrist

When the little horn declares himself God, then everyone is told to take the mark of the beast on their right hand or forehead or they can't buy or sell. The ten kings go along with this, and for three and a half years they succeed.

Then Jesus comes, destroys the little horn's (the eighth, which is one of the seven heads) kingdom and casts him, along with the false prophet, into the lake of fire.

5. You can check some commentaries and see what they have to say. Just remember to bring everything back to the Word of God to make sure it lines up with His plumb line!

Daniel 9:24-27

24 “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*.

25 So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

26 Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

27 And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

II Thessalonians 2:1-12

1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,

2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way.

8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

9 *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,

10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

Daniel 7

1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind *as he lay* on his bed; then he wrote the dream down *and* related the *following* summary of it.

2 Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.

3 And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another.

4 The first *was* like a lion and had *the* wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it.

5 And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs *were* in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, ‘Arise, devour much meat!’

6 After this I kept looking, and behold, another one, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird; the beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

7 After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

8 While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great *boasts*.

9 “I kept looking

Until thrones were set up,

And the Ancient of Days took *His* seat;

His vesture *was* like white snow

And the hair of His head like pure wool.

His throne *was* ablaze with flames,

Its wheels *were* a burning fire.

10 “A river of fire was flowing
And coming out from before Him;
Thousands upon thousands were attending Him,
And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him;
The court sat,
And the books were opened.

11 Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.

12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time.

13 “I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a Son of Man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him.

14 “And to Him was given dominion,
Glory and a kingdom,
That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language
Might serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed.

15 “As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me.

16 I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:

17 ‘These great beasts, which are four *in number*, are four kings *who* will arise from the earth.

18 But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.’

19 “Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, *and which* devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet,

20 and *the meaning* of the ten horns that *were* on its head and the other *horn* which came up, and before which three *of them* fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great *boasts* and which was larger in appearance than its associates.

21 I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them

22 until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.

23 “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.

24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

25 He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

26 But the court will sit *for judgment*, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.

27 Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of *all* the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom *will be* an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.’

28 “At this point the revelation ended. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts were greatly alarming me and my face grew pale, but I kept the matter to myself.”

Daniel 11:36-45

36 “Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.

37 He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any *other* god; for he will magnify himself above *them* all.

38 But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor *him* with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures.

39 He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with *the help of* a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge *him* and will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.

40 “At the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow *them* and pass through.

41 He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many *countries* will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon.

42 Then he will stretch out his hand against *other* countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape.

43 But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians *will follow* at his heels.

44 But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many.

45 He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

Daniel 12

1 “Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

2 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.

3 Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

4 But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”

5 Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank of the river.

6 And one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long *will it be* until the end of *these* wonders?”

7 I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half *a time*; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these *events* will be completed.

8 As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, “My lord, what *will be* the outcome of these *events*?”

9 He said, “Go *your way*, Daniel, for *these* words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.

10 Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.

11 From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be* 1,290 days.

12 How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!

13 But as for you, go *your way* to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise *again* for your allotted portion at the end of the age.”

Mark 13

1 As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”

2 And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.”

3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew were questioning Him privately,

4 “Tell us, when will these things be, and what *will be* the sign when all these things are going to be fulfilled?”

5 And Jesus began to say to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.

6 Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am *He!*’ and will mislead many.

7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be frightened; *those things* must take place; but *that is* not yet the end.

8 For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will *also* be famines. These things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.

9 “But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to *the* courts, and you will be flogged in *the* synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them.

10 The gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

11 When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but *it is* the Holy Spirit.

12 Brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.

13 You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

14 “But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

15 The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or go in to get anything out of his house;

16 and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat.

17 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

18 But pray that it may not happen in the winter.

19 For those days will be a *time of* tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will.

20 Unless the Lord had shortened *those* days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

21 And then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ’; or, ‘Behold, *He is* there’; do not believe *him*;

22 for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

23 But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.

24 “But in those days, after that tribulation, THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT,

25 AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.

26 Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory.

27 And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.

28 “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

29 Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door.

30 Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

32 But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father *alone*.

33 “Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the *appointed* time will come.

34 *It is* like a man away on a journey, *who* upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, *assigning* to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert.

35 Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—

36 in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep.

37 What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’”

Matthew 24

1 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.

2 And He said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.”

3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

4 And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.

5 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many.

6 You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end.

7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

8 But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.

9 “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

10 At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

11 Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

12 Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.

13 But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

14 This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

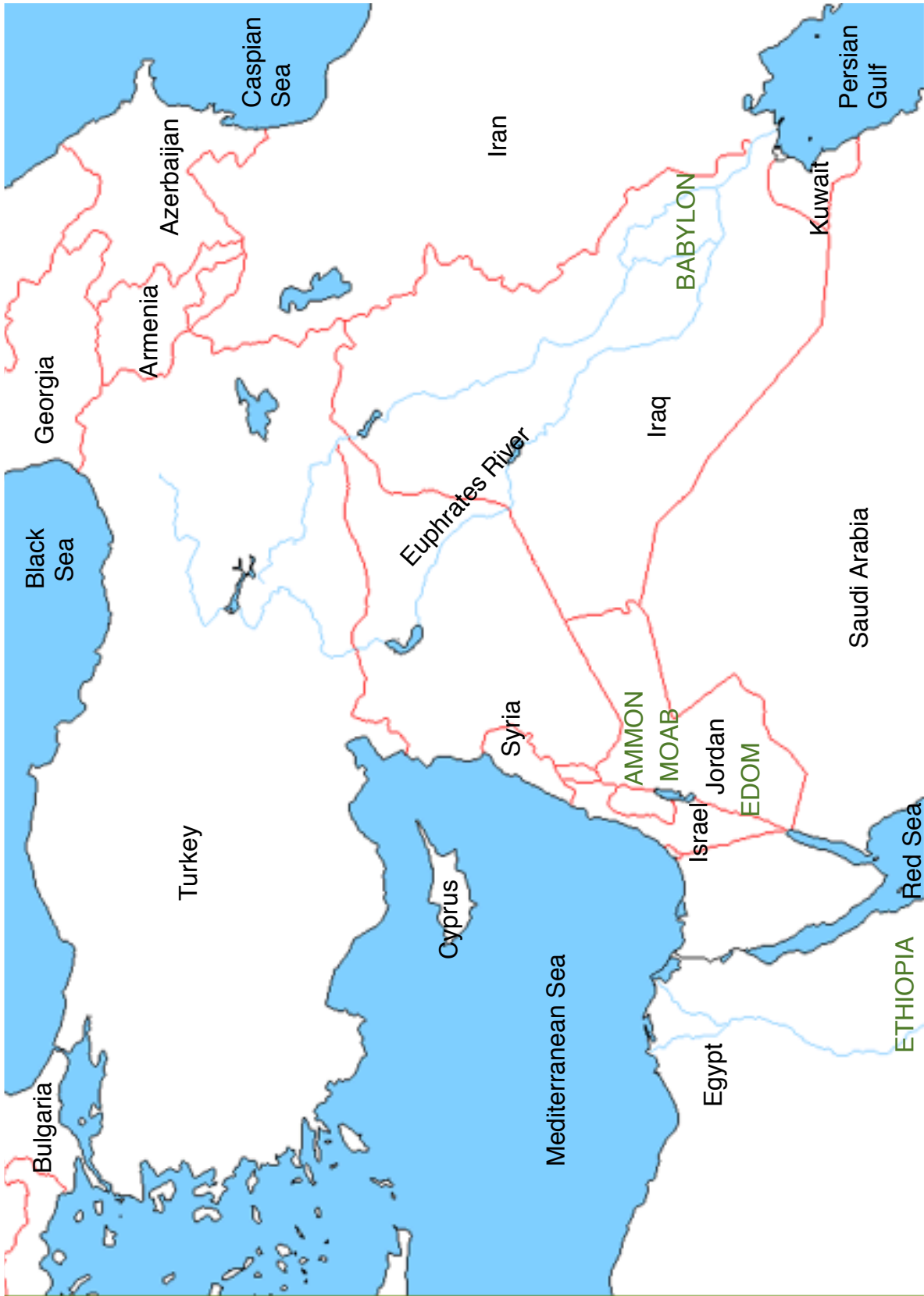
15 “Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

17 Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.

- 18** Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.
- 19** But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!
- 20** But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.
- 21** For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.
- 22** Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.
- 23** Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There *He is*,’ do not believe *him*.
- 24** For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.
- 25** Behold, I have told you in advance.
- 26** So if they say to you, ‘Behold, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, *or*, ‘Behold, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe *them*.
- 27** For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- 28** Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.
- 29** “But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
- 30** And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.
- 31** And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.
- 32** “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near;
- 33** so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door.
- 34** Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

- 35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.
- 36** “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.
- 37** For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.
- 38** For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,
- 39** and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- 40** Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.
- 41** Two women *will be* grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.
- 42** “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.
- 43** But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.
- 44** For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think *He will*.
- 45** “Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?
- 46** Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.
- 47** Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.
- 48** But if that evil slave says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time,’
- 49** and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards;
- 50** the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect *him* and at an hour which he does not know,
- 51** and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



Interpreting Revelation in the
Light of Biblical Prophecy
Lesson 3
The Beast/Antichrist

Who or what is Babylon? Is she a city? Is she a religious system? What exactly is the importance of this "thing" that causes God to remember her, and pour out His wrath on her? We will look at these questions this week.

DAY ONE

1. Let's read through some passages in Revelation about Babylon. Mark this word in your observation worksheets along with its pronouns and synonyms. Make sure look at the context of these verses or chapters.
 - a. Revelation 14:8
 - b. Revelation 16:19
 - c. Revelation 17
 - d. Revelation 18
 - e. Revelation 19:1-6 (her)
 - f. After reading these verses, look at your timeline and see if you can determine when Babylon would be remembered before the Lord. Record where you believe this occurs below.

2. Now you are going to record the difference between the Babylon mentioned in chapter 17 and 18. Are they the same or are they different? You will find a chart called "Comparison of Babylon" on pages 68-70 of this lesson.

DAY TWO

1. We are now going back to the beginning to see how Babylon began. Let's go back to Genesis to find the first reference to Babylon in the Bible. Genesis 10:1-10 and Genesis 11:1-9 are printed out on pages 72-73.
 - a. Observe the text and note all you learn about Babel. Ask the "5 W's and H" in respect to Babylon. Record what you learn about Babylon on the chart, "What Major Old Testament Passages Teach about Babylon" located on page 71.
 - b. Now look at Isaiah 13-14:27 on pages 74-78. Mark every reference to Babylon, its synonyms, and its pronouns. Ask your questions and then record your information on the chart. As you read, observe references to the nation of Israel as a whole, and any reference to the northern kingdom of Israel and southern kingdom of Judah. This will help you understand the timing of the fulfillment of the prophecies regarding Babylon. Watch all references to time - they are important!
 - c. Mark any occurrence of the phrase "the day of the Lord," along with its synonyms and pronouns. It was during the time of Isaiah that the Assyrians led the Northern Kingdom into captivity. Isaiah also predicted the future judgment of the Southern Kingdom by the Babylonians (which wouldn't begin until 605 BC and end with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 586 BC). Isaiah also predicted Judah's return from captivity to Jerusalem under Cyrus, king of the Medo-Persian Empire. It was the Medo-Persian Empire that conquered Babylon (Daniel 5:25-31) and thus became the ruling power over Israel (Isaiah 44:24-45:13).
 - d. Look over the chart located on page 94 of this lesson. It will help you to understand the rulers and prophets during Isaiah's time.

DAY THREE

1. Today we are going to look at Jeremiah 50 on pages 79-84. Before you begin reading, look at the chart that shows the rulers and prophets of Jeremiah's time located on page 95. Familiarize yourself with the chart before you begin reading.

2. Follow your instructions from yesterday for reading, marking, and putting the information on the chart. Watch for terminology such as "in those days" and "at that time."

DAY FOUR

1. Now let's move to Jeremiah 51. Again, follow the same instructions as before. This is printed out for you on pages 85-92. Make sure you have put all this information on the chart "What Major Old Testament Passages Teach about Babylon."

DAY FIVE

1. One more passage to read. This time let's look at Zechariah 5. This is printed out on page 93. Look at the chart on page 96 that shows the rulers and prophets of Zechariah's time. Carefully observe this very important passage. Remember that Babylon conquered Jerusalem in 586 BC. In 538 BC Babylon fell to the Medes and Persians.
2. Read the Zechariah passage and put your information on the chart "What Major Old Testament Passages Teach about Babylon."
3. Look at the chart "What Major Old Testament Passages Teach about Babylon" and note how all these passages compare. What is the relationship of Babylon and the beast? Write your answer.

Comparison of Babylon

| | Revelation 17 | Revelation 18 |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Her name | | |
| How identified | | |
| How dressed | | |
| What takes place within her? | | |
| Her cup | | |

| | Revelation 17 | Revelation 18 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Relationship to kings of earth | | |
| Relationship to nations (EDs) | | |
| Relationship to merchants | | |
| Relationship to beast | | |
| Relationship to believers | | |
| Who destroys her? | | |

Interpreting Revelation in the
 Light of Biblical Prophecy
 Lesson 4
 Babylon

| | Revelation 17 | Revelation 18 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Relationship to kings of earth | | |
| Relationship to nations (EDs) | | |
| Relationship to merchants | | |
| Relationship to beast | | |
| Relationship to believers | | |
| Who destroys her? | | |

What Major Old Testament Passages Teach About Babylon

| Genesis 10-11 | Isaiah 13-14 | Jeremiah 50-51 | Zechariah 5 |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| | | | |

Genesis 10:1-10

- 1** Now these are *the records of* the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and sons were born to them after the flood.
- 2** The sons of Japheth *were* Gomer and Magog and Madai and Javan and Tubal and Meshech and Tiras.
- 3** The sons of Gomer *were* Ashkenaz and Riphath and Togarmah.
- 4** The sons of Javan *were* Elishah and Tarshish, Kittim and Dodanim.
- 5** From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.
- 6** The sons of Ham *were* Cush and Mizraim and Put and Canaan.
- 7** The sons of Cush *were* Seba and Havilah and Sabtah and Raamah and Sabteca; and the sons of Raamah *were* Sheba and Dedan.
- 8** Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth.
- 9** He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD.”
- 10** The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Genesis 11:1-9

- 1** Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.
- 2** It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.
- 3** They said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and burn *them* thoroughly.” And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar.
- 4** They said, “Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *will reach* into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”
- 5** The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.
- 6** The LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.
- 7** Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.”
- 8** So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.
- 9** Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

Isaiah 13

1 The oracle concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw.

2 Lift up a standard on the bare hill,

Raise your voice to them,

Wave the hand that they may enter the doors of the nobles.

3 I have commanded My consecrated ones,

I have even called My mighty warriors,

My proudly exulting ones,

To *execute* My anger.

4 A sound of tumult on the mountains,

Like that of many people!

A sound of the uproar of kingdoms,

Of nations gathered together!

The LORD of hosts is mustering the army for battle.

5 They are coming from a far country,

From the farthest horizons,

The LORD and His instruments of indignation,

To destroy the whole land.

6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near!

It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

7 Therefore all hands will fall limp,

And every man's heart will melt.

8 They will be terrified,

Pains and anguish will take hold of *them*;

They will writhe like a woman in labor,

They will look at one another in astonishment,

Their faces aflame.

9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming,

Cruel, with fury and burning anger,

To make the land a desolation;

And He will exterminate its sinners from it.

10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations
Will not flash forth their light;
The sun will be dark when it rises
And the moon will not shed its light.

11 Thus I will punish the world for its evil
And the wicked for their iniquity;
I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud
And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless.

12 I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold
And mankind than the gold of Ophir.

13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble,
And the earth will be shaken from its place
At the fury of the LORD of hosts
In the day of His burning anger.

14 And it will be that like a hunted gazelle,
Or like sheep with none to gather *them*,
They will each turn to his own people,
And each one flee to his own land.

15 Anyone who is found will be thrust through,
And anyone who is captured will fall by the sword.

16 Their little ones also will be dashed to pieces
Before their eyes;
Their houses will be plundered
And their wives ravished.

17 Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them,
Who will not value silver or take pleasure in gold.

18 And *their* bows will mow down the young men,
They will not even have compassion on the fruit of the womb,
Nor will their eye pity children.

19 And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride,
Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

20 It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation;

Nor will the Arab pitch *his* tent there,

Nor will shepherds make *their flocks* lie down there.

21 But desert creatures will lie down there,

And their houses will be full of owls;

Ostriches also will live there, and shaggy goats will frolic there.

22 Hyenas will howl in their fortified towers

And jackals in their luxurious palaces.

Her *fateful* time also will soon come

And her days will not be prolonged.

Isaiah 14:1-27

1 When the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and again choose Israel, and settle them in their own land, then strangers will join them and attach themselves to the house of Jacob.

2 The peoples will take them along and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them as an inheritance in the land of the LORD as male servants and female servants; and they will take their captors captive and will rule over their oppressors.

3 And it will be in the day when the LORD gives you rest from your pain and turmoil and harsh service in which you have been enslaved,

4 that you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon, and say,

“How the oppressor has ceased,

And how fury has ceased!

5 “The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked,

The scepter of rulers

6 Which used to strike the peoples in fury with unceasing strokes,

Which subdued the nations in anger with unrestrained persecution.

7 “The whole earth is at rest *and* is quiet;

They break forth into shouts of joy.

8 “Even the cypress trees rejoice over you, *and* the cedars of Lebanon, *saying*,
‘Since you were laid low, no *tree* cutter comes up against us.’

9 “Sheol from beneath is excited over you to meet you when you come;
It arouses for you the spirits of the dead, all the leaders of the earth;
It raises all the kings of the nations from their thrones.

