

What On Earth Is God Doing

I. The Setting of the Conflict

A. From Eternity Past Through Creation

1. Before anything else - *God existed - *Father, Son, Holy Spirit
 - a) Nothing existed before He created it

2. He determined to have a *kingdom over which to rule as King
 - a) He is the *Eternal King - I Tim 1:17
 - b) He rules over an *eternal Kingdom - Ps 145:13; Dan 4:3, 34; 7:14, 27

3. Can't rule over a kingdom if there are no subjects*
 - a) *Angelic subjects - *His messengers in the heavenly realm
 - (1) *Spirit beings - no bodies of flesh and bone - He 1:13-14
 - (2) *Have an intellect - II Sam 14:20
 - (a) Certain angels were made superior in intelligence, power, and authority
 - (b) Dan 10:13; Jude 9
 - (3) *Ability to communicate with people - Gen 19:1-2
 - (4) *More powerful than other created beings - II Peter 2:11; He 2:7-9
 - (a) They are greater in power and ability
 - (b) They are here to minister to believers - He 1:14
 - (c) They are not greater in position than man
 - i) Humans are made lower than the angels - He 2:7
 - ii) We will judge angels in the millennial kingdom - I Cor 6:3
 - iii) Christians will have a higher rank than angels in millennial kingdom but that doesn't mean we will be superior in capability
 - (5) Dwell in the heavens but have *access to the earth - Gen 19:1
 - (6) *There are millions of angels - we aren't told how many
 - (a) Dan 7:10 - KJV - 10,000 x 10,000 = 100,000,000 (myriads - more than you can count) and 1000 thousands - million - Rev 5:11

(b) He 12:22 (myriads, innumerable)

When Were the Angels Created?

- *Ex 20:11 - all things that were created in heavens and earth were created in 6 days*
- *Created within the creation in the 6 days*
- *Job 38:4-7*
 - *The morning stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy when the foundation of the earth was laid*
- *Ps 104 2-5*
 - *Vs 2 - talks about covering Yourself with light like a cloak*
 - *Gen 1:2*
 - *Earth was unformed and unfilled (Days 1-3 - formed; Days 4-6 - filled)*
 - *Gen 1:3 - let there be light*
 - *Could be the covering Yourself with the light like a cloak*
 - *Gen 1:4*
 - *Separated light from dark - the first day*
 - *Vs 2-5 then talks about the things that God created*
 - *According to Job - the angels sang when God laid the foundation of the earth*
 - *Was that when it was formless and void*
 - *Was it when He said let there be light*
 - *When He separated light from darkness*
 - *Day 2 when He made the expanse*
 - *Day 3 when He separated the dry land from the waters*

b) **Man - His *messengers on earth

(1) *Earth was to be God's domain

(2) *Man was God's governor over the earth - was to rule well

(a) Man was to be the one to administer God's rule over the planet

i) Gen 1:26, 28; Ps 8:3-9

ii) Earth was to be a *theocracy

(1) God is recognized as king/ruler

(2) His laws are the rule book by which we live

(3) Law is to be administered by a representative as his minister (man)

(3) *Man had to be equipped to govern the earth

(a) Needed to understand the earthly - given a physical body (Gen 2:7)

(b) Needed to be able to receive and understand God's instruction - made in His image (Gen 1:26-28)

- i) Needed to possess intellect and the ability to communicate
- 4. With creation of man - *God brought His kingdom into existence
 - a) *Everything was very good - Gen 1:31

SO WHAT HAPPENED?
A PERFECT GOD CREATED A PERFECT WORLD
BUT

LOVE IS A CHOICE - If there is no choice - there is no love
BOTH ANGELS AND MAN NEED TO CHOOSE to love their King
to honor and worship Him alone

B. Through the Fall of the Angels Through the Promise of a Redeemer

1. *Satan's Rebellion

- a) After creation - *one of the highest angels became proud and deceived himself into thinking that he could rule over the world instead of God

(1) Ez 28:11-19

(a) *Seal of perfection

- i) *Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty
- ii) Anointed cherub who covers
- iii) Blameless in your ways

(b) Unrighteousness found in you

- i) Filled with violence
- ii) Cast you out as profane
- iii) *Heart was lifted up because of your beauty
 - (1) Corrupted your wisdom by reason of splendor
 - (2) *Cast to the ground

(2) *Is 14:12-15

(a) You have fallen from heaven - star of the morning - son of the dawn

- i) *I will ascend to heaven
- ii) *I will raise my throne above the stars (angels) of God
- iii) *I will sit on the mount of assembly
- iv) *I will ascend about the heights of the clouds

- v) *I will make myself like the Most High
- (b) You will be thrust down to Sheol - recesses of the pit
- b) *He thought he could create his own kingdom
 - (1) *His would wage war with God's kingdom and destroy it
 - (2) *His name was Lucifer - son of the morning - light bringer, light bearer
 - (a) *His name was changed to Satan = "adversary"
 - (3) *He was a revolutionary - enemy of God and anyone who is part of His kingdom - battle is on
 - (a) *II Cor 11:14 - He masquerades as an angel of light
 - (b) I Pe 5:8 - devil is prowling around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour
 - (c) Eph 6:11-12 - stand against the schemes of the devil - our struggle isn't against flesh and blood but rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world, and spiritual forces of evil
 - (d) II Cor 10:3-6 - don't fight with weapons of the world but divine power to demolish strongholds - destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God
- c) Important to remember
 - (1) No matter how proud and how much he thinks of himself - never more than a creature of God
 - (2) He is in no way equal to God
 - (a) There is no power of good vs power of evil that are equal
 - (b) Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world - I Jn 4:4
 - (3) God is the all powerful Creator
 - (4) He will defeat Satan
 - (5) He could have crushed Satan's rebellion from the beginning
 - (6) In His sovereignty - He choose not to - there is a purpose and a plan

2. *The Rebellion of Other Angels
 - a) *Just as God needed subjects for his kingdom (angelic - heavenly realm and human - earthly realm) - Satan wanted those subjects as well
 - b) *Satan has no power to create
 - (1) has to persuade them to join him
 - c) *Many angels joined Satan
 - (1) *Rev 12:4, 7 - says 1/3 were swept away with Satan
 - (2) Mt 25:41 - fire has been prepared for the devil and his angels
 - (3) Satan became
 - (a) the prince (ruler) of angels - Mt 12:24-26
 - (b) Ruler of the authority (power) of the air - Eph 2:2
 - (4) He has organized his demons (angels) to accomplish his purpose
 - d) *The angels that remained faithful to God are called the elect (chosen) or holy - *Mk 8:38; I Tim 5:21
 - (1) God is the Lord of these hosts - Is 54:5; Jer 31:35 - Lord of hosts

3. *Man's Rebellion
 - a) *Satan entered man's perfect world
 - b) *Tempted man to disobey God's specific command
 - c) *Temptation?
 - (1) If he disobeyed God - he could be as God - Gen 3:1-5
 - (2) He could be his own sovereign over his own domain
 - (3) He could rule his own life if only he disobeyed his divine King
 - d) *The governor of God's earthly province joined the rebellion against God

4. The Consequences of Man's Rebellion
 - a) *#1 - man died spiritually at the moment of disobedience
 - (1) Didn't physically die immediately
 - (2) Drastic change in nature
 - (3) Was created with desire to fellowship with God - fellowshiped and served God in the proper way

- (4) Man lost that desire toward God instead had enmity against God - Ro 8:7
- (5) His nature was perverted - total depravity
- (6) Relationship to God - the very source of Life - was broken
- b) *#2 - man began the decay physically - process that began decaying of his body
 - (1) Man was denied access to the tree of life - Gen 3:22-24
 - (2) Disease, deformity, death - Gen 3:19; 5:5; Ro 5:12; 6:23
 - (3) Hazards, accidents, violence - Gen 4:8; 9:5-6; Lk 13:4
- c) *#3 - man's ability to rule over the earth changed
 - (1) His ability to govern some things was lost
 - (2) What he did hold on to became perverted - instead of caring for the earth he abused the earth
 - (3) Because of his enmity toward God - he acted contrary to how God intended
- d) *#4 - man's rebellion brought tragedy to the earth he was supposed to govern
 - (1) Productivity greatly reduced - Gen 3:17
 - (2) Soil brings forth thistles - Gen 3:18
 - (3) Animal nature changed - from non-carnivorous - to flesh eating - Gen 1:30; Ro 8:19-22
 - (4) The whole earth groans to this day
 - (5) The perfect world was lost through man's sin
- e) *#5 - man was transferred from the Kingdom of God to the kingdom of Satan
 - (1) Effects all men - Ro 5:12
 - (a) First human parents rebelled against their King
 - (b) They reproduce after their kind - rebellious - born with enmity toward God
 - (2) Every man is born spiritually dead - a member of Satan's kingdom - Eph 2:1-2
 - (a) Unless man accepts God's way of salvation - he continues to dwell in Satan's kingdom
 - i) Live according to Satan's ways - Eph 2:2
 - ii) Blinded to truth by Satan - II Cor 4:4
 - iii) Deceived to think that error is truth - II Cor 11:14-15
 - iv) Held in Satan's power in spiritual darkness - Acts 26:17-18

- (1) Part of Satan's kingdom of darkness - II Cor 6:14-15
- v) Is a child of Satan - Mt 13:37-39; Jn 8:44; I Jn 3:8-10
- vi) Headed to the same place of judgment as Satan - Mt 13:40-42; 25:41; Rev 20:10, 15
- (b) Satan uses unsaved people to do work for his kingdom - Job 1:9-15, 17; Lk 22:3-6; Jn 8:37, 40, 44, 59; II Thes 2:9; I Jn 3:12
- f) *#6 - since Adam rebelled and would not govern as God had assigned him the theocracy was lost and Satan usurped rule of the world system away from God's appointed governor
 - (1) Earth's government changed for God ruled to Satan ruled
 - (a) Satan called the prince of this world - Jn 12:31; 14:30; 16:11
 - (b) Satan had authority to offer the kingdoms of the world to Christ - Lk 4:5-6
 - (c) Some of Satan's angels are called the world rulers of this darkness - Eph 6:12; I Jn 5:19
 - (d) Satan dominates this present age - god of this age - II Cor 4:4
- g) *Satan had deceived man - caused him to believe in a lie - Jn 8:44
 - (1) Rebellion didn't bring freedom - brought man into slavery - Ro 6:6, 16-23
 - (2) Didn't bring him his own life - it brought death - Ro 5:12; He 9:27
 - (3) He didn't get to be his own king - he was just transferred into another kingdom under a new king
 - (a) Original King was loving and compassionate - who brought life, peace, contentment, fulfillment
 - (b) New king - hard, selfish taskmaster - who offers death, sickness, conflict, grief and frustration - as a "reward" for serving him
 - (4) Instead of improving his life - he was now prevented from the fullness of his potential
 - (5) He debased himself and lost his dignity - Ro 1:18-32
 - (6) Rendered incapable of rescuing himself

- (7) He didn't solve a problem - created many new problems
 - (a) Only divine intervention could save him - Is 43:11
- h) Satan's kingdom was now complete
 - (1) He had angels
 - (2) He had man in his grip

5. *The Purpose of History

- a) Now there are two opposing kingdoms - the battle is on -
 - *history is His story as to *how this battle unfolds and how it will end
 - (1) *God made a perfect world (Kingdom)
 - (2) *Satan rebelled and set up his own kingdom
 - (3) *The kingdom of Satan had attacked the kingdom of God
 - (4) *If God is indeed sovereign - then He must crush Satan
 - (5) Battle will be fought in heaven and on earth
 - (a) Since the Bible is God's revelation to man - it deals mainly with the earthly conflict
- b) The conflict provides the key for understanding the purpose of history
 - (1) God and Satan both have a purpose for history - but they are conflicting
 - (2) Since *God is God (Creator) and *Satan is a created being - God will win the conflict
 - (a) *Satan's purpose is to make himself king of the universe
 - (b) *His kingdom is not permanent - not everlasting - *but God's is
 - (3) *Satan has been attempting (since his rebellion) to crush God
 - (4) This is the setting of all of history
- c) God's purpose in history
 - (1) *To glorify Himself by showing that He alone is sovereign
 - (2) *That the world will know that He is God (used almost 100 times in Scripture - Exodus and Ezekiel)
 - (a) *To show His sovereignty He has to restore the earth to its original condition - Acts 3:21
 - i) Restoration must take place on this earth

ii) If God allowed this earth to pass away in this destroyed condition it would appear that He was incapable of overcoming the devastation brought about by Satan

(b) How can He restore?

i) *Needs to make humans spiritually alive again

(1) Need to give people a new heart - one disposed towards obedience

(2) Indwelling of the Spirit control person's nature - causing them to walk in His ways

ii) *Must abolish physical death

(1) Ending and reversing decay in man's body

(2) Abolishing disease, deformities, hazards, accidents, violence

(3) Resurrecting the bodies of those dead and changing those who are still alive

iii) *Cause man to govern the present earth like he was supposed to do originally - not in a perverted way

iv) *Perfect environment as before the fall

(1) Changing the soil - fertility

(2) Animals back to plant eating and not meat eating - harming others

(3) Removing vanity and corruption from the earth

v) *Transferring man from Satan's kingdom to God's

vi) *Crush Satan and rid the earth of him

(1) Reestablishing His theocratic reign on earth

(2) Future Millennium - necessary to accomplish all these things

(3) This is God's program of redemption

6. The First Promise of the Coming Redeemer

a) *Satan usurped the world's system and *God delivered a prophecy of his destruction

(1) Gen 3:14-15 - the battle lines were drawn

(2) Eventually a man born of woman would deliver the devastating blow

(3) *There would be a Redeemer who could do the necessary work to crush Satan's kingdom and work

- (4) *He would be God's Counterrevolutionary - to defeat the revolutionary
- (5) *Redeemer was the key to fulfill God's purpose in history
- b) *To reverse consequences of man's sin - necessary to get rid of the cause of the consequences
 - (1) Getting rid of man's sin
 - (a) Only a payment of a perfect sacrifice could satisfy divine righteousness
 - (b) Death was the only adequate penalty - Ro 5:12; 6:23
 - (2) *Gen 3:15 - Redeemer would crush Satan, Satan would bruise Him
 - (a) As a result of Satan's work - the promised Redeemer would have to suffer death in order to defeat Satan
 - (b) Through His death the Redeemer would pay the penalty of man's sin - therefore removing the sin - Is 53:4-6, 10-12; Jn 1:29
 - (3) This would reverse the consequences of man's rebellion

C. *The Strategy of the Conflict

1. *The Redeemer was the One that was at the heart of this conflict
 - a) *The holy, elect angels would also fight against the forces of Satan - Dan 10:20; Rev 12:7
 - b) Through redemptive work of Redeemer - *God would save man from Satan's kingdom and transfer them to His own - Col 1:13-14
 - (1) These redeemed humans - remain in world to *act as representatives of the kingdom of God in a world system dominated by Satan
 - (2) They might *live in the world's system but they don't belong to it - Jn 17:14-18; I Jn 2:15
 - (3) They would be *strangers in the world with their citizenship in heaven - Eph 2:19; Phil 3:20; He 11:13; I Pe 1:17
2. *God would also use nations and even the unsaved to serve His purposes - Is 10:5-6; 44:28-45:5; Jer 25:9

- a) Even though God's kingdom would not exist as a theocracy during certain times in history - *it would be represented and working in the world during all of history
 - b) This *explains how good and evil dwell side by side throughout history - Mt 13:24-30, 36-43
3. Since the coming of the *Redeemer was the key to God's strategy - *Satan's strategy would be to prevent the Redeemer from coming
- a) Satan would *war against the holy angels and redeemed humans who represented God's Kingdom - Dan 10:13, 20-21; Eph 6:11, 16
 - b) He would *use his fallen angels, human members of his kingdom, nations, and occasionally even humans from God's kingdom to do his work - Job 1:9-15, 17; Dan 10:13, 20-21; Mt 16:21-23; Lk 22:3; Acts 5:1-3; Eph 6:12; II Thes 2:9
4. *Satan's strategies
- a) *Try to destroy the members of God's Kingdom
 - b) *Try to pervert the witness of God's kingdom with apostasy in belief and practice
 - c) *These tactics will be seen repeatedly through the ages

II. The Conflict from the First Human Birth Through the Wilderness Wanderings

A. The First Birth and Murder

1. Satan heard *God's promise of the coming Redeemer - Gen 3:15
 - a) Would be fatal foe him
 - b) Stop Him from coming

2. Cain and Abel
 - a) *Abel was godly Cain was not
 - b) Maybe Abel was the *Redeemer or the line of the Redeemer
 - c) Need to get rid of Abel
 - d) *Cain had rebellious, angry attitude - didn't take much for Satan to convince him to kill his brother - Gen 4:1-8; I Jn 3:10-12
 - (1) Satan was a *murderer from the beginning - Jn 8:44
 - (2) Murdered the Redeemer

B. The *Apostasy of the Human Race

1. *God gives Adam and Eve another godly son
 - a) Seth - Gen 4:25
 - b) Name = "substitute"
 - c) *Redeemer would come through his line
 - (1) Gen 5; 11:10-32
 - (2) Lk 3:23-38

2. Satan destroys - God replaces
 - a) change tactics
 - b) *Pervert the human race with apostasy
 - (1) Developed ungodly line of Cain
 - (2) Build advanced *civilization that was godless
 - (a) *Polygamy
 - (b) *Violence - *Gen 4:16-24

3. *Godly line had *contact with *ungodly
 - a) *Became infected with apostasy
 - b) Satan used the members of his kingdom

- (1) Apostate man would tempt and drag down man
- (2) Angels (demons) would attack
 - (a) Demonic attack - spiritually
 - (b) Demons intermingling with man
- c) Human race headed for destruction
 - (1) *Earth filled with violence and corruption - Gen 6:11-13
- d) *God saw the evil intent of man - Gen 6:5
 - (1) *God was grieved
 - (2) *Would destroy man from the face of the earth - Gen 6:6-7

C. *The Flood

1. *Satan was able to pervert mankind
 - a) However he couldn't pervert them all
 - b) *God preserved a righteous man - Noah - a descendant of Seth - Gen 5:6-29; 6:9
 - c) Noah stood as a light in a perverse world
 - (1) Not influenced by Satan's schemes
 - (2) Did not fall into apostasy
 - d) God had his man
 - (1) The plan of redemption would come through Noah
 - (2) Godly line of Seth would continue

2. God was going to destroy the human race
 - a) *Judgment
 - b) *Ending perversion before it could infect Noah's descendants
 - c) *Destruction was the instrument of *preserving the line of the Redeemer
 - d) Satan would not win against God's Kingdom

3. *God instructed Noah to build an ark
 - a) *His family and every kind of land animal would be represented to escape destruction - Gen 6:8-7:16
 - b) *When everything was inside the ark - God closed the door
 - c) *God brought a cataclysmic flood - Gen 7:10-12
 - d) *Every human and land animal outside the ark was destroyed - Gen 7:21-23