10 “They will all respond and say to you,
‘Even you have been made weak as we,
You have become like us.

11 ‘Your pomp *and* the music of your harps
Have been brought down to Sheol;
Maggots are spread out *as your bed* beneath you
And worms are your covering.’

12 “How you have fallen from heaven,
O star of the morning, son of the dawn!
You have been cut down to the earth,
You who have weakened the nations!

13 “But you said in your heart,
‘I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne above the stars of God,
And I will sit on the mount of assembly
In the recesses of the north.

14 ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.’

15 “Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol,
To the recesses of the pit.

16 “Those who see you will gaze at you,
They will ponder over you, *saying*,
‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble,
Who shook kingdoms,

17 Who made the world like a wilderness
And overthrew its cities,
Who did not allow his prisoners to *go home*?’

18 “All the kings of the nations lie in glory,
Each in his own tomb.

19 “But you have been cast out of your tomb
Like a rejected branch,
Clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword,
Who go down to the stones of the pit
Like a trampled corpse.

20 “You will not be united with them in burial,
Because you have ruined your country,
You have slain your people.
May the offspring of evildoers not be mentioned forever.

21 “Prepare for his sons a place of slaughter
Because of the iniquity of their fathers.
They must not arise and take possession of the earth
And fill the face of the world with cities.”

22 “I will rise up against them,” declares the LORD of hosts, “and will cut off
from Babylon name and survivors, offspring and posterity,” declares the LORD.

23 “I will also make it a possession for the hedgehog and swamps of water, and I
will sweep it with the broom of destruction,” declares the LORD of hosts.

24 The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, “Surely, just as I have intended so it has
happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand,

25 to break Assyria in My land, and I will trample him on My mountains. Then
his yoke will be removed from them and his burden removed from their shoulder.

26 This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is
stretched out against all the nations.

27 For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate *it*? And as for His
stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?”

Jeremiah 50

1 The word which the LORD spoke concerning Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans, through Jeremiah the prophet:

2 “Declare and proclaim among the nations.

Proclaim it and lift up a standard.

Do not conceal *it but* say,

‘Babylon has been captured,

Bel has been put to shame, Marduk has been shattered;

Her images have been put to shame, her idols have been shattered.’

3 For a nation has come up against her out of the north; it will make her land an object of horror, and there will be no inhabitant in it. Both man and beast have wandered off, they have gone away!

4 “In those days and at that time,” declares the LORD, “the sons of Israel will come, *both* they and the sons of Judah as well; they will go along weeping as they go, and it will be the LORD their God they will seek.

5 They will ask for the way to Zion, *turning* their faces in its direction; they will come that they may join themselves to the LORD *in* an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten.

6 “My people have become lost sheep;

Their shepherds have led them astray.

They have made them turn aside *on* the mountains;

They have gone along from mountain to hill

And have forgotten their resting place.

7 “All who came upon them have devoured them;

And their adversaries have said, ‘We are not guilty,

Inasmuch as they have sinned against the LORD *who is* the habitation of righteousness,

Even the LORD, the hope of their fathers.’

8 “Wander away from the midst of Babylon

And go forth from the land of the Chaldeans;

Be also like male goats at the head of the flock.

9 “For behold, I am going to arouse and bring up against Babylon

A horde of great nations from the land of the north,

And they will draw up *their* battle lines against her;

From there she will be taken captive.

Their arrows will be like an expert warrior

Who does not return empty-handed.

10 “Chaldea will become plunder;

All who plunder her will have enough,” declares the LORD.

11 “Because you are glad, because you are jubilant,

O you who pillage My heritage,

Because you skip about like a threshing heifer

And neigh like stallions,

12 Your mother will be greatly ashamed,

She who gave you birth will be humiliated.

Behold, *she will be* the least of the nations,

A wilderness, a parched land and a desert.

13 “Because of the indignation of the LORD she will not be inhabited,

But she will be completely desolate;

Everyone who passes by Babylon will be horrified

And will hiss because of all her wounds.

14 “Draw up your battle lines against Babylon on every side,

All you who bend the bow;

Shoot at her, do not be sparing with *your* arrows,

For she has sinned against the LORD.

15 “Raise your battle cry against her on every side!

She has given herself up, her pillars have fallen,

Her walls have been torn down.

For this is the vengeance of the LORD:

Take vengeance on her;

As she has done *to others*, so do to her.

16 “Cut off the sower from Babylon
And the one who wields the sickle at the time of harvest;
From before the sword of the oppressor
They will each turn back to his own people
And they will each flee to his own land.

17 “Israel is a scattered flock, the lions have driven *them* away. The first one *who* devoured him was the king of Assyria, and this last one *who* has broken his bones is Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

18 Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘Behold, I am going to punish the king of Babylon and his land, just as I punished the king of Assyria.

19 And I will bring Israel back to his pasture and he will graze on Carmel and Bashan, and his desire will be satisfied in the hill country of Ephraim and Gilead.

20 In those days and at that time,’ declares the LORD, ‘search will be made for the iniquity of Israel, but there will be none; and for the sins of Judah, but they will not be found; for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.’

21 “Against the land of Merathaim, go up against it,
And against the inhabitants of Pekod.
Slay and utterly destroy them,” declares the LORD,
“And do according to all that I have commanded you.

22 “The noise of battle is in the land,
And great destruction.

23 “How the hammer of the whole earth
Has been cut off and broken!
How Babylon has become
An object of horror among the nations!

24 “I set a snare for you and you were also caught, O Babylon,
While you yourself were not aware;
You have been found and also seized
Because you have engaged in conflict with the LORD.”

25 The LORD has opened His armory
And has brought forth the weapons of His indignation,
For it is a work of the Lord GOD of hosts
In the land of the Chaldeans.

26 Come to her from the farthest border;
Open up her barns,
Pile her up like heaps
And utterly destroy her,
Let nothing be left to her.

27 Put all her young bulls to the sword;
Let them go down to the slaughter!
Woe be upon them, for their day has come,
The time of their punishment.

28 There is a sound of fugitives and refugees from the land of Babylon,
To declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God,
Vengeance for His temple.

29 “Summon many against Babylon,
All those who bend the bow:
Encamp against her on every side,
Let there be no escape.
Repay her according to her work;
According to all that she has done, *so* do to her;
For she has become arrogant against the LORD,
Against the Holy One of Israel.

30 “Therefore her young men will fall in her streets,
And all her men of war will be silenced in that day,” declares the LORD.

31 “Behold, I am against you, O arrogant one,”
Declares the Lord GOD of hosts,
“For your day has come,
The time when I will punish you.

32 “The arrogant one will stumble and fall
With no one to raise him up;
And I will set fire to his cities
And it will devour all his environs.”

33 Thus says the LORD of hosts,
“The sons of Israel are oppressed,
And the sons of Judah as well;
And all who took them captive have held them fast,
They have refused to let them go.
34 “Their Redeemer is strong, the LORD of hosts is His name;
He will vigorously plead their case
So that He may bring rest to the earth,
But turmoil to the inhabitants of Babylon.
35 “A sword against the Chaldeans,” declares the LORD,
“And against the inhabitants of Babylon
And against her officials and her wise men!
36 “A sword against the oracle priests, and they will become fools!
A sword against her mighty men, and they will be shattered!
37 “A sword against their horses and against their chariots
And against all the foreigners who are in the midst of her,
And they will become women!
A sword against her treasures, and they will be plundered!
38 “A drought on her waters, and they will be dried up!
For it is a land of idols,
And they are mad over fearsome idols.
39 “Therefore the desert creatures will live *there* along with the jackals;
The ostriches also will live in it,
And it will never again be inhabited
Or dwelt in from generation to generation.
40 “As when God overthrew Sodom
And Gomorrah with its neighbors,” declares the LORD,
“No man will live there,
Nor will *any* son of man reside in it.
41 “Behold, a people is coming from the north,
And a great nation and many kings
Will be aroused from the remote parts of the earth.

42 “They seize *their* bow and javelin;
They are cruel and have no mercy.
Their voice roars like the sea;
And they ride on horses,
Marshalled like a man for the battle
Against you, O daughter of Babylon.

43 “The king of Babylon has heard the report about them,
And his hands hang limp;
Distress has gripped him,
Agony like a woman in childbirth.

44 “Behold, one will come up like a lion from the thicket of the Jordan to a perennially watered pasture; for in an instant I will make them run away from it, and whoever is chosen I will appoint over it. For who is like Me, and who will summon Me *into court*? And who then is the shepherd who can stand before Me?”

45 Therefore hear the plan of the LORD which He has planned against Babylon, and His purposes which He has purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: surely they will drag them off, *even* the little ones of the flock; surely He will make their pasture desolate because of them.

46 At the shout, “Babylon has been seized!” the earth is shaken, and an outcry is heard among the nations.

Jeremiah 51

1 Thus says the LORD:

“Behold, I am going to arouse against Babylon
And against the inhabitants of Leb-kamai
The spirit of a destroyer.

2 “I will dispatch foreigners to Babylon that they may winnow her
And may devastate her land;
For on every side they will be opposed to her
In the day of *her* calamity.

3 “Let not him who bends his bow bend *it*,
Nor let him rise up in his scale-armor;
So do not spare her young men;
Devote all her army to destruction.

4 “They will fall down slain in the land of the Chaldeans,
And pierced through in their streets.”

5 For neither Israel nor Judah has been forsaken
By his God, the LORD of hosts,
Although their land is full of guilt
Before the Holy One of Israel.

6 Flee from the midst of Babylon,
And each of you save his life!
Do not be destroyed in her punishment,
For this is the LORD’S time of vengeance;
He is going to render recompense to her.

7 Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand of the LORD,
Intoxicating all the earth.
The nations have drunk of her wine;
Therefore the nations are going mad.

8 Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been broken;
Wail over her!
Bring balm for her pain;
Perhaps she may be healed.

9 We applied healing to Babylon, but she was not healed;
Forsake her and let us each go to his own country,
For her judgment has reached to heaven
And towers up to the very skies.

10 The LORD has brought about our vindication;
Come and let us recount in Zion
The work of the LORD our God!

11 Sharpen the arrows, fill the quivers!
The LORD has aroused the spirit of the kings of the Medes,
Because His purpose is against Babylon to destroy it;
For it is the vengeance of the LORD, vengeance for His temple.

12 Lift up a signal against the walls of Babylon;
Post a strong guard,
Station sentries,
Place men in ambush!
For the LORD has both purposed and performed
What He spoke concerning the inhabitants of Babylon.

13 O you who dwell by many waters,
Abundant in treasures,
Your end has come,
The measure of your end.

14 The LORD of hosts has sworn by Himself:
“Surely I will fill you with a population like locusts,
And they will cry out with shouts of victory over you.”

15 *It is* He who made the earth by His power,
Who established the world by His wisdom,
And by His understanding He stretched out the heavens.

16 When He utters His voice, *there is* a tumult of waters in the heavens,
And He causes the clouds to ascend from the end of the earth;
He makes lightning for the rain
And brings forth the wind from His storehouses.

17 All mankind is stupid, devoid of knowledge;
Every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols,
For his molten images are deceitful,
And there is no breath in them.

18 They are worthless, a work of mockery;
In the time of their punishment they will perish.

19 The portion of Jacob is not like these;
For the Maker of all is He,
And of the tribe of His inheritance;
The LORD of hosts is His name.

20 *He says*, “You are My war-club, *My* weapon of war;
And with you I shatter nations,
And with you I destroy kingdoms.

21 “With you I shatter the horse and his rider,
And with you I shatter the chariot and its rider,

22 And with you I shatter man and woman,
And with you I shatter old man and youth,
And with you I shatter young man and virgin,

23 And with you I shatter the shepherd and his flock,
And with you I shatter the farmer and his team,
And with you I shatter governors and prefects.

24 “But I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea for all their evil
that they have done in Zion before your eyes,” declares the LORD.

25 “Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain,
Who destroys the whole earth,” declares the LORD,
“And I will stretch out My hand against you,
And roll you down from the crags,
And I will make you a burnt out mountain.

26 “They will not take from you *even* a stone for a corner
Nor a stone for foundations,
But you will be desolate forever,” declares the LORD.

27 Lift up a signal in the land,
Blow a trumpet among the nations!
Consecrate the nations against her,
Summon against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni and Ashkenaz;
Appoint a marshal against her,
Bring up the horses like bristly locusts.

28 Consecrate the nations against her,
The kings of the Medes,
Their governors and all their prefects,
And every land of their dominion.

29 So the land quakes and writhes,
For the purposes of the LORD against Babylon stand,
To make the land of Babylon
A desolation without inhabitants.

30 The mighty men of Babylon have ceased fighting,
They stay in the strongholds;
Their strength is exhausted,
They are becoming *like* women;
Their dwelling places are set on fire,
The bars of her *gates* are broken.

31 One courier runs to meet another,
And one messenger to meet another,
To tell the king of Babylon
That his city has been captured from end *to end*;

32 The fords also have been seized,
And they have burned the marshes with fire,
And the men of war are terrified.

33 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel:
“The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor
At the time it is stamped firm;
Yet in a little while the time of harvest will come for her.”

34 “Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has devoured me *and* crushed me,
He has set me down *like* an empty vessel;
He has swallowed me like a monster,
He has filled his stomach with my delicacies;
He has washed me away.

35 “May the violence *done* to me and to my flesh be upon Babylon,”
The inhabitant of Zion will say;
And, “May my blood be upon the inhabitants of Chaldea,”
Jerusalem will say.

36 Therefore thus says the LORD,
“Behold, I am going to plead your case
And exact full vengeance for you;
And I will dry up her sea
And make her fountain dry.

37 “Babylon will become a heap *of ruins*, a haunt of jackals,
An object of horror and hissing, without inhabitants.

38 “They will roar together like young lions,
They will growl like lions’ cubs.

39 “When they become heated up, I will serve *them* their banquet
And make them drunk, that they may become jubilant
And may sleep a perpetual sleep
And not wake up,” declares the LORD.

40 “I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter,
Like rams together with male goats.

41 “How Sheshak has been captured,
And the praise of the whole earth been seized!
How Babylon has become an object of horror among the nations!

42 “The sea has come up over Babylon;
She has been engulfed with its tumultuous waves.

43 “Her cities have become an object of horror,
A parched land and a desert,
A land in which no man lives
And through which no son of man passes.

44 “I will punish Bel in Babylon,
And I will make what he has swallowed come out of his mouth;
And the nations will no longer stream to him.
Even the wall of Babylon has fallen down!

45 “Come forth from her midst, My people,
And each of you save yourselves
From the fierce anger of the LORD.

46 “Now so that your heart does not grow faint,
And you are not afraid at the report that *will be* heard in the land—
For the report will come one year,
And after that another report in another year,
And violence *will be* in the land
With ruler against ruler—

47 Therefore behold, days are coming
When I will punish the idols of Babylon;
And her whole land will be put to shame
And all her slain will fall in her midst.

48 “Then heaven and earth and all that is in them
Will shout for joy over Babylon,
For the destroyers will come to her from the north,”
Declares the LORD.

49 Indeed Babylon is to fall *for* the slain of Israel,
As also for Babylon the slain of all the earth have fallen.

50 You who have escaped the sword,
Depart! Do not stay!
Remember the LORD from afar,
And let Jerusalem come to your mind.

51 We are ashamed because we have heard reproach;
Disgrace has covered our faces,
For aliens have entered
The holy places of the LORD’S house.

52 “Therefore behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“When I will punish her idols,
And the mortally wounded will groan throughout her land.

53 “Though Babylon should ascend to the heavens,
And though she should fortify her lofty stronghold,
From Me destroyers will come to her,” declares the LORD.

54 The sound of an outcry from Babylon,
And of great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans!

55 For the LORD is going to destroy Babylon,
And He will make *her* loud noise vanish from her.
And their waves will roar like many waters;
The tumult of their voices sounds forth.

56 For the destroyer is coming against her, against Babylon,
And her mighty men will be captured,
Their bows are shattered;
For the LORD is a God of recompense,
He will fully repay.

57 “I will make her princes and her wise men drunk,
Her governors, her prefects and her mighty men,
That they may sleep a perpetual sleep and not wake up,”
Declares the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

58 Thus says the LORD of hosts,
“The broad wall of Babylon will be completely razed
And her high gates will be set on fire;
So the peoples will toil for nothing,
And the nations become exhausted *only* for fire.”

59 The message which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the grandson of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. (Now Seraiah was quartermaster.)

60 So Jeremiah wrote in a single scroll all the calamity which would come upon Babylon, *that is*, all these words which have been written concerning Babylon.

61 Then Jeremiah said to Seraiah, “As soon as you come to Babylon, then see that you read all these words aloud,

62 and say, ‘You, O LORD, have promised concerning this place to cut it off, so that there will be nothing dwelling in it, whether man or beast, but it will be a perpetual desolation.’

63 And as soon as you finish reading this scroll, you will tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates,

64 and say, ‘Just so shall Babylon sink down and not rise again because of the calamity that I am going to bring upon her; and they will become exhausted.’”

Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

Zechariah 5

1 Then I lifted up my eyes again and looked, and behold, *there was* a flying scroll.

2 And he said to me, “What do you see?” And I answered, “I see a flying scroll; its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits.”

3 Then he said to me, “This is the curse that is going forth over the face of the whole land; surely everyone who steals will be purged away according to the writing on one side, and everyone who swears will be purged away according to the writing on the other side.

4 I will make it go forth,” declares the LORD of hosts, “and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name; and it will spend the night within that house and consume it with its timber and stones.”

5 Then the angel who was speaking with me went out and said to me, “Lift up now your eyes and see what this is going forth.”