D. *The New Beginning and the New Apostasy

1. *God destroyed the human members of Satan's kingdom with the flood
 - a) *First action of Noah and family - worship God - Gen 8:20
 - b) *God institutes capital punishment - Gen 9:5-6
 - (1) Satan will continue using his agents to do his dirty work
 - (2) Satan was a murderer from the beginning - capital punishment to stem the murderous spirit
 - (3) *Human government put into place to hinder the work of Satan's kingdom - Ro 13:1-6
 - (a) More we lean toward lawlessness - closer to Satan's dominion
2. *God gives covenant sign to Noah's descendants (and animal kingdom) - *rainbow - promise to never again destroy earth by flood - Gen 9:8-17
 - a) Notice how Satan has distorted that beautiful sign to make it something ugly and perverted!
3. *God would bless Shem - Gen 9:25-27;
 - a) he would be the *line of the Redeemer - Gen 11:10-12:3
4. Satan wanted to make mankind apostate again - including Shem
 - a) *God commanded man to fill the earth with offspring - Gen 9:1
 - (1) Not to concentrate in one area
 - (2) Spread on the earth
 - (a) No unoccupied and uncultivated areas - Ex 23:29 - unoccupied/uncultivated areas become desolate
 - (b) *Desertification process - Rabbit fence
 - b) *Satan gave them desire to remain close together
 - (1) Harder to control a mass of people - easier when scattered
 - (2) Apostasy spreads faster and easier when people are close together - regular contact
 - (a) Farming life vs city life

5. Satan's project
 - a) *Symbol of unity - project in common - *build large city
 - b) Plain of Babylon
 - c) *Planned and plotted together - they were together and *spoke the same language

6. *God stops the project
 - a) People speak different languages - can't communicate anymore - Gen 11:5-7
 - b) Because of language confusion - building project stops
 - c) *Man scatters - Gen 11:8-9 - according to language
 - d) Migrated to other places and built their own nations
 - e) *Different nations - different languages began from the war between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan

7. Slowed down the spread of apostasy but didn't stop it
 - a) *Satan is out to turn people away from God
 - (1) People began to *suppress the truth about God
 - (2) Generations didn't *teach succeeding generations
 - (3) They *rejected truths about God that were obvious in nature - Rom 1:18-32
 - (4) They *boasted in their wisdom
 - (a) Rejecting God made them their own sovereign - so they thought
 - i) Invented idolatrous religions as substitutes for worshipping God
 - ii) Degenerated into moral perversity
 - (1) Gave free reign to vile passions
 - (2) Approved of displays of depravity

E. The *Abrahamic Covenant

1. After nations began - *God revealed that He would bring a new nation into existence - *His special nation
 - a) *Israel - she would play a major role in His warfare against the kingdom of Satan
 - b) God makes a covenant with Abram (Abraham)
 - (1) *From the line of Shem - Gen 11:10-30

- c) While Satan was perverting mankind - *God had a man who was willing to obey Him - He 11:8
2. Abraham moves to Canaan - Gen 12:1-7
 - a) *Three promises
 - (1) *Personal - I will bless you
 - (2) *National - God would make him a great nation - Gen 12:2
 - (3) *Universal - all the families of the earth would be blessed - Gen 12:3
 - (a) Through the Redeemer
 - (b) Redemptive work of Jesus
 - b) *Moves to Canaan
- F. *The Sojourn in Egypt
1. *After several generations - migrated to Egypt due to famine - Gen 46:1-7
 - a) *God prospered them greatly - Ex 1:1-7
 - b) Satan knew that this nation was God's special nation
 - (1) *Redeemer would come out of here
 - (2) *He must destroy Israel
 - (3) Began attacking Israel through Egypt's Pharaohs
 - (4) *Satan is the originator of anti-Semitism
 - (a) This is pivotal in the war between Satan's kingdom and God's
 2. Pharaoh tries to eliminate Israel's threat
 - a) *making them slaves - Ex 1:8-22
 - b) *The killing the male children
 - c) *Used by Satan to eliminate the Redeemer
 3. *God raises up Moses
 - a) He would be the deliverer of Israel
 - b) 10 plagues on Egypt would break Pharaoh's will - Ex 2:1-12:28

G. *The Exodus

1. *Pharaoh broke after 10th plague
 - a) Israel urged to leave - Ex 12:29-51
 - b) The Exodus begins

2. *Israel headed for Canaan
 - a) Route she took was in wilderness - opportunities for Satan to attack
 - (1) *Pharaoh changed his mind - pursued the people with his chariots and army - Ex 14:1-9
 - (2) The people were trapped between Pharaoh's army and Red Sea - Ex 14:10-14
 - b) God counters Satan's attack
 - (1) *Divides the water and Israel crosses on *dry ground
 - (2) Army pursues them - the *waters close over them and drown them - Ex 14:21-31

3. Satan tries to overcome them again
 - a) *lack of water that was fit to drink

4. God counters the attack
 - a) *God shows Moses how to make the waters usable - Ex 15:22-26

5. *Satan threatens with starvation

6. *God counters with quail and manna - Ex 16

7. *Threats of no water again

8. *God brings water out of rock - Ex 17:1-7

9. *Satan uses Amakelites to attack

10. *God gives the victory to Israel - Ex 17:8-16

H. *The Mosaic Covenant

1. Within 3 months, Israel is camped at mountain of God - Ex 19:1-2
 - a) *God establishes a covenant with Israel (*Law or Mosaic Covenant - Ex 19:3-8; 20:1-23:19)

2. Israel is to be the nation from which the Redeemer comes
 - a) Can't be perverted like other nations
 - b) Placed under God's Law
 - (1) *External restraint on sinful apostate action until the Redeemer came - Gal 3:15-4:5
 - (2) *Law required those guilty of apostasy and perversion to be put to death immediately - Ex 21:12-17; 22:18-20
 - c) ***The coming of the Redeemer was more crucial for the benefit of mankind than the life of an individual rebel or pervert**

3. Keeping the Law was no small matter
 - a) *God warned the nation that her relationship with the covenant would determine her future
 - (1) *Keep the covenant - God would bless and protect - Lev 26:3-13; Dt 28:1-14
 - (2) *Disobey - God would curse - withdraw His protection, scatter her - Lv 26:14-39; Dt 28:15-68
 - b) *God promised to always reserve a remnant that would repent from apostasy - Lv 26:40-46
 - (1) The nation would never cease to exist

I. The Threat of Apostasy

1. Moses was on mountain communicating with God
 - a) Satan attacks the people
 - (1) *God had forbidden any idolatry
 - (2) *People ask Aaron to make an image (idol) that they could worship
 - (3) Aaron complied
 - (4) *People committed idolatry - Ex 32:1-6
 - b) *God put an end to it by punishing the people participating in it - Ex 32:7-35

J. *The Tabernacle and Sacrifices

1. It was essential that Israel have a *special place to worship God and a place for Him to dwell with His people
 - a) *God gives Moses instruction to build the tabernacle - Ex 25-31
 - b) Once built and erected
 - (1) The *glory of God filled it
 - (2) God's protective presence in Israel - Ex 40:34-38
 - c) *Sacrificial system - Lev 1-7
 - (1) *Priesthood to offer sacrifices - Lev 8-10
 - (2) *System of worship to be observed - Lev 11-25
 - d) *Sacrifices couldn't remove sin - He 10:4
 - (1) They *taught the people
 - (a) Only way a sinful person can be brought into right relationship with God is through a substitutionary blood sacrifice
 - (b) They also saved the people from temporal judgment that would come from breaking certain parts of the law
 - (2) *Symbolically - pictured the Redeemer's blood sacrifice of Himself that would take sin away completely - He 10:1, 10-14

K. The Failure at *Kadesh-Barnea and the Wilderness Wanderings

1. Israel arrives at border of Promised Land
 - a) Satan attacks through *human fear
 - (1) *Unbelief in God's ability and promise
 - (2) Maybe God in His wrath would destroy them
 - (3) Even though God promised them victory - the people *panicked - Num 13:25-33
 - (a) Greater in size
 - (b) Powerful
 - (4) *Unbelief slandered God and decided to return to Egypt - Num 14:1-10
 - b) God countered their unbelief
 - (1) *Turned them back into the desert
 - (2) *Wander for 40 years - until those 20 and up died
 - (3) Older generation would not enter the land - Num 14:11-35

2. *During the years of wandering
 - a) *Attacked repeatedly by Satan
 - (1) *Dissatisfaction
 - (2) *Boredom
 - (3) *Lack of water
 - (4) *Foreign powers
 - b) *Peoples response
 - (1) *Rebelled against leaders - Num 16
 - (2) *Complained against God - Num 20:2-13; 21:4-9
 - c) *Satan tested God's patience - *maybe He would destroy them - then the *Redeemer couldn't come
 - (1) God judged the nation
 - (2) God never destroyed her
 - d) *Satan sends Canaanites, Amorites
 - e) *God gives victory against them - Num 21:1-3, 21-35
 - f) When on plains of Moab - *Satan uses Balak and Balaam
 - (1) Used Balaam - a *Prophet for hire to curse the people
 - (2) *God causes Balaam to bless instead - Num 22-24

3. * *Satan has another plan for Balaam and Balak
 - a) *Balaam advises Balak to use Moabit and Midianite women to seduce Israel into immorality and idolatry - Num 31:16; Rev 2:14
 - b) It worked
 - (1) *God ordered the guilty Israelites to be put to death immediately
 - (2) *God ended the apostasy

4. *40 years come to an end
 - a) *Moses prepares the new generation for conquest - Num 26-36; Dt
 - b) Warned them to *destroy the people living in Canaan - Num 33:50-34:15
 - (1) They are idolatrous people - perverted - full of sin - time of their judgment had come

(2) They were to be destroyed so Satan couldn't use them to corrupt the Israelites and drag them into apostasy and perversion

c) **The coming of the Redeemer was more essential for the benefit of mankind than the continued existence of the depraved peoples of Canaan**

III. *The Conflict from the Conquest of Canaan Through the Fall of Judah

A. The Conquest and Distribution of Canaan

1. *God gives Israel the land
 - a) *Egypt maintained a loose control over Canaan until about 1200 BC
 - (1) Israel's conquest of Canaan started around 1400 BC
 - (2) Egypt did not step in to protect the land
 - (a) let it go
 - (b) maybe didn't want to tangle with Israel's God again
 - b) *God stops the waters of the Jordan during flood stage - Josh 3
 - (1) Israelites cross over on dry land to enter the land
 - c) *God appears to Joshua
 - (1) Reminds him that victory will come from God - Josh 5:13-15
2. *First great victory - Jericho - Josh 6
 - a) *Satan attacks - causes Achan to covet what was under the ban
 - b) *Because of sin - Israel was defeated at Ai
 - c) *The apostate man and family were stoned to death - Josh 7
3. Satan's next move - maintain evil men in the land
 - a) *Gibeonites deceive Israel
 - (1) Not Canaanites
 - (2) Come from far away
 - (3) Make a covenant with us
 - b) Without consulting God - they did
 - (1) Made covenant not to destroy them
 - (2) *Remained in land - Josh 9
4. *Great victories throughout the land
 - a) North and south - Josh 10; 11:1-15
 - b) *Israel controlled Canaan
 - (1) Still areas and cities occupied by Canaanites
 - (2) Each tribe was responsible to clear them out of the land that they received as an inheritance

5. *God spread the Levites throughout the land
 - a) They lived in cities
 - b) Cities were to be centers of instruction for the Law - Josh 21:1-42
 - c) God's way of protecting the nation so the Redeemer could come

6. *Joshua warned people about consequences of keeping or breaking the Law - Josh 23-24
 - a) Keep themselves separated from the pagans and their practices
 - b) *Serve God
 - c) Necessary for their survival and the coming of the Redeemer

B. *The Period of the Judges

1. *After Joshua's death
 - a) *No godly man to lead the people
 - b) *No centralized government
 - c) Satan attacks in force
 - (1) *Apostasy and anarchy for the next 350 years
 - (2) *Broke God's Law and did what was right in their own eyes - Jud 21:25

2. Satan drags them into disobedience
 - a) *Did not rid the land of the Canaanite people - Jud 1:1-2:5
 - b) *Israel began to adopt the worship of Baal and Asteroth - Jud 2:6-3:4
 - c) *Married the Canaanite people which was forbidden - Jud 3:5-6; Dt 7:1-5

3. Israel began practicing gross perversion
 - a) *Dishonesty
 - b) *Thievery
 - c) *Situation ethics
 - d) *Priests leading idolatrous worship for money and position
 - e) *Homosexuality
 - f) *Sexual abuse of women to the point of death
 - g) *Protection of sexual perversion from judgment - Jud 17-20

4. Apostasy never became nationwide
 - a) Sporadic outbreaks in different areas at different times
 - b) Satan was hoping for national apostasy
 - c) *God stepped in before it spread too far
 - (1) *Raised up foreign powers to oppress the people
 - (a) *The people would repent
 - (b) Turn back to God
 - (2) *God would raise up a deliverer and drive out oppressor
 - d) *Cycle - repeated a number of times - Jud 3:7-16:31
 - (1) *Apostasy
 - (2) *Oppression
 - (3) *Repentance
 - (4) *Deliverance
 - e) *God preserved the nation by preventing complete apostasy

C. *Samuel's Ministry

1. To end the cycle of apostasy - *God raised up a godly leader - Samuel - I Sam 1-3
2. Samuel ministered during a time of national crisis
 - a) Philistines had defeated Israel
 - b) They had stolen the Ark of the Covenant
 - c) The high priest had died
 - d) Nation in turmoil
 - e) Samuel took control
 - (1) Called the people together
 - (2) *Directed the people to repent of their apostasy
 - (a) Put away their false gods
 - (b) *Return to God
 - (3) The people did
 - f) *God delivered them from their enemy as long as Samuel lived - I Sam 4:1-7:14
3. *When Samuel was old he made his sons judges - I Sam 8:1-3
 - a) *They were corrupt
 - b) *Satan used that to prompt the Israelites to ask for a king - I Sam 8:4-9

- (1) They wanted a monarchy with a human ruler
- (2) Didn't want a theocracy with God as their king
- c) *Samuel protested and warned them what would happen if they had a king - they would regret it - I Sam 8:10-18
- d) Israelites insisted - I Sam 8:19-22
- e) *Samuel anointed Saul as the first king in Israel - I Sam 9-10

4. Samuel's last acts

- a) *Rebuked Israel for her sin
- b) *Warned her to serve and fear God with all her heart so they would not be consumed - I Sam 12
- c) He was God's man to preserve the existence of the Redeemer's nation during this difficult time

D. *Saul's Apostasy

1. Satan prompted the people of Israel to reject God as their king and ask for a human king instead
 - a) Israel had been without a central government
 - (1) Made it difficult to get the whole nation to go apostate at one time
 - (2) *Now Israel had a king - *central government
 - b) Easier to *pervert the king
 - (1) If the king would go apostate
 - (2) *The nation would follow suit
 - (3) God would destroy the nation

2. Satan began his attack on Saul
 - a) Saul had been king for 2 years - I Sam 13-15
 - (1) *Began to disobey God
 - (2) poor judgment -
 - b) When rebuked - I Sam 15:1-19
 - (1) *Excused his actions with a self-justifying spirit- I Sam 15:20-21
 - (2) *God withdrew His Spirit and rejected him as king - I Sam 15:22-31
 - c) *Because of his sins and attitudes God gave the kingdom to David
 - (1) *Samuel anointed him - I Sam 16:1-14 *

3. *Saul came under satanic influence - I Sam 16:14
 - a) Developed three tragic traits - I Sam 16-30
 - (1) *Abnormal self-interest
 - (2) *Insane jealousy
 - (3) *Full apostasy
 - b) Philistines attacked Israel and *God refused to respond to Saul's appeal for direction
 - c) *Saul then went to Satan's kingdom to get answers - medium (spiritist, witch) - I Sam 28:3-25
 - d) Saul's sins led to
 - (1) *Death of his sons
 - (2) His death
 - (3) *Israel came under Philistine control - I Sam 31
 - e) Through death and defeat - *God ended this new threat of apostasy

E. The Davidic Covenant

1. *David united the kingdom - II Sam 1-6
 - a) Captured and made *Jerusalem the capital of the nation
 - (1) Political capital
 - (2) Spiritual capital - worship center
 - (3) *Put an end to Philistine domination
 - b) *Desired to build a permanent house for God in Jerusalem - the temple - II Sam 7:1-2
2. Because of *David's desire, *God established a special covenant with him - II Sam 7:12-16
 - a) Covenant with following promises
 - (1) *Posterity - David's house would be established forever
 - (2) *His throne would be established forever
 - (3) *His kingdom would be established forever - earthly, political kingdom over Israel
3. Divine revelation and historical events revealed what "forever" meant
 - a) Not that Israel would continue as a political entity in Canaan with a descendant of David on the throne as king without interruption through the end of history

- b) The line of David would continue to exist throughout history
4. When God establishes the theocratic form of His kingdom in the world toward the end of history
 - a) A descendant of David would sit on David's throne in the kingdom of Israel in Canaan
 - b) Rule with David's authority and govern the world for God
 5. These promises are very important to our conflict between God and Satan
 - a) Israel would never be annihilated totally at any time in history
 - b) She would always have a legitimate heir to the throne
 - c) Potential of becoming an earthly, political kingdom again
 - d) Later revelation would reveal through the prophets
 - (1) The Redeemer would be a descendant of David
 - (2) The promises of the covenant would be fulfilled by Him
 - e) *Imperative to Satan that David's royal line be destroyed

F. David's Troubles

1. *God used David to bring Israel to power - Golden age - II Sam 8-10
 - a) Enjoyed many triumphs
 - b) Satan needed to strike again
 - c) *The nation and the royal line was his target - let's go after the king
 - (1) *David committed adultery and murder - II Sam 11
2. God caused *David to be miserable until he repented - Ps 51
 - a) Once he repented - *God forgave
 - b) *Consequences - since he was a key player in the line of the Redeemer
 - (1) God brought severe troubles to David and the nation - II Sam 12-20
 - (2) His way of preventing David's perverted actions from spreading through the nation

3. *Satan draws Davids attention away from God's protection to his own military might
 - a) *Military census - I Chr 21
 - (1) Motivation was sinful
 - (2) *Pride and reliance on Israel's military strength
 - b) God struck the source of pride
 - (1) *70,000 of Israel's men died in pestilence
 - (2) Stopped when David repented and offered a sacrifice to God
 - c) God ended this satanic sin in the king and the nation
 - (1) *Reminded them the He alone was the source of their strength

G. *Solomon's Apostasy

1. *God granted legendary wisdom to Solomon
 - a) *Brought Israel to the peak of her wealth, glory, and luxury
 - b) *Built the temple for the house of the Lord - I Ki 5-6
 - c) Temple was dedicated
 - (1) Glory of God came down as a sign of God'd presence there - I Ki 8
 - (2) Covenanted with Solomon to bless Israel greatly as long as she remained faithful to Him
 - (3) Disobedience would bring cause to drive her out of the land and reject the temple if the nation goes apostate - I Ki 9:1-9

2. Satan's desire was to drag nation into apostasy and get rid of the royal line
 - a) *As the king goes so goes the nation
 - (1) *Solomon built a large chariot and horse force - direct disobedience to God's commands - Dt 17:15-16
 - (2) *Married many wives (700 + 300 concubines) and with them *riches - *contrary to God's command - Dt 17:17; I Ki 11:3
 - (a) Many from foreign, idolatrous women - political reasons - against God's commands - I Ki 11:1-2
 - (b) Women pressured Solomon to build worship places for their gods and worship with them - I Ki 11:4-8

- b) *King became apostate
 - (1) His practice diluted the influence of the Temple
 - (2) Confused the Israelites concerning the difference between God and false gods
3. Solomon's apostasy brought devastating results
- a) God promised to take away most of the kingdom from his son
 - b) *Raised up enemies against the kingdom in the latter part of his reign - I Ki 11:9-40
 - c) Jeroboam - one of his enemies
 - (1) *God promised to give him 10 northern tribes to rule - I Ki 11:29-39
 - (2) God isolated the majority of the kingdom from the apostasy of the hold of an apostate king
 - (3) *Teach the line of David (kingdom of Judah) the folly of apostasy
 - d) *The coming of the Redeemer was more important than the unity of the nation**
 - e) *Satan used Solomon to try to kill Jeroboam to stop God's lesson but Jeroboam escaped - I Ki 11:40*
 - (1) Why did Satan want to stop the kingdom from splitting
 - (2) As one kingdom with one king - corrupt the king your corrupt the entire kingdom - double the work

H. The Division of the Kingdom

- 1. Solomon's son follows in father's footsteps
 - a) *Rehoboam makes bad decision
 - b) *10 northern tribes revolt and set up their own kingdom with Jeroboam as king - I Ki 12:1-24
 - c) *United Kingdom is now divided in two
 - (1) Israel to the north - 10 tribes
 - (2) Judah to the south - 2 tribes
- 2. The Decline and Fall of the Northern Kingdom
 - a) *Satan wasn't content just going after David's line in the south but wanted to corrupt both Israel and Judah

- (1) Used fear as an instrument to the northern kingdom to introduce apostasy
 - (a) Jeroboam feared that the people would return to the temple in Jerusalem
 - i) They would become faithful to Rehoboam
 - ii) *He erected 2 idols
 - iii) Established a false priesthood and false religious system for the north
 - (b) He led the northern Israelites into apostate worship - I Ki 12:25-33
- (2) He persisted in the apostasy
- (3) *God promised to smite the nation and send it into captivity beyond the Euphrates River - I Ki 13:1-14:16
- b) The northern kingdom adopted apostasy later than Judah
 - (1) It pursued gross forms more persistently than Judah
 - (2) *19 total kings during its history
 - (a) *Everyone was apostate in character and action
 - (b) *Worst king - Ahab and wife - devilish Phoenician princess named Jezebel - I Ki 21:25-26; 16:31
 - i) Under her influence, Ahab built a temple to Baal in the capital city
 - ii) Baal worship was official religion of the kingdom
 - iii) Imported and supported 850 prophets of Baal and Astarte
 - iv) Murdered most of God's prophets
 - v) Abolished worship of God
- c) *God countered the apostate teaching by sending prophets and judgments
 - (1) *Warned them to repent
 - (2) If Israel didn't repent, God would raise up a foreign power to smite them - Hos 11:5; Amos 6:14; 9:8-10
- d) In spite of warnings - *people refused to repent
 - (1) *God raised up Assyria to be His instrument for punishment His people - Is 10:5-6
 - (2) Assyria invaded in 734 and 732 BC
 - (a) Took control of Galilee and land east of Jordan
 - (b) Carried people into captivity
 - (c) Made the Israelite king a puppet king - II Ki 15:29

- (d) They rebelled and made an alliance with Egypt
- (3) Assyria came again in 725 BC and besieged capital of Samaria
 - (a) *It surrendered in 722 BC
 - (b) People taken captive and carried to regions of Persia
 - (c) Persistent apostasy caused it to fall in 200 years (931-722 BC)

3. The Decline and Fall of the Southern Kingdom

- a) *Rehoboam and most of his successors followed Solomon's poor example
 - (1) Plunged Judah into deeper apostasy
 - (2) *19 kings and 1 queen
 - (3) *Only 7 were godly
- b) Satan was working to prevent the Redeemer from coming
 - (1) Push them into complete apostasy
 - (2) Destroy the royal line of David
 - (a) *Athaliah - daughter of Ahab and Jezebel
 - i) Married into the royal house of Judah - II Ki 8:16-18
 - ii) After her husband and son died she seized the throne - made herself queen
 - iii) *Ordered the extermination of every royal person descended from David - II Ki 11:1
- c) * God protected the line of the Redeemer
 - (1) One of David's descendants was hidden and protected
 - (2) Infant - *Josiah was hidden in Temple for 6 years by the high priest and his wife - II Chr 22:11-12
 - (3) At the right time *he was crowned king and Athaliah was slain - II Ki 11:4-16
- d) God slowed the rate of apostasy through *several revivals through godly kings
 - (1) Greatest revival under *Hezekiah
 - (2) Because of the return to God - God protected them
 - (a) In 701 BC huge Assyrian army invaded Judah
 - (b) Threatened to besiege Jerusalem
 - i) God killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night
 - ii) Forcing remainder of the army to return home - II Ki 18:9-19:37

- e) Because of occasional revivals Judah lasted longer than the northern kingdom
 - (1) In spite of revivals, persistent push to apostasy
 - (2) *God raised up prophets and various judgments and warned people to repent
 - (3) *People refused to heed
 - (4) *Reached the point of no return during the long reign of Manasseh - Judah's most wicked king - II Ki 21:1-18
 - (a) Headed for certain destruction
 - (b) Led the people into even more perverted practices than the Canaanites
 - (c) Even a later revival under Josiah could not cancel out the destruction that was promised under Manasseh - II Ki 23:26-27; 24:3-4
- f) After Assyria accomplished its purpose of bringing judgment to northern kingdom of Israel, she declined in power
 - (1) God no longer needed her
 - (2) She was crushed by the Medes and Babylonians by 605 BC
 - (a) With Judah's apostasy full and overflowing - *God raised up a new power
 - (b) Babylon under the leadership of Nebuchadnezzar
- g) *Babylon's armies march into Judah in 605 BC
 - (1) Claimed treasures and hostages
 - (2) Daniel and his friends are among those who are carried away as captives to Babylon - II Ki 24:1; Dan 1:1-6
- h) *Babylon returns in 597 BC
 - (1) Strip the temple
 - (2) Took royal treasuries
 - (3) King of Judah and other political leaders, Ezekiel were carried away - II Ki 24:8-16
- i) Ezekiel's visions in Babylon
 - (1) God shows him the withdrawal of God's glory from the Temple and the city of Jerusalem - Ez 8-11
 - (2) Very significant in the war between God and Satan
 - (a) God's protective presence was gone from His people because of their persistent apostasy

(b) Way is open for the Babylonians to destroy the temple and Jerusalem

- j) *Babylon returns to Jerusalem in 586 BC
 - (1) Enter city and kill many Jews
 - (2) Destroy the Temple
 - (3) Left the city in ruin
 - (4) Carried away most of the remaining people into captivity - II Ki 25:1-11
 - (5) Kingdom of Judah comes to an end after 350 years (931-586 BC)
- k) Because of God's holiness - He did permit many of his people to be slaughtered for their apostasy
 - (1) Didn't permit the nation to annihilated
 - (2) Always preserves a remnant - as per His promise
 - (3) The punishment of His people was intended to cure them of their apostasy so that the Redeemer could come

IV. The Conflict from the Babylon Captivity Through the Ascension of Christ

A. *The Babylonian Captivity

1. *Satan uses Nebuchadnezzar to decree all subjects to worship image of himself - Dan 3:1-7
 - a) If Jews obeyed - apostasy
 - b) *God counters - raises up those who refuse to obey king's decree - Dan 3:8-27
 - c) *People freed from obligation to worship anyone except God - Dan 3:28-30

2. Babylon was used by God to chastise His people
 - a) *God was done with Babylon
 - (1) Fell suddenly to Medo-Persia in 539 - Dan 5
 - b) *Cyrus, king of Persia, issued decree in 538/537 BC - to return home to rebuild temple - Is 44:28
 - c) This ended Babylonian captivity

B. The Persian Period

1. Majority of people remained in Babylon (comfortable there)
 - a) 50,000 returned under leadership of Zerubbabel and Jeshua - Ezra 1-2
 - b) *Built altar and reinstitute the feasts and offerings as described in Law - Ezra 3:1-7
 - c) *Began to rebuild the temple - Ezra 3:8-13

2. Satan attacks again
 - a) Easier to lead them into apostasy if they have no place to worship
 - (1) *Prevent them from rebuilding the temple
 - (a) Samaritan enemies - stopped their building for 16 yrs - Ezra 4:1-5, 24
 - (b) *God raises up Haggai and Zechariah
 - i) Exhorted them to continue rebuilding
 - (2) *Building began again in 520 BC - Ezra 5:1-2

3. Satan attempts to stop building again
 - a) *Letter sent to King Darius of Persia by Jewish enemies - Ezra 5:3-17
 - b) God counters - King finds Cyrus's decree
 - (1) Ordered their enemies to stop interfering
 - (2) Give them materials to build the temple
 - (3) *Threatens to kill anyone who hinders project -Ezra 6:1-12
 - c) *Finished the temple in 516 BC - Ezra 6:13-16

4. Satan tries again - *annihilate the people through whom the Redeemer was to come
 - a) *King Xerxes (486-465 BC)
 - (1) Haman - prime minister of Persia
 - (a) Persuaded the king to make a decree that all Jews should be executed on a certain day - Esther 3:7-15
 - (b) *God brings king to authorize a decree to permit *Jewish people to defend themselves - Esther 4-9
 - b) God's people are preserved

5. Satan tries new tactic - can't kill them get them involved in apostasy again
 - a) *Marriage to pagan foreign women has been successful in the past
 - (1) Jewish men including priests and political leaders married these women
 - (2) *Forbidden unions led them into apostasy - idolatry - Ezra 9:1-2
 - b) *God counters by sending Ezra to establish government in Jerusalem
 - (1) *Teach God's Law to the people
 - (2) *Punish those who refuse to obey - Ezra 7
 - (3) *Ordered the men to repent and put away pagan wives - Ezra 10

6. *Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem
 - a) 445 BC with a decree from Artaxerxes
 - (1) Permission and aid to rebuild the walls
 - (2) Satan didn't want the walls built and city protected

- b) *Enemies once again tried to stop the work
 - (1) Derision (ridicule and mockery)
 - (2) Threats of armed aggression
- c) *Nehemiah urged them to build with weapons in hand
- d) God granted wisdom to avoid the enemy
- e) *Walls were rebuilt in 52 days - Neh 1-7

7. Satan continues

- a) *Pagan people were allowed to live with them in the land
- b) A former pagan enemy was given a temple chamber to live in
 - (1) *The people stopped paying the tithe
 - (2) The temple was deserted
 - (a) The priests stopped ministering
 - (b) Merchants were allowed to desecrate the Sabbath by conducting business on that day
 - (c) Men began marrying pagan women again
 - (d) People offered blemished sacrifices to God
 - (e) *Priests dishonored God by their actions
 - (f) Jewish men were divorcing their wives
 - (g) *The people called evil good - decided that it was *useless to serve God - *Neh 13 and Mal
- c) God counters these evil tendencies by sending Malachi to preach and bring reforms instituted by Nehemiah

C. *The Message of the Prophets

1. *The prophets foretold many things about the coming Redeemer
 - a) *Suffering Servant who would die to pay the penalty of man's sin - Is 52:13-53:12
 - b) *Glorious King who would establish the theocratic rule of God's kingdom over the world - Is 9:6-7; Dan 7:13-14
2. The Redeemer would establish the future theocratic kingdom
 - a) *Reverse the tragic results of man's sin
 - (1) *Change animal nature - they would all be tame - Is 11:6-9; 65:25
 - (2) *Reverse the effects of death by healing diseases and deformities - Is 33:24; 35:5-6

- (3) *Eliminate hazards in the world - Ez 34:25-29
- (4) *Increase man's lifespan - Is 65:20, 22
- (5) *Restore the fertility of the earth - great growth and fruitage - Is 55:13; Ez 47:12; Joel 2:21-22
- (6) *Huge multitude of fish - Ez 47:9-10
- (7) *Abundance of grain and wine - Joel 2:24; Amos 9:13
- (8) Superabundant supply of food that famine would be abolished - Jer 31:12-14; Ez 36:29-30; Zech 8:11-12
- (9) *He would control the environment for the benefit of man - Ez 34:26-27
- (10)*Heal the pollution - Ez 47:1-12
- (11)*Abolish war and injustice - Is 2:2-4; 9:6-7; 11:2-5; Jer 23:5; Mic 4:1-3; Zech 9:9-10

3. Prophets tell of the coming Redeemer

- a) *Anointed One - Ps 2
- b) *Messiah - Dan 9:25-26
- c) *Ruler of God's future, theocratic kingdom as a descendant of David - Is 9:6-7; Jer 23:5-6; 30:9; 33:14-17; Ez 34:23-24; 37:24-25
- (1) *He would fulfill the Davidic covenant - Jer 33:20-26

4. They declared that the coming theocratic kingdom would not be set up until *Israel would repent - Dt 30:1-10; Jer 31:16-40; Ez 36:32-38; Hos 3:4-5; Zech 13:9

- a) Nation of Israel is a key to establishment of the earthly, political form of the kingdom of God

D. *The Grecian Period

1. *Persia served her purpose

- a) *Restoration and reestablishment of the Jewish people to their homeland
- b) God no longer needed her
 - (1) 334 BC - Persian Empire was invaded by Greco-Macedonian army
 - (2) Alexander the Great
 - (3) *331 BC - Persian Empire had been totally consumed by Greece

2. *Alexander pushed his armies into India
 - a) When soldiers couldn't keep up with the intense marches - they were discharged
 - b) *Settled where they were discharged - married native women and raised families
 - (1) *Common language and culture was established through the realm
 - (2) World was Hellenized - made Greek

3. *Alexander died suddenly in 323 BC
 - a) *Internal struggles as generals and successors fought for control
 - b) *Ptolemy and successors gained control of Egypt and Israel
 - c) *Seleucus held areas in Syria, Babylonia, Asia Minor

4. *Jewish people did well under Ptolemies
 - a) *When Seleucids took Holy Land in 199 BC things changed
 - b) *Satan attacks using the Seleucids
 - (1) *Antiochus Epiphanes determined to impose Greek culture and religion on his kingdom (including Israel)
 - (a) *Attempted to stamp out Jewish worship of God
 - (b) *Abolished Jewish sacrifices
 - (c) *Entered the Holy of Holies and desecrated it
 - (d) *Sacrificed a pig on the altar of burnt offerings
 - (e) *Outlawed circumcision
 - (f) *Discontinued Sabbath observance
 - (g) *Erected heathen altars
 - (h) *Enforced pagan sacrifices
 - (i) *Instituted worship of Zeus and other Greek gods
 - (j) *Executed anyone found with the Law
 - (2) *People went into apostasy again

5. *One group of Jewish people accepted the policies of Antiochus
 - a) *Received leadership from the priestly line - priesthood was for sale
 - (1) *Became known as the Sadducees
 - b) *God raises up an Orthodox party of Jews

- (1) *Group called the Maccabees
 - (a) Fought Antiochus
 - (b) *Won religious freedom
 - (c) Restored worship in 164 BC
- (2) *This group became known as the Pharisees

E. *The Beginning of the Roman Period

- 1. *Greece fulfilled her purpose
 - a) *Universal language in the Med Sea area
 - (1) This would make the spread of the gospel easier
 - b) *Fell to Rome in 63 BC
 - (1) Holy Land was now under Roman domination
 - (2) *Herod the Great was appointed king of Judah
 - (a) He began his reign in 37 BC

F. The Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

- 1. Satan has been trying to either destroy Israel completely or make her totally apostate through Old Testament times
 - a) *God continued to preserve a faithful remnant
 - b) Young woman who was part of that remnant was going to give birth to the Redeemer
 - (1) *Angel announced to Mary that her son would be called Jesus
 - (2) *He would be the Son of the Most High God
 - (3) *He would receive the throne of His father David
 - (4) *Kingdom would be everlasting - Lk 1:26-33
- 2. *Jesus was born 5-4 BC
 - a) When the fulness of time came
 - (1) *The Redeemer came
 - i) *Born of the woman - as promised - Gen 3:15 (Gal 4:4)
 - b) Despite Satan trying to stop the Redeemer from coming - he had failed
 - c) The Person who was the key to God's history was now present on earth
 - d) He had become human flesh
 - (1) Purpose - to put away man's sin

- (2) *Become the substitutionary sacrifice of Himself
 - (a) Crush Satan and the works of his kingdom
 - (b) Jn 1:1, 14, 29; He 2:14; 9:26; I Jn 3:8

- 3. *Since Redeemer came - *prevent Him from dying the substitutionary death and establishing God's theocratic kingdom
 - a) Tried to destroy the Redeemer before He could finish His work
 - (1) *King Herod attempted to kill the Davidic King - slaughter the infants in the city - Mt 2:16
 - (2) *God had Mary and Joseph flee to Egypt - Mt 2:13-15
 - (3) *When Jesus preached in His hometown the first time they tried to kill Him - Lk 4:16-29
 - (a) *Jesus walked through their midst unharmed - Lk 4:30
 - (4) *At least 2 other occasions they tried to stone Him - Jn 8:59; 10:31, 39
 - b) *These attempts were prompted by Satan's kingdom - Jn 8:37-47

- 4. *Satan attempted to draw Jesus into apostasy
 - a) Get Jesus to depart from God's purpose
 - b) Apostasy worked so well on humans
 - c) *Tempted Jesus in the wilderness - Mt 4:1-11
 - (1) *Offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He would bow to Satan - Mt 4:8-9
 - (2) Offering Him the rule of the world system without the sufferings of the cross
 - (3) Had Jesus accepted the offer - Satan would have disrupted God's plan - His purpose for history
 - (a) The plan of salvation was laid out before the foundations of the earth
 - (b) I Peter 1:18-21; Jn 17:22-24; Eph 1:2-3 (-14)
 - (4) *Jesus rebuked Satan - refused to become apostate - Mt 4:10
 - (a) *Worship God alone
 - (b) Serve only Him

5. *Satan tries to get Jesus to abort His mission - Lk 4:13
 - a) *Used Peter to try to persuade Jesus to *avoid the cross
 - (1) Jesus rebuked him
 - (2) Mt 16:21-23
 - b) Couldn't get Jesus to become apostate
 - c) Night before His crucifixion
 - (1) Jesus said that the prince of the world had nothing in Him
- Jn 14:30
 - (2) *Jesus had rejected every scheme
 - (3) *It was only a matter of time that Satan would be defeated
- Jn 12:31

6. *During His ministry Jesus promised a theocratic kingdom to Israel
 - a) *Prophets had declared it that the kingdom would not be set up until Israel would repent
 - (1) *John the Baptist would prepare the way
 - (2) Disciples all preached the same message - repent the kingdom of God is at hand - Mt 3:1-2; 4:17; Mk 6:7-13
 - b) *Israel was the key to establish the kingdom
 - (1) *Jesus commanded His disciples not to go to the Gentiles or Samaritans - Mt 10:5-7
 - (2) Jesus told the Gentile woman who approached Him that He had been sent to the lost sheep of Israel - Mt 15:21-26