6 I said, “What is it?” And he said, “This is the ephah going forth.” Again he said, “This is their appearance in all the land

7 (and behold, a lead cover was lifted up); and this is a woman sitting inside the ephah.”

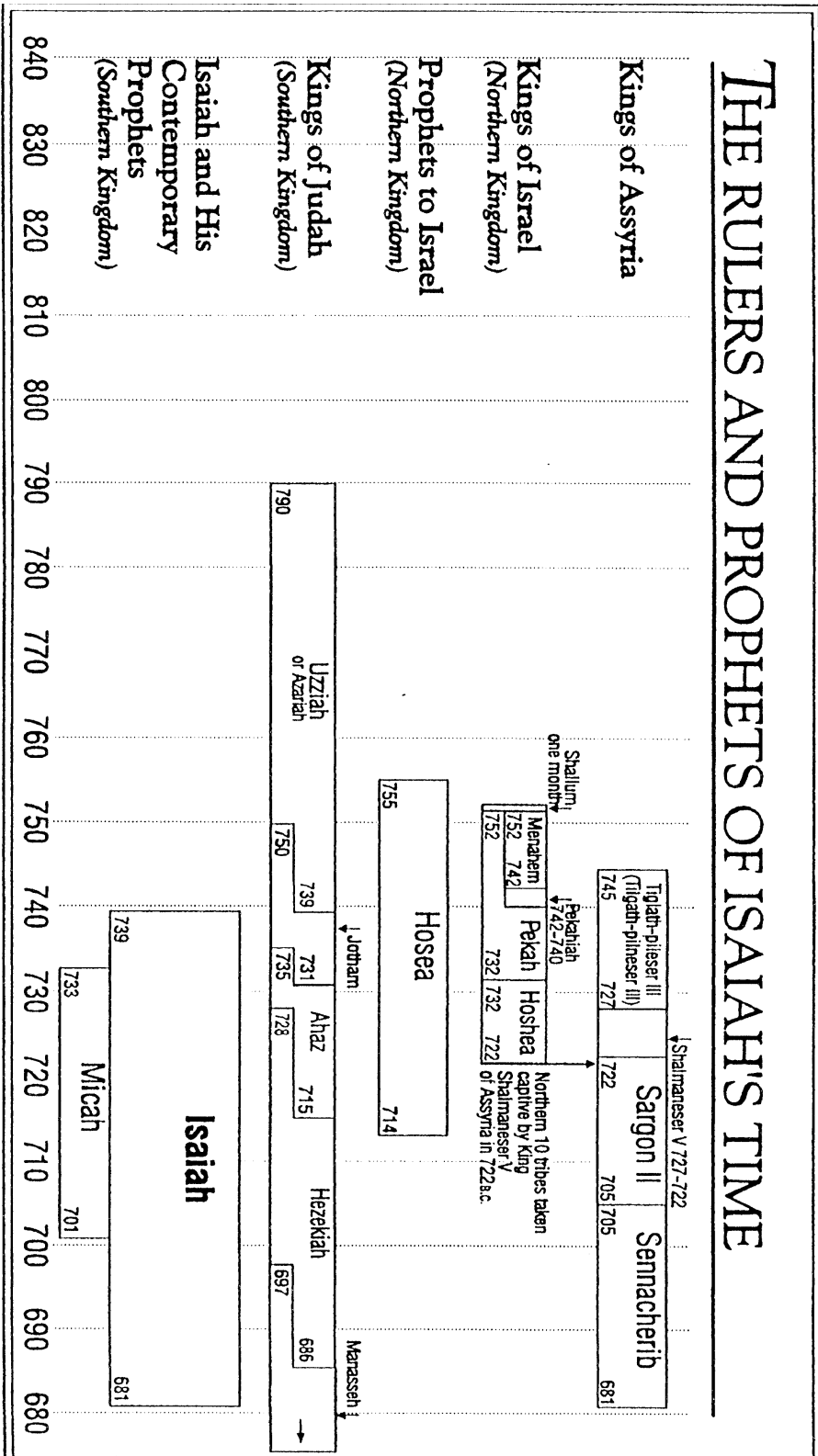
8 Then he said, “This is Wickedness!” And he threw her down into the middle of the ephah and cast the lead weight on its opening.

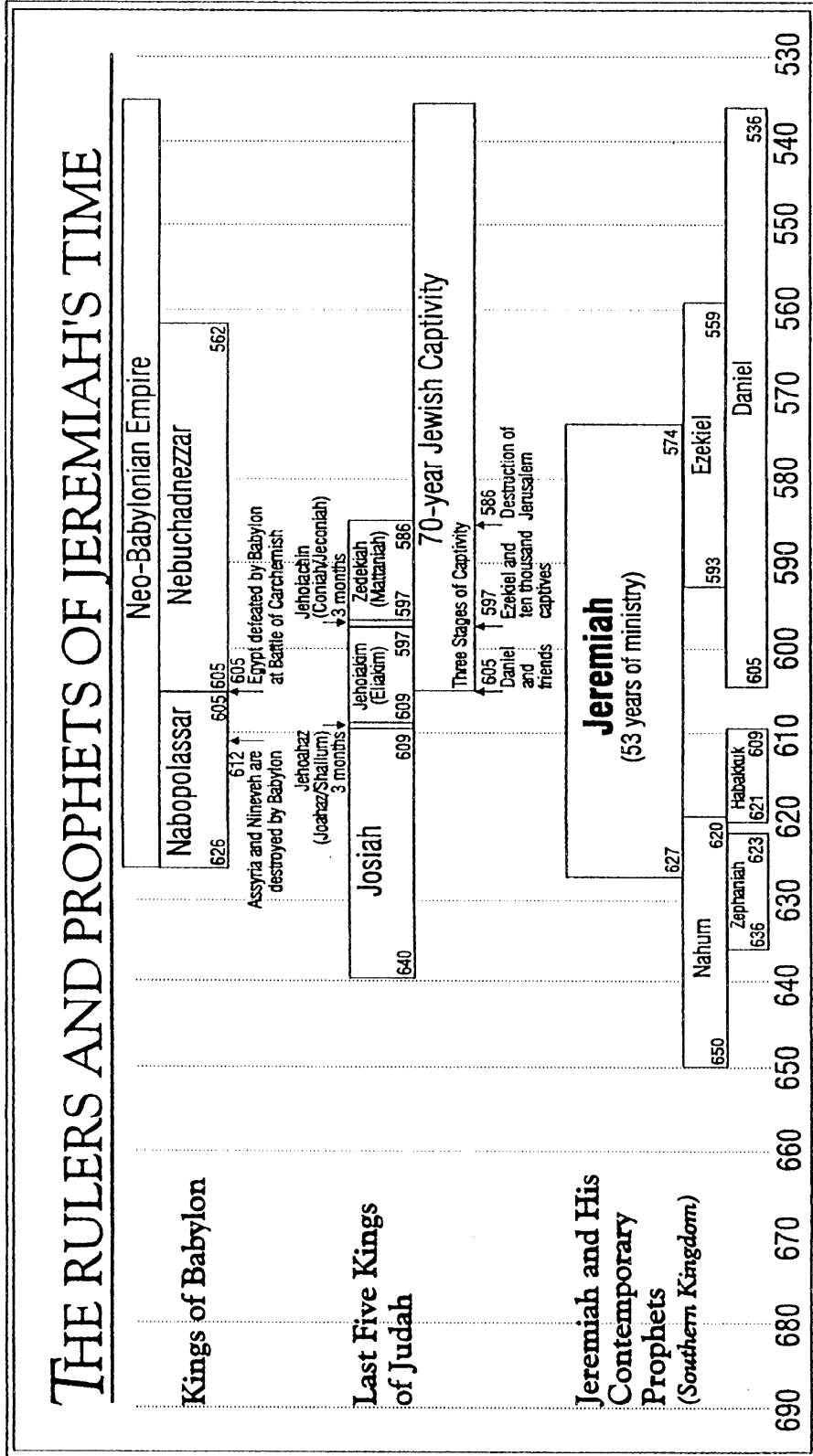
9 Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and there two women were coming out with the wind in their wings; and they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heavens.

10 I said to the angel who was speaking with me, “Where are they taking the ephah?”

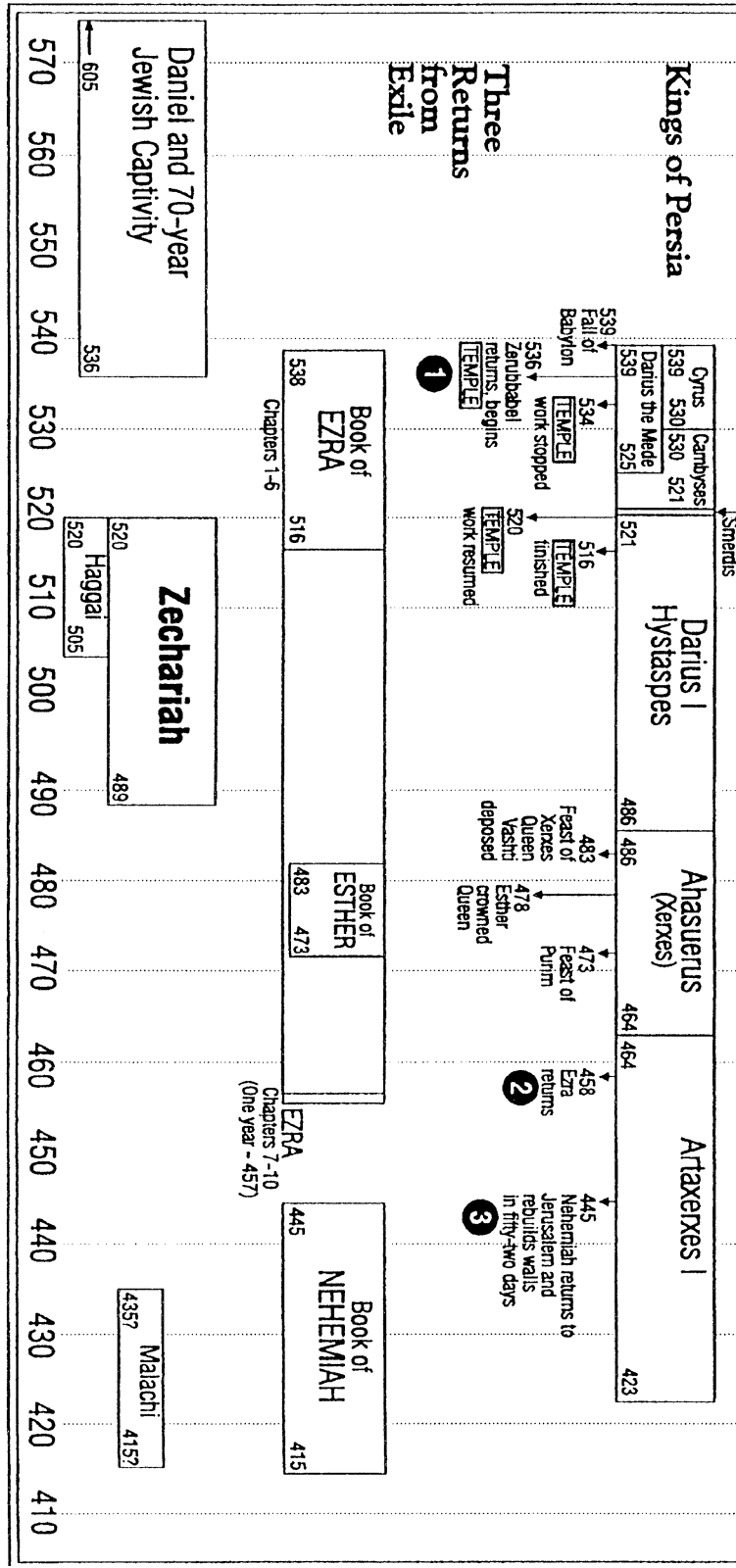
11 Then he said to me, “To build a temple for her in the land of Shinar; and when

THE RULERS AND PROPHETS OF ISAIAH'S TIME





THE RULERS AND PROPHETS OF ZECHARIAH'S TIME



What is the day of the Lord and when will it occur? Where does it fit on our timeline?

DAY ONE

The Bible contains progressive truth. A topic may be mentioned at one time and then built upon throughout Scripture, so you may not learn all there is to know about a topic at the first mention. Therefore, we must look at every mention of a subject in order to fully understand what the Bible teaches.

This week and next, we will look up the passages that deal with this topic and compile a list of what we learn about this "day." Study well, and then we will be able to draw some conclusions.

1. The first passage we are going to study is II Thessalonians 2:1-12. We already looked at this passage in Lesson 3 on page 51 when we were studying the "man of lawlessness." This passage links the "man of lawlessness" with the day of the Lord. Mark this phrase, the day of the Lord, as you read, and then record what you learn about the relationship between the man and the day, and then compare them to our timeline.
2. At the end of this lesson there is a chart entitled "What Scripture Says about the Day of the Lord" on pages 101-102. In the column labeled "Signs of Beginning or End" record any insights from II Thessalonians that would show when the day of the Lord had come.

DAY TWO

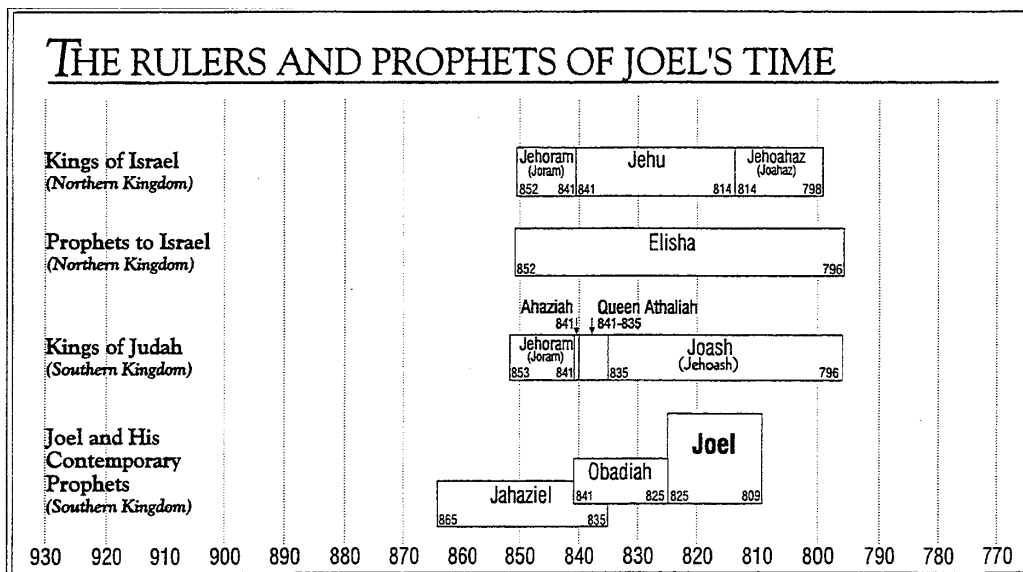
There are several other New Testament passages that deal with this day so we will look at them today. Below are the verses that you will be reading and in parenthesis you will find the specific verse that mentions the day. Please read all the verses listed, because they help to put you into context, and remember, context is king!

One note of warning. Don't make any assumptions; don't read anything into the text that is not there; don't rely on what you once heard someone say or teach on the subject. Let God's Word speak to you, and allow the Spirit to lead you into truth. You will be reading these passages in your Bible, but you may want to mark this phrase anyway. Watch for how Israel is involved, and whether this is something present or future. Make sure you write observations on the chart "What Scripture Says about the Day of the Lord" as you did yesterday.

1. Acts 2:15-21 (vs 20)
2. I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 (5:2)
3. II Peter 3:1-13 (vs 10)

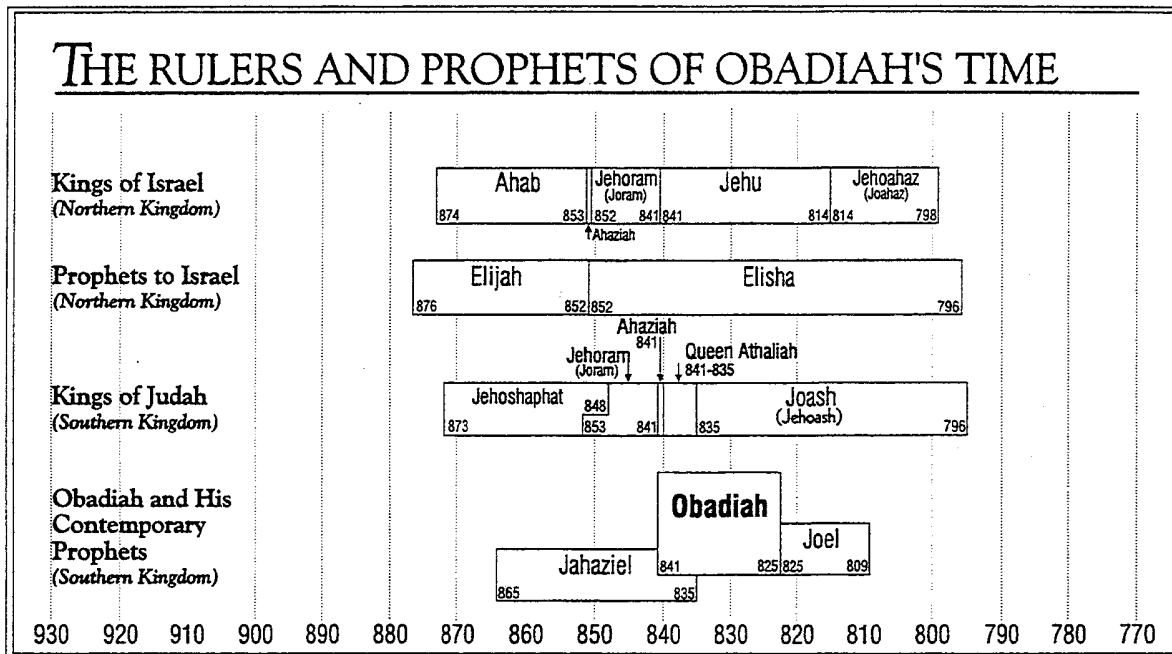
DAY THREE

1. The Old Testament references that we look at will be in the order in which the prophets prophesied except for today. Obadiah is believed to have prophesied just before Joel; however, since Acts 2 (which we looked at yesterday) quotes Joel, we are going to look at that one first.
2. You are going to look up and read Joel (all three chapters). The verses that specifically mention the day of the Lord are Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14. Remember what you read in Acts yesterday as you read these chapters. Make sure that you put your information on the chart "What Scripture Says about the Day of the Lord."
3. Look at the chart below to put yourself in the proper time frame.