7. *Jesus' miracles
 - a) They demonstrated to Israel that the One who had the power *to establish this kingdom was right here among them
 - b) When He cast out demons - *demonstrated His ability to devastate the kingdom of Satan - Mt 12:22-30
 - c) Casting demons into the pigs, shekel in fishes mouth displayed *ability to control animal nature - Mt 17:24-27; Mk 5:1-20
 - d) Healing diseases and deformities and raising dead people revealed *His ability to reverse effects of death - Mk 3:1-6; 7:31-37; Jn 5:1-9; 9:1-41; Mt 9:18-26; Lk 7:11-17; Jn 11:1-44

- e) He showed *His ability to produce great fruitage of trees, multiply the fish, abundance of wine, superabundance of food that the prophets declared would characterize the theocratic kingdom
 - (1) When He cursed the fig tree - Mt 21:18-22
 - (2) produced huge multitudes of fish - Lk 5:1-11; Jn 21:19
 - (3) turned water into wine - Jn 2:1-11
 - (4) expanded the amount of loaves and fish to feed the crowds - Mk 8:1-9; Jn 6:5-14
 - f) Calming the storms and walking on water showed *His power to eliminate hazards and control the environment for the benefit of men - Mt 14:24-33; Mk 4:35-41
 - (1) Do these sound familiar?*
 - (2) Promise of restoring the kingdom to before the fall
 - (3) What he promises *He will do
8. When Jesus *sent out His disciples to *preach repentance and the kingdom
- a) *Gave them power to perform miracles characteristic of conditions to come in the literal, earthly, theocratic kingdom - Mk 6:7-13; Mt 10:5-8
 - b) Why did disciples have this power
 - (1) *Point out that Jesus was the One who had the power to establish this kingdom - Mt 19:28
 - (2) Declare that the *kingdom could be set up when Israel repented as a nation
 - c) The Jews were seeing a glimpse at the future Millennial age - He 6:5
9. *Satan hated the preaching of the kingdom message
- a) If Israel were to believe and repent he and his kingdom would be crushed
 - b) Imperative for the nation to reject the kingdom
 - c) *Worked in the hearts of the Jewish people to prevent the message from taking root and bearing fruit - Mt 13:18-22
 - d) Result
 - (1) *Majority of Jews did not believe the declaration of the coming kingdom

- (2) *They wanted a literal, political, theocratic kingdom without the spiritual requirement necessary - Mk 11:8-10
- (3) *Because they were Abraham's descendants - they didn't need to repent - Mt 3:7-9
- e) *They rejected the kingdom

10. By encouraging Israel to reject the kingdom, Satan sealed his own doom - Jn 12:31; 16:11

- a) God's sovereign will
 - (1) *God used Israel's rejection as a means of providing a substitutionary sacrifice for man's sin - Jn 12:37-40; Acts 2:22-23; 4:27-28
- b) Israel rejected the Redeemer who made the offer - Jn 12:37-38
 - (1) *Rejected Jesus as King
 - (2) *Cried for His crucifixion - Jn 19:13-16
 - (a) When He died - *he was the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world - Jn 1:29
 - (b) His death *paid the price that satisfied (propitiated) divine justice - Ro 3:24-25; I Jn 2:2; 4:10

11. *"It is finished"

- a) *Last words on the cross - Jn 19:28-30
- b) Through His crucifixion, the *Redeemer had finished the work necessary for God to fulfill His purpose of history
 - (1) *Crushing Satan and his kingdom
 - (2) *Establishing the theocratic kingdom
 - (3) *Reverse the consequences of man's sin
- c) In spite of Satan's attempts to prevent the Redeemer from coming and doing His work - *he had failed
- d) God's sovereignty reigns supreme

12. Resurrection

- a) Jesus rose bodily from the dead - Mt 28:1-10; I Cor 15:3-4
- b) Significance of the resurrection
 - (1) Evidence that *His death had satisfied the substitutionary sacrifice for man's sin - satisfied the divine justice of God

- (2) Redeemer had won the *victory over death and over Satan who had the power of death - I Cor 15:20-24; He 2:14
 - (3) *Assurance of the establishment of the kingdom - God's plan was still being worked out
 - (a) Disciples had lost hope - Lk 24:13-21
 - (b) *Redeemer was alive and would set up the rule of the kingdom at God's appointed time - Acts 1:3, 6-7
13. Jesus gave proof of His bodily resurrection for *40 days by making numerous appearances - Lk 24:36-43; Acts 1:3; I Cor 15:3-7
- a) At the end of those 40 days *He ascended into heaven - Mk 16:19; Lk 24:51; Acts 1:9-11
 - b) He would *remain there until Israel would repent - Mt 23:37-39

Note:

God sent His son - speaking to the people of Israel as the last prophet calling them to repent - He 1:1-3a

Israel rejected Him as the Redeemer that had been promised and put Him to death on the cross - Mt 27:24-25; Jn 19:4-7; Acts 2:36; 7:51-53

Israel's rejection and Christ's death brought to completion God's plan for salvation

The Lamb of God completed His Redeeming Work (even though Israel missed it) and He sat down at the right hand of the Father - Mk 16:19; He 1:3b; 10:12; 12:2

There He stays until Israel is given their final chance - He stands up and takes the scroll with the seals and begins the last ditch effort to helping Israel see that He is who He claimed to be - Rev 5:6-10; Phil 2:10-11; Rev 1:7; Zech 12:9-11

V. The Conflict from the Removal of Israel from the Place of Blessing Through the Reformation

A. The Removal of Israel from the Place of Blessing

1. *Israel rejected the Redeemer
 - a) *Not prepared to make herself right through repentance
 - b) Eventually the day will come when the nation will repent
 - (1) At that time the Redeemer will return to earth
 - (2) Set up His theocratic kingdom
 - (a) Seasons of refreshing
 - (b) Restoration of all things
 - (c) Acts 3:19-21; Ez 36:25-38; Zech 12:10-13:2
2. Because of Israel's unbelief in Jesus
 - a) *God removed her **temporarily** from her place of blessing
 - b) She will continue to remain outside the place of blessing until she repents - believes in Jesus Christ
 - c) Until that time - *God is doing a special work among the Gentiles - Ro 11:11-27
3. Because of her rejection of the Messiah - *doomed herself to centuries of desolation and persecution at the hands of the Gentiles - Mt 23:37-38; Lk 19:41-44
 - a) This persecution will continue until the nation changes its mind about Jesus Christ - Mt 23:39
 - b) Israel can't rely on God to protect her from all harm
 - c) Her unbelief exposed her to vicious anti-Semitism
4. Appears as though Satan bring this anti-Semitism
 - a) *She is in a state of spiritual rebellion for now
 - b) She is still the key to the setting up of the theocratic kingdom
 - c) Satan is aware that he will not be crushed and the kingdom won't come until Israel repents
 - (1) *Satan strives to keep Israel from repenting
 - (2) *Key would be to annihilate them before they have a chance to repent - destroy Israel

5. *Satan used several entities to destroy Israel
 - a) *Roman Empire - slaughtered thousands of Jews and crushed their rebellions
 - b) *Middle Ages - used the church to institute Inquisitions against the Jewish people
 - c) *WW2 - Nazi Germany to kill 6 million Jews in Europe
 - d) *Communism in Russia
 - e) *Arab - Israeli conflict in the Middle East
 - f) *Why does this happen - God removed her from a place of blessing
 - g) *Result? - she will undergo vicious persecution
 - h) *When will it stop? When she repents

6. God permits Israel to be chasten for he unbelief - but not destroyed
 - a) They are key to fulfill His purpose in history
 - b) *Always preserved a remnant as He promised
 - c) Jer 30:9-11; 46:27-28; Ez 6:8; 14:21-23; 36:16-31; Ro 9:27-28

B. The Birth of the Church

1. God won't let the world go on without a witness of Himself and His kingdom
 - a) Israel has rejected Him for the time being
 - b) *God raises up the church
 - (1) *Not one nation
 - (2) *Entity consisting of people from many nations and tongues
 - (3) Not limited to just Jewish people
 - (a) *Believing Jew and Gentiles bound together in one body - Eph 2:11-3:11
 - (b) *The church (Mt 16:18), *the body (I Cor 12:12-27), *the bride of Christ (Eph 4:4-6; 5:22-32)
 - (4) *Continue in the world until God would begin to work with Israel again to bring her to repentance

2. Before He ascended - *commissioned the Church
 - a) Go into all the world and preach the gospel - Mk 16:15

- b) *Promised them power to perform this witnessing ministry - the Holy Spirit - Lk 24:49; Acts 1:8
 - (1) Holy Spirit came on Pentecost
 - (2) The church was born - Acts 2

C. *Early Attacks Against the Church

1. *Satan now has a new enemy to fight against
 - a) *Church was preaching and spreading the gospel
 - b) Serious threat to his kingdom
 - (1) If members of his kingdom hear the gospel - they may believe it - Acts 26:17-18
 - (2) Then they would be transferred out of his kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of God's Son - Co 1:13-14
 - c) *Satan determined to blind the minds of the people to the gospel - II Cor 4:3-4

2. Satan's strategy for the individual
 - a) *Assaulting individual members of the church
 - (1) *Tempting them - Acts 5:3; I Thes 3:5
 - (2) *Accusing them - Rev 12:10
 - (3) *Persecuting them to the point of death - Rev 2:10; I Pet 5:8
 - (4) *Hindering their work - I Thes 2:18
 - (5) *Trying to defeat them - Eph 6:10-20
 - (a) but we can't be defeated by Satan
 - (b) Greater is He who is in me than he that is in the world - I Jn 4:4
 - (6) *Deceiving them into believing wrong things by sowing among them his people who fashion themselves as ministers of righteousness - Mt 13:38-39; II Cor 11:13-15
 - b) *Christians exhorted to endure
 - (1) *Endure hardship as a good soldier - II Tim 2:3-4
 - (2) *Put on the full armor of God - Eph 6:10-18
 - (3) *Resist Satan - Jas 4:7; I Pet 5:8-9
 - (4) We are given adequate equipment and instruction

3. *Satan's strategy against the church
 - a) Persecution against the church

- b) Jewish to begin with
 - (1) Attacked by Jews - enemies of the gospel
 - (a) *Apostles imprisoned - Acts 4-5; 12
 - (b) *Stephen stoned to death - Acts 6:8-7:60
 - (c) *James was slain by the sword - Acts 12:2
 - (d) *James, brother of Jesus - had brains bashed out with a club

- 4. *Early phase of persecution
 - a) *Initiated by Saul
 - (1) *Wreaked havoc on church - Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2
 - (2) *God countered this attack - Satanic persecution by converting Saul - Acts 9:1-22
 - (a) Saul became Paul - apostle to the Gentiles - Acts 9:15
 - (b) Greatest opponent became the greatest defender of the faith
 - b) *Herod Agrippa took over the persecution
 - (1) *God countered by Herod dying a premature death - Acts 12:1, 21-23

- 5. Satan attacked outwardly with persecution
 - a) *Also attacked inwardly with *apostate teachings
 - (1) False teachers infiltrated the church
 - (a) *Legalism, gnosticism
 - b) *God counters by raising up apostles who taught against these teachers
 - (1) Jude 3-4; Gal; Col; I & II John
 - (2) *Council of Jerusalem - Acts 15
 - (a) Apostles and elders spoke against this

- D. The Roman Persecution
 - 1. Jewish persecutors didn't succeed
 - a) More they persecuted the stronger the church grew
 - b) Acts 8:1, 4-8, 25, 40; 11:19-21; 12:24; 13:49
 - c) *Satan goes to military power - Rome

 - 2. *Nero (54-68 AD)
 - a) First Roman emperor to persecute the church

- b) *Turned Christians into living torches to illuminate his gardens at night
 - c) *Paul beheaded and Peter crucified upside down
3. Prior to 250 AD
- a) Localized persecution and sporadic
 - b) *250 AD became universal
 - (1) *Christians ordered to worship the emperor and pagan gods
 - (2) When Christians refused - government tried to destroy them and the Scriptures
 - (a) *Get rid of the people
 - (b) *Get rid of the book that spells out history that talks about Satan's defeat
 - (3) *Persecution and execution of Christians was carried out
 - (4) Thousands martyred for their faith
4. God used the persecutions
- a) *More it was persecuted, the more it grew
 - b) Tertullian said that the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church
- E. *The Church's Apostasy
1. 311 AD Emperor Galerius issued an edict granting tolerance to the church
- a) *Constantine granted total freedom
 - (1) Edict of Milan - 313 AD
 - b) *By 324 AD - became officially favored religion of the empire
 - c) *380 AD - Theodosius issued edict that made Christianity the official and only religion allowed within the empire
 - d) Began persecuting other religions
2. Seemed like a tremendous victory
- a) It was a defeat in disguise
 - b) Union of church and state was ideal opportunity to bring apostasy
 - c) *When it was the only religion "allowed" large masses of pagans came into the churches to become "Christians"

- (1) Pagans found that worship was different
 - (a) *They worshiped and prayed to images
 - (b) *Adored the queen of heaven
 - (c) *Had heathen festivals, blood sacrifices, and priest
 - (2) The pagans found church didn't meet their needs
3. Christians feared that unless they became relevant to the pagans, they would never be reached for Christ
- a) *Christians attempted to Christianize pagan practices and adopt them into the church
 - (1) *Substitute images of apostles and martyrs in place of gods and goddesses
 - (2) *Mary became the queen of heaven
 - (3) *Communion was changed from a memorial to a sacrifice
 - (4) *Elders were transformed from teachers to priests
 - (5) *Heathen festivals were incorporated as special church days (Easter, *Christmas, *Halloween, etc)
4. *Adopted methods of Satan's kingdom in order to reach people for God's kingdom
- a) It seemed like the right thing to do
 - b) Local churches swelled in numbers
 - c) Most of the people flocking to the churches were pagans at heart
 - (1) Christianized pagans
 - (a) Know all the words, the songs, stories
 - (b) Still pagans
 - (2) *Churches became largely pagan in practice and membership
 - d) *Ambition, worldly, unscrupulous men began to seek office in the church for political and social influence
 - e) In western Europe it became a monstrous religious-polical machine
 - (1) *Usurped power over the state
 - (2) *Middle Ages church - not true biblical Christianity
 - (a) Roman Catholic Church
 - (b) Corrupt hierarchy controlling the nations of Europe

5. Christendom became more apostate
 - a) *True gospel became perverted
 - (1) Apostles taught salvation was solely by God's grace through faith in the Person and work of Jesus Christ - Rom 4:1-5:2; Gal 2:15-16, 21; Eph 2:8-9
 - b) Heathen concept
 - (1) *Human works necessary for salvation - added to the gospel
 - (2) *Only way for true salvation was hidden from the masses of people for centuries
 - c) Satan was leading the organized church into apostasy
 - (1) He was changing the message
 - (2) This would keep members from being transferred out of his kingdom

6. If he were to keep organized church apostate and gospel hidden
 - a) Had to pervert the interpretation of Scripture
 - b) *Prevent study of the Bible - if possible
 - c) *Origen - 230 AD - church leader who had been influenced by pagan philosophy
 - (1) Developed an allegorical method to interpreting Scripture
 - (a) Instead of giving words their clear understandable meanings
 - (b) Searched for hidden, symbolic meanings
 - (2) *It distorted the meaning of the Bible and made it open to what the interpreter wanted to find in the Bible
 - d) Because of Origen's position and influence - this method strongly affected the growing church
 - (1) *Would become the norm for the next 1,000 years

7. Church became more pagan
 - a) *Looked for support outside of Scripture to justify its teachings
 - b) *Departed from view that the Bible was the only source of authority for faith and practice of the church
 - c) *Church traditions came up to equal authority as the Bible
 - (1) *Through time the church became the ultimate authority

- (2) *Finally forbade the laity (commoners) to read the Scripture and would not allow translation into common languages
8. Satan hates the teachings of the Bible - future, theocratic kingdom, political ruling power
 - a) He needed to get rid of the Bible
 - b) Future kingdom was bound up with the Christian faith
 - c) *By close of 2nd century, church leaders in Alexandria, Egypt, attacked the idea of a future kingdom
 - (1) *Anything physical was evil (influence of philosophy)
 - (2) *Rejected a future physical kingdom - this was too carnal and sensual
 - (3) *Origen's allegorical method held advance this idea and continue to lead people into rejecting God's Word
 9. anti-Semitic spirit begins to develop in eastern church
 - a) *Professing Gentile "Christians" develop a strong bias against anything Jewish
 - b) The premillennial belief of an earthly, political kingdom rule of the Messiah in the future was the same hope that motivated *the Jewish people for centuries
 - (1) *It was deemed "Jewish" therefore "heretical" by Eastern Gentile churches
 - (2) Premillennialism was discredited - guilt by association
 - (3) *anti-Semitism is building
 10. Western churches believed in the future theocratic kingdom into the 4th century
 - a) It disappeared when the church united with the state and went apostate
 - b) *Augustine (354-430 AD) was most *influential church leader at the time in the West
 - (1) *Caused organized church to reject the coming kingdom
 - (2) In *City of God*, he taught
 - (a) God's promised kingdom is present on earth now - it is the church
 - (b) Satan is bound now

- (c) Eventually the church will conquer the world
- (d) Kingdom age will end when Christ returns at the second coming when the history of the world will end

11. Augustine rejected the future kingdom

- a) Church was the exclusive religion of the empire - seemed it did conquer the world
- b) *To hold his position he used Origen's allegorical method to interpret OT prophecies about the kingdom
- c) *He led the Church of Rome to view itself as the universal church destined to bring all men within its fold

12. Basis of Replacement Theology

- a) *anti-Semitic spirit and teaching of the organized (universal - Catholic) church as interpreted by these men were part of the idea of replacement
- b) Israel as a nation rejected Jesus Christ as its Messiah during His first coming
 - (1) God rejected that nation forever as His people
 - (2) *This theology claims that God has no future program for Israel - He has *replaced them with the church who are now His people
 - (3) The church now inherits the blessings and promises to Israel
- c) *This violates and contradicts Scripture
 - (1) Gen 13:14-15; 15:18; 17:7-8, 19; I Sam 12:22; II Sam 7:23-24; Jer 30:11; Ro 11:28-29

13. Result of the *Middle Ages

- a) Satan used this time to
 - (1) *Make Inroads of paganism
 - (2) *Perversion of the gospel
 - (3) *Abuse and neglect of Scripture
 - (4) *Rejecting of the theocratic-kingdom concept
 - (5) *Replacement of Israel view
- b) Organized church departed drastically from what God had intended it to be
- c) Because of the apostasy the church instigated things like

- (1) *Crusades
 - (a) against other professing Christians
 - (b) Jews
 - (c) Muslims
- (2) *Inquisitions
 - (a) To anyone who disagreed with them
- d) *The church was used to dishonor God and His kingdom

F. The Threat of Islam

1. Church had moved into massive apostasy by the 4th century
 - a) *There were still elements of truth like the deity of Christ
 - b) *Very careful to preserve copies of the Scriptures even though they abused interpretation and study
 - c) As long as Scripture continued to exist - Satan couldn't rest
 - (1) Needed to rid the world of the word that talked of the kingdom of God