DAY FOUR

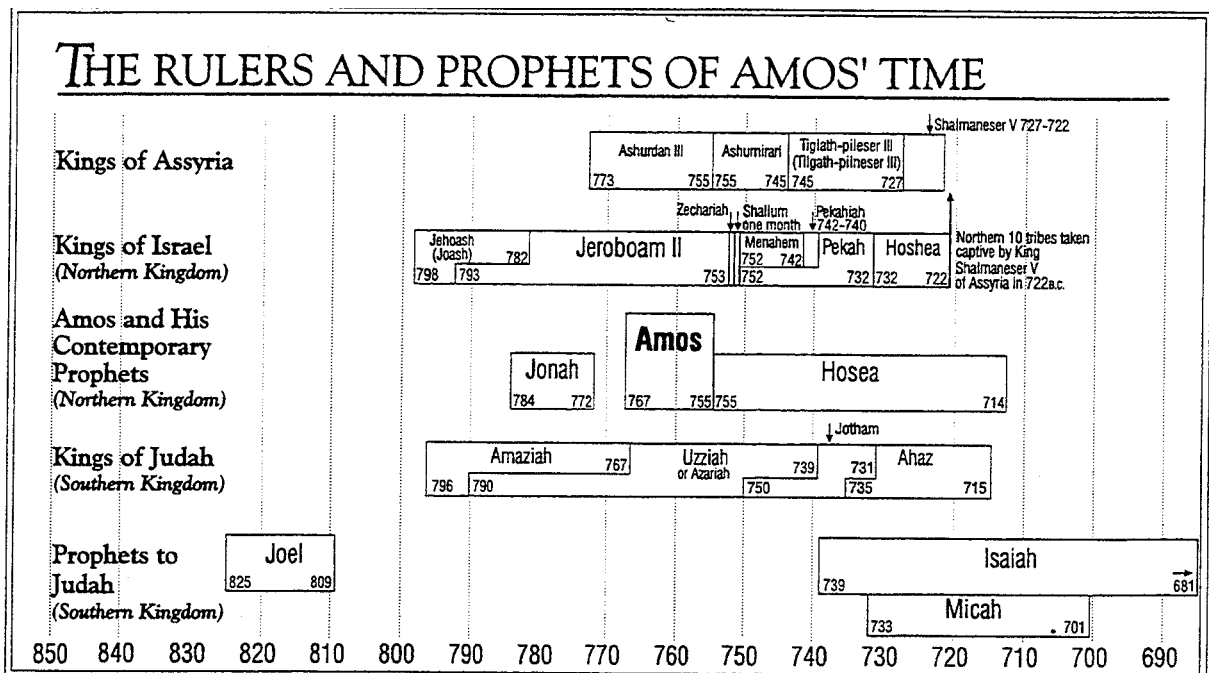
1. Today we are going to read Obadiah. Read it in its entirety. The day of the Lord is mentioned in verse 15.
 - a. Look at the chart rulers and prophets of Obadiah's time.
 - b. Watch for references to Edom. Do you know who Edom is or where they come from? Genesis tells us that Edom is Esau (Jacob's older twin brother). Read Numbers 20:14-21 to see what Edom did to the nation of Israel.
 - c. We are going to be looking at the battles connected with the coming of the Lord in greater detail later in this study; however, read through Isaiah 63 and watch what it says about the Lord coming from Edom with garments stained from the wine press.
2. When you read Obadiah, you may want to mark some key words in distinctive ways like Edom (Esau), Jacob (and its pronouns and synonyms), and nations.
3. Record all this information on your chart "What Scripture Says about the Day of the Lord."



DAY FIVE

1. Today we are going to read the 5th chapter of Amos. Watch carefully at verses 18 and 20. Look at the chart of rulers and prophets of Amos' time. Amos prophesied to the northern kingdom of Israel from 767-755 BC. The Assyrians invaded the Northern Kingdom in 722 BC and took them into captivity. Remember that when you are dealing with BC, you count backwards instead of forwards. Add any information to your chart "What Scripture Says about the Day of the Lord."

2. Read Isaiah 13 located on pages 74-76. You looked at this passage when you were studying Babylon. Look at the prophets of Isaiah's time on page 94, and compare them to the prophet's of Amos' time. See how Amos and Isaiah relate to each other.



What Scripture Says about the Day of the Lord

| Reference | How It Is Described | What Happens in Nature | Signs of Beginning or End |
|-----------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | |

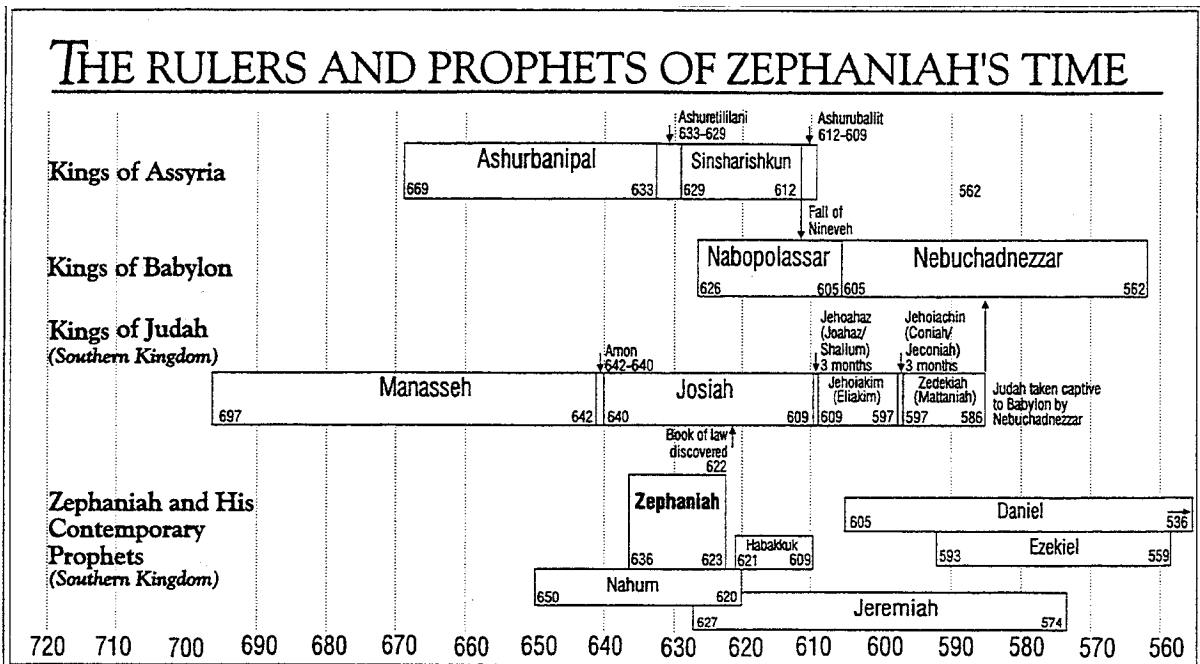
What Scripture Says about the Day of the Lord

| Reference | How It Is Described | What Happens in Nature | Signs of Beginning or End |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | |

DAY ONE

We are going to do the same thing this week as we did last week, as we conclude the study of the day of the Lord. We will be looking at the rest of the Old Testament passages that deal with this topic. Make sure you check your charts to put you in context and go back to the charts on pages 101-102 to record your information.

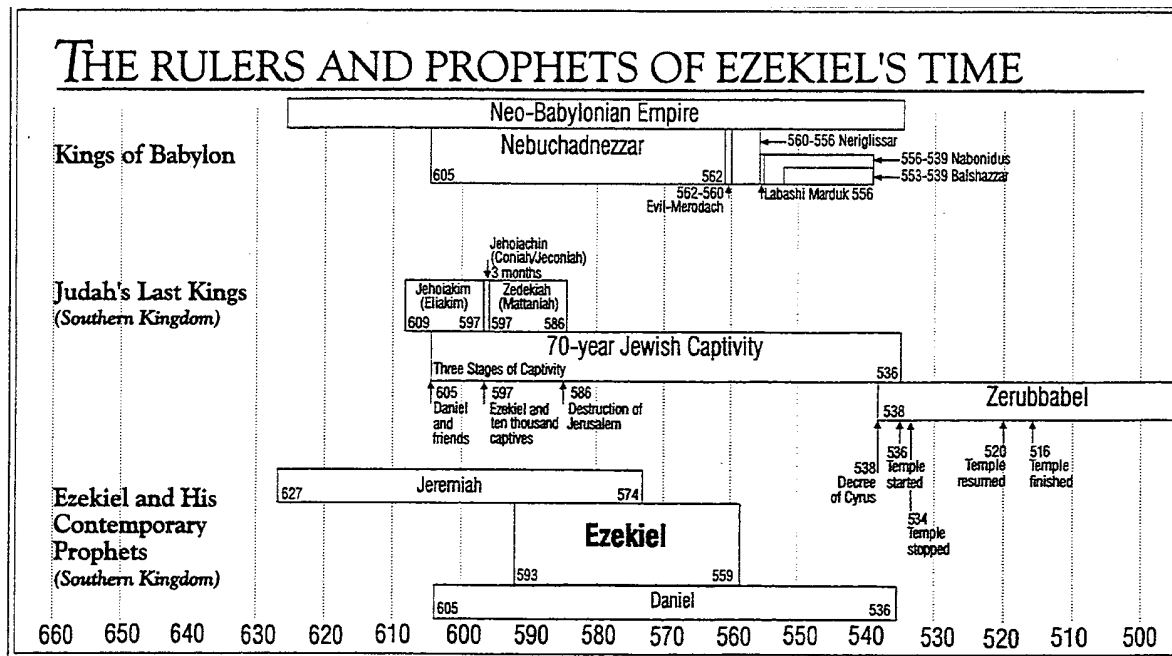
1. Read the book of Zephaniah. Don't worry, it is only three chapters long. The day of the Lord is specifically mentioned in chapter 1:7, 14, but you want to read the rest to keep you in context. You may see Zephaniah using other phrases that refer to the same time period. As you read you may want to mark the following key words or phrases.
 - a. The day of the Lord (that day, at that time, etc)
 - b. Remnant - and watch what happens to them
 - c. Israel (Judah, Jerusalem, Zion)
 - d. Nations
 - e. The earth



2. Record your information on the chart.
3. Are you seeing any parallels with revelation? If so record them below.

DAY TWO

1. Read Ezekiel 13. The day of the Lord is mentioned in verse 5. Watch carefully what happens to those who prophesy from their own inspiration. It's a good warning for us today!
2. Read Ezekiel 30:1-5, then read the rest of the chapter. Watch all that is said about Egypt. Note if there could be more than one prophecy regarding Egypt here. As you study, remember that Nebuchadnezzar (mentioned in verse 10) was reigning over Babylon at the time of Ezekiel's writing. Check the chart below.



3. Record your information on the chart "What Scripture Says about the Day of the Lord."

DAY THREE

Although the exact phrase "the day of the Lord" is not used in Zechariah in the New American Standard translation, the phrase "a day is coming for the Lord" is used. Scholars believe that this phrase is referring to the day of the Lord in chapter 14. So let's read Zechariah 14 and mark this day and its synonyms as you have been marking them in other passages. We looked at this passage already and you can find it typed out for you on pages 25-27.

1. You can find a chart of Zechariah's time on page 96 to help put you into context.

2. Make sure to mark the following as you read

- a. That day
- b. Nations (families of the earth)
- c. Jerusalem
- d. Feast of Booths
- e. Lord

3. List what you learn about the Lord from marking that word.

4. Does any of this parallel what you have read in Revelation?

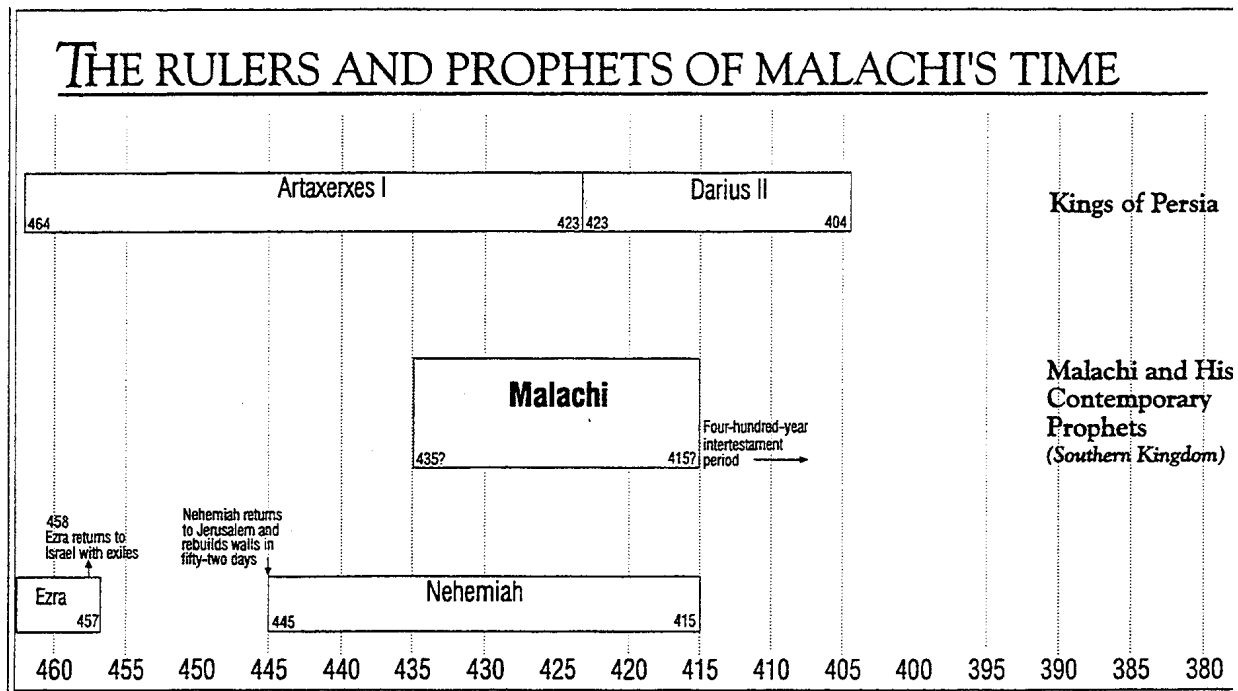
5. Don't forget to fill in your chart!

DAY FOUR AND FIVE

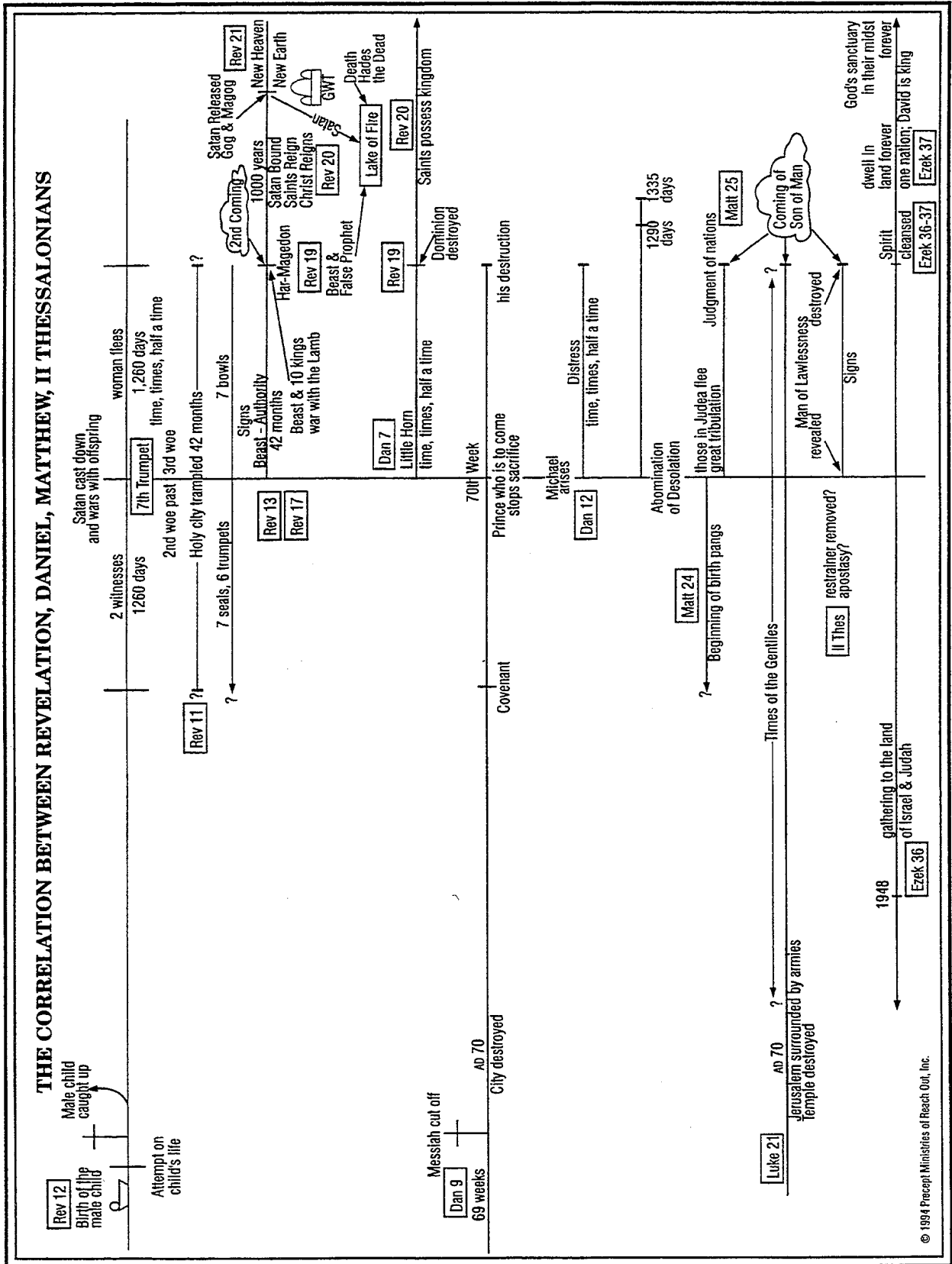
1. Read Malachi 3-4. As you read mark the following and not what you learn from marking these words and phrases.

- a. Messenger of the covenant (all synonyms and pronouns)
- b. Nations
- c. The day
- d. Elijah

2. Record your information on your chart.



3. On the next page you will find a chart entitled "The Correlation between Revelation, Daniel, Matthew, and II Thessalonians. Study the chart carefully and see where you would put the day of the Lord and why. At this point, don't mark the chart, just write down where you would put this event.



Interpreting Revelation in the
Light of Biblical Prophecy
Lesson 6
The Day of the Lord

Where does the day of the Lord and the wrath of God fit into the book of Revelation? What is the relationship of the 144,000 and the two witnesses to this day? How does the finishing of the mystery of God related to this great and dreadful day?

DAY ONE

We have looked at the day of the Lord and have seen how that fits into our time line. Now we want to look at some other topics and how they relate to this time period.

1. Let's start with looking at the 144,000 mentioned in Revelation 7, 9, and 14. Read Revelation 7:1-8; Revelation 9:4; and Revelation 14:1-5. Answer the following questions.
 - a. Who are they?
 - b. How are they described?
 - c. What are the instructions regarding them?
 - d. Where are they?
 - e. What are they doing?

f. At what time intervals in Revelation are they mentioned?

2. Now let's see what we can learn about the two witnesses of Revelation 11. Read Revelation 11, and then answer the questions listed below.

a. How are they described?

b. What are they able to do?

c. How long did they prophesy?

d. What happens to them?

e. How are those who dwell on the earth respond to their death and why?

f. What events surround their ascension into heaven?

3. Revelation 11:4 says the two witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. Read Zechariah 4 in your Bible, mark every reference to the olive trees, and record below what you learn about them. Note their relationship to the lampstand.

a. Who are these two witnesses? What are their names? There are two predominant views.

i. Elijah and Moses representing the Law and the Prophets. Both of them did miracles similar to those mentioned in Revelation 11.

ii. Elijah and Enoch because these two men never died but were caught up into heaven, and it is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind on a chariot of fire as Elisha watched (II Kings 2). Enoch walked with God and was not because God took him (Genesis 5:24). Although there is no record in Genesis of Enoch doing any miracles of the sort mentioned in Revelation 11, Jude 14-15 tells us that Enoch prophesied the coming judgment of the ungodly.

iii. What would make you think that one of the witnesses could be Elijah?

4. Would Elijah fit in with the description of the olive tree in Revelation 11 and Zechariah 4 if these are one and the same? Give the reason for your answer.

5. If one of the witnesses is Elijah, then when would he be living and ministering in respect to the day of the Lord?

DAY TWO

Let's turn our attention to the "mystery of God." While we might not come to grips as to what exactly it all means, just wrestling with the idea will reveal some important details.

1. Look up Revelation 10:7 and record what you learn about the mystery of God.

2. The Greek word for mystery is Strong's #3466 "*musterion*." It means secret doctrine. It comes from the root word #3453 "*mueo*" which means to shut the eyes and mouth - to initiate into the mysteries - hidden things - secrets. This word is used many times throughout the New Testament. We need to look up the usage in Revelation. Record what you learn from each usage. At the end of today's lesson will be all the other Scriptures that use this word. **IF** you have time, you may want to read through these passages.
 - a. Revelation 1:20

 - b. Revelation 10:7

 - c. Revelation 17:5, 7

3. If the mystery of God is finished in the seventh trumpet, then it might be helpful to consider all that transpires with the seventh trumpet. The word "finished" is *teleo* and it means the end or goal; to bring something to perfection or to its destined goal. Look at your timeline and see what happens around the seventh trumpet.

In Revelation 10:7 the verb "is finished" is an aorist indicative passive verb. The aorist indicative refers to action that is not continuous. The verb "is about to sound" in the same verse is present subjunctive - continuous action with no implication as to when this continuous or repeated action takes place.

4. Read Revelation 11:15-19 and list below what is said in connection with the sounding of the seventh trumpet. Remember that the seventh trumpet is the third woe to come upon the earth.

- a. What happens when the seventh trumpet is sounded, and what is the result?

- b. Do you see any correlation between this and what is described in Revelation 11:15-19?

5. We know that the seventh trumpet finishes the mystery of God and that when the seventh trumpet sounds, the nations are enraged because "Thy wrath came" (Revelation 11:18). "Came" is an aorist active indicative verb. This expresses action that is not continuous. It does not specify the relative time of the action to the time of speaking. Since the wrath of God is connected with this seventh trumpet, we need to look up the usages of "wrath" in Revelation, record what we learn, and then try to draw some conclusions.

Interpreting Revelation in the
Light of Biblical Prophecy
Lesson 7
144,000, Two Witnesses, Mystery of God, Har-Magedon

Look up the following verses and not all you learn from them about the wrath of God. Give special attention to who is speaking in each case.

a. Revelation 6:16, 17 - "has come" is aorist active indicative

b. Revelation 11:18 - "came" is aorist active indicative

c. Revelation 14:10 - "is mixed" is a perfect passive participle which stresses the state brought about by the finished results of the action.

d. Revelation 14:19

e. Revelation 15:1 - "is finished" is the word *teleo* as in Revelation 10:7, and is aorist passive indicative.

f. Revelation 15:7

g. Revelation 16:1 - "pour out" is an aorist active imperative which is a command. The aorist imperative is often used for general exhortations and for things that must be begun at that very moment.

h. Revelation 16:19

i. Revelation 19:15 - "treads" is present indicative which asserts something which is occurring while the speaker is making the statement. In other words, the treading of the wine press of the fierce wrath of God is not one singular action but something going on. It does not mean that treading is going on while John wrote Revelation; rather, it is action occurring during Christ's coming.

6. Now, from what you have learned, when do you think the wrath of God actually begins? Where would you put it on the chart?

7. These are the extra verses that use the word mystery in the New Testament. Tackle these only if you have time.

- a. Matthew 13:11
- b. Mark 4:11
- c. Luke 8:10
- d. Romans 11:25
- e. Romans 16:25
- f. I Corinthians 2:7
- g. I Corinthians 4:1
- h. I Corinthians 13:2
- i. I Corinthians 14:2
- j. I Corinthians 15:51
- k. Ephesians 1:9-11
- l. Ephesians 3:3-9
- m. Ephesians 5:32
- n. Ephesians 6:19
- o. Colossians 1:26-27
- p. Colossians 2:2
- q. Colossians 4:3
- r. II Thessalonians 2:7
- s. I Timothy 3:9
- t. I Timothy 3:16

DAY THREE

For the rest of this week, we are going to look at the most famous battle in history - the battle of Armageddon or Har-Magedon. What happens when the beast, the false prophet and the dragon gather the kings of the earth to make war against God? Is this a single battle or a series of battles? Hold onto your hats because we are going to move!

1. First, we are going to start with a review of some of the events that we have studied throughout these four courses. We will start with Revelation 11, which from what we have studied seems to be the beginning of the day of the Lord and the last half of Daniel's 70th week.

a. Revelation 11

- i. We are told that Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles for 42 months (11:2). This probably marks the last half of Daniel's 70th week, which begins with the antichrist putting to death the two witnesses after their 1,260 days of ministry (11:3) and the stopping of the sacrifice and grain offering (Daniel 9:27). This seems to occur after the beast (antichrist) has been killed and has come back to life since Revelation 11:7 tells us that "the beast then comes up out of the abyss (where he was during "his death") will make war with them (the two witnesses), overcome them, and kill them.
- ii. We are told that with the death and ascension of the two witnesses 3 1/2 days later, the second woe (sixth trumpet) is past.
- iii. The seventh trumpet then sounds, and we are told that the Lord God has taken His power and has begun to reign and the nations are enraged. **Their rage and how it is manifested is what we will be looking at as we look at the final battles of this last half of Daniel's 70th week - the time of distress as has never been nor will be, the time of the great tribulation.**
- iv. It is during this time that God is going to destroy those who destroy the earth. Note that the sounding of the seventh trumpet is marked by flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

b. Revelation 12

- i. Satan and his angels are cast out of heaven and thrown down to earth, the dragon (Satan - 12:9) persecutes the woman (Israel) and she flees into the wilderness for time, times, and half a time (3 1/2 years). This seems to be in conjunction with the beast breaking the seven-year covenant and bringing a halt to the sacrifices and grain offerings. Israel's time of "peace" is over; her tribulation has come.
- ii. Satan then goes off to make war with the rest of the woman's offspring who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

c. Revelation 13

- i. The beast is given authority to act for 42 months (13:5). This includes authority over every tribe, people, tongue, and nation. He also is given the power to make war against the saints and overcome them.
- ii. At this point there is a mention of the fact that the beast has a fatal wound which has been healed (a wound with a sword) and has come to life. Revelation 13:3 tells us that it is one of the heads of the beast that was slain.

- iii. Our question should be, "What is the significance of this wound and why to only one of the seven heads of the beast?"
 - iv. At this point we know from the text that it was a fatal wound and that the beast was brought back to life (13:14). This amazed the world, and they followed after the beast. They also said, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" (13:4)
 - v. It seems that the image to the beast is made sometime in the 42-month reign of the beast, and it looks like it is probably at the beginning of the those 42 months (3 1/2 years).
 - vi. The mark of the beast (the number of his name) is for everyone of every class, and without it no one is able to buy or sell.
 - vii. We also know that there is another beast who has two horns like a lamb and speaks like a dragon. He performs signs and is the one who makes the earth to worship the first beast.
- d. Revelation 14
- i. We several angels in this chapter. The first proclaims the eternal gospel to those on the earth.
 - ii. The second proclaims the fall of Babylon who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality.
 - iii. The third angel proclaims with a loud voice that anyone who takes the mark of the beast will drink of the wine of the wrath of God and will be tormented with fire and brimstone (forever and ever, 14:11) in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.
 - iv. There is a proclamation of blessing on those who die in the Lord from now on.
 - v. A fourth angel cries to the one sitting on a cloud with a golden crown on His head that it is time to put in His sickle and reap because the harvest of the earth is ripe. This He does.
 - vi. Another angel comes out from the temple with a sharp sickle. Then another angel who has power over fire comes from the altar and speaks to the angel with the sharp sickle, telling him to gather the clusters from the vine of the earth because her grapes are ripe. This he does and throws them into the great wine press of the wrath of God.

vii. The wine press is trodden outside the city, and blood comes up to the horses' bridles for a distance of 200 miles. **The question is, whose blood is this that is this deep in this 200 miles?** (Keep that question in your mind!)

e. Revelation 15

- i. There is another sign in heaven. This time it is the seven angels who have the last seven plagues.
- ii. John then sees a sea of glass, and standing on it are those who have come off victorious from the beast, his image, and his mark.
- iii. After these things he looks and sees the seven angels come out of the temple and receive from one of the four living creatures the bowls full of the wrath of God.
- iv. From that point on no one is able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels are finished.

f. Revelation 16

- i. The seven bowls (plagues) are poured out. The first is poured into the earth and it becomes a loathsome sore on those with the mark of the beast, those who worship his image.
- ii. The second is poured into the sea, and it brings death to every living thing in the sea.
- iii. The third is poured into the rivers and springs of water, and they become blood.
- iv. The fourth is poured on the sun so that it scorches men with fierce heat, fire; yet these men blaspheme God and do not repent.
- v. The fifth is poured out on the throne of the beast. His kingdom is darkened, and men gnaw their tongues in pain. Yet they do not repent but again blaspheme God.
- vi. The sixth is poured out on the Euphrates and dries up the water to prepare the way for the kings of the east.

vii. Unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouths of the dragon, beast, and false prophet. These spirits of demons perform signs which go out to the kings of the whole world to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. These kings are gathered together to the place called Har-Magedon in Hebrew. **This is very important to our study!**

viii. The seventh bowl is poured out, and there is lightning, thunder, a great earthquake. The great city split into three parts. The cities of the nations fall. Babylon is remembered before God to give her the cup of His fierce wrath. Islands and mountains disappear. 100-pound hailstones come out of heaven, and again men blaspheme God because of the severity of this plague.

g. Revelation 17

i. One of the seven angels with the seven bowls shows John, by carrying him away in the Spirit, the judgment of the great harlot, Babylon the great, the great city that reigns (has a kingdom) over the kings of the earth (17:18).

ii. This harlot sits on many waters (17:1), which are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues (17:15).

iii. She also sits on a scarlet beast full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

iv. The beast carries her.

v. The beast was, is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction.

1. Those who are on the earth (whose names are not in the Lamb's book of life) will wonder when they see the beast who was, is not, and will come.

2. The seven heads of the beast are seven mountains and seven kings (on which Babylon sits).

a. Five of the kings have fallen.

b. One is (This would be number 6)

c. The other (This would be number 7) has not yet come, but when he comes, he must remain a little while.

d. The beast which was and is not is an eighth, is one of the seven, goes to destruction.

3. The ten horns of the beast are ten kings
 - a. who have not yet received a kingdom
 - b. who receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour
 - c. Who have one purpose
 - d. Who give their power and authority to the beast
 - e. Who wage war with the Lamb
 - f. Who will be overcome by the Lamb

 4. The ten horns and the beast
 - a. Will hate the harlot
 - b. Will make her desolate, naked
 - c. Will eat her flesh
 - d. Will burn her with fire

 5. The ten kings give their kingdom to the beast because God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose
- vi. Revelation 18
1. The kings of the earth, the merchants of the earth, and those who make their living by the sea mourn over the destruction of Babylon, the great city, the strong city.

 2. In one hour Babylon is laid waste.

 3. She is burned.

 4. She will not be found anymore.

 5. All the nations were deceived by her sorcery.

 6. In her is found the blood of prophets, of saints, and of all slain on the earth.
- vii. Revelation 19
1. God judges the great harlot.

 2. She corrupted the earth with her immorality.

 3. Her smoke rises forever and ever.

4. After the Hallelujahs for the judgment of Babylon,
 - a. Then heaven is opened.
 - b. Jesus is sitting on a white horse, clothed with a robe dipped in blood, armies in heaven follow on white horses.
 - c. From Jesus' mouth comes a sharp sword to smite the nations.
 - d. Jesus will rule with a rod of iron.
 - e. Jesus treads the wine press of God's fierce wrath.
 - f. Angel assembles birds of heaven to eat the flesh of kings, commanders, mighty men, horses, all men
 - g. Beast, kings of earth and their armies are assembled to make war against Jesus and His army.
 - h. Beast and false prophet are seized and cast alive into the lake of fire.
 - i. The rest are killed with the sword from Jesus' mouth, and birds eat their flesh

2. That was a quick look at Revelation 11-19, and there were several mentions to battles. Let's go back and look at each one of those references about battle or bloodshed. Watch any mention of location and tell what happens in each. On page 145 of this lesson you will find a map which shows a 200-mile radius around Jerusalem so you can see the possibilities of where the blood might flow. Study the map carefully, and then consult it as you study the rest of this lesson.
 - a. Revelation 14:17-20

Interpreting Revelation in the
Light of Biblical Prophecy
Lesson 7
144,000, Two Witnesses, Mystery of God, Har-Magedon

5. Read through Zechariah 12:1-14:15. Mark every reference to the nations, Jerusalem, and in that day in distinctive ways. Watch what happens between them. List what will happen "in that day."

6. Summarize where the battle will be fought, who participates in it, and the order of events.

DAY FOUR

Could it be that the end-time campaigns begin when the unholy trinity sends out their spirits and gathers the kings of the earth together in the valley of Har-Magedon (the valley of Jezreel) to attack Jerusalem (Revelation 16:12-16)?

Then when this happens, the Lord comes - but from where to where?

Let's look at a possible scenario.

1. Read Isaiah 34-35. These are printed out on pages 136-139 at the end of this lesson.

a. Read these two chapters carefully and mark the following

- i. Nations (and its pronouns)
- ii. Lord (including God)
- iii. Edom and Bozrah (mark them the same since Bozrah is in Edom)
- iv. Zion

b. In Isaiah 34:5 where will judgment descend?

c. List what happens to the nations' armies.

d. Look at the map to see where Edom is located. Edom is the land of Esau's descendants. The Bible says that Edom is Esau. The exact location of Bozrah is not known, but it could be the city of Petra, a city carved in the mountains in Jordan that is only accessible through a very narrow pass about the width of a man of horseback. This ancient uninhabited city is currently a tourist attraction.

e. Now look at Isaiah 63:1-6 printed out on page 140 of this lesson.