2. Rise of a *new religion in Arabia
 - a) *Muhammad founded Islam in 610 AD
 - b) *By his death in 632 AD - all of Arabia had been converted
 - c) *During next 100 years Muslims conquered
 - (1) Holy Land
 - (2) Syria
 - (3) Most of eastern Roman Empire
 - (4) All lands eastward to India
 - (5) Egypt and all of Northern Africa
 - (6) Large areas of Spain
 - d) *The church dwindled and died as Islam took over
 - (1) *Where Islam goes Christianity dies
 - (2) *The Bible is destroyed
 - (3) *God's kingdom is destroyed (at least that's what Satan is hoping)

3. *Threatened to conquer all of Europe
 - a) *Convert the continent to Muslim
 - b) *God counters this threat with the Franks (France) and other European tribes
 - (1) *Under leadership of Charles Martel

- (2) *Defeated Muslims at the Battle of Tours in 732 AD
- c) *The church, the Scriptures, and truths like the deity of Christ were saved from extinction

G. *The Divine Counteraction of Church Apostasy

1. From the time the church went apostate to the time of Reformation (400-1500 AD)
 - a) *God preserved a small remnant who opposed the apostate church
 - (1) *There were those who denied the authority of the Roman Catholic Church, the pope, and their pagan practices
 - (2) *They held to the true gospel
 - (a) *God's Word as the final authority
 - (b) *Encouraged the study of the Bible by laypeople
 - (c) *Observed the Lord's supper as a memorial, not a sacrifice
 - (d) *Had pastors instead of priests
 - (e) *Believed in the future political theocratic kingdom
 - b) *Waldensians - sent out lay evangelists to preach the gospel to members of Satan's kingdom
 - c) Satan couldn't stand truth, biblical faith and witness
 - d) *He prompted the organized church (Catholic) to persecute these groups severely
 - (1) *Crusades and Inquisitions were used
 - (2) *Some groups were annihilated
 - (3) *Many were tortured, executed, or driven from their homes or countries, hunted like fugitives
2. *God raised up men at the end of the Middle Ages
 - a) *John Wycliffe of England (1324-1384)
 - (1) Opposed
 - (a) monasticism
 - (b) Authority of the Roman Church and the pope
 - (c) Idea that the Lord's Supper was a sacrifice
 - (d) Corruption of the priesthood
 - (2) Urged church reform - New Testament standards
 - (3) Instrumental in producing the first Bible in English
 - (4) Sent out lay preachers called Lollards

- (a) These were persecuted
- (b) Finally killed

3. *John Huss of Bohemia (1369-1415)

- a) Influenced by Wycliffe's writings
- b) Began proclaiming same evangelical concepts in Bohemia
- c) Caused much trouble for the Catholic Church
- d) The pope excommunicated him and ordered him to appear before the Church Council of Constance
 - (1) Huss refused to go
 - (2) Finally went when he was promised safe conduct by the emperor
 - (3) At council he was condemned and burned at the stake (despite the emperor's guarantee)
 - (4) Church claimed that faith didn't need to be kept for heretics

4. *Jerome Savonarola of Florence, Italy (1452-1498)

- a) Preacher who attacked corruption in government, society, and the church
- b) Wrote the the pope was not a Christian
- c) Was excommunicated, imprisoned, hanged to death, and burned by order of the church
- d) Satan tried to stop the attempts to reform the church to God's standards

H. *The Renaissance (Age of Enlightenment, New Awakening)

- 1. Between *1350-1650 Europe experienced great *cultural change
 - a) Moved from the Dark Ages (Medieval period) to Modern Times
 - b) *Interest in (knowledge) learning
 - (1) classic literature
 - (2) art of Greece and Rome
 - (3) Science

2. Satan attempts to use this period to drive man farther from God
 - a) Southern Europe moved into secular, skeptical *humanism
 - (1) Man focused, not God focused
 - b) Continued to *observe formal ritual of the church
 - (1) Tendency was to forget claims of God in daily life
 - (2) Popes were even more interested in culture than spiritual things

3. God used the Renaissance as a tool to prepare Europe for the coming Reformation
 - a) *Northern Europe - developed into religious humanism
 - (1) Scholars became more interested in the Judeo-Christian past than the classical past
 - (a) *More interested in a human being with a soul than him as a rational creature
 - (b) *Studied Biblical manuscripts in the original languages
 - (c) Applied humanistic principles to study of Scriptures
 - (d) *Reemphasized historical-grammatical interpretation instead of allegorical
 - i) Origen and Augustine taught 1,000 years before
 - (2) Produced *grammars and dictionaries of Biblical languages
 - (3) *Printed Greek New Testament
 - b) Invention of the *printing press by movable type - 1455
 - (a) Printing and distributing Scripture was now possible
 - i) Faster, easier, less expensive
 - c) The church was changing drastically from the church of Acts

4. *Strong middle class and a spirit of nationalism developed
 - a) God used this to also prepare Europe for the Reformation
 - b) People began resenting a foreign pope
 - (1) ruling their national churches
 - (2) Appointing their church leaders
 - (3) Demanding taxes to support him and build ornate churches in Rome
 - (4) Exempting his clergy from national laws and courts
 - (5) Dictating political policies to their government

I. *The Reformation

1. *God's greatest counter measure to the apostasy of the organized (Catholic Church)
 - a) *Began in Germany in 1517 with Martin Luther
 - (1) Monk and Professor of the Roman Church
 - (2) Started to write and speak against the wrong beliefs and practices of the church
 - b) *Called for reform
 - c) The church refused
 - (1) It condemned and excommunicated Luther
 - (2) Demanded that he be delivered for trial and punishment
 - d) With the new nationalism - the princes of northern Germany supported and protected Luther
 - e) *Lutheran Church was formed
 - f) Diet of Spires (1529)
 - (1) *Condemned Luther's doctrine
 - (2) Made rulings against Lutheranism
 - g) Northern princes made formal **protest**
 - h) They and others called the apostate church to reform
 - i) They were called **Protest** - ants - Protestants
2. Other areas were having the same conflict
 - a) *Ulrich Zwingli was having the same fight in Switzerland
 - (1) Canton of Zurich established the Reformed Church
 - b) *John Calvin began the Presbyterian Church in Geneva
 - c) *Anabaptist movement grew under men like Rebel, Manz, and Hubmaier
3. Reformation spreads
 - a) *Denmark, Sweden, Norway adopted the Lutheran faith
 - b) *In France - people adopted Protestantism and became known as Huguenots
 - c) Northern Netherlands people accepted the Reformed faith
 - (1) Good sized minority became Anabaptist in belief and called themselves Mennonites
 - d) John Knox preaching in Scotland accepted the Reformed faith
 - e) England - Henry VIII began the Church of England

4. *Protestant Reformation stood on 3 truths
 - a) *Justification by faith alone
 - (1) Pagan idea of human works salvation was rejected
 - (2) Pure gospel once again was declared
 - b) *Priesthood of the believer
 - (1) Reformers did away with the wide chasm between priest and laity
 - (2) NT concept that every Christian is a priest before God
 - (3) Has the privilege of studying the Word on his own and ministering to others
 - c) *Bible (not the church) is the final authority for faith and practice

VI. The Conflict from the Counter Reformation Through the Philosophy of Ritschl

A. *The Counter Reformation

1. growth of Protestantism

- a) *apostasy was being addressed and the true gospel preached
- b) Satan needed to *attack
 - (1) Prevent the entire organized church from going Protestant
 - (2) *Get rid of Protestantism altogether
 - (3) *Use the Roman Catholic Church to accomplish this

2. *Council of Trent - 1545-1563

- a) *Church did adopt some reforms - *BUT
- b) *Continued to hold to many traditional doctrines
 - (1) Justification by faith plus works
 - (2) 7 sacraments are channels of grace
 - (3) Lord's Supper is a sacrifice
 - (4) Traditions of the church are equal in authority with Scripture
- c) *Declared apocryphal books to be canonical and equal authority with the Bible
 - (1) *list of Old Testament books (run through the sections pointing out the apocryphal books
 - (a) Tobit
 - (b) Judith
 - (c) Esther - the added to the book
 - (d) I & II Maccabees
 - (e) Wisdom of Solomon
 - (f) Sirach
 - (g) Baruch
 - (h) Daniel - added to it
 - (2) *list of New Testament books is the same 27 as we have (run through them)
 - (a) Acts of the Apostles (Acts)
 - (b) Apocalypse of John (Revelation)
 - (3) Why are these books not in our Bible?
 - (a) *Didn't meet the canonical standards
 - i) Authentication of the writer

- (1) Apostle
- (2) Someone known by the apostles
- (3) Identity verified and accepted throughout the ages
- ii) Acceptance as true doctrine in many different church communities
- iii) Geographical acceptance - teachings remain the same in various areas - based on Biblical truth - unchanging
- iv) Content reflects and supports the person and work of Jesus Christ
 - (1) Scripture can't contradict Scripture
 - (2) It is God breathed - not the interpretation of men
 - (a) II Tim 3:16-17
 - (b) II Pe 1:19-21
 - (3) Singular interpretation - many applications
 - (a) Must be kept in context
 - (b) Main things are the plain things
- d) Roman Catholic Churches beliefs became dogma (indisputably true) and binding on all its people
- e) Satan succeeded in preventing the entire Roman church returning to New Testament Biblical principles

3. *The Jesuits

- a) *Monastic order devoted to fighting Protestantism and spreading the Catholic faith
- b) Used unethical means (slavery, abuse, sexual misconduct, rebellion, murder, incorrect theology - making things up in their own minds)

4. *The Index

- a) *List of books people were forbidden to read
 - (1) Included protestant literature
 - (2) Satan kept people in the dark to New Testament teaching

5. Persecution

- a) *Governments controlled by the church tried to wipe out Reformation faith

- b) *Spanish Inquisitions (and Netherlands)
 - (1) *People tortured and burned
 - (2) Recant Protestant views
 - (3) Spanish troops instituted a reign of terror that executed at least 17,000

- 6. French persecution of Huguenots from 1538-1559
 - a) 8 bloody wars against them from 1559-1598
 - b) *St Bartholomew's Day Massacre - 1572
 - (1) 10-20,000 butchered for their faith

- 7. England Persecution
 - a) *Queen Mary Tudor - Bloody Mary -1553-1558
 - (1) Executed (burned at the stake) - 300 Protestant pastors
 - (2) Forced the rest to flee
 - b) Queen Elizabeth restored a form of Protestantism
 - (1) Pope began training Jesuits to conduct guerrilla warfare
 - (2) Went into cahoots with Spain - setting the Spanish Armada against England in 1588
 - (a) Embarrassing defeat
 - (b) Good English seamanship and weather seemed to be against the Spanish Armada
 - (c) God destroyed the naval power of the Roman Church's most powerful ally
 - (3) England championed Protestantism in England, Netherlands and limited Spain's power

- 8. 1609 Europe was divided between Protestant and Romanism (Catholic)
 - a) *Two camps waged war against each other in the Thirty Years' War - 1618-1648
 - b) When there was peace
 - (1) Lutheranism and Calvinism were the recognized religions
 - (2) Boundaries of the Roman and Protestant churches were fixed
 - c) *As Reformation came to a close
 - (1) *Protestantism withstood the persecutions
 - (2) God preserved them from external destruction

B. *Internal Attacks Against Protestantism

1. *Protestant groups had rejected much of the apostasy of the Roman Church, BUT *many still carried with them Roman beliefs and practices
 - a) *Rejected the concept of a future, theocratic kingdom
 - (1) *Church was the kingdom of God on earth
 - (2) It was to operate like Israel in the OT
 - (a) *Church and state were to be united
 - (b) State was to enforce church's policies
 - (c) *No one was allowed to hold beliefs contrary to the official teaching of the church - contrary to Scripture!
 - (d) Protestant churches resorted to same tactic as Roman Church - *bloody persecutions to any dissenters
 - b) *Satan brought disgrace on Protestant movement
2. *Anabaptists
 - a) strongly disagreed with persecution
 - b) *Church and state should be kept separate
 - c) *One church should not force its beliefs upon others
 - d) *Rejected that the church was God's kingdom on earth - believed in a future, theocratic kingdom on earth
3. *Satan tries to stamp out Anabaptist movement
 - a) *Persecuted severely
 - b) Protestants attacked other parts of the Reformation faith
 - c) *Many Anabaptists were put to death
 - d) *God spared the movement
4. Satan couldn't destroy those who taught the future kingdom
 - a) *Instead he would disgrace the doctrine
 - b) Fanatical group of Anabaptists at Munster Germany
 - (1) Introduced concepts of the kingdom - extreme ideas and practices contrary to Scripture
 - (2) Radical practices disgraced belief in future kingdom
 - (3) *Brought persecution from both Roman and Protestant churches

C. The Apostasy of the Modern Era

1. *The Rise of Rationalism and Empiricism

- a) Satan couldn't destroy protestantism
 - (1) *determined to rid the world of
 - (a) the true gospel
 - (b) Belief that that Bible was God's inspired revelation to man
 - (c) hope of God setting up His future kingdom
 - (2) *Brought the rise of new movements that would trigger chain reaction of apostasy that would affect the world
- b) *Rationalism developed in Europe - 1700's
 - (1) Importance of human reason and senses and not divine revelation
 - (2) Discovered truth by human reason
 - (a) Universe operates solely on natural law - not divine providence or intervention
 - (b) non-Christian religions grew
 - i) Thinkers began searching for natural religion
 - ii) Common to all men apart from the Bible and the church
 - c) *Introduction of empiricism (Philosophy) = all knowledge is derived from sense-experience (John Locke, George Berkeley, David Hume)
 - (1) No idea should be adopted unless its truth has been established through repeated tests that can be observed by human senses
 - (2) Only reasonable to believe the things that can be demonstrated through the scientific method
 - (3) *Rules out belief in truths that came by divine revelation

2. The Development of Deism

- a) *New religion called Deism
 - (1) Began in England during late 1600's
 - (a) Spread to France, Germany, and America in the 1700's
 - (b) Called natural religion or religion of reason
 - (2) Accepted that rationalistic concept that the universe is governed by natural law apart from divine providence or intervention

- (a) Could not explain the origin of the universe apart from God SO
- (b) *Supreme being created the universe but after he created it, He totally withdrew Himself from it and had nothing to do with it anymore
 - i) Many of the founding fathers were deists
 - ii) *[https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-founding-fathers-religious-wisdom/#:~:text](https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-founding-fathers-religious-wisdom/#:~:text=)
- b) Conclusions in deism (if God is not active in human history then . . .)
 - (1) No supernatural revelation of truth to man since the world began
 - (2) No such things as miracles
 - (3) Bible is not supernaturally inspired
 - (4) Jesus was not God incarnate
- c) *Man's only way of discovering truth is through human reason by using scientific method
 - (1) Ignores the problem with human sin
 - (2) *Man is essentially good and perfectible
 - (3) Expected continued progress to a more perfect order on earth
 - (a) *Man could establish utopia on earth through his own efforts - without supernatural intervention of God
 - (b) *Beginning of liberal Protestantism

3. The Divine Counteraction of Rationalism, Empiricism, and Deism

- a) Satan struck blows at the gospel, the Bible, future kingdom of God
 - (1) God counters these movements to preserve a continued witness for the kingdom of God
 - (a) *Pietist movement
 - i) People began meeting for Bible study and prayer
 - ii) Emphasized a life of piety
 - (b) *Led to the Moravian Church
 - i) Sent missionaries out to preach the gospel
- b) *Wesleyan revivals
 - (1) Reached millions with the gospel

- (2) Gave birth to the *Methodist church
 - (3) In America - Great Awakening
 - (a) Evangelized multitudes
 - (b) George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards
4. *The Philosophies of Kant, Hegel, and Schleiermacher
- a) Satan begins building on the apostasy brought about by rationalism, empiricism, and deism through philosophies of 3 men
 - b) *Kant - 1724-1804
 - (1) *Knowledge is limited to what human senses can perceive
 - (2) No knowledge comes through special revelation - no such thing as special revelation
 - (3) Religious beliefs can be based on duty or law that all men possess
 - (4) Man's concept of God and spiritual things come from daily moral experience
 - c) *Hegel - died 1831
 - (1) True essence of Christianity comes in its great ideas - not historical events that gave birth to them
 - (2) *Whether ideas are based on true historical facts is irrelevant
 - (3) Ideas of Christianity derived from the Bible are not dependent upon whether the book is accurate
 - (a) An inerrant Bible is not essential for true Christianity
 - d) *Schleiermacher - 1758-1834
 - (1) True religion is neither belief in or obedience to a system of theology or a code of moral absolutes
 - (2) Religion is an experienced relation to God
 - (a) Doctrine and standards of conduct aren't important
 - (b) Experience is important
 - (c) Bible not a divinely inspired book of instruction
 - i) Human interpretation of man's religious experience
 - ii) Scriptures are not the final authority for faith and practice
 - iii) *Living religious experience is the final authority
 - iv) EXPERIENTIAL - we have to experience something in order to know it is true

5. The Development of Destructive Criticism
 - a) *These new philosophies opened the door to destructive criticism of the Bible
 - (1) Protestant scholars began to abandon the belief that the Bible is divinely inspired, infallible, inerrant - God's revelation to man
 - (2) Human record of man's religious consciousness
 - (a) Some records of historical value
 - (b) Contain widely differing concepts of God and His will for man
 - (c) Contain legends, fictional stories, errors, contradictions
 - b) Scholars begin to evaluate the Bible like any other piece of literature
 - (1) *Question reliability of the Old Testament
 - (a) Creation, flood, development of Israel
 - (2) *Gospels didn't present an accurate record of the true Jesus of history
 - (3) Miracles were rejected - unauthentic
 - (4) *A future theocratic kingdom was either rejected or interpreted incorrectly
 - c) Satan was desperately trying to discredit the Bible
 - (1) It records his rebellion and defeat
 - (2) Attacks portions that record his origin, man's origin, the promise of his fall, the coming Redeemer, a future theocratic kingdom, miraculous powers that the Redeemer possesses that will enable Him to destroy his kingdom and establish God's everlasting kingdom

6. The Rise of Commercialism
 - a) The Bible is under attack
 - (1) Science and new discoveries and inventions is on the rise
 - (2) Industrial Revolution - mass production of goods
 - b) Man now has THINGS - abundant material things
 - c) *Mammon is the new god and materialism their philosophy of life
 - d) Satan used commercialism to get man absorbed in temporal things
 - e) No time to think about God or his own destiny after this life

7. The Birth of Communism

- a) Commercialism brought grave injustices
 - (1) Working people were exploited
 - (2) Employers made themselves wealthy at others' expense
 - (3) Got so bad that a revolution was at hand - change the social order
 - (4) *Karl Marx published his Communist Manifesto (1848) and Das Capital (1867)
- b) Marx believe that history is controlled by economic factors - class conflict
 - (1) Everything is a result of economic struggle between workers and capitalists
 - (2) Religion is a product of economic forces
 - (a) Capitalists use concepts of punishment and reward in the hereafter
 - (b) Use the to persuade workers to accept quietly their lot in life
 - (3) *Marx believed that religion was the opiate of the people therefore religion needed to be destroyed
- c) Springboard for communism
 - (1) *Waged war against the Bible, church, existence of God, human sin, divinely revealed moral absolutes
 - (2) Substituted materialistic atheism and hope of a future man-made utopia on earth
 - (a) Communistic society
 - i) every man produces according to his ability
 - ii) Shares in the goods of society according to his needs
 - (b) Counterfeit hope that was substituted for belief in the future theocratic kingdom

8. The Impact of the *Evolutionary Theory

- a) *Darwin's Origin of Species - 1859
 - (1) Supposed evidence for gradual evolution of living things from simpler to more complex forms
 - (a) Reasonable explanation - to humanistic mindset
 - (b) Process of natural selection - survival of the fittest
 - (2) THEORY - to account for origin of human race

- b) Theory was applied to religion as well as biology and shook the Christian world
 - (1) *Man evolved from lower forms of life
 - (a) Removed Biblical view that man was created by God
 - (2) *Set back the date of man's origins by millions of years
 - (a) Raised doubts on Judaeo-Christian influence in history
 - (3) Questioned Biblical account of fall of man
 - (a) *Caused new definition of sin
 - (b) Sin is merely a remnant of animal instinct in man
 - (4) New concept of sin led to new views concerning redemption
 - (a) No need of a redeemer dying as a substitute to pay penalty of man's sin
 - (b) Jesus was not the Redeemer making atonement
 - (c) *Redemption is a gradual process of educating man to overcome his animal instincts
 - (5) Portrayed Christianity, Bible, concept of God as products of a *development of man's religious consciousness
 - (a) When looking at Christianity to non-Christian religions - it isn't that one is absolute truth as opposed to error
 - (b) Various religions are just different stages of development of man's religious insights
 - (6) Since religion is in continual state of development - there are no such thing as *moral absolutes that are binding on all men for all times
 - (a) Good conduct is merely actions deemed suitable by each generation for the conduct of society
- c) Evolutionary theory caused *2 different mental attitudes among those who accepted it
 - (1) *Despair
 - (a) Impossible to reconcile the horrible struggle and waste of the process with a good and sovereign Creator
 - i) *Destroyed belief in God
 - ii) *Everything exists and operates purely by chance
 - iii) *No intelligent purpose for life and the existence of man
 - (b) One evolutionist's quote

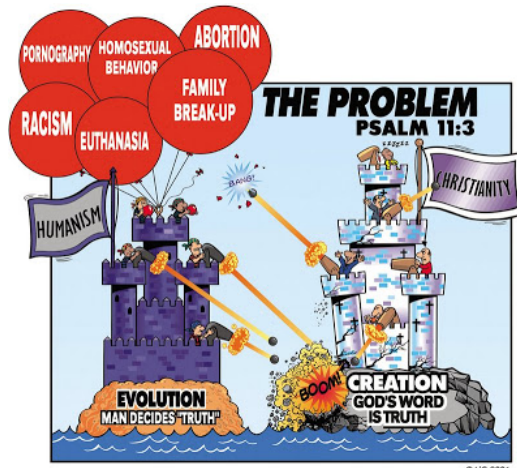
- i) “Man is the result of purposeless and materialistic process that did not have him in mind. He was not planned. He is a state of matter, a form of life, a sort of animal, and a species of the Order Primates, akin nearly or remotely to all of life and indeed to all that is material.”
- (2) *Optimism - for many 1800’s Protestants
 - (a) *Evolution was a process that God used to create and maintain life
 - (b) God works within the natural process instead of by miraculous intervention
 - (c) Idea that God is everywhere present in nature
 - (d) *Rejected Biblical concept of a perfect order coming through the direct intervention of God in the establishment of His future, theocratic kingdom
 - (e) *Substituted idea that world would become increasingly better through human effort (Mt 5:17-20 - righteousness needs to exceed that of the Pharisees - who thought they could make themselves righteous in their own power)
- (3) Satan is attacking Christian foundations on many fronts

9. The Divine Counteraction During the Nineteenth Century

- a) Satan attacks with
 - (1) Faulty philosophies
 - (2) Destructive criticism
 - (3) Commercialism
 - (4) Communism
 - (5) Evolution
- b) God counters - *missionary activity
 - (1) Mission boards in both America and England
 - (a) Gospel taken into India, China, Africa, others
 - (b) William Carey, David Livingstone, Adoniram Judson
 - (2) *Second Awakening
 - (3) *Schools/Colleges raised up - Andover and Princeton
 - (a) Train men in true faith
 - (b) Many men came forth to evangelize and souls were won for the Lord

10. The Philosophy of Ritschl

- a) *Albrecht Ritschl - 1822-1889
 - (1) He influenced Protestant thinking
 - (2) His belief was grounded in religious experience
 - (a) *Christianity isn't doctrine
 - (b) Daily practice of life
- b) *Emphasized love of God
 - (1) Suppressed the concepts of God's holiness and justice
 - (2) Denied divine wrath
 - (3) Rejected the idea of original sin and the doctrine of the punishment of the lost
 - (4) Kingdom of God = the organization of humanity through action inspired by love
 - (a) Goal of religion is victory over bondage to nature
 - (b) *Developed the social gospel
 - i) Job of the church to tackle social problems
 - (1) Social justice
 - (2) Economic inequality
 - (3) Poverty
 - (4) Alcoholism
 - (5) Crime
 - (6) Racial tensions
 - (7) Slums
 - (8) Poor schools
 - (9) Child labor
 - ii) Job of the church is to preach the gospel (I Cor 15)
 - iii) Change the heart - change the actions
 - (1) Trying to change the actions without a heart change is useless



VII. The Conflict from Liberal Protestantism Through Denial of a Personal God

A. Further Apostasy of the Modern Era

1. *The Principles of Liberal Protestantism

- a) Satan has turned much of the Protestant church apostate
 - (1) Liberal thinking reached peak early 20th century
 - (2) Scientific, philosophical, economic, and political thought clouded pure doctrine
 - (a) *Reinterpreted Scripture and gospel to make it more palatable to present to the masses
- b) Principles of *liberal protestantism
 - (1) Open-mindedness and *tolerance to new modes of thought toward other groups in Christendom
 - (a) Theological and denominational differences were considered insignificant
 - (2) *Confidence in the scientific method as a means of truth in material world and in Biblical criticism and history of religion
 - (3) Strong feeling against Theological dogmatism
 - (a) Men became *skeptical of obtaining sure knowledge of ultimate reality
 - (4) Emphasize similarities rather than differences
 - (a) Looked for *common features of Christianity and non-Christian religions
 - (b) Immanence of God (He is within nature - He can be what you make Him)
 - (5) Great confidence in man and his future
 - (a) *Man and his society was perfectible
 - (6) *Stressed authority of the individual, religious experience as opposed to Biblical or church authority
 - (7) *Ethical teachings of Jesus central to everything
 - (8) Criticized many traditional beliefs Protestantism
 - (a) Things that were formerly believed now were non-essential
 - (b) Belief that to accommodate new knowledge and ways
 - (9) *Liberalism became permeated with social idealism
 - (a) Church responsible for righting social wrongs

- (b) Bring social structure into conformity with the ideal kingdom of God on earth
- c) New theology developed
 - (1) *Immanence of God - assumed *unity of God and the world
 - (2) Erased distinction between infinite, perfect God and finite, corrupt world
 - (3) God is present in all the processes of nature
- d) Immanence of God colors all of liberal theology
 - (1) *No such thing as miracles
 - (2) *Man has a spark of divinity in him
 - (3) *No fall or inherited guilt - man is essentially good
 - (4) *Denies the distinction between church and world (Jude 3-4)
 - (5) De-emphasized importance of the organized church
 - (6) *Rejected eternal punishment and stressed the fulfillment of life now rather than eternity
 - (7) Since God is in everything - He can be known by every experience
- e) *Doctrine of Christ
 - (1) *Jesus was only man, being subject to error
 - (a) But as a man He raised up humanity as He allowed God to be immanent in Him
 - (2) *He was not the Redeemer that Paul and the church had hoped for
 - (a) Great teacher of ethics giving a great example of how man can allow God to become immanent in him
 - (3) Rules out possibility of God entering a person's life at the moment of conversion
 - (a) Every person is born with God in him
 - (b) Conversion is simply a matter of teaching a child to be like Christ
 - (4) Because God is immanent in every person - *faith and practice is by our own reason, conscious, and intuition
 - (a) Nothing is authoritative for a person unless it is meaningful to him personally
 - (b) Each person is his own authority

(c) *There are no absolutes of faith and conduct to which all men are responsible - Judges 21:25 - did what was right in his own eyes

2. *Development of the Social Gospel

a) *Commercialism had produced many social injustices but also brought optimism as it peaked before WWI

(1) Belief was transformation of society was achievable

(2) *Man preached social change - became the social gospel

b) The churches primary concern was this world

(1) *Divert efforts from salvation of individuals to salvation of society

(2) Church should bring the kingdom of God to earth instead of teaching about a future, theocratic kingdom to be established by Jesus Christ

(3) Reconstruct the entire society with the ethical teachings of Jesus

c) Teach that the immanence of God is the *basis of social oneness

(1) Since God is immanent in all men - He is Father of all - all men are brothers

(2) Christ's redeeming work was a battle abasing religious bigotry, political power, injustice, mob action, class contempt

(a) *Church was to save the world not be saved out of the world

(3) Satan perverted the true gospel and much of the Protestant church bought into this perversion

3. The Divine Counteraction of Liberal Protestantism

a) While Satan was busy perverting the gospel, *God was busy raising up truth

(1) Men - Dwight L Moody, R.A. Torrey, Billy Sunday

(2) *Bible and prophetic conferences were held at numerous places

(3) *Grounded Christians in the basic doctrines of Christianity and confirm their hope in the 2nd coming of Christ to establish His kingdom

- b) *As schools yielded to the liberal teachings - God raised up new ones
 - (1) Bible school movement
 - (2) Schools, colleges, and seminaries were begun
 - c) *1909 2 Christian laymen financed publication of a set of volumes that defended the basic Christian beliefs
 - (1) *"The Fundamentals"
 - (2) Hundreds of thousands were sent to church leaders all over the world
 - (3) *The ones that defended these doctrines were called fundamentalists
 - (4) Publication of the Scofield Reference Bible - explanatory notes - emphasized the hope of the future theocratic kingdom
 - (a) *Also can see the evolutionary teachings infiltrating - <https://www.studydrive.net/commentaries/eng/srn/genesis-1.html>
 - (b) Always need to be careful - diligent to check out what and who you are learning from
 - d) 1918-1931 - fundamentalists challenged the growing liberals in several major protestant denominations
 - (1) Modernist-Fundamentalist controversies within various church groups
 - (2) As various denominations went liberal, fundamentalists withdrew and began new denominational and interdenominational groups
4. *The Birth of the Ecumenical Movement
- a) *A movement toward unity within Protestantism
 - (1) People were disturbed by contrast between Biblical statements about Christian unity and the divided state of the Protestant church
 - (2) Liberalism de-emphasized importance of theology
 - (3) Desire to end confusion and duplication of efforts caused by church divisions on the mission field
 - (4) *Social gospel advocates wanted a united expression of concern about the ethical and social issues of the modern world

- (5) Youth and student movements
 - (a) Young people expressed their impatience with the differences that divided Christendom
 - b) *Federal Council of Churches formed in 1908
 - (1) Its purpose was to
 - (a) Be a central area for Protestant action on social problems
 - (b) Opportunity for denominations to understand each other better through calm discussion of their differences
 - (c) Facilitate cooperation on the mission field
 - (2) At first - interdenominational cooperation on a worldwide scale rather than merger of all bodies into one
5. *The Development of Neoorthodoxy
- a) Horrors of WW I crippled the social gospel concept of perfecting man and society
 - (1) Optimism didn't agree with reality
 - (2) War had demonstrated corruption instead of the inherent goodness of man
 - (3) Needed to rethink liberal Protestant theology
 - (a) 1918 - new theological movement began in western Europe
 - (b) Spread to America and dominated Protestant thinking
 - b) *Began as severe criticism of the fallacies of liberal theology
 - (1) Movement stressed
 - (a) *Sovereignty, transcendence, wrath, and judgment of God as well as His mercy and love
 - i) God was infinitely above and supreme have the world (Instead of immanence - He is in the world)
 - (b) *Christ was more than just a man
 - i) He was God come to man
 - ii) Truly God, truly man
 - (c) *Sinfulness of man
 - i) Sin deeply rooted in man
 - ii) Only a redeeming act of God can overcome it
 - (d) *Bible was final authority for faith and practice is not religious experience

- (2) Conclusion
 - (a) *Church is obligated to speak against social evils
 - (b) *Social order cannot be transformed into the kingdom of God on earth
 - (c) Sounded like orthodoxy (adherence to correct or accepted creeds of the early church) - Neo orthodoxy
- c) *Sounded good but perversion rears its ugly head
 - (1) Used language of orthodoxy but gave language unorthodox meanings
 - (a) Final authority for faith and practice is not the Bible
 - i) God has never given divine revelation through declared statements of truth
 - (b) *Final authority is the revelation of Himself that God gives to an individual when He encounters God personally
 - i) No divine revelation is the same for all men
 - ii) God reveals different things to different people
 - iii) If God speaks to a person through a passage of the Bible - then that becomes the word of God for that person
 - iv) If the Bible doesn't speak to a person - then it isn't the Word of God to him
 - (1) God has to speak to the person directly to the person in the Word or in nature
 - (2) There is no objective revelation (doctrinal truths) of God in the Bible or in nature
- (2) Other beliefs
 - (a) *Believed that original Scriptures contained errors
 - (b) Biblical accounts of creation, the fall, last judgment are not actual, historical events
 - i) *Myths
 - ii) Symbolic ways to present truths not able to be expressed any other way
 - iii) *Fall was not a once for all - past event - brought sin to all men - but a turning away from God - something that can be continually lost and then come back again

iv) Kingdom of God will be established by God and not man but it is beyond history - the future, theocratic kingdom is just a symbol

(1) Purpose is to picture a divine purpose for history

(2) Promising final victory over evil beyond history
(on this earth)

d) Neoorthodoxy opposed numerous liberal teachings

(1) Continued others

(2) Used Biblical language to express unbiblical concepts leading to even more deceptive teachings in Satan's continued battle against God's kingdom

6. The Denial of a Personal God

a) *Satan knows that the best way to establish his kingdom is to get people to deny the existence of God

(1) Needs to move man to reject all divine revelation

(2) Used one philosophy after another to move man in that direction

(a) Rationalism - world operates purely on natural basis with no intervention of God

(b) Empiricism - ruled out belief in truths that comes by revelation

(c) Deism - denied existence of all special revelation in the world

(d) Kant - no knowledge of God through revelation

(e) Hegel - cast doubt about the record of God's actions in the world being true

(f) Schleiermacher - final authority for faith and practice comes through experience not revelation

(g) Destructive criticism - rejected the Bible as infallible, inerrant, supernatural revelation of God to man

(h) Commercialism - took man's thoughts away from God and spiritual things to focus on materialism

(i) Communism - belief in God detrimental to man

(j) Evolution - denied the necessity of God to explain the existence of man and his world

(k) Ritschl - final authority in experience rather than in revelation

- (l) Science - gave man confidence that he could solve his own problems apart from God
- (m) Liberal Protestantism - equated God with nature
- (n) Social gospel - man could establish the kingdom of God on earth without supernatural intervention of God
- (o) Neoorthodoxy - taught that there is no objective way that man can learn about God
- b) All these movements eroded the foundation of Christianity
 - (1) *Accomplished the work of getting man to reject God and His revelation
 - (2) When WW I came the disease remained hidden
 - (a) There was still an outer shell of belief intact
 - (b) *Paid lip-service to God - but in practice *acted as if God did not exist
- c) Through the 20th century
 - (1) *Satan used tragic situations to chip away at faith
 - (a) *Revealing man's growing disbelief in a personal God
 - i) Brutality of modern warfare
 - ii) Failure of the League of Nations to maintain peace
 - iii) Economic hardships - depression in the 20's and 30's
 - iv) Annihilation of Jews by Nazi Germany
 - v) Death and destruction of WW II
 - vi) Threat of nuclear holocaust
 - vii) Injustice of racism
 - viii) Conflicts with Korea and Vietnam
 - ix) Assassinations of key leaders
 - x) Middle East crisis
 - xi) Claim of future cataclysmic results of pollution and population
 - xii) Genocide
 - (b) *Conclusion to most people - man is alone in his predicament
 - (2) *Because man has rejected Biblical truth that these situations are caused by his own rebellion against God
 - (a) *He has difficulty understanding human misery, tragedy, immorality
 - (b) Human suffering does exist

- i) *There is no good personal God
- ii) *If there is a God, He has no relevance for this world or mankind
- (3) *Man sees life only from the material perspective - idea of a person God is dead

7. *Examples of the Denial

- a) From WW I to end of 20th century denial of God's existence expressed
 - (1) Secular atheists badly proclaimed denial of God's existence
 - (a) *Made attempts to have all public expressions of belief in God banned from society
 - (b) Madalyn Murray O'Hair - got US Supreme Court to abolish Bible reading and prayer in schools in 1963
- b) God Is Dead movement in 1960's
 - (1) United Kingdom and America
 - (2) *Thomas JJ Altizer said that the world can't move into utopian age until all mankind acknowledges that the God of the Bible is dead
- c) Theologians lectured and wrote about God
 - (1) Not a personal divine being
 - (2) Paul Tillich - taught at Union Theological Seminary in NY, Harvard, and University of Chicago
 - (a) One of America's foremost 20th century theologian
 - (b) *Claimed God is the impersonal source of all being - not an existing being
- d) 1970's - philosophy professor interviewed
 - (1) Do you believe in a creator God?
 - (2) There was such a God.
 - (3) Past tense? He no longer exists?
 - (4) That is what I believe
 - (5) What happened to Him if He did exist?
 - (6) *God decided to create the universe through a big bang. He got too close to it. It killed Him. He went out of existence and the universe came into existence

- e) German theologian and professor of Early Christianity, Gerd Ludemann wrote, “with the last of my strength I pushed God himself down into the mire and at last became free . . . So I prefer from now on to develop a purely human view of religion without having the legitimate myself by a higher authority which theologians call God.”
- f) Several humanist manifestoes were written
 - (1) 1973 - Humanist Manifesto II - “We find *insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the survival and fulfillment of the human race. As non theists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity”

VIII. The Conflict from Human Despair Through the Move Toward Globalism

A. The Results of Denial of God's existence caused by man's rejection of divine revelation has brought great consequences to the world

1. *Human Despair

- a) Found expression in art, literature, music, philosophy, and some forms of theology around end of WW I
 - (1) God created man with a need for a personal relationship with Him for meaning and purpose in life
 - (2) *Denial of a personal God who controls history produced a spiritual vacuum inside people
 - (3) *Man concluded there is no good purpose for history of one's life
 - (4) Society seems to be falling apart in disorder and conflict
 - (a) Everything exists and happens by purposeless unintelligent chance
 - (b) *No rhyme or reason to our present existence
- b) *Man tries desperately to find meaning in the wrong places
 - (1) Alcohol, drugs
 - (2) materialism, constant entertainment, music
 - (3) Fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism
 - (4) Witchcraft, spiritism, Satan worship, occult, astrology, mysticism, transcendental meditation, yoga, false religions,
 - (5) Satan offers many things to fill the void and bring people under his influence
 - (a) *When these don't bring meaning and purpose
 - (b) *People have turned to suicide
 - (6) The Bible states, *"Vanity of vanities; all is vanity (Ecc 1:2)

2. Denial of *Moral Absolutes

- a) Denial of God's existence leads to denial of absolutes
 - (1) If there is no God, there is no one to hold man accountable or responsible - there is no one who will judge them (future)
 - (2) Moral absolutes must have been developed by man long ago and no longer relevant to today

- (a) If man originated absolutes than man can change them, reject them, or ignore them
- (b) Morality is relative to the time and circumstance of the individual - according to Humanist Manifesto II
 - i) "We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and situational needing no theological sanction."
- b) Rejection of moral absolutes is beneficial
 - (1) 1960's God-is-dead theologian Thomas J.J. Altizer
 - (a) For the world to move forward into a utopian age, mankind must reverse all the morality taught in the Bible
 - (b) Biblical morality is satanic
 - (2) 1970's Professor Charles A. Reich of Yale
 - (a) The use of drugs, sexual permissiveness, pornography, despising productive work may help usher in the new utopian age
- c) *Society has experienced an incredible breakdown of morality
 - (1) God revealed absolutes in His Word
 - (a) Any sexual relationship outside the bonds of marriage (male to female) are immoral
 - (b) These absolutes have been redefined or totally rejected
 - (2) *Society is forced by threat of law to accept the new "morality"
 - (a) As a result society begins to crumble
 - i) Abolish spanking of children
 - ii) Capital punishment for murder
 - iii) Redefine family
 - iv) Protect propagation of adult and child pornography
 - v) Killing of the unborn or partially born babies - legalized
 - vi) Assisted suicides - people think there is no moral issues with this
 - vii) Human cloning, destruction of viable human embryos for stem-cell research
 - viii) Divorce, drunkenness, illegitimacy, free use of drugs - epidemic

- ix) Obscene language, immodest dress, public displays of nudity, stealing, lying, cheating and even sadomasochistic sex are condoned
 - x) Permissiveness and lack of discipline is everywhere
 - xi) A person who was victim to a violent crime asked, “how America could have deteriorated so quickly from a stable and orderly world into our current chaos of fatherlessness, illegitimacy, divorce, violence, deviancy, and anything-goes morality”
 - d) God created man in His own image
 - (1) Man was given greater dignity than any other earthly creature
 - (2) As a result of rejecting God, man is losing his human *dignity through immorality
 - (3) Man praises this moral “freedom” but man has become a slave to lusts
 - e) Breakdown of morality is repeat of what the Gentiles experienced
 - (1) *Rom 1:18-32 - talks about the willful rejection of a true and living God
 - (2) Man turned to false religions and God judged them by turning them over to their shameful passions and reprobate mind
 - (a) This led to break down of family
 - (b) Breakdown of society
 - (3) Judgment comes when man rejects God
3. *Denial of Objective Truth
- a) Since there is no God, there is no objective truth that is binding on all men (define)
 - (1) God of the Bible is the God of truth - Ps 31:5; Is 65:16
 - (2) What God has given to mankind (His Word) is truth - Ps 119:160; Jn 17:17; II Tim 2:15
 - (3) *To deny God is to deny truth - therefore man decides what truth is relevant for himself
 - (a) What is true for one person is not truth for another
 - (b) Truth is subjective and relative
 - b) 1969 book written for public school teachers

(1) “We now know that each man creates his own unique world, that he, and he alone, generates whatever reality he can ever know . . . Among other things, this means that no man can ever be absolutely certain of anything. The best anyone can ever do is to say how something appears to him. The cosmos offers no absolute confirmations.”

4. *Denial of an Objective Standard of Right and Wrong

a) So there is no objective standard of right and wrong

- (1) Therefore you can't tell someone that what they have done is right or wrong
- (2) You certainly can't tell someone that their lifestyle is wrong - even though it may cause premature death
- (3) Can't tell teenagers that they should abstain from sex until marriage
- (4) You can't impose your standards on someone else
- (5) This denial of objective truth is propagated through values clarifications courses in grade schools, colleges, universities, seminaries, internet, publications, music, and entertainment

b) 1970's public school 6th grade values clarification course text book

- (1) Inside the book 3 large symbols, swastika of Naziism, cross of Christianity, hammer and sickle of communism
- (2) Question - which one of these is right?
- (3) 1st half of book stated
 - (a) No one can say which is right since there is no objective standard which a person can evaluate what is right and what is wrong
- (4) Middle of book
 - (a) There was a quotation from the 10 commandments
- (5) Last half of the book
 - (a) Indicated that people who believe the 10 commandments as a standard of right and wrong are out of touch with reality

c) Scholastic, Inc published books for school children

- (1) Began targeting Christian schools and parents with books related to faith

- (a) Some books are descent
- (b) Conversations With God for Teens
 - i) Presents questions that teenagers might ask God and then gives what the author imagines would be God's answers
 - ii) "Some of the kids are cheating in class, and on tests. They want me to join them. But I know cheating is wrong."
 - iii) God's answer - "There is no such thing as 'right' and 'wrong' as we discussed earlier. There is only what 'works' and what 'doesn't work,' given what you are trying to do."
- d) As a result of this teaching to our children
 - (1) Students come out of college and find it impossible to conclude that such things as human sacrifice and Nazi killing of millions of people are morally wrong
 - (2) Their moral relativism is intensified as the college propagates the post-modern denial of any objective truth

5. *Growing Spirit of Anarchy or Lawlessness

- a) There is no God, there are no absolutes, there is no right or wrong
 - (1) Irritation about external restraints being place on their desires or conduct
 - (2) If there is no God ruling over man to judge human conduct, then other people or institutions can't do that either
 - (3) *Each individual should be free to do what is right in their own eyes whenever and however they feel like it
 - (4) Charles Darwin
 - (a) "A man who has no assured and no present belief in the existence of a personal God or a future existence with retribution and rewards, can have for his rule of life, as far as I can see, only to follow those impulses and instincts which are strongest or which seem to him the best ones."

b) *Result

- (1) *People are acting more like spoiled, pampered children who throw violent temper tantrums if they can't have what they want when they want
- (2) *Road rage on highways
- (3) Passenger rage on airplanes
- (4) *Killing of parents by children
- (5) Violence in schools
- (6) Killing fellow workers and bosses by fired workers
- (7) *Drug related violence on the streets, neighborhoods, or homes
- (8) If there is no objective standard for determining right or wrong then on what basis can a society or individual conclude that these kinds of violent acts are wrong and should be stopped?

6. New Concept of Tolerance

a) Denial of objective truth or standard of right and wrong forces a society to accept a new concept of tolerance

(1) Historic view of tolerance

- (a) People who have differing opinions and practices are to live together peacefully
- (b) Have a right to believe that a contrary opinion or practice is wrong and openly express that belief
- (c) They do not have the right to threaten, terrorize, physically harm those who disagree

(2) *New concept of tolerance

- (a) The belief or expression of an opinion or practice of a person or group is wrong = hate crime - punishable by law
- (b) Powerful groups pressure state and national governments make this new concept law - passing *antihate bills
- (c) *These proposed bills are to outlaw freedom of belief and speech
- (d) Passing these bills have potential to turn states and nations into police states comparable to those adopted during the times of the Inquisition and communism

- b) England
 - (1) Police are sitting in restaurants listening for bigoted conversation
 - (a) 1st week of “Operation Napkin” - one man arrested for unacceptable table talk
 - (b) Official British report proposed criminalizing racist remarks made in the family home
- c) Boy Scouts of America
 - (1) Assistant scout master publicly revealed he was a homosexual
 - (2) Scouts asked for his resignation
 - (3) Homosexuality violated the Scout Oath to be “morally straight” and the values that the Scouts wished to develop in boys
 - (4) Result
 - (a) United Way and many other big supporters of the Scouts withdrew their financial support
 - (b) Evicted from public facilities as meeting places
 - (c) Widely denounced in media
 - (d) Forced to defend themselves in court
 - (e) NJ Supreme Court ruled against them but the US Supreme Court ruled in their favor 5-4 (freedom of speech)
- d) *Consequences
 - (1) Businesses, education, and other institutions
 - (a) Require all employees, faculty, and students to attend minority, gender, and gay *sensitivity training
 - (2) *Impacted what elementary school children are taught in public schools
 - (3) *Sex education course now taught to elementary school children regarding homosexuality and lesbianism as legitimate lifestyles
 - (a) Part of this teaching is detailed sexual instruction
 - (b) One author states that the effort to teach this so-called tolerance for those whose “lifestyle” may be different has resulted in a number of crimes against the young

7. *Women's Liberation Movement
 - a) *Attempt to annul distinctive roles and appearances for God ordained sexes (male and female)
 - b) Since there is no God who created uniquely male and female, then traditional distinctions and roles are man made
 - (1) Made by men to keep women in subjection
 - (2) Since man was the source, man may reject or change these distinctions
 - c) Led to major changes in the workplace
 - (1) Women now in leadership positions (usually held by men)
 - (2) Women are in key positions in executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government
 - (3) They have become chairpersons of departments, board members and presidents of colleges and universities
 - (4) Author and editor Midge Decter states
 - (a) "Even at its mildest, however, the women's movement demands that women be given the right to seek freedom by redefining sex, marriage, motherhood, and career in whatever way they find the least psychologically and physically burdensome to themselves
 - (b) "Ideally the movement would impose regulations without end on all the relations between men and women, and boys and girls, in every day life . . . has managed to impose regulations aplenty."
 - d) *Feminist educators at universities
 - (1) Overhaul every campus department and curriculum to be "woman-friendly"
 - (2) Require every academic department to hold annual seminars on gender issues
 - (3) Require all faculty and students to undergo gender sensitivity training
 - (4) Require all teaching style to be "woman friendly"
 - (5) Forbid curriculum from being overrepresented by men
 - (6) Modify traditional academic freedom
 - (7) Punish noncomplying teachers with denial of promotions, raises, and other benefits

- e) *In the military
 - (1) US Army tried mixed gender training for 5 years
 - (a) Abandoned it as a failure in 1982
 - (b) Feminist political pressure caused it to be reinstated in 1994
 - (c) Basic training had to be reconfigured so that anybody can get through - in response to women's high injury rates and inability to meet the old standards
 - (2) Pentagon had to lower standards, institute double standards, and redefine basic training success in what women did well
 - (a) Women who do not perform as well as a male in a physical task, receive equal or higher scores than the male
 - (b) Fake scores and degradation of basic training are a disaster for the military
 - (c) Mixed gender training has nothing to do with combat readiness - it is politics and a desire to show absolute equality even where it doesn't or can't exist
- f) *Male bashing
 - (1) Used to be a certain amount of good-natured teasing between sexes
 - (a) Now even the most innocent remark about a woman can get you in trouble - hate crime arena
 - (b) There is no limit about what a woman can say about a man and there is no penalty
 - (2) Humorous and non humorous hostile comments about men grow with very little objection
 - (a) Media hints that women who have been jilted may want to consider violent action against the man
 - (b) Antimale greeting cards - increasing hostility toward men
 - i) One shows a woman suffocating a man to death
 - (3) Anthropologist Lionel Tiger claims
 - (a) "The long campaign of public denunciation of men by activist women is not encouraging men to take more responsibility. The fact is that it's not that easy being a guy these days."

- (b) Birth control gave woman sexual freedom from having to be bound to one male in marriage throughout life and “placed into question existing moral and religious systems that focused on controlling sexual behavior.”
- (c) Good paying careers have made it possible for women to be free from dependence on a husband as a provider
- g) Combination of all these things
 - (1) Men have less control of the impact of the own sexuality
 - (2) Question the purpose of their role in society
 - (3) More men are abandoning their role of being a good provider and real fathers for children
 - (4) Higher divorce rates
 - (5) Devastating longterm effects on children
 - (a) Daughters now being raised to take care of themselves
 - (b) *Boys are brought up with little or no value
 - i) Boys are the people most at risk from the Women’s Liberation Movement
 - ii) Worst impact on male bashing is on the young
 - iii) Being brought up to be ashamed about being male
 - iv) Story of the teacher who made “Boys are Good” t-shirts
- h) Gloria Steinem - feminist leader
 - (1) “We need to raise boys like we raise girls.”
 - (2) An effort to feminize boys
 - (3) Boys are at greatest risk in schools - being threatened, beaten, verbally abused by female students and teachers - if they defend themselves or talk back - held to a hate crime
- i) Feminist minded educators have constructed school philosophies of education, curriculum, and activities contrary to the abounding energy and competitive nature of boys
 - (1) Anti-competition bias
 - (a) Classroom competitions out
 - (b) Dodge ball is out
 - (c) Spelling bees are much less frequent
 - (d) Play sports and don’t keep score
 - (2) This is not the way boys are programed

- (a) Boys need to work side by side to develop friendships
not sit in circle and talk about feelings
- (b) Competition builds leadership
- (c) Boys need to be raised to be boys
- j) *Religious feminists
 - (1) Jesus' male successors overthrew His teaching
 - (2) Created a "males-only" power structure in the church
 - (3) Causing radical changes in the realm of theology
 - (a) By 1989 - 84 Christian denominations had ordained women pastors
 - (b) First female bishop appointed in 1989 in the Anglican Communion
 - (c) Some feminists insist that a woman can't be saved by a male Savior
 - i) Adopted a new crucifix
 - ii) Nude woman named Christa nailed to the cross
 - (4) Rejecting terms like mankind
 - (a) Redefining
 - i) Creator = Mother
 - ii) Redeemer = Lover
 - iii) Comforter = Friend
 - (b) God is referred to a she
 - (c) New Woman's translation of the Bible or genderless Bibles
 - (5) Goal = thorough and comprehensive transformation of language, symbols, and sacred texts - therefore changing faith itself
- k) Nov 1993 - 2,100 women (female theologians, 24 Presbyterian Church (USA) national staff members, 56 top United Methodist officials attended a *"Re-Imagining conference"
 - (1) Denounced the Christian church and its teachings as the source of racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, human violence, and environmental destruction
 - (2) Negative comments about the names "Jesus, Father, Son, Holy Spirit"
 - (3) Ridiculed the blood atonement
 - (4) Expressed pantheism

- (5) Celebrated lesbianism
- (6) Called to reinvent family
- (7) Replace communion with a service of milk and honey devoted to “Our maker, Sophia”
- (8) The leader sang “Our mother, Sophia, we are women in your image.” The crowds response, “Sophia Creator God, let your milk and honey flow, Sophia, Creator God, Shower us with your love.”
- (9) Sophia is Greek for wisdom - worship of this woman is going back to the pagan worship of their fertility goddesses

8. *Push for Unity

- a) *Denial of God’s existence and divine revelation of truth has led to the growing conviction that the goal of mankind should be unity (remember that is how Satan can more easily lead people astray is as a unit)
 - (1) 2 world wars brought massive destruction and loss of life
 - (2) Genocide against various ethnic groups
 - (3) Multinational forces intervened in other wars
 - (a) Korean, Vietnam
 - (b) Gulf War
 - (c) Bosnia and Kosovo
 - (4) Nuclear weapons - doomsday weapons
 - (5) Cold War continually threaten global destruction
 - (6) 2001 - terrorism and Islamic threats
- b) Since there is continuous conflicts, there is no God to intervene - man must solve the problem
 - (1) Humanist Manifesto II states “No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.”
 - (2) Only way to save himself is to unite all humanity into a human community
 - (a) Movement toward a one-world government and one-world church (one religion)
 - (b) All differences of opinion and convictions that divide man must be abolished
- c) *United Nations - forum where nations could solve differences without war

- d) In religious world - *ecumenical movement pushes towards organizational merger into one body instead of interdenominational cooperation
 - (1) *World Council of Churches formed in 1948
 - (a) Protestant denominations have been combining
 - (b) Orthodox Church has been part of the ecumenical movement for decades
 - (c) Roman Church is coming into this as well
 - (d) Trend is to form a single world church
 - (e) Some dream of an eventual union of all religions
- e) Make a symbol out of Jesus Christ to support drive for unity, radical change of social order
 - (1) Since there is no God, then Jesus wasn't God incarnate
 - (2) There is no divinity in Him, just His perfect humanity
 - (3) As a perfect man, Jesus showed compassion for people
 - (4) He is the ideal of humanity = a symbol of human social concern

9. Religious Pluralism - Move Toward One-World Religion

- a) Since there is no God and divine revelation - widespread spirit of religious pluralism
 - (1) *In religion, there are no theological absolutes
 - (2) All dogmas and religions are man-made and are relative
 - (3) The idea that there is one true faith needs to be rejected - these ideas are divisive
 - (4) All religions are to be respected and regarded as equal
- b) *Many feel that there needs to be one unified church
 - (1) Since all are equal there is no problem merging them all
 - (2) Bring them all together to unify mankind and bring peace and harmony to the world
 - (3) Laying foundation for the harlot religious system (Rev 17-18) and the one-world religion of the Antichrist worship that will destroy and replace the harlot system
- c) *This system has brought hostility and persecution to evangelical Christians around the world
 - (1) Persecuting groups
 - (a) Communist governments of China, North Korea, Vietnam

- (b) Hindus in India
- (c) Muslims in numerous nations Asia, Middle East, and Africa
- (d) Orthodox religious leaders in Eastern Europe
- (e) Roman Catholic leaders in Central and South America
- (2) Christians are forbidden to gather for worship, distribute Christian literature and Bibles, witness to non-Christians
- (3) Offenders are arrested, imprisoned, threatened, tortured, mutilated, killed
 - (a) Others are forced to flee from homes, can't work
 - (b) Women and children are kidnapped and sold into slavery
 - (c) Christian women and girls are raped
 - (d) Churches and homes destroyed
 - (e) Christian hospitals and schools are bombed

10.*Denial of Man's Sin Nature

- a) Denial of man's sin nature has emerged
 - (1) Since there is no God, there was never original rebellion against Him
 - (2) Story of the fall is a myth
 - (3) *Man doesn't have a corrupt nature
 - (4) Man still has some instincts from his lower lifeforms from which he evolved
 - (5) As evolution continues - *man will overcome more of his animal instincts
 - (6) There will be improvement over time
- b) Leads to the false conclusion that humanity *can live together in harmony - without war, bigotry, injustice
 - (1) Just needs to be a radical change in the social order
 - (2) If one nation lays down its arms and refuses to fight all the other nations will do the same
- c) Producing major results
 - (1) Man believes that he is following great wisdom
 - (2) *In truth he is blinded by Satan - the god of this age
 - (3) He is using this denial to prepare the world for his attempt to establish his kingdom on Earth
- d) *God is busy saving individuals from Satan's kingdom

- (1) God adds them to the true church - the body who have believed the gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in Scripture
- e) What should Christians be doing?
 - (1) *God has given one command to the church and He has not changed it
 - (a) *We are to evangelize the world with the pure gospel of Jesus Christ - I Cor 15:1-8
 - (b) *Ground believers in the rest of God's truth by systematically teaching them God's Word - Mt 28:19-20; Eph 4:11-12
 - (c) *Pray earnestly for God to send a great spiritual awakening empowered by the Holy Spirit and completely conformed to God's thoughts, ways, and truths

IX. The Conflict from the Rapture of the Church to Eternity Future

A. *Rapture of the True Church *

1. *There will be a time when God will *prepare Israel to return to her original place of blessing
 - a) *At that time the purpose of the true church will have been fulfilled * * * * *
 - (1) * Jesus will come in the clouds
 - (2) In a moment - a twinkling of an eye
 - b) All the * dead in Christ will rise - their bodies transformed
 - (1) Those who are true Christians still living
 - c) * They will meet Jesus in the air
 - (1) Return with Him to heaven
 - d) References
 - (1) * Jn 14:1-3
 - (2) I Cor 15:51-52
 - (3) I Thes 4:13-17
 - e) This is the rapture - the snatching up or snatching away of all believers
 - (1) Next prophetic event
 - (2) *It is imminent - there is nothing that needs to happen before this on God's prophetic timeline
2. Satan has sown many false professors of Christianity among true believers - *Matt 13:24-30, 36-43
 - a) When true church is raptured a large part of Christendom will be left
 - (1) Its membership will be from Satan's kingdom
 - b) With true believers gone these will have no trouble *uniting all of Christendom into one, great, apostate religion with its headquarters located in one great city - Rev 17

B. *The 70th Week of Daniel

1. The church will enter a unique 7-week period
 - a) *Great tribulation - Mt 24:21
 - b) 70 periods of 7 years - Dan 9:24-27
 - (1) Planned by God for Israel and Jerusalem
 - (2) 70th week of Daniel
 - (3) Others call it the Tribulation Period

2. Satan's Purposes for the Seventieth Week

a) *The permanent establishment of a visible, political form of his kingdom

(1) *He must have a king to rule this kingdom for him

(a) Man who will do what Jesus refused to do - bow down to him and allow Satan's control - Mt 4:8-10

(b) Satan will have that man ready

i) Man won't be revealed until 2 things happen - II Thes 2:3, 6-7

(1) *The apostasy (falling away) comes first

(a) There has to be a falling away from God so the world will be ready to accept Satan's man

(b) There have been limited apostasies - but there is going to be a future falling - the ultimate apostasy - The Apostasy

(c) World-wide

- When the rapture takes place - every saved person will be removed

- Instantly the entire world will be apostate because it will be exclusively unsaved people

(d) The falling away will be the result of the rapture

ii) *Man of lawlessness revealed - The restrainer will be removed

(1) Satan has worked hard throughout history but has never accomplished his desires fully

(2) Holy Spirit has restrained the activities of his kingdom continually

(3) At the rapture, the Holy Spirit will cease restraining - the world will be left in Satan's hands

(a) Then Satan's man will be revealed

(b) Antichrist by John

- propagate man's lie by denying the existence of the personal God

- deny that Jesus was God incarnate

- I Jn 2:18, 22; 4:3; II Jn 7

(c) Willful king by Daniel - Dan 11:36

- (d) Lawless one by Paul - II Thes 2:3, 8
 - continue the spirit of anarchy and lawlessness
 - tolerate no external restraints on his desires - no law except his own
 - demand that everyone does what he wants when he wants it
 - will throw tantrums and vent his wrath on anyone who opposes him
- (e) Son of perdition (state of punishment and damnation) - Paul - II Thes 2:3
 - as a son you learn/receive nature from parent - Satan
 - spiritual father will be Satan - source of all evil
 - energized and controlled by Satan - II Thes 2:9; Rev 13:4
 - his meaning and purpose will be found in Satan and Satan will make him a rock star in the world's eyes

(2) What he will do

- (a) Become the head of a revived Roman Empire
 - i) Federation of 10 divisions - Dan 2:40-43; 7:23-25; Rev 13:1; 17:12-13
 - ii) Display supernatural powers given to him by Satan
 - (1) With these he will be deceive world into believing the lie that he is the answer to all the problems - II Thes 2:8-12
 - (a) Will promise to unite humanity, bring law and order, change social order, abolish injustice and poverty, bring peace under 1 government, solve problems of pollution and population
 - (b) Will be hailed as the world's savior-messiah
 - (c) He will have absolute control
 - (2) To doubt him and his dictatorship - enemy of mankind

- (b) Ally himself with apostate religion - Rev 17
 - i) Make a 7 year covenant with Israel - guaranteeing her protection and freedom to reestablish OT worship - Dan 9:27
 - ii) Because of the promise - Israel will focus on peace
 - (1) Rebuild the temple
 - (2) Reestablish OT sacrifices
 - iii) During the first 3 1/2 years - antichrist will appear benevolent to most people in the world, the apostate church, and Israel
- (c) Will be inspired by Satan to pursue world-wide kingdom
 - i) Opposed by military power from the north
 - ii) Gog and Magog prophecy - Ez 38-39 (mid point of week)
 - (1) Destruction of this force will enable antichrist to extend his rule worldwide - wiping everyone out of his way
 - (2) With no one left to challenge authority - he will be free to do what he wants
 - (3) His beastly character will be exposed
 - (4) He will break his covenant and bring a stop of sacrifices - Dan 9:27
 - (5) Destroy apostate religion - Rev 17:16
- (d) *All other religions abolished
 - i) Erect image of himself in holy of holies of Jewish temple and declare himself as God - Dan 9:27; 11:36; Mt 24:15-27; II Thes 2:4
 - ii) He will receive worship - Rev 13:4, 8
 - iii) With his supernatural powers - world will declare him deity
 - iv) He will have another man that will be a high priest of his cult - the false prophet - Rev 16:13; 19:20
 - (1) Highly organized religious system - Rev 13:11-18
 - (2) He will become "god" for the next 3 1/2 years

- b) *The destruction of all testimony for God
 - (1) In spite of Satan's activity, God will continue to save people out of his kingdom
 - (2) Active witness for God and Christ in this world
 - (3) Satan will try to annihilate any witness and testimony of his enemy - God
 - (a) Antichrist, false prophet, and the apostate religion will make war against God's saints - Dan 7:25; Rev 13:7, 15; 17:6
 - (b) Many believers will be martyred but their witness will not cease - Rev 20:4
 - c) *The destruction of Israel
 - (1) Israel's repentance still major key to God's theocratic kingdom
 - (2) Satan will continue to try to destroy Israel
 - (a) Since time is short - he will attack with intensity - Rev 12
 - (b) Persecute Israel as never before - Mt 24:15-20
 - i) anti-Semitism worst in history
 - ii) Jeremiah calls it "Jacob's trouble" - Jer 30:4-7
 - (c) At end of 70th week - Satan will gather all the armies of world against Israel - Rev 16:13-14, 16
 - i) Threaten Israel's existence - Zech 14:1-2
 - ii) God will preserve remnant - Jer 30:7
 - d) *The gathering of the armies
 - (1) Gathering in Armageddon
 - (a) Accomplish with demonic activity - Rev 16:12-16
 - (b) At end of 7 years - Satan's time coming to end - Jesus will be coming to establish kingdom
 - (2) World will wage war with the Redeemer - Ps 2:1-3; Rev 19:19
 - (3) Satan's last effort to try to stop Jesus from setting up His kingdom
3. God's Purposes for the Seventieth Week
- a) *Salvation of many people
 - (1) God saves and seals 144,000 Jewish men
 - (a) Sent out to preach - Rev 7:2-8

- (b) Great multitudes will be saved - Rev 7:9-17
- (2) 2 witnesses - OT prophets
 - (a) Perform signs
 - (b) Prophecy of the coming theocratic kingdom - Rev 11:3-13
 - (c) Many Jews will be saved and become witnesses - Rev 12:17
- b) *Crushing the kingdom of Satan
 - (1) From fall of man to 70th week, God has allowed Satan to try to overthrow His kingdom
 - (2) God has prevented Satan from accomplishing his goal
 - (a) God will bring judgment on him and his kingdom
 - (b) Right now this is Satan's day
 - i) When antichrist appears - Satan will have his ultimate opportunity
 - ii) God will crush he and his kingdom
 - (3) Satan's opportunity will be over and God will have His day - Day of the Lord - II Thes 2:1-3
 - (a) God will pour out His judgment on the godless people and the domain of Satan - province of Satan's kingdom - Zeph 1:14-18
 - (b) Over 7 years - judgement will increase in severity
 - i) Last 3 1/2 years will be called "great tribulation" - Mt 24:21-22
 - ii) Earth will be ravaged
 - iii) Huge amounts of people destroyed
 - iv) People will learn the consequences of denying the existence of God
 - (4) Middle of 70th week - God will oust Satan from the heavens
 - (a) Cast down to earth in partial defeat - Rev 12:7-9
 - (b) Satan and cohorts will be confined to earth until the final battle
 - (c) God's kingdom is coming - Rev 11:15; 12:10
- c) *Gathering of the armies
 - (1) God will also have a hand in gathering the armies - Zeph 3:8; Zech 14:1-2; Rev 16:1, 12

(2) He will destroy the armies of godless men - Ps 2:4-12;
Joel 3:9-16

d) *Repentance of Israel

(1) God's greatest purpose of the 70th week of Daniel

(2) Israel has been in rebellion - refusing to repent

(a) Because of this - suffered great persecutions

(b) Gentile nations and their antisemitic mindsets

i) There have been other nations that have helped them

ii) During this time there will be no one to help them

(1) No refuge

(2) The whole world will hate them

(3) Whole world will be gathered to destroy them -
Zech 12:2-3

iii) She will be backed into a corner with nowhere to go

(1) She will be forced to call on God

(2) She will be forced to turn to His Messiah -
Redeemer

(a) Jesus will come out of heaven

(b) They will see the wounds of crucifixion - His
resurrected body

(c) They will repent

(d) They will mourn that they had rejected Him as
the Messiah - Zech 12:10-14

(e) God will cleanse the nation from sin - Zech
13:1

C. *The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

1. *The world is gathered at Armageddon

a) Israel has repented

b) *Jesus will come out of heaven riding on His white horse -
sign of victorious conqueror

(1) He will come with the armies of heaven

(2) He will overcome them by the word and His glory - II Thes
2:8; Rev 19:11, 16, 19

c) *Antichrist and false prophet will be cast into lake of fire to
remain forever - Rev 19:20

- d) *Kings and armies will be killed and the birds will feed on their flesh - Joel 3:9-16; Zeph 3:8; Zech 12:2-9; 14:3, 12-15; Rev 19:17-18, 21
 - e) Political and military forces of Satan - crushed
2. *Satan is bound and cast into the abyss for 1,000 years - Rev 20:1-3
 - a) Rendered inoperative during Christ's reign on this present earth
 - b) His fallen, free angels will be imprisoned with him - Is 24:21?
 - c) No influence on this earth during the theocratic kingdom
 3. * When Christ is on the earth - He will gather to Israel all the Jewish people - Dt 30:1-5; Mt 24:31
 - a) Enter into judgment with them
 - b) Any rebels left will be purged out
 - c) *Saved Jews will enter the theocratic kingdom - Ez 20:34-38; Mal 3:2-3, 5; Mt 25:1-30; Ro 11:26-27
 - (1) Thus the redeemed of Israel will live forever in the homeland that God gave to the Jewish people - never to be scattered again
 4. After Israel is judged
 - a) Gathering of Gentiles to judge
 - b) Unsaved - banished into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels?
 - c) Saved will enter the theocratic kingdom - Joel 3:1-2; Mt 25:31-46 (sheep and goats)
- D. The Nature of the Theocratic Kingdom
1. After the separation of the saved and unsaved
 - a) Jesus will establish the promised theocratic kingdom - Rev 20:4-6
 - b) *Entire world will come under the rule of Christ* - a man born of woman who will govern for God according with His divine will - Ps 2:7-8; Zech 14:9; Rev 11:15

- (1) Descendant of David - fulfill prophecy ruling on David's throne as King over Israel - Is 9:6-7; 11:1-12; Jer 23:5-8; 33:14-15; Lk 1:31-33; Acts 2:29-30; Rev 22:16
 - (2) He will rule as King of kings and Lord of lords over the Gentile nations - Ps 72:8-11; Dan 7:13-14; Zech 14:9; Rev 11:15; 19:16
 - (3) The world will be under a theocratic system
2. *Christ will reverse many of the tragic consequences on earth from original sin and judgment
 - a) Animals tame - Is 11:6-9; 65:25
 - b) Heal diseases and deformities - Is 33:24; 35:5-6
 - c) Increase lifespan of man - Is 65:20, 22
 - d) Eliminate hazards - Ez 34:25-29
 - e) Abundance of trees and fruit, fish, grain and wine - Is 55:13; Ez 47:9-12; Joel 2:21-24; Amos 9:13
 - f) Control environment for benefit of man - Ez 34:26-27
 - g) Heal the effects of pollution - Ez 47:1-12
 - h) Abolish war and injustice - Is 2:2-4; 9:6-7; 11:2-5; Jer 23:5; Micah 4:1-3; Zech 9:9-10
 - i) Regeneration, seasons of refreshing, times of restorations of all things - Mt 19:28; Acts 3:19-21
 3. *Israel will fulfill the role that God had intended - be the spiritual leader of the whole world - Ex 19:5-6
 - a) Jerusalem will be spiritual and political center of the world
 - b) All nations will come there to worship Christ and be instructed according to His ways and the Word of God - Is 2:1-4; 11:10-12; Micah 4:1-3
 - c) Gentiles will call Israel priests of the Lord and ministers of our God - Is 61:6
 - d) Every year nations will come to Jerusalem to worship Christ and keep the Feast of Tabernacles (God dwelling with His people) - Zech 14:16-19
 4. Since Israel will be spiritual leader of world in this kingdom
 - a) Couldn't establish His kingdom until they were spiritually right (repentant) with Him

- b) Jesus told His disciples to preach - Repent the kingdom of heaven is at hand - to the people of Israel - Mt 10:5-7
 - (1) Israel had to be right with God - Not Gentiles or Samaritans for God to establish His kingdom
 - c) Israel was always the key to the fulfillment of God's sovereign plan for the world - for His story
5. Saints of all previous ages of history will make up the rest of the kingdom at the beginning
- a) *No unsaved person will enter the kingdom
 - b) *The saints who survived the 70th week alive and entered the kingdom with mortal bodies will give birth to unregenerate children - Jer 30:19-20; Ez 47:22
 - (1) Many will become saved
 - (2) Others will reject Christ
 - (a) Even in near perfect conditions of the world and total absence of influence of Satan
 - (b) Demonstrate that human rebellion against God has not been result of Satan's influence, bad world conditions, invisibility of God - but man's own sinful nature
6. The unsaved will not like the iron-hand rule of Christ
- a) Irritated by absolute justice and inflexible righteousness
 - b) Christ will enforce this throughout the millennial kingdom - Is 11:3-5; 9:7
 - c) Any who rebel outwardly or sin blatantly in the open will be punished immediately with physical death - Ps 72:1-4; Is 11:4; 29:20-21; Jer 31:29-30
 - d) Many will hide their rebellion inwardly - hoping to overthrow Christ's reign
7. *Kingdom will last for 1,000 years on this present earth - Rev 19:4-6 - millennial kingdom

E. Satan's Final Attempt

1. *Satan will be released after 1,000 years
 - a) Plenty of time to think about where he went wrong
 - b) Devise a new plan of attack
 - c) Will probably think if he had 1 more chance he could beat God

2. *God will prove that He can't be overthrown
 - a) God gives Satan one more shot
 - b) Through deception Satan will gather the malcontents of the kingdom - those hiding their hatred for Christ - Rev 20:8
 - (1) Begin to make war with the saints
 - (2) God will crush the revolution by destroying them with fire - Rev 20:9
 - (3) This will be Satan and his angel's final defeat
 - (4) *Cast into hell - never again to challenge the sovereignty of God

F. The Judgment of the Unsaved

1. *All human members of Satan's kingdom from all periods of history will be resurrected from the dead
 - a) Appear before God
 - b) great, white throne judgment
2. *These are all the unrighteous - names not in the Lamb's Book of Life
 - a) Judged for their lost condition -*rejection of Christ
 - b) Cast forever into the lake of fire to suffer eternal torment - Rev 20:11-15
 - c) *Satan's entire kingdom (himself, angels, and humans) - remain in conscious judgment, totally separated from God for all eternity

G. The Destruction of Death, the Heavens, and Earth

1. Before God brings history to a close by destroying the present heavens and earth
 - a) *He will abolish death - Rev 20:14
 - b) Death is the last enemy of man - tragic consequences of man's rebellion reversed completely - I Cor 15:24-26

- (1) Having crushed Satan and his kingdom forever
 - (2) Having established His own kingdom on earth
 - (3) Having reversed the consequences of man's rebellion
 - (4) God has demonstrated that He alone is sovereign
2. His purpose for the present world is accomplished
 - a) *God will destroy the present heavens and earth which are stained with the record of rebellion
 - b) *Create a new heaven and new earth to replace them - II Pet 3:10-13; Rev 21:1

H. The Nature of the Future Eternal State

1. All angelic and human members of kingdom of God will inhabit the new heavens and new earth in eternity future
 - a) *Enjoy glorious presence and fellowship of God and Christ
 - b) *Unspeakable blessings forever
 - c) *Life without sin, death, pain, sorrow - Rev 21-22
2. *Never again will there be a rebellion against God

X. Conclusion

A. Two Questions - in a world of incredible sufferings

1. *Why did God create His personal subjects with a potential for rebellion?
 - a) Why did He give them a will of their own?
 - b) Not answered in the Bible
 - (1) Seems like God desired to enjoy fellowships-with and receiving love and worship from His creatures
 - (2) Genuine fellowship, love, and worship cannot be forced or mechanical but voluntary
 - (a) Only persons who have wills and can choose are able to offer it voluntarily
 - (b) Voluntary response involved risk - those who would rebel
 - (c) It was worth the risk to have those who loved Him completely
2. *Why does God let rebellion go on so long?
 - a) Why didn't God crush Satan as soon as he rebelled?
 - b) Bible doesn't answer that question either
 - (1) Maybe others would have seen his failure and try to execute his plan better
 - (2) God's kingdom could have been experiencing one rebellion after another
 - (3) God instead allows Satan to try every mean and method to overthrow Him, only to learn it can never work
 - (4) God alone is sovereign - any attempts to overthrow Him bring agony and defeat

B. Answers to Man's Basic Questions

1. *Where have we come from?
 - a) *We were created by the sovereign all-powerful God
2. *Why are we here?
 - a) *We are here to know Him personally
 - b) We are here to serve Him actively
 - c) We are to be witnesses of His universal kingdom

3. *Where are we going?
- a) As mankind - headed for the ultimate defeat of Satan and his kingdom and the glorious victory of God and His kingdom
 - b) *As individuals - either for eternal blessing or eternal punishment depending in whose kingdom you belong
 - (1) All have been born into Satan's kingdom - sentence of divine judgment waiting to be executed
 - (2) BUT Jesus Christ paid the full penalty for our sin - our membership can be transferred to the kingdom of God and judgment removed if we personally trust Him to be our Lord and Savior - Ro 8:1; Col 1:13-14
 - (3) Since the rule of God, the sovereign King and Judge, can't be overthrown wouldn't it be foolish to neglect so great salvation - Ps 2:10-12; He 2:1-3