- f. List what you learn about the One who comes from Edom.
- g. Compare what you have seen in Isaiah 63 with what you have learned about the wine press in Revelation 14:19-20 and the wine press and the garments of our Lord in Revelation 19:11-21. Record your thoughts.
- h. Could it possibly be that when the Lord leaves heaven, He first goes to Bozrah in Edom, then from there to the valley of Jehoshaphat, and then to the Mount of Olives and Jerusalem? Let's look up a few more cross-references before we call it a day. Hang in there while we tie this all together.
- i. Read Habakkuk 3:3-15 printed out on page 144. Some believe that this is a prophecy that relates to the actual coming of the Lord. If it is, note where God comes from. Teman and Mount Paran are in Edom, and are located in the same mountain range as Mount Seir. As you read this passage, note where the Lord comes from and why He comes. Mark every reference to the nations and to "Thy people" Israel.

ii. Could it be that when the woman flees into the wilderness where the Lord has prepared a place for her, Edom could be that wilderness and this is where the protected remnant of Jews is nourished by the Lord for time, times, and half a time (Revelation 12:6, 13-17; Matthew 24:15-26)? It could be that the nations, under the leadership of the beast, would go from Megiddo to Jerusalem to battle and then, having experienced victory, would go on to Bozrah in Edom to wipe out the remnant of Jews that had fled to the wilderness. Read Jeremiah 49:13-22 in your Bible and record what these verses say. Watch the call that does out to the nations. By the way, the distance from the Valley of Armageddon to Bozrah is about 200 miles.

iii. This could be why the beast (the king) in Daniel 11:41 couldn't conquer Edom, Moab, and Ammon (all in present-day Jordan) when he wanted to. This was the wilderness where God would hide those who fled Jerusalem. Look up this verse in Daniel.

DAY FIVE

1. It could be that having descended at Edom, the Lord then moves on to the valley of Jehoshaphat, just outside Jerusalem. Let's read through Joel 2:30-3:21 printed out on pages 141-143 at the end of this lesson.

a. Mark every reference to the nations and list everything you learn about the nations below.

b. Mark every reference to the day of the Lord and any synonyms for it such as "that day," "at that time," or "in those days."

c. Record any parallels between these verses and Revelation.

2. Read Revelation 14:17-20 once again and note where the wine press is trodden.

3. Go back to Zechariah 14:1-15 and answer these couple of questions.

a. What does God do to those who went to war against Jerusalem?

b. What will happen to Judah?

c. Where will our Lord's feet stand?

d. What will happen to the Mount of Olives?

e. What will happen to Jerusalem physically?

f. What will happen to the people of Jerusalem?

g. What will happen to the luminaries (sun, moon, stars)?

h. Who will be king?

That was a long week but you made it! Great job and next week the real fun begins!

Zechariah 12

1 The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel.

Thus declares the LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him,

2 “Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah.

3 It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.

4 In that day,” declares the LORD, “I will strike every horse with bewilderment and his rider with madness. But I will watch over the house of Judah, while I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.

5 Then the clans of Judah will say in their hearts, ‘A strong support for us are the inhabitants of Jerusalem through the LORD of hosts, their God.’

6 “In that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem again dwell on their own sites in Jerusalem.

7 The LORD also will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem will not be magnified above Judah.

8 In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David *will be* like God, like the angel of the LORD before them.

9 And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

10 “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

11 In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

12 The land will mourn, every family by itself; the family of the house of David by itself and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself and their wives by themselves;

13 the family of the house of Levi by itself and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself and their wives by themselves;

14 all the families that remain, every family by itself and their wives by themselves.

Zechariah 13

1 “In that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.

2 “It will come about in that day,” declares the LORD of hosts, “that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered; and I will also remove the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land.

3 And if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who gave birth to him will say to him, ‘You shall not live, for you have spoken falsely in the name of the LORD’; and his father and mother who gave birth to him will pierce him through when he prophesies.

4 Also it will come about in that day that the prophets will each be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies, and they will not put on a hairy robe in order to deceive;

5 but he will say, ‘I am not a prophet; I am a tiller of the ground, for a man sold me as a slave in my youth.’

6 And one will say to him, ‘What are these wounds between your arms?’ Then he will say, ‘*Those* with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.’

7 “Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd,

And against the man, My Associate,”

Declares the LORD of hosts.

“Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered;

And I will turn My hand against the little ones.

8 “It will come about in all the land,”

Declares the LORD,

“That two parts in it will be cut off *and* perish;

But the third will be left in it.

9 “And I will bring the third part through the fire,

Refine them as silver is refined,

And test them as gold is tested.

They will call on My name,

And I will answer them;

I will say, ‘They are My people,’

And they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”

Zechariah 14

1 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you.

2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.

3 Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.

4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

5 You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, *and* all the holy ones with Him!

6 In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle.

7 For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light.

8 And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter.

9 And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be *the only one*, and His name *the only one*.

10 All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin's Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's wine presses.

11 People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security.

12 Now this will be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth.

13 It will come about in that day that a great panic from the LORD will fall on them; and they will seize one another's hand, and the hand of one will be lifted against the hand of another.

14 Judah also will fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be gathered, gold and silver and garments in great abundance.

15 So also like this plague will be the plague on the horse, the mule, the camel, the donkey and all the cattle that will be in those camps.

16 Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

17 And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them.

18 If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no *rain will fall* on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

19 This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

20 In that day there will *be inscribed* on the bells of the horses, “HOLY TO THE LORD.” And the cooking pots in the LORD’S house will be like the bowls before the altar.

21 Every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to the LORD of hosts; and all who sacrifice will come and take of them and boil in them. And there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts in that day.

Isaiah 34

1 Draw near, O nations, to hear; and listen, O peoples!

Let the earth and all it contains hear, and the world and all that springs from it.

2 For the LORD'S indignation is against all the nations,

And *His* wrath against all their armies;

He has utterly destroyed them,

He has given them over to slaughter.

3 So their slain will be thrown out,

And their corpses will give off their stench,

And the mountains will be drenched with their blood.

4 And all the host of heaven will wear away,

And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll;

All their hosts will also wither away

As a leaf withers from the vine,

Or as *one* withers from the fig tree.

5 For My sword is satiated in heaven,

Behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom

And upon the people whom I have devoted to destruction.

6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood,

It is sated with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats,

With the fat of the kidneys of rams.

For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah

And a great slaughter in the land of Edom.

7 Wild oxen will also fall with them

And young bulls with strong ones;

Thus their land will be soaked with blood,

And their dust become greasy with fat.

8 For the LORD has a day of vengeance,

A year of recompense for the cause of Zion.

9 Its streams will be turned into pitch,

And its loose earth into brimstone,

And its land will become burning pitch.

10 It will not be quenched night or day;
Its smoke will go up forever.
From generation to generation it will be desolate;
None will pass through it forever and ever.

11 But pelican and hedgehog will possess it,
And owl and raven will dwell in it;
And He will stretch over it the line of desolation
And the plumb line of emptiness.

12 Its nobles—there is no one there
Whom they may proclaim king—
And all its princes will be nothing.

13 Thorns will come up in its fortified towers,
Nettles and thistles in its fortified cities;
It will also be a haunt of jackals
And an abode of ostriches.

14 The desert creatures will meet with the wolves,
The hairy goat also will cry to its kind;
Yes, the night monster will settle there
And will find herself a resting place.

15 The tree snake will make its nest and lay *eggs* there,
And it will hatch and gather *them* under its protection.
Yes, the hawks will be gathered there,
Every one with its kind.

16 Seek from the book of the LORD, and read:
Not one of these will be missing;
None will lack its mate.
For His mouth has commanded,
And His Spirit has gathered them.

17 He has cast the lot for them,
And His hand has divided it to them by line.
They shall possess it forever;
From generation to generation they will dwell in it.

Isaiah 35

1 The wilderness and the desert will be glad,
And the Arabah will rejoice and blossom;
Like the crocus

2 It will blossom profusely
And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
The majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the glory of the LORD,
The majesty of our God.

3 Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble.

4 Say to those with anxious heart,
“Take courage, fear not.
Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance;
The recompense of God will come,
But He will save you.”

5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened
And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.

6 Then the lame will leap like a deer,
And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy.
For waters will break forth in the wilderness
And streams in the Arabah.

7 The scorched land will become a pool
And the thirsty ground springs of water;
In the haunt of jackals, its resting place,
Grass *becomes* reeds and rushes.

8 A highway will be there, a roadway,
And it will be called the Highway of Holiness.
The unclean will not travel on it,
But it *will* be for him who walks *that* way,
And fools will not wander *on it*.

9 No lion will be there,

Nor will any vicious beast go up on it;

These will not be found there.

But the redeemed will walk *there*,

10 And the ransomed of the LORD will return

And come with joyful shouting to Zion,

With everlasting joy upon their heads.

They will find gladness and joy,

And sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Isaiah 63:1-6

1 Who is this who comes from Edom,
With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah,
This One who is majestic in His apparel,
Marching in the greatness of His strength?
“It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”

2 Why is Your apparel red,
And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press?

3 “I have trodden the wine trough alone,
And from the peoples there was no man with Me.
I also trod them in My anger
And trampled them in My wrath;
And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments,
And I stained all My raiment.

4 “For the day of vengeance was in My heart,
And My year of redemption has come.

5 “I looked, and there was no one to help,
And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold;
So My own arm brought salvation to Me,
And My wrath upheld Me.

6 “I trod down the peoples in My anger
And made them drunk in My wrath,
And I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.”

Joel 2:30-3:21

30 “I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth,
Blood, fire and columns of smoke.

31 “The sun will be turned into darkness
And the moon into blood
Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

32 “And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD
Will be delivered;
For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
There will be those who escape,
As the LORD has said,
Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

3:1 “For behold, in those days and at that time,
When I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,
2 I will gather all the nations
And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat.
Then I will enter into judgment with them there
On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel,
Whom they have scattered among the nations;
And they have divided up My land.

3 “They have also cast lots for My people,
Traded a boy for a harlot
And sold a girl for wine that they may drink.

4 Moreover, what are you to Me, O Tyre, Sidon and all the regions of Philistia?
Are you rendering Me a recompense? But if you do recompense Me, swiftly and
speedily I will return your recompense on your head.

5 Since you have taken My silver and My gold, brought My precious treasures to
your temples,

6 and sold the sons of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks in order to remove them
far from their territory,

7 behold, I am going to arouse them from the place where you have sold them,
and return your recompense on your head.

8 Also I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the sons of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, to a distant nation,” for the LORD has spoken.

9 Proclaim this among the nations:

Prepare a war; rouse the mighty men!

Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up!

10 Beat your plowshares into swords

And your pruning hooks into spears;

Let the weak say, “I am a mighty man.”

11 Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations,

And gather yourselves there.

Bring down, O LORD, Your mighty ones.

12 Let the nations be aroused

And come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat,

For there I will sit to judge

All the surrounding nations.

13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.

Come, tread, for the wine press is full;

The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great.

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!

For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

15 The sun and moon grow dark

And the stars lose their brightness.

16 The LORD roars from Zion

And utters His voice from Jerusalem,

And the heavens and the earth tremble.

But the LORD is a refuge for His people

And a stronghold to the sons of Israel.

17 Then you will know that I am the LORD your God,

Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain.

So Jerusalem will be holy,

And strangers will pass through it no more.

18 And in that day

The mountains will drip with sweet wine,
And the hills will flow with milk,
And all the brooks of Judah will flow with water;
And a spring will go out from the house of the LORD
To water the valley of Shittim.

19 Egypt will become a waste,
And Edom will become a desolate wilderness,
Because of the violence done to the sons of Judah,
In whose land they have shed innocent blood.

20 But Judah will be inhabited forever
And Jerusalem for all generations.

21 And I will avenge their blood which I have not avenged,
For the LORD dwells in Zion.

Habakkuk 3:3-15

3 God comes from Teman, And the Holy One from Mount Paran. *Selah*.
His splendor covers the heavens, And the earth is full of His praise.

4 *His* radiance is like the sunlight; He has rays *flashing* from His hand,
And there is the hiding of His power.

5 Before Him goes pestilence, And plague comes after Him.

6 He stood and surveyed the earth; He looked and startled the nations.
Yes, the perpetual mountains were shattered,
The ancient hills collapsed. His ways are everlasting.

7 I saw the tents of Cushan under distress,
The tent curtains of the land of Midian were trembling.

8 Did the LORD rage against the rivers,
Or *was* Your anger against the rivers, Or *was* Your wrath against the sea,
That You rode on Your horses, On Your chariots of salvation?

9 Your bow was made bare,
The rods of chastisement were sworn. *Selah*.
You cleaved the earth with rivers.

10 The mountains saw You *and* quaked; The downpour of waters swept by.
The deep uttered forth its voice, It lifted high its hands.

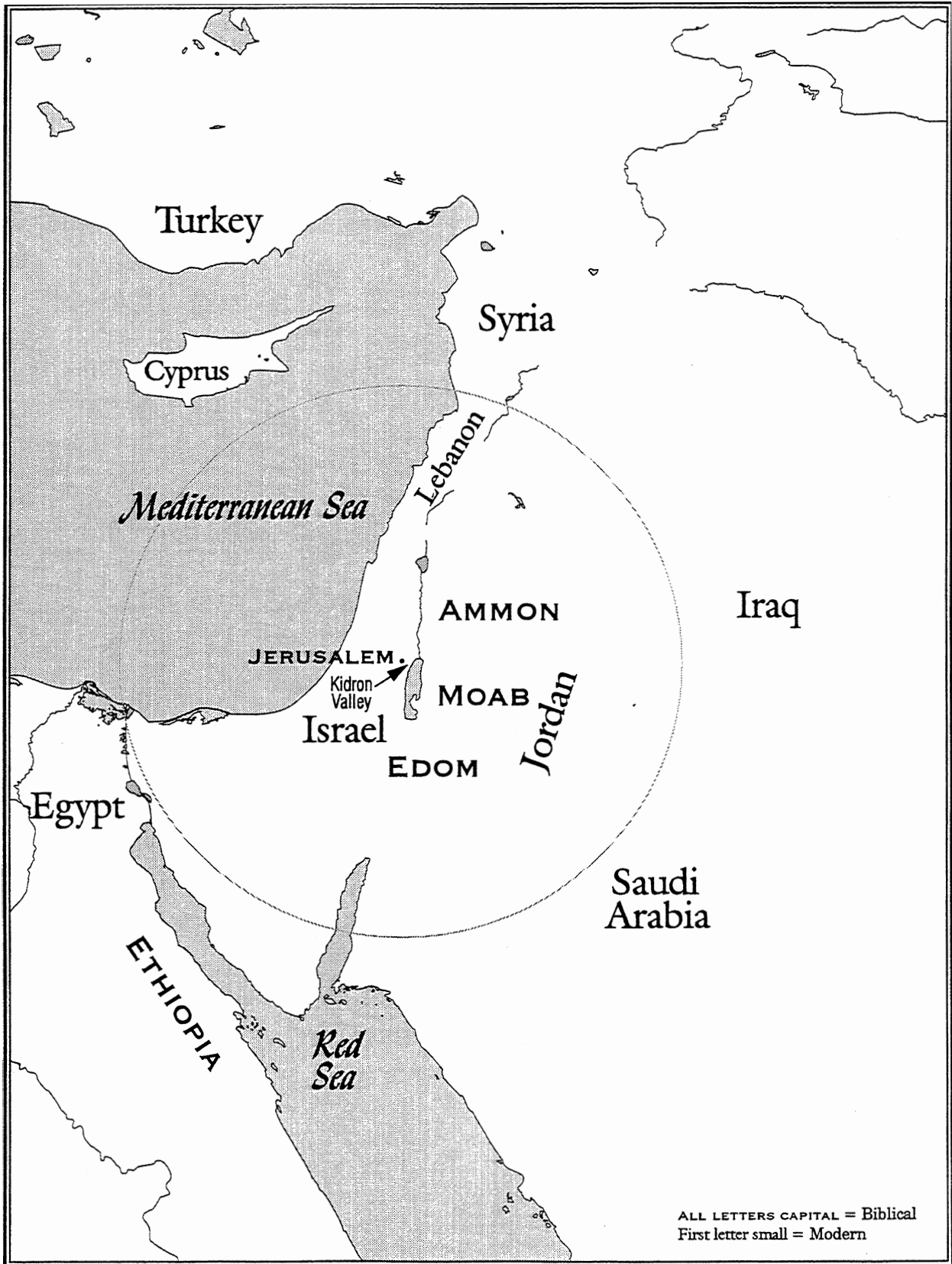
11 Sun *and* moon stood in their places; They went away at the light of Your
arrows, At the radiance of Your gleaming spear.

12 In indignation You marched through the earth;
In anger You trampled the nations.

13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people, For the salvation of Your
anointed. You struck the head of the house of the evil To lay him open from thigh
to neck. *Selah*.

14 You pierced with his own spears The head of his throngs.
They stormed in to scatter us; Their exultation *was* like those
Who devour the oppressed in secret.

15 You trampled on the sea with Your horses,
On the surge of many waters.



Interpreting Revelation in the

Light of Biblical Prophecy

Lesson 7

144,000, Two Witnesses, Mystery of God, Har-Magedon

Where will the church be when Jesus comes to the earth? Does the Bible even tell us? This is what we have all been waiting for. Let's make sure that as we approach this subject that we continue to let the Word of God speak for itself. Put away all your thoughts, preconceived ideas, or teachings of others and let's allow the Spirit to lead us into truth and allow the water of the Word to flow over us. Have a great time of study and fellowship this week.

DAY ONE AND TWO

1. The rapture is one of the most argued points in Scripture, yet not once does the word "rapture" even appear in the Bible. The word "rapture" is taken from the Latin translation for the word that means "caught up" used in I Thessalonians 4:17. There are three passages that some believe are references to the "rapture," the catching up of the saints who are living at the time of the Lord's coming (appearing, revelation). Look up the following verses, and record what you learn about this event from the text. Don't read anything into the text, look for the context of each passage, observe what is there, and record the facts on the chart entitled "The Rapture" at the end of this lesson on page 164.

a. John 14:1-3

b. I Thessalonians 4:13-18

c. I Corinthians 15:51-54

2. There is so much debate surrounding the timing of the rapture, even among godly theologians. Let's look at four of the most widely held views. You need to realize that there are many others out there.
- a. **Pre-Tribulation (Pre-Trib)** - Those that hold to this idea say that the rapture will occur sometime before the tribulation begins. Usually those who hold to this view would consider Daniel's entire 70th week as the tribulation.
 - b. **Mid-Trib** - Those who hold to this view also equate Daniel's 70th week with the tribulation. They believe that in the middle of that week (3 1/2 years), the rapture will take place.
 - c. **Post-Trib** - Those who hold to this view believe that Jesus will catch up His church when He actually returns to the earth and the whole world sees Him.
 - d. **Pre-Wrath Rapture** - This view was made popular by Marv Rosenthal. This is very detailed and complicated, and we will try to cover this in class discussion. This view says that the rapture will occur before the wrath of God is poured out on the earth. Most of us understand that concept, but the timeline that he holds has some issues.

We will do our best to cover each of these in detail in class so that you are comfortable with each one. With any of these views, if you don't know the Scriptures for yourselves, you are going to be easily swayed with arguments that any side will throw at you. This is why we have taken the time to study Revelation in such detail.

At this point in time, we need to understand why many highly educated people have drawn these conclusions. We will see that there are good arguments for at least two of these views, and the other two have some good arguments if you start with certain presuppositions. What you need to realize is that you nor your denomination has a corner on truth. With that in mind, this should never be a point of division, but a place where we fall on our knees and ask the Lord for the grace to agree to disagree. May we never be found guilty of pushing our opinions on someone else, espousing them as the only truth.

There are many truths in the Bible that are clear, concise, and repeated often that there is no room for disagreement. There are other things that are mentioned once or twice, and they are not clear. Why did Daniel talk about the 1,290 days and 1,335 days? We can only make educated guesses, always making sure that our guesses **NEVER** contradict clear teachings of the rest of the Word of God. Unfortunately, as

much as we would like to have clear, concise, and repeated mentions of the rapture, there just isn't.

We take what we know and line it up with the rest of what we have studied and draw conclusions, knowing that those conclusions may change as we continue in our study of Scripture.

3. Now, before we draw any conclusions about the rapture and its timing as recorded in I Thessalonians 4:13-18, let's do some more studying. We are going to deal with passages throughout Scripture that various people will use to support their view. We want to look at each one, so we can better understand the theories and the confusion. So let's dive in and see what we can find.

a. I Thessalonians 4:13-18 is the predominant passage, so let's study this letter in more detail. Each chapter of I Thessalonians ends with a reference to the coming of the Lord. Look at each one and note what you learn about the believer: Is Jesus coming for them? Are they already with Him when He comes? Also note any mention of the wrath of God and their relationship to the wrath. Record your insights.

i. I Thessalonians 1:9-10

ii. I Thessalonians 2:19-20

iii. I Thessalonians 3:11-13

iv. I Thessalonians 4:13-18

v. I Thessalonians 5:23

- b. II Thessalonians was written right after I Thessalonians because somehow those at Thessalonica had received a message saying something to the effect that the day of the Lord had already come. From II Thessalonians 2:2 it is obvious that this was not pleasant news because the people were shaken from their composure and greatly disturbed. The question is, will the day of the Lord precede or include the coming of the Lord? From what you have studied so far, how would you answer that question for the Thessalonians?
- c. How does Paul comfort the church in their distress of thinking that the day of the Lord has already come? Read II Thessalonians 2:1-15 and write out the answer. You may want to look up the Greek word for "our gathering together to Him" to see what it means. Keep in mind that these people were already personally taught by Paul about the coming of the Lord and were the recipients of Paul's first letter to them.

- d. Since Paul had already written to this church regarding the day of the Lord, we need to review again what he said. Review is critical to learning. You review and review until what you are reviewing becomes a part of you, lodged in your mind, heart, and soul!
- i. Read I Thessalonians 5:1-11. As you do, note and record all that Paul says about the day of the Lord.
- ii. Now read I Thessalonians 5:1-11 again and mark the word "wrath."
1. Do you see any possible connection between wrath and the day of the Lord? How would it fit with what you studied in Revelation in respect to the day of the Lord?
 2. What is wrath contrasted with in I Thessalonians 5:9? Do you think this is referring to the initial act of receiving Christ and, therefore, being saved; or could it be referring to the totality of our salvation which includes the redemption of our bodies?

iv. Do you think Paul taught the Thessalonians that they were going to be on earth when the day of the Lord came? Give your reason for your answer.

v. Finally, from everything you have seen in your study of Revelation, do you think the church is going to be on the earth on the day of the Lord? Why?

DAY THREE THROUGH FIVE

In our last three days, we want to continue to attempt to put away preconceived notions and answer the question as to where the church will be, and how long it will have been there when the time comes for Jesus Christ to come to earth in person to tread out the wine press and rule the nations with a rod of iron.

1. Going back to Revelation, let's review.
 - a. To whom was the Revelation written?
 - b. Why was it written?

c. How is the material of Revelation laid out?

d. What does Revelation 1:7 tell you about Christ's coming?

i. Who will see Him when He comes in the clouds?

ii. What will be the reaction of those who see Him?

iii. How do these who see Him **and** their reaction fit with what you see in John 14:3; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-54?

2. Read Revelation 17:14 and Revelation 19 and give a reason for your answer to the following questions:

a. Where is the church in this chapter?

b. What do you learn about her?

c. Who do you think comprises the armies in heaven that follow Christ on white horses? Why?

3. From all the verses you studied regarding the actual coming of the Lord, where is the church when Jesus touches down on earth and smites the nations with a rod of iron? Give Scriptures to support your answers. To answer this question you may have to go back to your homework on DAY ONE AND TWO.

4. Now carefully read Revelation 3:7-11.

a. Who is speaking in verses 10-11?

b. What is the promise and to whom is it given?

8. In I Corinthians 15:51-54, there is a reference to the dead being "raised imperishable" (incorruptible) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. Some believe that the seventh trumpet in Revelation is the trumpet that is being referred to. Therefore, we need to examine this a little more carefully to see what we can learn.

a. If this is a reference to the last (seventh) trumpet, then when does this trumpet blow? Let's look at different views.

i. Some believe the last trumpet heralds the beginning of the last 3 1/2 years of Daniel's 70th week.

ii. Others believe the middle of the 70th week occurs with the sixth seal. This puts the seventh trumpet sometime during the last 3 1/2 years.

iii. Others believe that the seventh trumpet is blown very close to the end of the last 3 1/2 years and lasts for 1 3/4 years, ending with the sixth seal. Thus the great tribulation takes up the first half of the last 3 1/2 years. He then places the trumpet judgments with the breaking of the seventh seal, which brings the great tribulation to an end and begins the day of the Lord. The seventh seal is broken during the last half of the last 3 1/2 years, leaving 1 3/4 years before Christ comes to earth.

iv. The last view is that the last trumpet is mentioned in Matthew 24 when "all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. If this view is correct, then the rapture happens after the tribes of the earth see the Son of Man coming.

b. Now take a look at your timeline and evaluate each of these views according to what we have seen so far. Which ones are possible? Which ones contradict with the timeline we have built?

\

c. At this point in time, what do you know for certain as to when the rapture must at least occur by? Why?

9. In last week's lesson we looked at the battlefronts connected with the Lord's return: the valley of Megiddo, Jerusalem, Edom. Now we want to look at exactly what happens when He returns to earth, who it affects, and how it affects them. Maybe this will also give us a clue as to whether the church is caught up to meet Him in the air sometime before the end of the 70th week or at the very end of the week.

a. Although you have already studied Matthew 24-25 in part three, you need to carefully look at it again. Read Matthew 24:15-44 and 25:31-46. Mark the following words in a distinctive way. Matthew 24 is printed out on pages 14-16 of lesson one if you would like to use those sheets. Matthew 25 is located on pages 165-167 of this lesson. You could also use your Bible if you would prefer.

i. Mark every "when," "then," and "immediately after" all in the same way because they will give you a sequence of events. By the way, the "when" in Matthew 24:15 will show you when all that follows begins. As you do this, consult your timelines.

ii. Mark every reference to the coming of the Son of Man.

iii. Mark every reference to the tribulation.

b. Now answer the following questions that relate to these chapters in Matthew.

i. Who are being addressed in Matthew 24:15-26? Jewish believers living at that time? The church? Who?

iv. What do you think from all that you have studied? Is your head spinning yet?
Hang on, we are almost done!

10. If you believe the church goes through the entire 70th week of Daniel, then explain exactly what I Thessalonians 4:13-18 is saying to the church. Give the sequence of events and explain why they would be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and then return immediately to earth - **OR** - If you believe that the church is "caught up" sometime before the 70th week of Daniel or during the 70th week of Daniel, share what your view is and why you hold it.

| The Rapture | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| | John 14:1-3 | I Thessalonians 4:13-18 | I Corinthians 15:51-54 |
| Who participated? | | | |
| What is the order of events? | | | |
| Where do they go from? Where do they meet the Lord? Where do they end up? | | | |
| When does it happen? | | | |
| How does it happen? | | | |
| What provoked the teaching about this event? | | | |

Matthew 25

1 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

2 Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.

3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,

4 but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.

5 Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and *began* to sleep.

6 But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet *him*.’

7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.

8 The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

9 But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you *too*; go instead to the dealers and buy *some* for yourselves.’

10 And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.

11 Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’

12 But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’

13 Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

14 “For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.

15 To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.

16 Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents.

17 In the same manner the one who *had received* the two *talents* gained two more.

18 But he who received the one *talent* went away, and dug *a hole* in the ground and hid his master’s money.

19 “Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

20 The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’

21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

22 “Also the one who *had received* the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’

23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

24 “And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no *seed*.

25 And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’

26 “But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no *seed*. **27** Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest.

28 Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’

29 “For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.

30 Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

31 “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

32 All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

35 For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;

36 naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’

37 Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink?’

38 And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?

39 When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’

40 The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even* the least of *them*, you did it to Me.’

41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me *nothing* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink;

43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.’

44 Then they themselves also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?’

45 Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’

46 These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Interpreting Revelation in the
Light of Biblical Prophecy
Lesson 8
The Rapture

What happened to believers and unbelievers from ages past? Where are they now? What will happen to the living and the dead when the Lord Jesus Christ returns and reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords? These are all questions that we want to be able to answer this week.

DAY ONE

We are going to start this week off by reading Revelation chapter 20. You will find this printed out for you on page 180. After reading the chapter, list everything you learn about the fate of the devil, those who died and came back to life, the rest of the dead, and the nations that are deceived by Satan on the chart located on page 179. Then go back and list what you learn about the first resurrection and the second death.

Be very thorough in filling out this chart. Take time to really think about what is being said.

DAY TWO

1. "Blessed and (did you notice the word "holy"?) is the one who has a part in the first resurrection . . ." In Revelation what is the first resurrection contrasted with?

2. We know that when Christ returns, His angels will gather His elect from the four winds of the earth (Matthew 24:31).
 - a. Read Matthew 24:37-41, 45-51 to see what happens to the lost. These are located on pages 60-62 in lesson three.

- b. Read Ezekiel 36:22-38 and Ezekiel 37:25 to see what happens to those who believe when He returns. These are located on pages 17-22 in lesson 1.
3. I Corinthians 15 is often referred to as the "resurrection chapter," for in no other place in the Word of God do we find a more comprehensive teaching on the resurrection. Therefore, to fully understand the implications of the first resurrection, we need to understand what this chapter teaches about our subject.
- a. I Corinthians 15:12-28 is printed out on page 184. The first several verses (12-19) are simply there to put you in the context of what is being said. It shows the emphasis and the importance of what is being said from verses 20-28. In I Corinthians 15:1-11, Paul lays out the points of the gospel (the good news of salvation) that cannot be ignored. One of those is the fact that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and was seen by over five hundred eyewitnesses in His resurrected state. Without the resurrection there is no good news, for we are still dead in our sins and all that would await us in the second death. With that background, read through these verses concentrating on 20-28.
 - b. Read again and mark the following in distinctive ways, along with their synonyms and pronouns:
 - i. Christ
 - ii. Resurrection (raised, alive)
 - iii. First fruits
 - iv. Kingdom (reign)
 - c. Make a list of everything you learn about Jesus Christ.

- d. In the margin of your observation worksheet, list the order of events in this passage, not only for those who are resurrected, but also the order of events in respect to the kingdom being delivered to the Father and the abolishment of death.
- e. Now let's look at another portion of this same chapter. You will find I Corinthians 15:35-49 printed out on pages 185. Read through this and see how the dead are raised.
- i. Read through it again and mark each of the following:
1. Body
 2. Heaven
 3. Earthly (earthy)
 4. Image
 5. First
 6. Last
 7. Adam
 8. Resurrection
 9. The dead (make a distinction between death and the dead)
 10. Perishable
 11. Imperishable
- ii. List everything you learn about the last Adam, and write down who you think this last Adam is.
- iii. In the side margin, make a comprehensive list of everything you learn in this passage about the earthly (earthy) and about the heavenly.

DAY THREE THROUGH FIVE

When Jesus Christ returns to earth to rule and reign (Revelation 19:11-20:4), what happens to **those who are living** and are not destroyed in the end time battles in Jerusalem, the valley of Har-Magedon, and in Edom as they gather together for "the war of the great day of God, the Almighty" (Revelation 16:14-16)?

Let's reason through the Scriptures together.

1. We know that the church, the bride of Christ, will have their new incorruptible bodies, for the mortal will have put on immortality. They will be in resurrected bodies like those of our Lord (1 John 3:2). We studied this in I Corinthians 15.
2. We know that all the nations that are left after His coming will be gathered before His throne. Read Matthew 25:31-46 again and record below what you learn about the fate of those on His right hand (the sheep) and those on His left (the goats). This passage can be found on pages 166-167 of last week's lesson.

| The Goats on the Left | The Sheep on the Right |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | |

3. If those who are referred to as "the sheep" enter into the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world, then they will continue to live on the earth; and yet, there is no mention of their having new bodies. Apparently they continue in mortal bodies like we have now, bearing and rearing children and growing old. Yet, the question is, how old? And what about their children? Will they automatically believe in the Lord Jesus Christ from their heart? Let's try to answer these questions by observing the following passages. Record what you learn about each.

3. Now look at the contrast in Revelation 21:24-22:5. Mark every occurrence of the nations. Does there seem to be a difference between the bride, the city, and the nations? What do you observe?

4. Now look at Revelation 22:1-2 and write down what is there for the healing of the nations.

5. Now read Genesis 3:22-24. Why were Adam and Eve banished from the Garden of Eden after eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? What do you learn about the tree of life?

6. How might what you have just seen explain how those of the nations who never received a resurrected immortal body might live forever? Think about it. It is some interesting food for thought, is it not?

4. Now let's look at those who died previous to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign as King of kings.

a. What happened to believers and unbelievers when they died before the coming of the Lord?

i. Look up Luke 16:19-31 and write down what you learn from these verses.

ii. Look up the Greek word for "Hades."

iii. Read Ephesians 4:8 - Are there any hints in this verse about what happened to those in "Abraham's bosom" when Christ ascended to heaven? You can cross reference Psalms 68:18 and Colossians 2:13-15 to give you more insight.

b. Where are those who die before "the great tribulation?" Look up the following verses and write down what you learn from them.

i. II Corinthians 5:1-9 - as you study these verses, ask God to search your heart is respect to your attitude towards life and death and whose pleasure you live for.

Interpreting Revelation in the
Light of Biblical Prophecy
Lesson 9
First Resurrection, Second Death

ii. Philippians 1:20-23 - from these verses and the ones in II Corinthians, what happens to a believer when he dies? Where does the Scripture indicated he goes at the moment of death?

iii. John 11:25-26

iv. Revelation 6:9-11 - Note where these people are and why. Also note what they are clothed in and compare this with Revelation 3:4-5. Record your insights.

v. Revelation 7:9-17 - Note who these are, where they are, what they are clothed in, and where they came from.

vi. Revelation 11:7-12 - Note who these people are, where they are, and why.

vii. Last week we looked at the rapture. If you look objectively at II Thessalonians 2 and let the text speak for itself, you saw that whenever the rapture occurred, it had to at least happen before the day of the Lord. Therefore, if the day of the Lord began right after the revelation of the man of lawlessness, the beast, then those who came out of the great tribulation would not be part of the church, the bride of Christ. We also know that they did not receive the mark of the beast because if they had, they would not be in heaven (Revelation 14:9-12). Therefore, since they died after the church was caught up to Jesus Christ, did they miss receiving new bodies? Look at Revelation 20:4 and write out your answer to this question.

viii. Let's go to Daniel now, and read Daniel 12:1-3, 13 and write out what is going to happen to them as far as the resurrection.

1. Will they all be resurrected to life?

2. By what point will those who are written in the book and raised to everlasting life have to be resurrected according to Revelation 20?

3. According to Revelation 20 by what point will those who are going into disgrace and everlasting contempt awake for this condemnation? And what is that condemnation called in Revelation 20?

Interpreting Revelation in the
 Light of Biblical Prophecy
 Lesson 9
 First Resurrection, Second Death

| The Fate of | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| The Devil | Those Martyred for Christ |
| | |
| The Deceived Nations | The Rest of the Dead |
| | |

What the Word of God Teaches About

| The First Resurrection | The Second Death |
|------------------------|------------------|
| | |

Revelation 20

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,

8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds.

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea.

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He *said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

6 Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

7 He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

8 But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.

12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names *were* written on them, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

13 *There were* three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall.

16 The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.

17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, *according to* human measurements, which are *also* angelic measurements.

18 The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

19 The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;

20 the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

22 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb.

24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed;

26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it;

27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22

1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,

2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds* of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;

4 they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads.

5 And there will no longer be *any* night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

6 And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.

7 “And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”

8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

9 But he said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”

10 And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

11 Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy.”

12 “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

1 Corinthians 15:12-28

12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;

14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

15 Moreover we are even found *to be* false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.

16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;

17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

21 For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

24 then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

27 For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

28 When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

1 Corinthians 15:35-49

35 But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?”

36 You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies;

37 and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else.

38 But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.

39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one *flesh* of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish.

40 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the *glory* of the earthly is another.

41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*;

43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*.

45 So also it is written, “The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.” The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.

47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.

48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.

49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

Interpreting Revelation in the
Light of Biblical Prophecy
Lesson 9
First Resurrection, Second Death

There are many events that take place surrounding the second coming of the Lord. These are very important events that are worth investigating and coming to terms with. What exactly are the marriage supper of the Lamb, the Great White Throne Judgment, the books that were opened? What becomes of Satan and those who will not bow their knee before the Lord Jesus Christ?

These are topics we want to look at this week and next. Ask the Lord to open the eyes of your understanding and show you these things, and most importantly, how you can apply applications of these events to your life.

DAY ONE

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

1. In Revelation 19:9 we read, "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." Read Revelation 19:1-9 and list below what you learn from this passage regarding the marriage of the Lamb and the marriage supper of the Lamb. Ask yourself the 5 W's and H questions.

2. Marriage customs in Biblical times were different from those in the western world today. In Biblical times, the father chose the bride for his son. Then a binding wedding agreement, called the betrothal, was made before marriage was consummated. To break that agreement, a bill of divorcement was required. However, if impurity was found in the bride, then the bride could be put to death.

When the appointed time for the marriage came, the ceremonies began with the wedding procession. In this procession, usually near midnight, the bridegroom, and his friends went to the bride's home to get her and her attendants (virgins) and take them to his home. The bride was led to a canopy, to her place beside her husband and vows were spoken.

The marriage supper then followed, usually at the home of the groom. This feast lasted from three to seven days. The festivities on the last day were the most elaborate. The marriage supper was the "bringing home" of an already accredited bride to her covenanted husband, to which guests were invited.

- a. Now in the light of that understanding of the marriage customs of our Lord's time, look at the following verses and note what you learn about the bride, the bridegroom, and their relationship. Examine each passage in the light of the 5 W's and an H. As you do this, stop and think on these wonderful truths.

i. II Corinthians 11:2-4, 13-15

ii. Ephesians 5:22-32

iii. Matthew 9:15

DAY TWO

The Millennial Reign of Christ

Is Revelation 20:1-11 speaking of a literal 1000 years when Christ will reign upon the earth, or is this to be taken figuratively, to be interpreted in another way than according to its primary, ordinary sense? This is what we need to discern for ourselves because once again, as with the tribulation, there are a number of varying views.

1. Read Revelation 20 using the text printed out on page 180 of last week's lesson. Every time you come to a time phrase, note it with a symbol of a clock in the margin.
2. Read Revelation 20 again. This time list below the different events/subjects in the order they are covered in this chapter.

3. You probably marked every occurrence of the phrase "a thousand years;" however, if you didn't mark it, mark it now in a distinctive way in the text. On the chart below, list each occurrence of the phrase "a thousand years" and record what you learn about the thousand years from that reference. If any particular persons are mentioned in relationship to the thousand years, observe all you can about them by asking your 5 W's and H questions.

| Mention of 1,000 years | What Happens | Who is Involved |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | | |

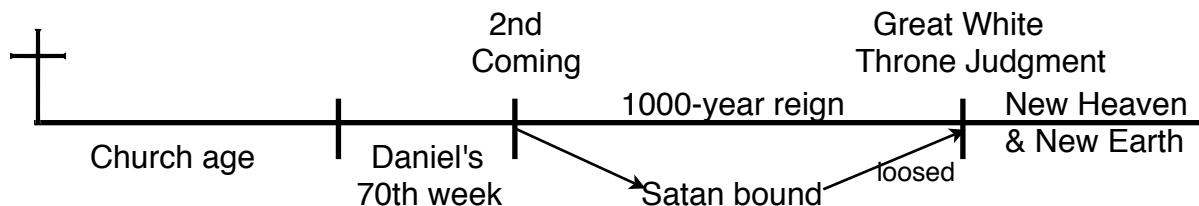
4. Now that you have seen what Revelation 20 says, let's go over the three basic theological views of the millennium. They are often referred to as the **premil**, **postmil**, and **amil** views. Since all these views are out there, let's go over each one, and see what we can learn about their strengths and weaknesses.

a. The Premillennial View

These believe that the return of Christ will be preceded by many various signs, such as famines, earthquakes, wars, etc., all culminating in the great tribulation. The great tribulation period will then end when Christ visibly returns to earth with His saints and sets up a kingdom which will rule over the whole earth for 1000 years.

During this 1000-year reign, there will be a restoration of creation so that a wolf and lamb will dwell together and a child will play at the hole of a cobra (Isaiah 11:6, 8). Satan will be bound at this time. However, at the end of the thousand years he will be released and will come to deceive the nations and gather them together. They will surround the city of Jerusalem only to be destroyed by fire from heaven. Satan will then be cast into the lake of fire. Then, there will be a new heaven and new earth.

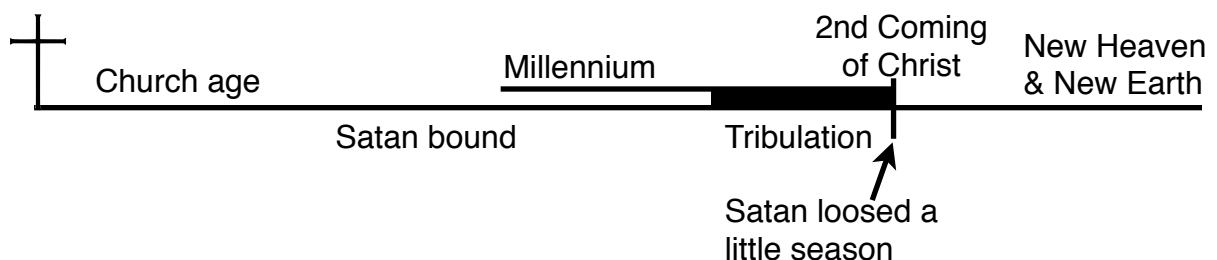
A premillennialist holds the literal, historical, grammatical interpretation of Scripture wherever possible.



b. Postmillennial View

These believe that the kingdom of God is being extended right now on earth and will continue to spread until the world is Christianized. Then Christ will come and there will be a resurrection of the dead and the final judgment.

Postmillennialists hold to a symbolic interpretation of Scripture.

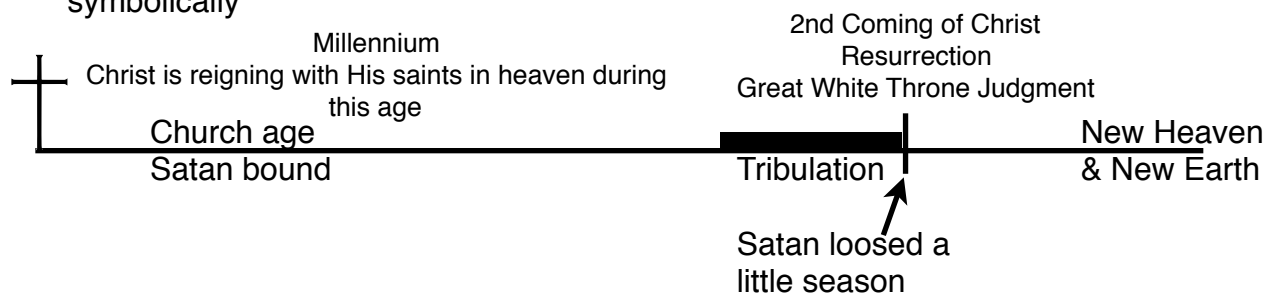


c. Amillennial View

These believe that the kingdom of God is the world right now, that Satan is bound, and the victorious Christ is ruling His people by His Spirit and His Word. They interpret Revelation 20 as occurring now while the souls of deceased believers now reign with Christ in heaven. Amillennialists are looking forward to the second coming of Christ when the dead will be raised and the last judgment will take place.

Amillennialists have three basic principles of interpretation:

- 1) spiritualization of Scripture
- 2) Old Testament promises to Israel are fulfilled in the church
- 3) The millennium is only mentioned one place in Scripture and is to be interpreted symbolically



DAY THREE AND FOUR

Now let's look at some cross-references that might give us further insight into the reign of Christ. Understanding these Scriptures might give us greater insight into the proper interpretation of the reign of Christ, so don't rush through this assignment. As you study, think about all you have learned in your hours of pouring over the Word of God.

As you look up each reference (some will be quite familiar by now), record what you learnt about the reign of Christ; for example the scope of His reign, the duration of His reign, and how He comes or happens o reign. Also note anything that precedes or follows His reign or that occurs during His reign.

Make sure you carefully check the context of these verses. Note who is speaking, to whom, and if there is any reason for what is being said. Watch for similarities between the passages and how one expands on the idea of the other.

Interpreting Revelation in the
Light of Biblical Prophecy
Lesson 10
Events Following the Second Coming

1. Daniel 2:44-45

2. Daniel 7:11-14, 21-22, 26-27

3. Isaiah 9:6-7

4. Luke 1:30-33

5. Revelation 12:5

6. Revelation 19:15-16

7. Isaiah 2:1-4

8. Isaiah 11-12 - This is not a typo. You are going to read both of these chapters. Just read the chapters and see what you can learn. If you want to spend longer here, wait until you have finished the lesson and come back. Right now we are just looking for information on the reign of Christ.

9. Isaiah 65:17-25 - Watch the contrast between verse 17 and 18. It's as though God first mentions the new heaven and the new earth and then regresses in time to the reign of Christ. If this interpretation is correct, note what happens in verses 18-25 and ask if those things would take place during the earthly reign of Christ or in the new heaven and new earth.

10. Isaiah 66:18-24

11. Zechariah 14:9-11, 16-21

12. Matthew 24:29-31; 25:31-32

13. Jeremiah 23:5-8

14. Ezekiel 37:21-28

15. Micah 4:1-8

16. Zephaniah 3:8-20 - note the "then" in verse 9.

17. Amos 9:11-15 - For context, read Amos 9:7-10 which shows judgment on Israel and the remnant that survives the judgment described in Zechariah 13:8-9.

18. From all that you have studied this week and over the past months regarding the coming of the Lord, what is your view of the millennial reign of Christ and why?

19. Let me ask you one more question to close this lesson. If you can't interpret the thousand years in a literal way, can you interpret other time phrases - the 42 months, 1260 days - in the same book of Revelation literally?

If you don't interpret the text of Revelation 20:1-7 in its primary, normal, literal way, how will you interpret it? By whose imagination? According to whose allegorical interpretation?

Why not let God say what He says and believe Him. If He speaks allegorically, symbolically, or in a parable, isn't it clear that He is speaking figuratively? Of course.

A good rule of interpretation is to take every word of the Bible in its primary, ordinary, usual, and literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context (when studied in the light of related passages and fundamental truths) clearly indicate they are to be interpreted otherwise.

DAY FIVE

The Books Were Opened

1. We want to examine what Revelation 20:11-15 (Daniel 7:10) is referring to when it mentions the books being opened. What are these books, and what is in each of these books. This is a difficult topic, but let's see what God has revealed to us through His Word. Read Revelation 20:11-15, and write down what you learn about the books.

2. Let's try to reason through this a bit. The setting is the great white throne judgment. The rest of the dead are standing before God on His throne and *"books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds."* We see that there are at least three books. There were books (plural) and then another book. Let's see if we can find some of these different books mentioned in the Bible. Read the references and write down the name of the book that is mentioned.
- a. Malachi 3:16-17 - Notice the name of the book and who is recorded in it.

 - b. Revelation 3:5 - Note the name of the book and what will not happen to the overcomer.
 - i. If a name can be erased or blotted out, whose names are blotted out?
 - 1. Exodus 32:32-33

 - 2. Psalms 9:5

 - 3. Psalms 69:28 - sounds like two types of names are written together and they don't deserve to be. Record your insights.

 - ii. Deuteronomy 29:19-20 - This doesn't mention the books, but in the context, still refers to names being blotted out. I wanted to through this one out for the strong message of this passage.

c. The last book that we want to look at is mentioned in several places. Record the name of the book, whose it is, when it was written, and notice if it seems like everyone's name has been written in this book or whether some names were not in this book.

i. Revelation 13:8

ii. Revelation 17:8

iii. Revelation 21:27

d. Two more verses and then we will sum up what we have seen. These verses are unclear as to which of the "book of life" it is referring to, but record what you observe.

i. Daniel 12:1

ii. Philippians 4:3

3. Three books seem to be mentioned by name. There is the book of remembrance, the book of life, and the Lamb's book of life. Think through this carefully. What is the difference between these books, and how can you see these books being used at the time of the judgment?

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done" (Revelation 22:12). What are the Lord's rewards? To whom will they be given and when? This is going to be our study for the final week of study.

DAY ONE

1. Look up the following Scriptures. Check the context of these passages, and make sure that you ask the 5 W's and H questions.

a. II Corinthians 5:1-10

b. Romans 14:7-12

c. I Corinthians 3:10-15 - read I Corinthians 3:1-9 to get the context. Note who builds on the foundation and who is judged and by what standard.

d. II John 8 - check the context.

e. I Thessalonians 4:13-18

f. Revelation 19:7-21

2. In light of what you have learned regarding the church and I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Revelation 19:7-21, when do you think the Judgment Seat of Christ will occur in respect to the event described in Revelation 19:15? Support your reasoning from Scripture.

3. Who will rule and reign with Christ for 1000 years? Look up the following Scriptures and record your observations:

a. Luke 19:11-27

b. Revelation 2:26-27

c. Revelation 5:9-10

d. Ezekiel 34:23-24; 37:21, 24; Jeremiah 30:1-9

e. Revelation 20:4-6

DAY TWO

Today we want to look at the judgment of the nations described in Matthew 25:31-46. Check the context carefully and list what you observe. As you read this, when do you think that this event is going to happen? You may want to read Matthew 24 and 25 in order to see the whole context of this passage. Take your time and think through this carefully.

DAY THREE AND FOUR

1. We are going to look at the resurrections mentioned in Daniel 12:1-2 and John 5:28-29. Look at these passages and record your observations.

a. Daniel 12:1-2

b. John 5:28-29

4. If the people at the Great White Throne Judgment are headed for the lake of fire because their names are not in the book of life, why would God bother to judge them according to their deeds? The only to answer that question is to look at the following Scriptures and see what we can learn from them. So look them up, observe the text carefully, and record your insights. Although the content of some of the verses is almost the same, I am giving them to you anyway so that you have them for future reference.

a. Matthew 10:15 (5-15)

b. Matthew 11:21-24

c. Matthew 12:41-42 (38-43) and Luke 11:31-32

d. Mark 12:38-40

e. Luke 20:45-47

f. John 19:10-11 - Note the word "greater." Was that because Judas had more exposure to the Truth and, therefore, a greater accountability?

5. Finally, where would you place the resurrection of the righteous and the Great White Throne Judgment on a time line in respect to the Judgment seat of Christ, the judgment of the nations, and our Lord's coming as mentioned in Revelation 19?

DAY FIVE

Well this is it, your last assignment.

1. In Revelation 20:13-14 there are two references to Hades. Read the text carefully and note the difference between Hades and the lake of fire.

c. Matthew 16:18

d. Acts 2:27, 31 - This is a most interesting passage. Read Acts 2:22-36. You'll understand why the Apostle's Creed says - speaking of Jesus - "He descended into Hades (Hell) and the third day He arose again and ascended into heaven."

e. Revelation 1:17-18

f. Revelation 6:8 - When you understand the meaning of Hades here, it presents an interesting contrast with the fifth seal and where the souls are?

4. Now let's look at the Scriptures that refer to the lake of fire. As you read the text, ask the 5 W's and H.

a. Begin with looking up the Greek word for the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14, 15) and seeing what your Greek tools have to say about it.

b. Matthew 5:22, 29, 30

c. Mark 9:43, 45, 47

d. Luke 12:5

e. James 3:6

f. Matthew 25:41

g. Revelation 19:20

5. Now, from what you have learned, answer the following questions. You can look at these passages to help you answer these questions. Matthew 25:41; Revelation 19:20; 20:10; 20:13-14.

a. Is anyone in the lake of fire now?

b. Who will be the first to go there?

c. Who will follow and when?

d. Who will follow after that?

e. Then who?

6. Do your observations on Revelation 22:6-21. This is a very practical portion with some very critical exhortations that we would so well to take heed to because He is coming quickly and His reward is with Him. When you finish your observations, list below all the exhortations to the righteous and the warnings to those who choose to do wrong and stay filthy. By the way, did you notice that the filthy are those who do not wash their robes?

| Exhortations to the Righteous | Warnings to Those Who Do Wrong |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | |