

THE  
VISIONS  
OF....

....DANIEL  
AND  
JOHN....



"I SIT A  
QUEEN"  
(REV.18v7)

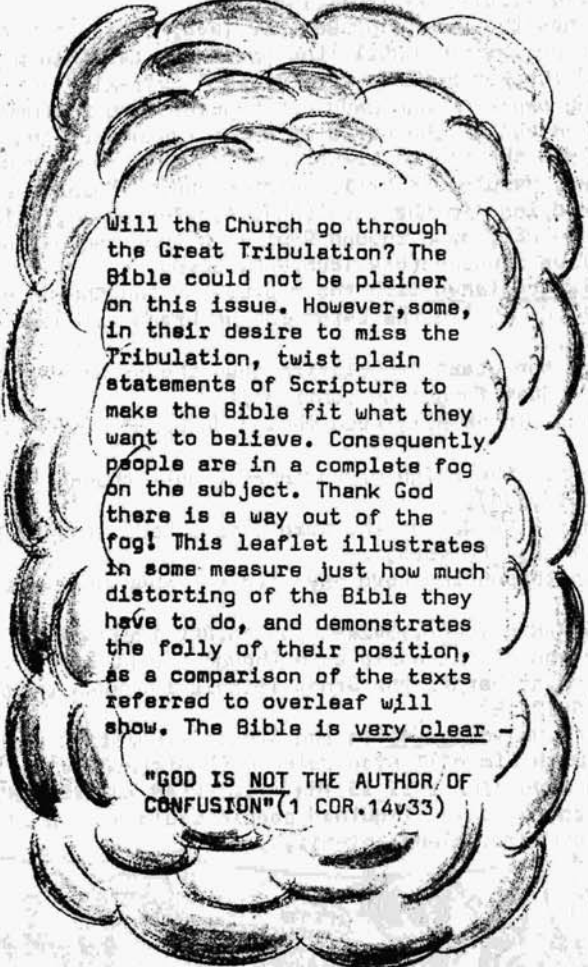


..AND  
THE  
END  
OF..



..THE  
WORLD

by  
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Will the Church go through the Great Tribulation? The Bible could not be plainer on this issue. However, some, in their desire to miss the Tribulation, twist plain statements of Scripture to make the Bible fit what they want to believe. Consequently people are in a complete fog on the subject. Thank God there is a way out of the fog! This leaflet illustrates in some measure just how much distorting of the Bible they have to do, and demonstrates the folly of their position, as a comparison of the texts referred to overleaf will show. The Bible is very clear -

"GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF  
CONFUSION" (1 COR. 14v33)

....so we can see that the Church is going to miss the Great Tribulation! Let us recap on the Scriptural proofs that we have learned:-

- (1) The Church is raptured at REV.4&5, even though it doesn't actually say so! Don't be misled by the fact that there is a resurrection of the saints after the Great Tribulation (REV.11v15-18, MAT.24v29-31, 1 COR.15v31-52).
  - (2) The LAST trumpet is not the LAST (1 COR.15v51-52, REV.11v15-18).
  - (3) The FIRST resurrection is not the FIRST (REV.20v4-5).
  - (4) The LAST day is not the LAST (JOHN 6v39, 40, 44, 11v23-24, JOB 19v25-27).
  - (5) The ELECT are not the ELECT (MAT.24v31, ROM.8v33-35, COL.3v12, etc.).
  - (6) SAINTS are not SAINTS (DAN.7v21, 22, 25, 27, REV.6v9, 8v3-4, 11v18, 13v7, 17v6, 16v6, ACTS 9v13, 32, 41, 26v10, ROM.1v7, 8v27, 12v13, 15v25, 26, 31, 16v2, 15, 1 COR.1v2, etc.).
  - (7) BRETHREN are not BRETHREN (REV.12v10-11, ACTS 11v29, ROM.1v13, 10v1, etc.).
  - (8) Those in the Lamb's Book of Life are not those in the Lamb's Book of Life (REV.13v8, 17v8, PHIL.4v3, REV.3v5).
  - (9) Those with the Testimony of Jesus are not those with the Testimony of Jesus (2TIM.1v8, REV.1v9, 1 COR.1v6, REV.1v2, 12v17, 6v9, 12v11, 19v10).
  - (10) The People of God are not the People of God (REV.18v4, HEB.4v9, 1 PET.2v10).
  - (11) The Holy Spirit is not poured out until 'the great and terrible day of the Lord' even though JOEL and PETER say so (JOEL 2v28-32, ACTS 2v16-21), and even though people of God are doing exploits and have great power from God (DAN.11v32, REV.11v3-6).
  - (12) The Holy Spirit is taken out of the world with the rapture of the Church before the Great Tribulation and the age of Grace is at an end, even though the Gospel is still being preached, people are still being saved, washing their robes in the Blood of the Lamb, and dying 'in the Lord' (REV.14v6, 7v9, 13-17, 14v13, 16v15).
  - (13) The GOSPEL is not the GOSPEL, even though Paul says that man or angel who preaches any other Gospel shall be accursed (REV.14v6, GAL.1v8-9).
  - (14) Paul says that death is abolished with the rapture of the Church even though saints of God are still dying 'in the Lord' in the Great Tribulation (1 COR.15v51-55, REV.6v9-11, 14v13).
  - (15) Christ is coming before the Great Tribulation even though He says He is coming after (MAT.24v29-31), He just forgot to mention it!
  - (16) Christ is returning first in SECRET, even though He warns us against such an idea (MAT.24v23-27).
  - (17) Christ is returning before the reign of Antichrist even though Paul says He is coming after (2 THESS.2v1-9).
  - (18) The Day of Christ is not 'The Day of the Lord' even though the Bible says it is (1 COR.1v8, 2 COR.1v14, 1 COR.5v5).
  - (19) DAYS are not DAYS, even though the Lord says 'years' when He means 'years' (REV.12v6, 20v6-7).
  - (20) The HARVEST is not the HARVEST (MAT.13v24-30, 36-43, REV.14v13-20).
  - (21) The HARVEST is not the end of the world even though Christ says it is (MAT.13v39).
  - (22) Christ will come as a thief before the Great Tribulation even though He says it will be after (REV.16v12-15).
  - (23) The Lord would not allow us to suffer in the Great Tribulation even though He says those who suffer with Him will also reign with Him (ROM.8v17, 2TIM.2v12, REV.20v4).
- Well, that's all we have time for. IS THAT ALL CLEAR TO EVERYONE? Could the Bible be plainer?? Of course some misguided people would accuse us of twisting the Word of God, God forbid....blah!..blah!....



"GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF CONFUSION" (1 COR.14v33)  
WHO IS ???

WHEN DOES THE GREAT TRIBULATION BEGIN? WHEN DOES IT END? WHAT IS JACOB'S TROUBLE? WHEN DOES IT BEGIN? WHEN DOES IT END? WHAT IS THE WRATH OF GOD? WHEN DOES IT TAKE PLACE? WHEN IS THE CHURCH RAPTURED? WHEN ARE THE WICKED DESTROYED?

The answers to these questions are not a matter of debate, or interpretation of Scripture, but are a matter of plain statements of Scripture:-

START OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

- (1) Antichrist makes a 7 year treaty with Israel (DAN.9v27) - note, the Jews had a "week of days" (e.g. DAN.10v2, margin) and a "week of years"; DAN.9v27 is a week of years. (eg LEV.25, 3-4)
- (2) In the midst of the 7 years Antichrist causes sacrifice and oblation to cease (DAN.9v27).
- (3) At the same time that he causes sacrifice and oblation to cease he places the Abomination that maketh desolate (DAN.11v31, 12v11).
- (4) When the Abomination that maketh desolate is set up the Great Tribulation begins (MAT.24v15,21).
- (5) When Antichrist invades and conquers Israel (DAN.11v40-45, 12v1) this proves conclusively that the Great Tribulation starts in the middle of the 7 year treaty period. Simple isn't it?

FINISH OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

- (1) It ends with the Return of Christ for His saints (MAT.24v29-31).
- (2) He Returns with a "great sound of a trumpet" for His saints (MAT.24v29-31, 1 THESS.4v16-17, 1 COR.15v51-52, REV.11v15-18).
- (3) It is the LAST trumpet (1 COR.15v51-52). Please note there are no more trumpets after the last one, I don't care what they call it - the Gospel Trumpet or whatever - it is the LAST one!
- (4) It is the 7th trumpet when the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of Christ, when He comes to destroy the wicked and comes to raise up His saints and give them their reward (REV.11v15-18).

Nothing could be plainer than the above. See how all the scriptures fit neatly together?

JACOB'S TROUBLE

- (1) It takes place at a time when God causes the Jews to return to their own land and possess it (JER.30v3-7) - that has to be this time in history.
- (2) It takes place "in the latter days" (JER.30v24).
- (3) Israel trembles with fear as a woman in travail (JER.30v3-7).
- (4) It ends with the Return of the Messiah and the resurrection of the saints (note JER.30v9).
- (5) It is after this that Israel is finally at rest and in peace - when the Millennium commences (JER.30v10).
- (6) It is at the end of Jacob's Trouble that the wicked are destroyed (JER.30v11,16, 23).
- (7) It is then that Israel is healed (JER.30v17).
- (8) Jeremiah tells us that Jacob's Trouble is such that "there is none like it" (JER.30v7). This, taken together with the fact that our Lord and Daniel tell us that the Great Tribulation (which Daniel calls "a time of trouble") is a time of trouble such as never was or ever will be, shows conclusively that the Great Tribulation and Jacob's Trouble are one and the same! There is no greater time of trouble than the Great Tribulation; there is no greater time of trouble than Jacob's Trouble; therefore it is nonsense for some to say that the Great Tribulation comes first and then a worse time of trouble, Jacob's Trouble, comes afterwards.

THE WRATH OF GOD

The Great Tribulation, and hence Jacob's Trouble, is not the Wrath of God but the wrath of Satan who knows that his time is short - 1260 days or 3½ years (REV. 12v12-14). Some Christians are preserved from his persecution for 3½ years (v14-17). The Trumpet judgments and the Vials of wrath are not the final wrath of God, although there is a punitive element in them, for they are aimed primarily at bringing the wicked to repentance (REV.9v20-21, 16v9,11). Followers of Christ are kept from them as the Israelites were in Egypt (REV.9v4, 16v2,6,9,10,11). After the 6th Vial of wrath has been poured out Christians are told to keep their garments (REV.16v15) - note, the unsaved do not have garments! Christ says He's coming as a thief (REV.16v15)

All this trouble comes upon Israel primarily for it is referred to as "Jacob's Trouble" although there will be great upheaval in many parts of the world because of World War. It comes upon Israel, not as judgment from God but from the wrath of the Devil with whom they have made a treaty through Antichrist. They therefore lose the protection of God which they enjoy at the moment (ISA.28v18-19).

It is quite wrong to say, as some do, that no one will be saved during the Great Tribulation, or Jacob's Trouble, for there is a multitude that no man can number which comes saved and victorious out of the Great Tribulation. (REV. 7v9-14); after the two witnesses are killed and resurrected a great earthquake hits the city of Jerusalem (where our Lord was crucified, REV.11v8), seven thousand are killed, and the remainder of the city turns in repentance to God (REV.11v13); with the Trumpets and Vials God is trying every way He can to bring the followers of Antichrist to repentance as I have already pointed out, it is obvious therefore that there must be some hope for even those who have taken the mark of the Beast. In JOEL 2v28-32 and ACTS 2v16-21 we are told that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which began at Pentecost, continues right up to the great and terrible day of the Lord (the day of His wrath) just after the sun is turned into darkness and the moon into blood (6th Seal, REV.6v12, MAT.24v29), and "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved", during that entire time, i.e. from Pentecost right through to the great day of God's wrath at the end of the Great Tribulation. The final wrath of God is His judgment which falls upon the wicked on the LAST DAY when they have refused to repent in spite of all He has tried to do. It is the Day of God's Wrath, it is the Day of the Lamb's Wrath (REV.6v17, 11v18, 19v15 16v19 - this is after the 7th vial). Notice how God sends "angels near the end to warn people to turn in repentance to God (REV.14v6-12) - this is after the Harlot Babylon (Jerusalem) has been destroyed at the end of the Great Tribulation (v8), and Christians are exhorted to patience (v12) and are still being killed (v13). The angels warn the wicked that the hour of God's judgment and wrath is come (v7,10). The fact that God will judge the wicked for all they have done unless they repent is the reason for the "faith and patience of the saints" (v12), these are they who have the "faith of Jesus" (v12). Could Scripture be any plainer? Jesus said that the Gospel would be preached throughout all the world until the end comes - not until 3½ years before the end (MAT.24v14) - and Christians are exhorted to endure to the end! (MAT.24v13).

Some are trying to say that the first 3½ years of the 7 year treaty is the Great Tribulation and that this is a time of "great peace" for the world. IS THE FIRST 3½ YEARS A TIME OF GREAT PEACE FOR THE WORLD?

No! It certainly isn't, for no sooner has Antichrist received his crown (i.e. come to power) and made a treaty with Israel for seven years (white horse - PEACE - 1st Seal, REV.6v2) than he goes forth conquering and to conquer! He takes peace from the earth with a "great sword", i.e. great military power (Red horse - War - 2nd Seal, REV.6v4). These wars are not global as yet but cause famine in the war torn areas (Black horse - Famine - 3rd Seal, REV.6v5). This covers the first 3½ years of the 7 year treaty - hardly a time of great peace! World war commences with the 4th Seal (Pale horse - Death, REV.6v7-8) when Antichrist invades Israel, Egypt and many other countries, this is after he has broken the treaty in the midst of the 7 years (DAN.11v30-31 with 9v27, 11v40-45). This is when he makes Jerusalem his capital city (DAN.11v45) and takes away the daily sacrifice and places the abomination that maketh desolate (DAN.11v31). This is when Jerusalem is once more and finally "trodden down of the Gentiles" (REV.11v2). It is then that the Two Witnesses of God begin their ministry in Jerusalem (REV. 11v3) for 3½ years. Antichrist treads the Holy City under foot for 42 months, i.e. 3½ years - the last 3½ years of the 7 year treaty period.

During this period Christians are told to beware of false Christs and false prophets who, endued with great satanic power, will perform signs and wonders (MAT.24v21-27). The object of the enemy here is to deceive Christians into thinking that Christ has returned, but the Lord warns us that His coming will be like the lightning which lights up the whole of heaven - visible to all! (MAT.24v27).

No my friend, the first 3½ years will not be a time of 'great peace' for Christians or the world for men's hearts will be failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming upon the earth (LUKE 21v26). In complete contrast to the world Christians are told that when they see these things come to pass (so they must be here) they are to lift up their heads for their redemption draws nigh and the establishment of the kingdom of God is near (LUKE 21v28-36). LUKE 21v36 does not teach an escaping out of, but an escaping through - the New English Bible has the best translation of this:- "Be on watch and pray always that you will have the strength to go safely through all these things that will happen..". Why should Jesus tell us all about these things if we won't be here??

7 year treaty signed(DAN.9v27) between Israel & Antichrist.

GOD HAS SHORTENED ITS DURATION FOR THE SAKE OF CHRISTIANS OTHERWISE ALL MANKIND WOULD BE KILLED (MAT.24v22)

WAR - MAINLY IN MIDDLE EAST

Antichrist comes to power, makes treaty, goes conquering(WHITE HORSE, 1st SEAL)

Antichrist takes peace from the earth with great sword(RED HORSE, 2nd SEAL)

Famine follows the wars(BLACK HORSE, 3rd SEAL)

3 1/2 years

7 YEARS

Antichrist breaks treaty, invades & conquers Israel, makes Jerusalem his capital, takes away daily sacrifice & sets up the abomination (DAN.9v27, 11v31-45, 12v11, MAT.24v15, 21, DAN.12v1). Great Tribulation begins.

(We can see here how foolish it is to equate 'Gog & Magog' with this time- EZ.38&39-Antichrist defeats Israel, Gog doesn't. Gog, etc., comes after the Millennium as the Lord plainly states-REV. 20v7-9).

FOURTH SEAL (PALE HORSE-DEATH)

FIFTH SEAL(CHRISTIANS SLAIN)

6th Vial(REV.16v12) -Christ tells Christians to keep their garments; that He will come as a thief(v15) Note-the unsaved do not have garments!

Christ returns at the LAST(7th) Trumpet to gather His saints, destroy wicked & set up His kingdom. The Day of God's wrath, the Lamb's wrath, has come(MAT.24v29-31, 1 TH.4v16-17, 1 COR.15v51-52, REV.11v15-18, REV.6v17, 11v18, ch.19all)

GLOBAL WAR

JACOB'S TROUBLE GREAT TRIBULATION 7 TRUMPETS SOUND

3 1/2 years

VIALS OF WRATH

6th SEAL(WRATH OF THE LAMB)

When Christians say, as many are doing today, that they have had 'a word from the Lord' or that 'Christ has appeared to them', etc., telling them that they are right in saying that the Church will not be here during the last 7 years, something quite contrary to Scripture as I have proved, I am reminded of the Lord's warning when He gave the prophecies, "Many false Christs and false prophets shall arise" MAT.24v4-5, 24 - this applies to the spiritual as well as the physical! Beware!

THE MARK OF THE BEAST (ANTICHRIST)

Much confusion is being caused today by people suggesting that either the Mark Of The Beast is already in operation (just because some items of merchandise have been found with '666' on them - shirts, gloves, etc), or it is about to be brought into operation with the introduction of a 'Cashless Society' (plastic cards replacing money altogether) together with peoples' account numbers being invisibly laser-printed under the skin of the right hand or forehead. All this is complete nonsense and a total red-herring. People who advocate such teachings are ignorant of the Bible and misleading the Church. Let us look at the Scriptural facts:-

- (1) REV.13v1-2 The Beast (Antichrist) comes on the scene (the last 7 years of the age - Antichrist is the 7th and 8th head of the Beast).
- (2) REV.13v3 Antichrist slain and resurrected (the 7th head slain, then becomes the 8th head "and is of the seven"; REV.17v10-11).
- (3) REV.13v5 After his resurrection he is allowed to continue a further 42 months ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  years), i.e. to continue to make war (see margin). This is the last  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years of the age - the Great Tribulation.
- (4) REV.13v11 The False Prophet arises - calls all to worship the Beast who was slain and resurrected (v12,14) and he causes all to receive a mark (the mark of the Beast) in the right hand or forehead.

Hence, the "Mark of the Beast" does not arise until the last  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years of the age (the Great Tribulation) and only in those areas under Antichrist's control (mainly the Middle East). All other talk of "the Mark of the Beast" at any other time is irrelevant and totally misleading.

- (5) The Greek word CHARAGMA, translated "mark" refers to a STAMP or IMPRESS upon the skin and could not possibly refer to an invisible mark made under the surface of the skin by a laser, etc. Some translations have "BRAND" or "TATTOO".
  - a) It is a visible stamp upon the skin, so that all may see who is a follower of Antichrist - rather like the Nazis wore the Swastika; also, in a similar way in which the Nazis made the Jews wear the Star of David and marked them on the arm with a number which will not come off.
  - b) It is i) the Mark of the Beast (similar perhaps to the Swastika) )  
 ii) the mark of his name (signature, initials, etc.)  
 iii) the number of his name - 666.

Hence, people will either have his signature or some identifying mark (as with the Swastika), his initials, or the number 666.

- (6) It is not the number of a shirt, a packet of cornflakes, a pair of gloves, a bank account number, or anything else!!

Neither is the number '6', '66', '6000', '6,000,000', etc. - it is '666'!

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(i)

### HOW IMPORTANT IS PROPHECY ?

I want you to imagine a Christian with a tremendous ministry. Someone who has a healing ministry in which he sees the blind, deaf, dumb, lame, paralysed, even the leprous and cancerous healed. Someone who has seen the power of God through them alter the forces of nature, who has seen miraculous provision of finances and food, experienced miraculous transportation from one place to another. Someone with a ministry where they have seen the dead raised to life again. Someone who has seen Jesus face to face, not once but many many times. Someone who has even had the Lord Himself give them studies in the Scriptures. Imagine someone who also sees demons cast out in his/her ministry. Someone who has seen thousands upon thousands of people come to Christ.

Wow! That's quite a ministry! (If you know of such a person let me know, I would like to meet them!)

Now, answer me a question - how many of you believe that such a person would be prepared and ready for any trouble or tribulation that came along? I can imagine that most people would answer that they definitely would be ready. You may be surprised to learn that you would in all probability be dead wrong! (Now I can hear gasps of astonishment!)

The people I had in mind when outlining the above great ministry was of course the Apostles. They were given power to:-

Heal <u>all</u> manner of sickness and disease	(MAT.10v1,8)
Cast out devils	( " )
Raise the dead	( " )

They saw miraculous provision of finances, food, clothes(MAT.10v9-10); the fish with the coin (MAT.17v27), the miraculous catch of fish (LUKE 5v4-7); Peter walked upon the water with the Lord (MAT.14v28-31); the disciples in a ship with the Lord were all translated with the ship to land (JOHN 6v21); they saw the power of the Holy Ghost in preaching, etc.(MAT.10v20); the momentous ministry of Jesus, His miracles, raising the dead, casting out devils, stilling the storm, feeding the multitudes with a few loaves and fishes, thousands upon thousands turning to Christ, His tremendous preaching and wisdom, He gave them studies in the Scriptures (LUKE 18v31, MARK 8v31, etc); they were in His presence, not for a few days, but for over three years! Peter, James and John were taken up the mountain where they saw Him transfigured and heard the voice of the Father; His ministry was so tremendous that John tells us that only a bit of it is recorded in the Bible and that "many other things did Jesus say and do which, if they were written, I suppose the world itself would not contain the books"(JOHN 21v25).

YET, in spite of all this, when Jesus was taken prisoner, when the hour of darkness came, even though they ALL said they were ready to follow Him into prison and to death(LUKE 22v33, MAT.26v33-35, etc), when the time came they all forsook Him and fled and were in unbelief, defeat and despair.(MAT.26v56). "We trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel", etc., (LUKE 24v21) - now they even doubted that He was the Redeemer! After His Resurrection the Lord reminded them through the women of what He previously had told them about His suffering and death but they would not believe(LUKE 24v11).

What was the cause of their defeat, unbelief, despair and forsaking the Lord? Why did they fail in the hour of darkness? They had great ministry, power, success, experience, why did they collapse? Listen my friend, this is one of the most important sentences that you are going to read this side of eternity -- **THEY FAILED BECAUSE THEY IGNORED BIBLICAL PROPHECY, THEY DELIBERATELY SHUT THEIR EARS TO THE PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE LORD'S SUFFERING AND DEATH (see LUKE 24v25).**

I'll repeat that - THEY FAILED BECAUSE THEY IGNORED BIBLICAL PROPHECY!!

The disciples listened only to those prophecies which they liked -  
e.g. "We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write,  
Jesus of Nazareth.." (JOHN 1v45). They recognised that He was the Messiah of  
whom the prophets wrote. But they ignored other things the prophets wrote  
regarding His suffering and death (e.g. ISA. 53, PSA. 22, etc) even though Jesus  
pointed these things out to them many many times as I will show. Remember the  
words of the Lord afterwards - "O fools, and slow of heart to believe ALL that  
the prophets have spoken; ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and  
to enter into his glory?" (LUKE 24v25,26). He then reminded them of what He had  
told them before - "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded

(ii)

unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."(LUKE 24v27). In the same passage He goes on to say, "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."(v44).

You see, they believed SOME of what the prophets had said but Jesus said that they were foolish for not believing ALL that the prophets had said. They saw only a triumphant conquering Messiah. e.g.:-

PSA.72v6-9,11 "He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth. In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust.....Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him."

PSA.2v7-12 "I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee(a direct reference to Christ-the Father speaking of the Son ,see HEB.1v5). Ask of me, and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron(see REV.2v27,DAN.7v13-14); thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."

etc. etc.

This was the kind of Messiah they had in mind, but when Jesus pointed other scriptures out to them showing them that He was going to be taken, delivered to the Gentiles, mocked, spat upon, scourged, crucified, but rise again, they didn't want to know. They could not understand how this could fit in with a conquering Messiah and they were afraid to ask, so they shut it out of their minds(LUKE 9v 43-45). Jesus knew that when He was taken and crucified it would be a time of darkness and great trial for His disciples, hence, He tried to warn and prepare them many times but they would not listen:-

LUKE 9v44-45 - Here the disciples were rejoicing at the power of God because Jesus had just healed someone, but Jesus was concerned because although they were rejoicing at seeing God's power manifested He knew they were not listening to the prophetic warnings He was giving them. It is great to rejoice at the things God does, but it is also VITAL that we listen to the warnings He gives also:-

"Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of Man shall be delivered into the hands of men. But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying."

Now the question is, who hid it from them? If we get the answer to this wrong, then we will get the whole thing wrong. It certainly could not have been the Lord who hid it from them because (a) there would have been no point in telling them in the first place if He was then going to hide it from them, and (b) He was commanding them to take the cotton wool out of their ears and listen to what He was telling them. The key here is that they "feared". When you fear Satan comes and robs you. It was Satan that hid it from them! They didn't want to think about it, the word sown fell by the wayside, and you know what Jesus said happens - the fowls of the air(the Devil) comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe (parable of the sower,LUKE 8v5-18).

Jesus tells us in the parable of the sower, "Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken(by the Devil) even that which he seemeth to have."(v18).

It is vital that we pay attention to the Word of God, to the Voice of the Spirit (here again compare LUKE 8v8 and REV. 2v11, 17, 29, 3v6, 13, 22, where the Lord is constantly saying, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear"). We must let His words sink in, meditate upon them, so that it grows and becomes a part of us. We must not be afraid, as the disciples were, to ask Him. Seek Him about it, ask for understanding. Then we will be ready for the dark time ahead. But if we are afraid to even think about the end time and the Great Tribulation (as some Christians I know are - some baptised in the Spirit and even having Gifts of the Spirit!), then anything spoken on the subject will fall by the wayside, it will go in one ear and out the other, the Devil will steal it and keep us in blissful ignorance, and when the time comes all the Lord's words will be gone from us, like the disciples.

It is astonishing to say the least that the disciples, men with such great ministry, experience and teaching, should have remained so ignorant of the Lord's suffering and death as to lose their faith when it happened, when you consider the number of times the Lord warned them about the coming event! This should be a warning to all of us that it doesn't matter how great we think our ministry is, what success or experience we have had, what Gifts of the Spirit we possess, or even how holy we may think we are, if we shut our ears to Biblical prophecy in regard to the end time and the Great Tribulation we can collapse and lose our faith in the time of darkness. Just look at the warnings the Lord gave to his disciples:-

JOHN 1v29 "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (didn't this mean he was going to die?)

JOHN 10v11-18 "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep....I lay down my life for the sheep....Therefore doth the Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."

JOHN 12v7,16,23-42:-

v7 - the disciples were causing a fuss about 'waste' when Mary anointed Him with costly ointment, the Lord rebuked them and said, "...against the day of my burying hath she kept this."

v16 - the disciples didn't understand the prophecies (because they didn't want to) but after Jesus was glorified they remembered that He had told them that these things were written of Him.

v23-42 - Here Jesus speaks of His forthcoming death by crucifixion (note v33). The people couldn't understand saying that according to the scriptures Christ lives forever, so how can He die? (He has already told them that He is going to lay down His life and take it again (JOHN 10)). They could not reconcile the idea of a conquering Messiah and a suffering Messiah in spite of scriptures like PSA.22 (His suffering and Crucifixion), ISA.53 (the Lamb slain for our sins), etc., etc.

When it says in v40 that, "He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, and be converted, and I should heal them.", the he referred to is Satan not God! The I referred to is the Lord. In v37 we read that although He had done many miracles before them, yet they believed not on Him. Satan "blinds the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ...should shine unto them." (2 COR.4v4). This is exactly what JOHN 12v40 is saying. Hence we should be careful how we listen.

JOHN 8v28 "Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then ye shall know that I am he..."

JOHN 3v14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up..." - speaking again of His Crucifixion. (This was spoken to Nicodemus but Jesus must have told His disciples).

JOHN 13v19,33 - Jesus tells His disciples that He is going out of the world, that He is telling them before it happens.

JOHN 14v2,3,4,12, - Jesus tells them He is going to the Father, that He is going v19 to prepare a place for them, and then come again and receive them unto Himself that where He is there they may be also.

JOHN 14v16-18,26 - When He is gone He promises that they will not be left alone (see also or comfortless (margin, "orphans", v18) but that the Holy Ghost who even 15v26) then dwelt with them, v17, would come to them in a new way and dwell within them.

JOHN 14v28-29 "Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you....I go unto my Father....I have told you before it came to pass..."

JOHN 15v13-14 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends..."

JOHN ch 16 - The whole of this chapter is devoted to Jesus plainly telling His disciples that He is leaving the world and going to the Father, that it will be a time of sorrow for them, how they will be hated and persecuted for His sake, how the Holy Ghost will <sup>come</sup> to their aid, etc. They said, "...we believe..." (v30). Jesus said, "...Do ye now believe? Behold the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone." (v31-32). Jesus knew they hadn't listened!

- JOHN 16v33 - Jesus tells them that He has spoken these things to them so that they might have peace in spite of tribulation. But because they didn't really listen and ignored His warnings, instead of peace they were in despair.
- JOHN ch 17 - His prayer, which He prayed whilst He was with His disciples(v1), is all about His leaving the world and going to the Father.
- MAT.16v21 - "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."
- Peter, who like the others only wanted to hear about a conquering Messiah, was so incensed at this that he got hold of the Lord and began to shake Him and rebuke Him for daring to suggest that He was going to suffer! Of course Satan was glad to help him along with this attitude(v23). Jesus gave them a lecture on taking up the cross and being prepared to suffer for His sake if they want to be His disciples. There are those Christians today who would take hold of you and shake you and rebuke you for daring to suggest that the Lord would allow the Church to suffer going through the Great Tribulation - but Jesus says it and we have to accept it whether we like it or not.
- MAT.17v1-12, }  
 MARK 9v2-13, } Jesus took Peter, James and John into a mountain where He was trans-  
 LUKE 9v28-35 } figured before them, and Moses and Elias appeared and spoke with Him  
 "of his death which he should accomplish at Jerusalem"(LK.9v31).
- Jesus told them to tell no one until after He was risen from the dead(MT.17v9).
- He told them that just as John the Baptist had suffered and been put to death, it was also written in the scriptures that He also would suffer in like manner(MT.17v10-13, MK.9v11-13).
- Notice(MK.9v10) how that when Jesus mentioned being put to death and rising from the dead they kept it to themselves and wouldn't ask Him, just like the other occasion where it says they understood not and were afraid to ask. They would sooner not think about it.
- MAT.20v17-19 "And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again."
- MAT.20v28 - When the disciples were arguing among themselves who was going to be the greatest in the kingdom of God Jesus gave them a lecture on humility and told them that he had come to minister unto others AND GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY.
- MAT.26v1-2 "...Jesus..said unto his disciples, Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified."
- v12 - He speaks of His burial.
- v26-28 - He speaks of His death and shedding His blood for the remission of sins in instituting the Communion, He says, as we read elsewhere, that as often as they eat the bread and drink the wine they do remember THE LORD'S DEATH until He return.
- v31-32 - He tells them they will all flee and leave Him when He is taken but after He is risen He will meet them in Galilee.
- v35 - Peter and all the disciples assured the Lord they would never be offended because of Him, they would never deny Him even if it meant death. But Jesus knew better, He knew they hadn't listened to His warnings and so they were not ready for the darkness.
- v56 - "Then all the disciples forsook him and fled".
- JOHN 18v15 - John did follow the Lord afterwards to the house of the High Priest (his close communion with the Lord probably took him this far) and Peter tried to follow from a distance, but they were both in unbelief, despair and defeat afterwards, Peter denying the Lord with oaths. (The other disciples didn't deny the Lord because they were nowhere to be found).

MARK 2v20 - Jesus speaks of the Bridegroom(Himself) being taken away from the disciples.

4v11 - Jesus told them that it was given them to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven - He wasn't hiding anything from them.

MAT.12v40 - Jesus speaks of the sign of the prophet Jonah - figurative of His death.

MARK 8v31-32 "And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days(the sign of the prophet Jonah) rise again. And he spake that saying openly..."

MARK 9v31-32 "...he taught his disciples and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day. But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him."(they didn't want to think about it).

MARK 10v32-34 "And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed(astonished); and as they followed, they were afraid(notice the fear again). And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: and they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him; and on the third day he shall rise again."

LUKE 9v22 - He told His disciples again "The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day."

LUKE 13v33- Jesus talks about perishing at Jerusalem.

LUKE 17v25- The lord tells the disciples that He must suffer many things and be rejected.

LUKE 18v31-34 "Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on, and they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. And they understood none of these things(they were still thinking of a conquering Messiah): and this saying was hid from them(by Satan), neither knew they the things which were spoken."

LUKE 19v11-27 - Because they thought the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately He told a story illustrating that it would not be for a long time.

LUKE 22v15- Jesus says at the Last Supper, "...With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you BEFORE I SUFFER." But they were not listening, they were arguing among themselves who was going to be the greatest in the Kingdom(v24).

It is evident that the Lord kept nothing from the disciples but taught and explained all things to them - see MARK.4v10,11,34,MAT.13v16-17,11v25,LUKE 10v21-24, JOHN 5v39,46-47(He explained how the Scriptures all spoke of Him),JOHN 1v45.

It is evident by comparing the following scriptures that it is Satan who blinds the minds of those who do not believe God's Word (whatever the subject may be) and prevents them from understanding it - JOHN 9v39-41,12v39-41,9v27,8v37,43,47,7v17, 5v24, 2COR.4v4.

Thus we can see the great danger we can find ourselves in if we ignore prophecy. The Lord certainly could not have made things any plainer to them, yet, despite their great ministry, experience, Gifts of the Spirit, etc., their traditional ideas regarding a conquering Messiah caused them to shut their ears to the truth and try as He may the Lord could not get through to them.

Is this not the situation today with many? Someone once said to me, "I know great men of God who believe we are being Raptured before the Great Tribulation, so who do you think you are to say they are wrong?" Well, they may be great men with great ministry(and I would not dispute that for a moment), but if they insist on clinging to tradition they can be just as blind as the Apostles who had far greater ministry than any of them, not to mention over three years with the Master Himself!

I am not saying of course that all we need to go through the Tribulation in victory is a knowledge of prophecy, we certainly need more than that, what I'm saying is that we can have everything else but without it we'll fail - IT IS VITAL!!

That was the reason that the Lord, after His long discourse on the end time, the Great Tribulation, etc., all the prophecies He has given us (MAT. 24, LUKE 21, MARK 13), immediately went on to tell the parable of the ten virgins (MAT. 25). The virgins represent Christians who are waiting for the Return of the Bridegroom (Christ). Five are 'wise' and five are 'foolish'. The wise have extra oil, the foolish do not. The bridegroom tarries, they all fall asleep. Suddenly, at midnight, a cry goes up, "The bridegroom cometh!" They all awake, the foolish find their lamps have gone out, but the wise are prepared. The foolish try to get the necessary oil but it is too late, there just isn't time.

Now the theories about what the oil is are many and varied, but I will list here what the oil is not:-

It is not grace, for we receive grace for the day.

It is not holiness, for all were virgins, all were pure.

It is not prayerfulness and watchfulness every moment, for all fell asleep (including the wise).

It is not being constantly filled with the Spirit, for the oil was something they acquired before they fell asleep (the wise that is).

It is not the Baptism and/or Gifts of the Spirit, for these don't need to be 'stored', they can be received anytime and many will receive these things when they are converted during the Great Tribulation. You only get baptised in the Spirit once, thereafter you keep getting re-filled. There are a lot of people who are baptised in the Spirit who are not ready for the Great Tribulation. The Gifts of the Spirit do not constitute extra oil, for once a Gift has been given it is always there; and there are many with Gifts of the Spirit who are scared to death to even think about the Great Tribulation!

What difference is there between the wise and the foolish virgins? All were pure and ready to meet the Bridegroom. All were waiting for the Bridegroom to return. The wise were not more watchful and prayerful than the foolish for all fell asleep. The only difference is that the wise took extra oil. What for? For THE DARKNESS! They wanted to be sure they had light for the darkness! (The foolish didn't bother about the darkness). They didn't need lamps to meet the Bridegroom, they needed the lamps for the darkness that they knew they would have to pass through before they met the Bridegroom.

The oil then in the parable represents PROPHECY - the prophecies Jesus has just been giving about the end time, the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy, and the Great Tribulation which immediately precedes His Return. The 70th week of Daniel, the time of the 7 year treaty between Antichrist and Israel (and others), will be the darkest time in the world's history, it will be midnight for the world.

You will notice that something happens to waken everybody up - wise and foolish. What is it? It cannot be general prophetic signs, e.g. Israel returning to her own land after nearly 2,000 years, earthquakes, famines, etc., for many are still asleep! No, this thing is so momentous that it causes everybody to wake up! It is also something which tells us that the Bridegroom is definitely coming! Therefore, it can be no other than the signing of the 7 year treaty, the commencement of the last week of Daniel's prophecy. That is midnight for the world - the commencement of the reign of Antichrist, the most wicked man the world has ever known.

Hence, the cry goes up at midnight, "The Bridegroom cometh!" Notice, it doesn't say, "the Bridegroom's here!" but that He cometh, i.e. He is on His way. He comes after midnight, after the Great Tribulation (MAT. 24v29-31). In the parable He comes after midnight when the foolish have gone to try and buy oil (the point here being that once midnight comes there won't be time to prepare).

Why does the lamp of the foolish go out at midnight? Because they did not believe they would see the darkness - as far as the Church is concerned the last 7 years and the reign of Antichrist; they thought the Bridegroom would have come before then. Hence, the foolish only take notice of prophecy up to the commencement of the 70th week. Once the 70th week starts they have no more prophetic light and their lamps go out. The fact that half of them were foolish shows that a large section of the Church could find itself in this position.

Why did the wise fall asleep? Well, there are many who have learned, or are learning, about the reign of Antichrist and the Great Tribulation. They believe they have to face the darkness before meeting the Lord. They have learnt the scriptures and stored the oil of prophetic truth. At first they were very intense and keen about the subject looking for the time of the treaty, etc., but as time has passed their interest and zeal has cooled and they have fallen asleep, "the Lord tarries". Nevertheless, when the time comes they will awake and they will have the oil.

When telling the story of the ten virgins, in v13 the Lord says, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." This can't mean watching because He might come any second because even the wise were asleep. There was obviously some warning beforehand that the time of the Bridegroom's appearance was at hand for ALL suddenly awoke as I said before. It is clear also as I have said that we will not know the day of His Return until the last 7 years commences, only then will we know the day of His Return, but then the darkness will be with us and it will be too late for many to prepare. After waiting almost 2,000 years for the Lord to return 7 years will be a very short space indeed!

If the wise had shared their extra oil with the foolish all their lamps would have gone out before they met the Bridegroom. It was not practical. Likewise, it is not practical for someone to give another person the Word of God that they have spent years absorbing - it takes time, and the Word has to become a reality to each individual. Sometimes I have heard someone talk about the Word and have thought that I have understood what they were saying, but years later it has suddenly dawned on me what they meant! I hadn't understood at all. It takes time. There is the "milk" of the Word and the "meat" (deeper things) of the Word, and one has to progress in understanding over a period of time. (Note HEB.5v11-14, MAT.13v15, 1COR.3v1-2, 1PET.2v2).

The foolish virgins could have gone along with the wise sharing their light, I don't think there would have been any objection to that. There will be many 'wise' in the dark time who will be a guide to others. "and they that understand among the people shall instruct many" (DAN.11v33 - during reign of Antichrist). John the Baptist was "a shining light" (JOHN 5v35) and others walked in that light and rejoiced in it, they identified with it. There was nothing to stop the foolish doing that and they would have been admitted to the Marriage Supper. But the foolish did not shine in the darkness for the Bridegroom and hence He says, "I know you not". Jesus said that he that denies Him before men, He also will deny before His Father (MAT.10v32-33).

The disciples shut their ears to prophecy and when the darkness came they forsook and denied the Lord.

Many will be saved in the Great Tribulation who are not foolish for they had no time to prepare anyway. They will be taught and helped along by the wise. The foolish are those who had much time to prepare beforehand and did not, and also had false hope (a pre-Tribulation Rapture) as their foundation, or believed that these things would not happen in their lifetime and so did not bother. Such false foundations crumble when the time comes, and faith is lost.

According to custom, as the virgins went through the dark streets with their lights shining on their way to meet the Bridegroom, others would begin to join them and the whole procession would go to the Bridegroom's house. This is a marvellous picture of Christians shining in the darkness for Christ showing others the way and others joining them (being converted) and going with them to meet the Bridegroom at His Return.

#### THE WISE AND THE FOOLISH

The Bible has a lot to say about wise and foolish, usually the foolish are those who do not prepare:-

"thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee" (LUKE 12v16-21). He prepared himself with material things but made no preparation for eternity.

MAT.7v24-27 - the wise man takes notice of the words of the Lord and acts on them, the fool let His words go in one ear and out of the other. The result is that the wise man has a solid foundation, the fool does not. When the storm comes the wise man stands, the foolish man falls.

PROV.22v3 "A prudent(wise) man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on and are punished."

PROV.13v16 "Every prudent(wise) man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly." or from the Living Bible "A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn't, and even brags about it!"

PROV.22v3 (from Living Bible) "A prudent man foresees the difficulties ahead and prepares for them; the simpleton goes on blindly and suffers the consequences."

ECCLES.2v13-14 - to be wise is to walk in light, but to be foolish is to walk in darkness.

EPH.5v15-17 - Paul says not to be fools but wise, understanding what the will of the Lord is.

DAN.12v10 "...none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." (speaking of the end time and reign of Antichrist - note v1). None of the wicked shall understand what is happening, "men's hearts failing them for fear", etc.

DAN.12v3 - again speaking of the time of the reign of Antichrist - "...they that be wise (margin-teachers)..." This shows that the wise are those who have knowledge of God's Word.

(viii)

LUKE 24v13-27 - the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, the Lord joins them although they do not know Him. They are sorrowful(v17), He asks them why. They tell Him all about Jesus, His ministry, suffering and death. How they had trusted that He was the Redeemer(v21) but now He was gone. And besides all this, they told Him, today was the third day since these things happened. Also they said that some of the women had been to the tomb and said they had seen angels who said He was alive, but the disciples thought they were idle tales(v11); anyway some of them went to have a look but didn't see anything(v24).

The amazing thing here is that the angels told the women to tell the disciples, "...he is risen, remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."(LUKE 24v6-7). Yet they thought it nothing but idle tales! How deaf can you be!

Jesus said, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken..." etc.

Had they listened to the prophecies Jesus had given them, instead of being sorrowful and doubting and saying, He's been gone three days now, they should have been rejoicing saying, This is the third day, the day He said He was going to rise again!"

The disciples and the people had their tradition of a conquering Messiah, they thought that when Jesus rode up to Jerusalem he was going to take over, kick out the Romans, and establish His kingdom(note LUKE 19v11,35-38, and compare v35 with 2 KINGS 9v13, see also JOHN 6v14-15). "...we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel.."(LUKE 24v21). Now they felt let down. Had they listened they would not have been in this predicament for the Lord told them clearly that He was going to come as their 'conquering hero' but FIRST He must suffer many things and be rejected(LUKE 17v24-25).

Many today have their tradition of a pre-Tribulation Rapture and are ignoring other prophecies. When the Lord does not come according to their expectations, i.e. before Antichrist, they will feel let down, their faith will be shattered, and when Jesus does come He will find them in despair and unbelief, or they may even have joined the wicked.

#### "MY LORD DELAYETH HIS COMING"

Just after His long discourse on the end time and the Great Tribulation the Lord told the story of the servant who said in his heart, "My lord delayeth his coming", and he began to smite his fellow servants and eat and drink with the drunken.(MAT.24v45-51).

Now why should he say, "My lord delayeth his coming" ? It can only be because he expected Him earlier. There can be no other explanation. The above discourse by the Lord clearly says that He will come immediately after the Great Tribulation, but there are those Christians who are expecting Him before that. When Antichrist appears and the Lord has not come they are going to say, "My Lord delayeth His Coming". Being filled with confusion, doubts and fears, many will lose their faith and begin to "smite their fellow servants(Christians) and eat and drink with the drunken", etc.

It is tragic that there are evangelists today distributing tracts to people telling them about the coming of Antichrist and that if they become Christians they will be taken out of the world before Antichrist comes. They are being caused to rest upon a false hope, and when the time comes and Antichrist appears and they find they are still here then they will feel they have been mislead, lied to, deceived; disillusionment will set in and many will undoubtedly fall into unbelief and apostatize. PROV.13v12 says, "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick". It is a terrible thing to cause someone to rest upon a false foundation.

We need to search the scriptures and see whether these things are so. The Word of God is "a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path"(PSA.119v105). Prophecy is a light in the darkness(2 PET.1v19).

As I said before, I'm not saying that all you need for the time of darkness is a knowledge of prophecy. In the parable of the ten virgins the Lord was illustrating how vital it is to have light for the darkness - the light He has provided. You can have everything else like the foolish virgins, purity, grace, looking for the coming of the Lord, etc., and yet fall in the time of darkness and, like the disciples, deny the Lord. You can then lose your heavenly inheritance. Being shut out doesn't mean you lose your salvation - that is a free gift. It means you will be shut out of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the great celebration, and end up on the earth in the Millennium.

Let us be "wise" and take note of all the Bible prophecies about the end, let us take in the "extra oil". Then we will have light for the darkness ahead. (Peter later took note of the prophecy about his death, sought the Lord, and hence was ready for it - compare JOHN. 21v18-19, 2PET.1v14-15 - let us do likewise.)

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# GREAT TRIBULATION



"THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET (SHOWS ME WHERE I AM) AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH (SHOWS ME WHERE I'M GOING)" (PSA.119v105). NOT JUST IN THE SENSE OF HOW TO LIVE - PROV.6v23 - BUT ALSO IN THE PROPHETIC SENSE - 2 PET. 1v19.

"WE HAVE ALSO A MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY; WHEREUNTO YE DO WELL THAT YE TAKE HEED, AS UNTO A LIGHT THAT SHINETH IN A DARK PLACE, UNTIL THE DAY DAWN..." (2 PET. 1v19). (SEE ALSO 1 THESS. 5v1-11).

**'WISE' & 'FOOLISH' VIRGINS (CHRISTIANS) MAT. 25v1-13**

**OIL - PROPHETIC TRUTH**

**'PROPHECY IS A LIGHT IN A DARK PLACE' 2 PET. 1v 19**

\*  
**PROPHETIC LIGHT OF WISE**

\*  
**PROPHETIC LIGHT OF FOOLISH**

(LIGHT OF FOOLISH GOES OUT HERE  
BECAUSE THEY ONLY TAKE NOTE OF PROPHECY UP TO THIS POINT.)



## WORLD EVENTS

### END-TIME BIBLE PROPHECIES

General prophetic signs indicating the near return of Jesus Christ (MAT. 24, MK. 13, LK. 21, etc.)

Israel regathered to their own land, Temple rebuilt.  
World Wars  
False Christs & False prophets  
Abounding iniquity  
Earthquakes, Famines, Pestilences  
Christians abandon faith  
Occult practices  
Distress of nations  
Jerusalem a burden to all, etc.

Prophecies of the last seven years (DAN., REV., MAT. 24, etc.)

Ten Kingdom alliance  
Antichrist  
Great Tribulation  
Abomination of Desolation  
7 Seals  
7 Trumpets  
7 Vials etc., etc.

**MIDNIGHT HOUR  
WORLD'S DARKEST  
TIME**

**CHRIST'S RETURN IN GLORY**  
(TO DESTROY THE WICKED, GATHER HIS SAINTS & SET UP HIS KINGDOM)  
(MAT. 24v29-31, REV. 11v15-18, ETC.)

## CHURCH AGE

AT TIMES BOTH WISE & FOOLISH CHRISTIANS SLUMBER. HOWEVER, THE WISE TAKE THE PRECAUTION OF ARMING THEMSELVES WITH PROPHECIC TRUTH ABOUT THE END-TIME (LAST 7 YEARS) AND ASK GOD TO PREPARE THEM TO MEET THOSE EVENTS; THE FOOLISH DO NOT BECAUSE THEY THINK THEY WON'T BE HERE, SO IT'S NOT NECESSARY.

WISE ARE PREPARED FOR THE DARKNESS AND HAVE LIGHT.  
FOOLISH ARE UNPREPARED AND HAVE NO LIGHT.

\* **NOTE**  
HAVING 'PROPHETIC LIGHT' ISN'T JUST HAVING A HEAD KNOWLEDGE OF BIBLE PROPHECY BUT BEING PREPARED SPIRITUALLY TO COPE WITH THOSE EVENTS ONE IS GOING TO GO THROUGH. A PERSON CANNOT BE SPIRITUALLY PREPARED FOR SOMETHING THAT HE BELIEVES HE WILL NOT SEE & REFUSES TO EVEN THINK ABOUT, I.E. THE LAST YEARS & THE GREAT TRIB.

**'MIDNIGHT CRY'**  
(7 YEAR TREATY)  
**"THE BRIDGROOM COMETH"**  
**WISE & FOOLISH ALL WAKE UP**

BE ON THE ALERT, PRAYING AT ALL TIMES FOR STRENGTH TO PASS SAFELY THROUGH ALL THESE IMMINENT TROUBLES & TO STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SON OF MAN. (LK. 21v36 N.E. 87) - LORD'S WARNING AFTER SPEAKING OF THE END TIME & GREAT TRIB. (MAT. 24, MK. 13, LK. 21)

# THE SECRET RAPTURE— SCRIPTURAL OR FANCIFUL ?

No. 1: THE ORIGIN OF THE THEORY.

"THE FLAME" by Maynard James. (EDITOR)

**A**S A BOY I was taught and believed what was then a very popular doctrine among evangelical Christians. It was that the Translation of the saints at the Second Coming of Christ would be secret and silent so far as the unsaved masses were concerned. Only the saints would hear the Trumpet sound; only they would see the Lord when He came in the air (1 Thessalonians 4: 15-17).

This secret and silent translation of the saints was called the "Rapture".

It would take place **before** the time of the Great Tribulation, when the world would suffer 3½ years of intense persecution under a personal Anti-Christ who would make a covenant with the Jews. Then would come the destruction of that awful tyrant by the openly manifested and glorious Appearing of Christ. This was termed the "second stage" of Christ's Return.

I can no longer hold such views. Earnest prayer and diligent reading of the prophetic Scriptures have compelled me to drop what I sincerely believe are fanciful interpretations of certain Bible statements regarding the Second Advent.

Of course, on the all-important aspects of the Lord's Return there should be no difference of doctrine amongst the saints. They are:

(1) Christ is coming again, literally and personally.

(2) The signs of the times indicate the nearness of that great event.

(3) The Lord is coming in the air to translate those who are truly "born again" of the Holy Spirit and are "walking in the light".

In these two articles I propose to deal with:

**First:** The Origin of the Secret Rapture Theory.

**Secondly:** The Bible Teaching on the Translation of the Saints.

According to Dr. Samuel P. Tregelles, who at one time was one of the leading scholars in the Plymouth Brethren movement, the doctrine of the "Secret Rapture" originated at the famous Powerscourt Castle Conferences in Ireland (1830 and onwards). Some of these Conferences were attended by Edward Irving,<sup>1</sup> and also by leading Brethren teachers, particularly John Nelson Darby.

Dr. Harry Ironside (one-time pastor of Moody church, Chicago) said that it was at Powerscourt that

"the precious truth of the Rapture of the Church was brought to light; that is, the coming of the Lord in the air to take away His Church **before** the great Tribulation should begin on earth. These views brought out at Powerscourt Castle not only largely formed the views of the Brethren elsewhere, but as years went on, obtained wide publication in (other) denominational circles,

chiefly through the writings of such men as Darby, Bellett, Newton, S. P. Tregelles<sup>2</sup>, and others.<sup>3</sup>

But Tregelles himself believed that the Plymouth Brethren adopted from Edward Irving the pre-tribulation secret rapture doctrine. He stated:

"I was not aware that there was any definite teaching that there should be a Secret Rapture of the Church at a secret coming until this was given forth as an 'utterance' in Mr. Irving's church from what was then received as being the voice of the Spirit. But whether anyone ever asserted such a thing or not, it was from that supposed revelation that the modern phraseology respecting it arose."<sup>4</sup>

As might be expected, the Plymouth Brethren later disclaimed any connection with the Irvingites. J. N. Darby claimed that his pre-tribulation secret rapture teaching was derived from an understanding of the Scriptures. Be that as it may, the fact remains that about the time Edward Irving was teaching these things, the Brethren "speedily became ardent advocates of what is called the 'any moment' secret rapture doctrine of Christ's Return."<sup>5</sup>

Many books have been written in later years in support of this theory. Even novels, especially Sydney Watson's popular "In the Twinkling of an Eye", have been issued on this basis of teaching.

It must not be forgotten that the "secret rapture" doctrine runs counter to the long accepted teaching of

Protestant historicists. As Dr. Lefroy Edwin Froom put it:

"Thus we find a double Second Advent, completely unknown to the early Church, a pre-tribulation Rapture that stems back to Jewish traditions and from Irvingite revelations, and a futurism traceable to the same revelations, and from the Jesuits Ribera and Lacunza, along with Maitland, the Protestant defender of Rome.

Surely these Protestant proponents must not have realised the antecedents of these doctrines."<sup>6</sup>

Such eminent champions of Prophetic Truth as Hippolytus (d.c. 236), Cyprian (c. 200-258), Irenaeus (c. 130-202), Justin Martyr (c. 100-165), and Clement of Alexandria (150-220)—along with a host of other saintly Bible scholars of the first three centuries of the Christian era—knew nothing of a secret pre-tribulation rapture of the saints. Certainly they differed at times in their interpretation of certain aspects of the Second Advent, e.g., the Antichrist and the New Earth, etc., but their silence was deafening when it came to any sort of *secret* translation of Christian disciples.

<sup>1</sup> Founder of the Catholic Apostolic Church.

<sup>2</sup> Ironside, *Historical Sketch*, p. 23.

<sup>3</sup> S. P. Tregelles, *The Hope of Christ's Second Coming*, p. 35.

<sup>4</sup> Oswald T. Allis, *Prophecy and the Church*, pp. 168, 169.

<sup>5</sup> Lefroy E. Froom, *The Prophetic Faith of the Fathers*, Vol. IV, p. 423.

# THE SECRET RAPTURE

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—SCRIPTURAL  
or FANCIFUL?

DAILY NEWS  
MISSING MILLIONS  
MYSTERY

No. 2

What does the Bible Teach?

by Maynard James. (EDITOR)

**A**DVOCATES of the secret rapture theory often quote such Scriptures as:

1. "The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5: 1).

2. "Behold, I come as a thief" (Revelation 16: 15).

3. "This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1: 11).

It is argued from the last Scripture that, seeing Christ's ascension from Mount Olivet was silent and was seen only by his disciples, so, at his return in the air, only Christians will see him and hear the sound of the Trumpet (1 Thessalonians 4: 15-17).

Christ's open manifestation in glory and judgment, as described in 2 Thessalonians 1: 7-10, will, they say, take place some seven years after the secret Rapture of 1 Thessalonians 4: 15-17—at the close of the Great Tribulation.

I notice that my good friend Ian Macpherson, in his latest book,



"News of the World to Come", uses Acts 1: 11 as a "proof" of the secret Rapture of the saints.

Christ himself, and his apostles in their N.T. writings, state quite clearly that the Second Advent will be neither secret nor silent.

One of the key passages of Scripture

to a right understanding of Christ's Return is what is known as the Olivet Discourse. It covers Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21, and is so called because it was given by Jesus on Mount Olivet to four of his apostles. They were Peter, James, John and Andrew (Mark 13: 3). They came to Jesus privately and asked two very important questions:

First: "When shall these things be?" i.e. the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, which Jesus had earlier foretold (Matthew 24: 2).

Secondly: "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24: 3).

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In his Olivet discourse Jesus gave a clear and detailed answer to these two questions. It is of *fundamental importance*, however, to realise that Christ was not speaking to the Jews or the unbelieving world in his vital address on Mount Olivet. He was speaking only to his apostles as representing his Church.

For Paul tells us plainly in Ephesians 2: 20 that the apostles are part of the foundation of the Church.

As for the Jews, Christ had said goodbye to them and had warned them that no sign would be given them except the sign of Jonah the prophet (Matthew 23: 38-39; 12: 38-40).

In other words, Jesus said that until the Jews believed in his resurrection from the dead, after being three days and nights in the heart of the earth, they would be blind to any signs of the predicted Messianic Kingdom.

And as for the Gentile sinners: they are "dead in trespasses and sins" and so can never understand the signs of the Lord's Return. Only "born again" believers—those who have the Holy Spirit—have a true insight into Second Advent prophecies. It was to his *apostles* (as representing his Church) that Jesus said,

"When you see these things come to pass, *know* ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand" (Luke 21: 31).

With this foundation laid, we can proceed to notice carefully just what Christ and the apostles said about the Second Advent.

### 1. It would not be in secret.

How significant are Christ's words: "If they say unto you, Behold he is in the secret chambers, believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt. 24: 26-27).

The Master went on to say:

"Then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matt. 24: 30).

### 2. It would not be silent.

Jesus said: "And he shall send his angels with a *great sound* of a trumpet, and they shall gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matt. 24: 31).

Notice also that He declared that at his coming in the clouds of heaven, the tribes of earth would not only see the Christ of God; they would also *mourn* at that awesome spectacle in the heavens. The word "mourn" used here means to "beat the breast" (Gk. *koptomai*).

It is evident that the whole world of unrepentant sinners will be in a state of loud lamentation when they see the Lord Jesus and his mighty angels appear in the sky.

The apostles Paul and John reiterate the words of Christ on this vital theme. Turning to two favourite texts used by our secret rapture friends, what do they actually teach? They are:

(a) "The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17).

(b) "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (1 Corinthians 15: 51-52).

It is *vital* to realise that these two Scriptures are parallel. Both of them teach:

1. That not all Christians will see death: some will be alive on earth

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when Christ returns and so will not die. They will be translated.

2. That the bodies of the sleeping saints will be raised from their graves at Christ's return. They will then receive their resurrection bodies.

3. The Trumpet of the Lord will herald the appearing of Christ in the sky.

It seems strange that the advocates of the secret rapture theory (who often quote these passages in 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4) fail to see that the Trumpet mentioned is the *last* trumpet!

When I was a boy, some good Brethren friends taught me the lovely chorus:

"Changed in the twinkling of an eye,  
The trump shall sound and the dead shall rise,  
And we shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye."

Of course, to them the chorus referred to the secret, silent translation of the saints. And yet the very words of the chorus were taken from 1 Cor. 15, where the trumpet is called "the *last* trump."

Surely, that will not be a silent affair, heard only by the saints!

Immediately after describing the *auricular* demonstrations which occur when Christ comes in the air for his saints ("a shout", the "voice of the archangel", the "trump of God") Paul says that this spectacular appearing of Christ would be like "a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5: 2). Like Peter, the apostle Paul uses the figure of a "thief in the night" *not* to point to any secret, silent advent of Christ. Rather does it emphasise the swiftness and unexpectedness of that awesome and glorious event.

**Jesus is not ashamed of his faithful saints.**

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the holy judgments upon the forces of evil on earth.

To the "Bride of the Lamb," however, the hope of Christ's near return inspires the glad song:

They are not going to be whisked away from earth in such a secret and silent manner, that ungodly sinners will know nothing about this sudden disappearance of millions of Christians until, some time afterwards, they hear that in all parts of the world multitudes of people are missing! Oh no!

The sudden and unexpected (by the world) appearing of Christ in the sky will be the moment of open vindication for the saints. For "He shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe" (2 Thess 1: 10).

The Trumpet of 1 Thess. 4: 16 and 1 Cor. 15: 52 will usher in what the Bible repeatedly calls "The day of the Lord". It will be a time of glory and gloom, of delight and despair, of songs of praises and sighs of pain. It will be the "great and terrible day of the Lord": great and glorious for the saints, and terrible and traumatic for the unrepentant sinners.

The Rapture of all true Christians will be followed swiftly by the out-poured wrath of a holy and long-suffering God upon an apostate world. In the words of St. Paul:

"The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess. 1: 7-8).

Speaking to his *disciples*, Jesus said: "the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained down fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. *Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed*" (Luke 17: 29-30).

Surely the Lord was illustrating the solemn fact that once the saints are translated to meet their Lord in the Lord, there will fall immediately

(Continued on Page 31).

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# THE VISIONS OF DANIEL AND JOHN AND THE END OF THE WORLD

The Bible teaches that the world is moving towards a gigantic climax of history. Christ said that He would come back and that He and the Christians would take over the kingdoms of this world and Christ's Kingdom would be set up on this Earth.

There are about 380 references to the Second Coming of Christ in the New Testament alone!

The great climax of history mentioned is the dreadful time of trouble that Jesus said would precede His Return to this Earth - "a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation"(DAN.12v1),"then shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time,no,nor ever shall be.And except those days should be shortened,there should no flesh be saved;but for the elects sake(the Christians) those days shall be shortened"(MAT.24v21-22).

What will take place at the end of this age is clearly taught in the Bible, especially in the Books of Daniel and Revelation. God gave the prophet Daniel and the Apostle John some tremendous visions and revelations about the end time and Return of Christ.

I know that there will be many Christians who will disagree with what I am about to write - many who have adopted the teaching that all the Christians will be taken away by Christ before this great time of trouble begins. I believe many have accepted this view without actually searching the Scriptures THEMSELVES to see if these things are so! I wish they were right,as I am no hero, I would dearly like to believe that we would miss this great time of trouble, but I've always been a realist - I think it most-unwise to live in "a fool's paradise". We must know and accept the TRUTH even if it is unpopular - if that means we are Raptured (gathered to the Lord Jesus Christ) before the Great Tribulation, great! If it means we are Raptured after the Great Tribulation,OK! Let us have the TRUTH and face up to it! I have absolutely NOTHING to gain by telling people we will have to go through the Great Tribulation if it is not so.Far easier in fact to go along with the crowd and be popular! But I can only be true to myself and others; I can do no more than preach and teach what the Bible says knowing that one day I shall stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and give account. It is simply a matter of believing and accepting and acting upon what the Bible teaches, to do otherwise is to be as the foolish man and build our house upon sinking sand,and when the floods and storms and wind and rain of the Great Tribulation comes our faith will crumble, our house will fall, and great will be the fall of it(MAT.7v 24-27). The foundation of all that we believe in and hope for must be TRUTH not FALSEHOOD, what the Bible teaches,not what men teach. If we have to pass through the Great Tribulation then it is absolutely imperative that we seek God NOW and ask Him to prepare us for that time which lies ahead.

If people have been taught that they will be Raptured(gathered to the Lord) BEFORE the Great Tribulation and then they find that it doesn't happen and they are in the midst of the Great Tribulation then they are going to find themselves completely lost not knowing what is happening or what to do, because they have not been taught anything about Antichrist and the events that will take place during the end time.

I think there will be many in these circumstances who will be full of doubts because the promised pre-tribulation Rapture hasn't happened, they will be filled with confusion and their faith will be overthrown and shipwrecked. And Christ will hold those responsible who have taught them falsely! (JAM.3v1 "masters" means "teachers"). There were some in the early Church in the time of Paul the Apostle who falsely taught some Christians that the resurrection had already passed,and as a result the faith of some Christians was destroyed. Paul delivered these false teachers to Satan by the power of God(2 TIM.2v17-18, 1 TIM.1v19-20). This illustrates how serious it is in God's eyes to mislead the people of God.

I therefore ask you in all sincerity to read through this book, study the charts, read my arguments, and above all search the Scriptures whether these things are so, and the Lord bless you and lead you into all truth. I don't want you to believe what I say, but what the BIBLE says! God forbid that your faith should rest on ME instead of His Word . If you find my exposition of the Scriptures correct then your faith will be in His Eternal Word and then neither Hell or anything else will shake it!

### THE VISIONS OF DANIEL AND JOHN

To understand what is written in the Books of Daniel and Revelation we need to understand first of all God's method of revelation. What I mean here is clearly illustrated in the Book of Daniel. I have illustrated on the first chart the various revelations Daniel had about the kingdoms of the world, the end time, and the Return of Christ and the setting up of His Kingdom.

What you will notice is that God gave him a series of revelations going over the same thing again and again and again:-----

FIRST - NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S IMAGE (DAN. 2)

1. Head of gold - Babylon.
2. Chest and arms of silver - Medo-Persia.
3. Belly and thighs of Brass - Grecia.
4. Legs of iron - Rome.
5. Feet of iron and clay - Antichrist and ten kingdom alliance.
6. The Smiting Stone - Return of Christ.
7. The Stone (Christ) smites the last kingdom, the kingdom of Antichrist and sweeps away all the kingdoms of the world - the stone becomes a huge mountain which fills all the Earth (the Millennial Kingdom of Christ).

The ten toes of the image are the ten kingdoms which emerge out of the area of the Old Roman Empire, the ten kingdoms over which Antichrist will rule.

"in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed (the Kingdom of Christ)" DAN.2v44.

"there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days" DAN.2v28.

We can see from the above that the whole emphasis of the vision was on the end time and the coming Kingdom of Christ.

SECOND - FOUR BEASTS (DAN.7)

1. Lion with eagles wings - Babylon.
2. Bear --- Medo-Persia.
3. Leopard with four head and four wings - Grecia.
4. Dreadful beast, iron teeth and nails of brass - Rome.
5. Ten horns and little horn which come up later (at the end time) - Antichrist and ten kingdom alliance.
5. Christ Returns and sets up His Kingdom.

The ten horns are ten kingdoms that shall arise out of the area of the Old Roman Empire. They form an alliance and Antichrist rules over them. Antichrist (the little horn) prevails against the saints (Christians) for the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years of the Great Tribulation. Then Christ comes and the kingdoms of the world are given to the saints of God (DAN.7v8,11-14,18,20-27).

Here again the whole emphasis of the vision was on the end time, the Great Tribulation and the Return of Christ and the setting up of His Kingdom.

THIRD - THE RAM AND THE HE GOAT (DAN. 8)

1. Ram --- Medo-Persia
2. He Goat with one great horn - Grecia (the great horn being Alexander the Great).
3. He Goat with four horns - on the death of Alexander four of his generals seized the empire and it was divided into four (represented by the four horns of the he goat and the four heads and four wings of the leopard in the previous vision).
4. Out of one of the four horns came forth a little horn (Antichrist) - this shows that Antichrist will emerge out of one of the four divisions of the old Grecian Empire. As Rome and Italy were never any part of the Grecian Empire this is proof conclusive that the Pope cannot be Antichrist, neither the Roman Church (more about this later).
5. Antichrist is destroyed by Christ "the Prince of princes", "without hand" i.e. without human hands. DAN.8v25.

The angel tells Daniel that the vision is for "the time of the end" v17; "in the last end of the indignation" v19; the end shall be at the time appointed, v19; "in the latter time... when the transgressors are come to the full" (v23) Antichrist will arise - this speaks of the great falling away (apostasy) that will precede the appearance of Antichrist as mentioned by Paul (2 THESS.2v1-3). Certainly we are in this time now, churches generally have never been so empty, sin abounds more and more. The scene is set for Antichrist to appear.

So we can see that the whole emphasis of this vision is also on the time of the end.

#### FOURTH - THE 70 WEEKS (SEVENS) OF YEARS (DAN.9)

These are 70 sevens of years, as is obvious from the context(see later notes on the "70 Weeks"). It seems that the city of Jerusalem took "7 Weeks" of years to rebuild(the Temple of Herod at a later date took 45 years - see JOHN 2v20).

#### 3.

1. 7 sevens of years - Jerusalem rebuilt.
2. Another 62 sevens of years - and Christ dies at Calvary "Messiah cut off, but not for himself", Christ died for us taking the judgment for our sins so that we could be forgiven, hence "making reconciliation for iniquity"(DAN.9v24,26).
3. The 70th seven of years - the reign of Antichrist(DAN.9v27). He signs the 7 year treaty("one week", i.e. "one seven")v27. In the midst of the seven("week") he breaks the treaty.

Between the 69th seven (7 + 62) when "Messiah was cut off" and the 70th seven there is an indefinite period of time commonly called the Church Age. This is because after the death and resurrection of Christ the nation of Israel was judged by God for crucifying their Messiah(MAT.23v34-39) and they were scattered among the nations(LUKE 21v24) and Israel died as a nation. So the last or 70th seven could not begin until they became a nation again in their own land for the angel said to Daniel "70 sevens are determined upon THY PEOPLE and upon THY HOLY CITY(Jerusalem)DAN.9v24". Obviously the 70 sevens of years of God's dealings with the people of Israel and the city of Jerusalem can only be when they are in their own land and in their own Holy City. During the period in which Israel is scattered God is dealing exclusively with the Church. The fact that Israel has once again become a nation and the Jews are being brought back into their own land, and Jerusalem is now back in the hands of the Jews, is a further very important indicator that the 70th seven of years is close at hand.

Also, remember that in considering the various "beasts"(empires) the prophecies are only concerned with those empires which have ruled, or will rule, over Palestine and Jerusalem from the time of Babylon(when Daniel received some of his prophecies) through the 70 sevens of years of Daniel's prophecy, so all those empires which have ruled over Jerusalem and Palestine when the Jews have been scattered(i.e. between the 69th and 70th sevens of years), such as the Turkish and British Empires, are ignored. For this reason the Antichrist kingdom(ten horns and the little horn) appear to spring directly out of the fourth beast, the Roman Empire, because the prophecy ignores the gap of time between the 69th and 70th "weeks". The Roman Empire has ceased to exist but the Antichrist kingdom will emerge out of the area which the Roman Empire covered.

4. The angel said that the end of the 70th seven of years would "seal up the vision and prophecy and anoint the most holy", i.e. all prophecy will be fulfilled and the Kingdom of Christ will be brought into being. So this age ends at the end of the 70th seven of years. The angel says that the vision is for the latter days(DAN.10v14), for the time of the end(12v1,4,7,9).

So here again the emphasis is on the end time and the coming of the Kingdom of Christ.

So God showed Daniel the same thing over and over again with a series of pictures and revelations, each series giving different aspects of the same thing.

Likewise you will see that God did the same thing with John. John's revelations were mainly about the end time - the last 7 years - with the main emphasis on the Great Tribulation. And God showed him different aspects going over the same period again and again with a series of pictures and revelations as you will see from the other part of the first chart.

God has given us a very great deal of information about the end time and the Great Tribulation, doesn't this strike you as strange if the Church is going to be taken away to be with the Lord before all this happens??? There can be no other reason for the Lord giving us all this information than the fact that the Church will have to pass through this period of tribulation, and when we see all the things taking place that He has told us about we will know that His Word is true, that every passing day brings us nearer to the time when He will come and set up His Kingdom; so instead of being dismayed when these things happen we will see that God is bringing His Word to pass, nothing can take place without He allows it - even Antichrist cannot receive his crown (become a ruler) until Jesus breaks the first seal, and all the stages of his career are under the control of Jesus and cannot take place until He breaks each seal. The ten kingdom alliance in giving their power and strength unto the beast (Antichrist) are fulfilling the will of God "so that the words of God shall be fulfilled" (REV. 17v17). Whatever Satan does God knows beforehand and so plans accordingly, so that in that sense as God can turn all things to His advantage even Satan and Antichrist and the ten kingdoms are but tools in His hands working out His purposes. For example - when Satan stirred up Judas Iscariot to betray Christ (JOHN 13v27, 13v2) and stirred up the mob to crucify Him Satan thought that this was his final victory; little did he know that God knew beforehand all that would take place and He used the death of Christ at Calvary for the Redemption of man. Had Satan known he would never have engineered the crucifixion of Christ (1 COR. 2v8).

Likewise, all that Satan and his evil followers can do at the end time God can and will turn to His advantage and work out His purposes.

Why is God going to allow this awful time of trouble?

The reason is this, there is a great falling away from the faith, from God, God's Word is ridiculed, despised, ignored, there is abounding iniquity (I read today in the paper that a film director is trying to get a film made about "the sex life of Jesus Christ" - pornographic), Spiritualism, Witchcraft, Satanism and all kinds of occult practices and Satan and demon worship is more and more widespread, more and more filth and blasphemy is portrayed in the films, books, magazines, on the television, etc. So as we come to the stage where "transgressors are come to the full" (DAN.8v23) where all these dreadful things are happening and Sodomite conditions prevail (homosexuality, etc.), God as it were will say, "Alright, you reject me and my Word and my commandments, you would rather have Satan and his ways, I will allow Satan to rule you and then we will see how you really like it!" God will take His restraining hand off the powers of darkness (2 THESS.2v7). Satan and his hosts will be cast out of the heavenlies to the Earth and Satan will rule through Antichrist (he will be possessed by Satan). The world will then see the most dreadful time of trouble and bloodshed and destruction that history has ever seen. Suddenly Satan and his ways will not be so attractive anymore, Satan will be revealed for what he is, all he can really offer is death, destruction and misery. It will take this to waken a lot of people up and in that time as multitudes see what Satan is really like and they see the far better way of God through the Christians "a multitude that no man can number" will turn to God (REV.7v9,14). There will be the greatest revival that the world has ever seen. And just as there will be dreadful demonic power unleashed as God takes His restraining hand off the powers of darkness, so there will be a tremendous unleashing of the manifest power of God through His people. There will be a similar situation as in the time of Moses when God did tremendous miracles through Moses and Pharaoh's magicians tried to copy with the power of Satan. We will have to be very careful that we are not deceived in this tribulation time by false prophets who will perform all kinds of miracles with great demonic power, even bringing fire down from heaven in the sight of men (as Elijah did to prove he was of God). The test will be what they teach about Jesus Christ and his atoning blood. Also, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially the gift of discerning of spirits, will be a tremendous asset in this time. It will be very necessary for Christians to be able to recognise and deal with demon spirits, and I believe that this is yet another reason why God would have His people seek Him NOW that He might prepare them for that time ahead.

Another reason for God allowing this time of trouble is to purify Christians that the Bride of Christ (the Church) might be made ready pure and spotless to meet Christ. Many Christians live with one foot in the world and one foot in the Church. God is going to sort the wheat from the chaff - "Many shall be purified and made white, and tried" (DAN.12v10). When the Lamb's Wife (the Church - 2 COR.11v2, EPH.5v24-32, 11v35) has made herself ready, purified herself, then she shall be arrayed in white and the Lord will come for her (REV.19v6-21). This is AFTER the Great Tribulation and the judgment of the Harlot Babylon (REV.19v2) and God has taken over the kingdoms of the world (REV.19v6).

As there will be the greatest revival the world has ever seen during this tribulation time and there will be thousands of new converts all over the world who will need guidance and teaching is it likely that God would take all the Christians away before all this? The true Church will be needed like it has never been needed before. "They that understand among the people shall instruct many" (DAN.11v33), "the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits" (DAN.11v32). The two witnesses could hardly do all this themselves, they will be fully occupied at the city of Jerusalem ("where our Lord was crucified" REV.11v8).

God has given us all this information about the end time, we will be wise not to ignore it! We need to make ourselves familiar with all the events that will take place so that when they happen we will know exactly where we are. The time may come when Bibles are banned, so NOW is the time to make ourselves familiar with God's Word. Some suggest that it doesn't matter whether we believe we are going through the Tribulation or not, "Let's wait and see!" but it is of great importance that people are prepared. Those who have been taught that the Christians will be taken away before the Tribulation are no doubt content in the main to sit back and not bother about the Bible teaching on the end time and the Great Tribulation - why bother if we are going to miss it? They will be lost and in a fog when the time comes, and the faith of many will be destroyed. But those familiar with God's Word will be able to rejoice that their redemption draws nigh!(LUKE 21v28).

JOHN'S VISIONSBOOK WITH SEVEN SEALS (REV.6, 8v1)

This book contains visions about the end time and Antichrist. This is undoubtedly the book that Daniel was told to shut up and seal until the time of the end (DAN.12v4,9). In these visions Daniel was shown all about the reign of Antichrist and the end of the age and the Coming Kingdom of Christ. Notice the "time, times, and an half" (DAN.12v7,7v25,etc), and compare with REV.11v2,3,12v6,14,13v5 where the same time period is referred to - "a time(one time), times(two times), and half a time", i.e.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years = 1260 days(as they had 360 days in their year) = 42 months. God is hereby making known to us that He means a literal  $3\frac{1}{2}$  year period which is the latter half of the 7 year treaty period.

When God the Father considers the time is right to begin the last 7 years of the age and bring the age to a close and bring in the Eternal Kingdom of Christ then He will hand this book sealed with seven seals to His Son Jesus Christ who alone is worthy to bring this age to an end and rule in the Millennial Kingdom. (REV.5).

- (1)When Jesus breaks the first seal then Antichrist receives his crown,i.e.he comes to power.White horse(peace) - Antichrist signs the peace treaty with Israel.
- (2)When Jesus breaks the second seal Antichrist is given a great sword,i.e.great ability and power to make war.Red horse(blood) - Antichrist takes peace from from the earth - this is the time he fights against the 3 kings (3 of the ten) and finishes ruling over all ten(DAN.7v24,REV.17v12-13).
- (3)When Jesus breaks the third seal Antichrist is seen riding a black horse with a pair of balances in his hand - "a measure of wheat for a penny".This denotes famine(hence the black horse). A penny then was a days pay,i.e. a days pay for a loaf of bread. This famine follows the previous wars. A man's wages will just keep him alive. Conditions will obviously be thus in those countries who were involved in the previous wars.
- (4)When Jesus breaks the fourth seal Antichrist is seen as 'Death'riding a pale (yellowish-green) horse with 'Hell' following him - this is the time that Antichrist breaks the treaty and marches on Israel. Death reaps and Hell garners as Nato retaliates and World War 3 and the Great Tribulation begins. (DAN.11v28,30 - breaking the treaty,11v40-41 - enters Israel "the glorious land", 11v45 - he makes Jerusalem his headquarters "shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain" i.e. between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea in Jerusalem - this is the time that he places his image in the Temple at Jerusalem "the abomination that maketh . desolate standing in the Holy of Holies" and commands people to worship him). At the time Antichrist makes Jerusalem his headquarters(DAN,11v45) the Archangel Michael stands up to fight against Satan and his hosts and cast them out of the heavenlies(DAN.12v1,REV.12v7,14),then shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation(DAN.12v1),"woe unto the inhabitants of the earth"(REV.12v12).This is the time of the Great Tribulation lasting  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years(REV.12v14).
- (5)When Jesus opens the fifth seal we see the souls of martyred Christians in heaven - this is the result of Satan and Antichrist's persecution of Christians and the situation will be worse in those countries under Antichrist's rule - (though with all the powers of darkness being thrown out of the heavenlies and confined to the earth it will be bad in most places). DAN.7v21,25,11v33-35, 12v7,REV.12v13,17,13v7. But God will look after His people and give grace and strength for the time. The "woman"(REV.12v1-2,5,6,13-17),which is the Jewish Christian Church,are persecuted by Satan but God preserves them for the whole of the Great Tribulation(REV.12v14), and He will look after His saints in other parts of the world also, though this time will not be easy. But read ISA.65v13-14, where God promises to undertake for His people. We can also take comfort in the fact that God has everything under control - every stage of the career of Antichrist is under the control of Christ,shown by the seals. Satan and Antichrist can do nothing except what God allows(REV.17v17 etc).

- (6) When Jesus opens the sixth seal the heavens are shaken and rolled up, the heavens depart (compare 2PET.3v10) and Christ comes - it is the great day of the wrath of the Lamb, the day that He comes to execute judgment on the wicked and gather his saints.
- (7) When Jesus breaks <sup>the</sup> seventh seal there is silence in heaven for half an hour as the whole of heaven looks down in shocked - silence at the shattered and ruined earth, the dead and dying and carnage is everywhere - the supreme monument to man's folly in following sin and Satan.

After the seven seals John is given another series of visions which goes over the end time again showing yet further details :--

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS (REV.8,9,10,11)

- (1) The first trumpet sounds - this is the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

Antichrist breaks the treaty, world war begins - "hail and fire mingled with blood cast upon the earth, a third part of trees burned up and all green grass". This obviously refers to the areas where the wars are taking place for it cannot mean that grass all over the world is burned up, for grass and trees are mentioned later in REV.9v4. Hence it is a third of trees and all grass in a particular area, or areas, that is destroyed in the wars. That people are slain is indicated by the blood mingled with the fire and hail.

- (2) Second trumpet - "as it were" a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea, third part of sea becomes blood, third part of creatures in the sea die, third part of ships destroyed. The sea referred to is very likely the Mediterranean Sea; there are a great many ships there and the third part of the ships destroyed will probably be the ships of Antichrist. Russia has a great many ships in the Mediterranean Sea. The object "as it were a mountain" will very likely be a huge meteorite - these set on fire because of friction with the Earth's atmosphere when they come hurtling in from space. In falling into the Mediterranean Sea it destroys a third of the ships and the impact together with the tremendous heat destroys a third of the fish, etc., in the Sea; hence a third of the Sea becomes blood. There will be a great many people killed also that are in the ships.
- (3) Third trumpet - a great star falls from heaven burning "as it were" a lamp. It falls upon a third part of rivers and fountains of waters and the waters become bitter and many men die because of the waters. The place is probably the Middle East where Antichrist and his followers are for the 7 Trumpets are judgments upon Antichrist and his followers. The first trumpet affects trees (fuel) and grass (hence cattle and food); the second affects his ships and fish (food); the third affects water supplies. "Lamps" in those days were long and thin with a flame at the end (like the torch carried by the runner at the start of the Olympics), as this "star" falling from heaven looked like this it could well be a rocket that has been fired up into space and then falls in the Mediterranean area. The waters possibly become radioactive and men die as a result of drinking it.
- (4) Fourth trumpet - third part of sun, moon and stars affected so that a third part of the day is darkened and a third part of the night. This worsening of visibility probably makes things more difficult for Antichrist and his troops.

The next three trumpets are described as three "woes".

- (5) Fifth trumpet - a star (angel - JOB 38v7) descends from heaven and opens the Bottomless Pit releasing demons that have previously been confined there (Satan and all his hosts will be confined to the Bottomless Pit for a thousand years at the Return of Christ - REV.20v1-3), these demons torment for five months those who are followers of Antichrist. This is the first woe.
- (6) Sixth trumpet - an army of 200,000,000 comes from the east (probably Chinese with others), the "horses" they ride are tanks (REV.9v17-19). The heads of the horses are like lions, i.e. they roar (guns), out of these mouths (guns) issues fire, smoke and brimstone (as the shells are fired) and by this is a third of men killed. Tails like serpents that give a deadly sting - this could refer to a machine gun. We must remember that the Apostle is trying to describe something he has been shown in vision - a most peculiar monster spitting death, with men riding on top, strange horses indeed for men to be riding. The tank was only invented during the First World War so this is a remarkable prophecy. (Rather like the remarkable prophecy of Nahum who was given a vision of motor cars, all he had ever seen was chariots so he described what he saw using the terminology of his day - NAHUM 2v4 "The chariots shall rage in the streets (horns), they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches (headlamps), they shall run like the lightnings.")

The sixth trumpet is the second woe. These wars with 200,000,000 lasts 13 months.

(7) Seventh trumpet - at the sounding of this trumpet the mystery(plan) of God is finished (REV, 10v7). This is the third and last woe - the Wrath of the Lamb(Christ) as He returns and executes judgment on the wicked. It is at this trumpet that the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of Christ as He takes over the rule of the Earth (REV. 11v14-15). Also at this 7th and LAST trumpet the dead in Christ are raised up, all the Christians are gathered to the Lord and the judgment and reward of Christians begins (1 COR. 15v51-52 "at the LAST trumpet" - positive proof that the resurrection and Rapture is at the end of the tribulation, REV. 11v15-18, 1 THESS. 4v14-17 - note "trumpet", MAT. 24v29-31 - "immediately after the tribulation" Christ comes and sends forth His angels with a great sound of a trumpet to gather together his elect.) Could Scripture be any plainer?

SEVEN THUNDERS (REV.10v3-4)

These would appear to be judgments at the end of the Great Tribulation. Whatever they are John was told not to reveal them.

THE WOMAN (REV.12v1-2,4-6,13-17)

(1) This "woman" brings forth a "manchild" who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. Satan tries to devour the manchild, the manchild is caught up to God and His throne. This has led many to believe that the woman is Mary and the manchild is Jesus. This cannot be so because when the angel took John up into Heaven by the Spirit he said to John, "...I will show thee things which must be in the future." The Birth of Christ had already taken place about 98 years or so previously. John himself was about 90 years old when he had these revelations.

Also the woman is kept by the power of God and supplied with food, etc., for 3½ years in the wilderness AFTER the "manchild" is caught up to God and His throne. How could this possibly fit Mary??

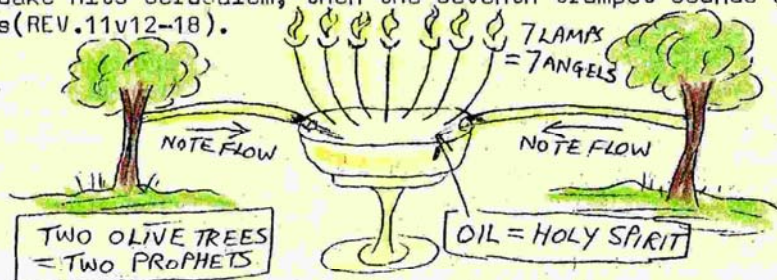
The "Woman" is in fact the Church of Christ in Israel at the end time. Her travailing in birth, etc., speaks of formation of character in her children for they are of such character that they are destined, like Christ, to rule all nations with a rod of iron (see GAL.4v19). As they are so destined to rule they could hardly be simply new converts, though there will certainly be many new converts won to Christ at this time. Just as the whole of this church is represented by one person (a woman) so her offspring are represented by one person (a manchild). It is in fact a "manchild company" or a company of believers. These believers are faithful unto death - "they loved not their lives unto the death". They are martyred for Christ and are caught up to God and His throne. Hence they receive the promise of Christ that they will rule the nations with a rod of iron (REV.2v26-27). It is possible that these believers stay behind in Jerusalem and Judea to make sure that the rest of the Church obeys the command of Christ to flee (MAT.24v15-16) and are consequently caught and put to death. Being caught up to God and His throne cannot mean that they are raptured because the Rapture of ALL Christians does not take place until the last trumpet at the end of the tribulation (apart from the two witnesses). If they were raptured why should the rest of the Church - the woman - be left behind? (Zion and manchild - cf. ISA.66v5-24 and MIC.4v10).

- (2) The "Woman" is clothed with the sun - shining with the light and glory of Christ. This no doubt also speaks of the Gospel (2 COR.4v4). The moon is under her feet - this speaks of the Old Testament Scriptures. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun so the Old Testament reflected the glorious light of the Gospel; all the Old Testament Scriptures spoke of Christ (LUKE 24v44-47, 24v27), one famous example being ISA.53. To a large extent the New Testament is an explanation of the Old. Jesus came not to destroy the Law and the prophets but to fulfil (MAT.5v17-18). Though we have a new covenant and we live in the age of grace and not law the Church is still very dependent upon the great truths in the Old Testament - hence the "Woman" stands upon the moon, the Old Testament Scriptures which all speak of Christ, "and beginning at Moses and the prophets he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (LUKE 24v27).
- (3) Upon her head a crown of twelve stars - this no doubt speaks of the twelve Apostles who Jesus used to found the Church. Crown denotes rule and Jesus said that the twelve Apostles would sit on thrones judging (ruling) the twelve tribes of Israel (LUKE 22v29-30, MAT.19v28). Stars usually speak of individuals (DAN.12v3).
- (4) The woman is not the entire Church of Christ but that part which is in Israel. She flees into the wilderness upon seeing the abomination of desolation standing in the Holy Place, thus obeying the command of the Lord (MAT.24v15). This is the beginning of the Great Tribulation (MAT.24v21-22), the time when Satan is cast out of the heavenlies (REV.12v7-13). The "Woman" is persecuted by Satan through Antichrist AFTER Satan is cast out of the heavenlies (REV.12v13).

- (5) She is kept by God for 1260 days,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times, i.e.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years - the period of the Great Tribulation.
- (6) God gives mighty help to the woman (wings of a great eagle) to enable her to escape into the wilderness. Satan in control of Antichrist sends an army (flood, see ISA. 8v7-8) after them to try and destroy them but God intervenes, causes an earthquake which swallows the army up. God looks after them for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years. God's care of His people will be just as great in other parts of the world if we are obedient and walk close to Him, He is no respecter of persons, and after all did He not keep millions of His people for 40 years in the wilderness? Certainly He can keep His people for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years during the Great Tribulation!

THE TWO WITNESSES (REV.11)

- (1) These are two literal men for they are killed at the end of the Tribulation by Antichrist, after  $3\frac{1}{2}$  days they are resurrected and ascend up to God (REV.11v7-13). They are in the world now and no doubt being prepared by God for their great ministry.
- (2) Their witness and ministry is at Jerusalem for the Bible plainly states, v8, "where also our Lord was crucified", i.e. Jerusalem. This is Jerusalem under the rule of Antichrist, they accept him as Messiah, Antichrist's image (the Abomination of desolation) is placed in the Holy of Holies in the Temple at Jerusalem, Antichrist is worshipped, the city of God becomes the city of the Devil, God's people are killed and persecuted (the "Woman" and her offspring already mentioned). The city of Jerusalem is described as "Sodom" (sins of the flesh) and "Egypt" (going after material things and depending on Antichrist). This shows the awful condition of Jerusalem at the end time, (see ISA.1v3,8,10, etc, where Jerusalem is described as "Sodom and Gomorrah"). For this reason the two witnesses prophesy at and bring judgment upon Jerusalem for 1260 days,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years, the period of the Great Tribulation. The two witnesses are killed  $3\frac{1}{2}$  days before the end of the Tribulation so it would seem that their prophecy and witness begins  $3\frac{1}{2}$  days before the tribulation begins, or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  days before the Abomination is placed in the Temple. Possibly they begin their witness beforehand to warn the Christians about the command of the Lord that when they see the Abomination placed in the Temple they should flee from Judea into the mountains (MAT.24v15-16).
- (3) When the two witnesses are resurrected and ascend up into heaven a great earthquake hits Jerusalem, then the seventh trumpet sounds and the Lord Returns (REV.11v12-18).



The Two Witnesses are described as "the two olive trees" (REV.11v4) and is an obvious reference to ZECH.4v1-4,11-14. "These are the two anointed ones that stand by the Lord of the whole earth" (ZECH.4v14). In the vision Zechariah saw a lampstand with a bowl on the top, and 7 pipes from the bowl to seven lamps; on either side of the lampstand there was an olive tree each of which poured its oil into the bowl feeding the lamps. As the two olive trees are the two witnesses at Jerusalem at the end time the vision would seem to mean this --

Satan is cast out of the heavenlies with all his angels. Satan takes possession of Antichrist and sets himself up in the Temple at Jerusalem declaring himself to be God (2 THESS.2v4,9). Satan and all his most powerful angels will be at Jerusalem which will become "the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird" (REV.18v2). The two witnesses at Jerusalem will need the most tremendous protection that God can give which will be the 7 archangels (Michael, Gabriel, etc) represented by the seven lamps in the vision (REV.4v5). The oil which flows from the olive trees (the two witnesses) to the 7 lamps (the seven archangels) represents the Holy Spirit. In other words the Holy Spirit through the two witnesses will direct the 7 archangels in bringing judgments upon Jerusalem for they "smite the earth with plagues as often as THEY WILL" (REV.11v6), but of course they have the mind of God.

THE GREAT RED DRAGON, SATAN (REV. 12v3-4, 7-13)

"And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew a third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth.... And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him..... Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time (3½ years to be precise)". The Great Tribulation is the wrath of Satan, not God.

### TEN HORNS

These are the same ten horns that are mentioned elsewhere in scripture, (the Beast of REV.13v1, and the ten horns of the fourth beast in Dan.7 etc). It is the ten kingdom alliance over which Antichrist will rule. These ten kingdoms only come into being as an alliance for a short period of time at the end (REV.17v12- "one hour" should read "a season", the Greek word here is the same as in JOHN 5v35 "ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light". The ten kingdom alliance reigns with Antichrist for 7 years. The Greek word can mean an hour, a season, a short period of time).

The fact that the ten horns are shown on the Dragon illustrates that Satan is the power behind them, just as it is the Dragon that gives Antichrist his power, and his throne, and great authority (REV.13v2).

### SEVEN HEADS WITH SEVEN CROWNS

These seven heads correspond to the seven heads of the beast in REV.13v1, "full of names of blasphemy" - which shows the blasphemous, godless character of the seven kingdoms which have been, and will be, under the control of Satan.

The seven heads are seven kingdoms (REV.17v9-10) through which Satan has ruled over Palestine and Jerusalem from the time of Babylon and through the 70 "weeks" (sevens) of years of Daniel's prophecy. "And there are seven kings: five are fallen (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Egypt and Syria), and one is (Rome in the time of John), and the other is not yet come (Antichrist); and when he cometh, he must continue A SHORT SPACE (7 years)". (REV.17v10). Initially Babylon and its empire was given to Nebuchadnezzar by God, but in the days of Nebuchadnezzar's grandson Belshazzar Babylon had become really wicked and under the control of Satan, so God pronounced Judgment upon it and gave the empire into the hands of the Medes and Persians. So ultimately all these 7 kingdoms have and will come under the control of Satan, blaspheming God and persecuting His saints. Hence Satan is shown with seven heads wearing the crown of each kingdom.

### HIS TAIL DREW A THIRD PART OF THE STARS OF HEAVEN AND CAST THEM TO THE EARTH

The stars are angels (JOB 38v7) and Satan causes the downfall of one third of the angels of heaven who have followed him - they are cast out with him to the earth (REV.12v9). All that follow Satan will be dragged down by him.



### SATAN AND HIS ANGELS CAST OUT OF THE HEAVENLIES

Contrary to popular belief Hell is not the domain of the Devil! Some speak about Hell as if Satan has his throne there and all his cronies are the warders who have a jolly good time tormenting the lost. This is absolute nonsense and not taught in Scripture! Hell is simply a prison where God(not Satan) confines the wicked until the Day of Judgment. It is a prison, not only for the souls of wicked human beings(LUKE 16v19-31), but also for angels and demon spirits(JUDE 6, 2 PET.2v4), and Jesus(not Satan) has the keys(REV.1v18). Hell(sometimes described as 'the pit' or 'the deep' or the 'bottomless pit') is a place to which demons and angels of Satan have certainly no wish to go(LUKE 8v31,REV.20v1-3); they certainly don't drag the lost down there and torment them.('Pit'means dungeon-<sup>SEP 38v13</sup>) There are three heavens referred to in Scripture - (1) the atmosphere (2) the region of the stars (3) Heaven itself where the Throne of God is(see GEN.1v8, 2 COR.12v2). After his initial rebellion Satan and his angels were cast out of the third heaven, out of the immediate presence of God, and thereafter were confined to the second and first heavens. Hence Paul says we wrestle with wicked spirits in HEAVENLY PLACES(EPH.6v12,margin). Satan's throne at present is in the heavenlies, but at the beginning of the Great Tribulation Satan and all his angels and demons will be cast out to the earth. Satan will immediately establish his throne in the Temple at Jerusalem "as God" in the City of God. People will be called to worship the Dragon(REV.13v4). At the Return of Christ Satan and his followers will be confined to the Bottomless Pit for 1,000 years(REV.20v1-3). .

CONDITIONS ON EARTH

"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea for the Devil is come down unto you ~~having~~ great wrath for he knoweth that he hath a short time"(REV.12v12).

The Great Tribulation is the wrath of Satan not the wrath of God - the wrath of the Lamb(Christ) comes later at His return, though some judgments will be poured out by God upon the wicked during the Tribulation to try and bring them to repentance(REV.6v15-17,9v20-21), but the people of God will be kept from these judgments just as He kept His people from the judgments He poured out upon Egypt in the time of Moses(God has power over His plagues).

Nevertheless, God's people have always suffered persecution from Satan and his followers and this will be true in the Tribulation; Jesus said that in the world we would have tribulation, we are told that all that will live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. He doesn't promise us deliverance FROM persecution but promises that He will enable us to go through. Certainly there are many saints of God suffering persecution NOW in Communist countries.

At the moment Satan doesn't know how long he has got, though he knows (like us) that it can't be long by all the signs in the world. He will not know until God the Father gives the book with seven seals to Jesus and Jesus starts to break the seals - then he will know that he only has a short time(7 years). When he is cast out of the heavenlies he will know that he has only 3½ years.

With Satan confined to the earth with all his followers and the restraining hand of God removed from the powers of darkness(2 THESS.2v7) there will be a tremendous unleashing of supernatural demonic power as already mentioned (2 THESS.2v9,REV.13v13-15,MAT.24v24). There will be many false Christs and false prophets,as Jesus warned us,performing great signs and wonders and we will have to be very careful that we are not deceived by them in this time. The gift of discerning of spirits and knowledge of God's Word will be essential.

There are few Christians now who can answer the lies and false teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Spiritualists, Yogis, etc. The ignorance which many Christians display of God's Word is really appalling. How will they cope with these devilishly clever, demon-possessed, miracle-working, servants of Satan in the end time?

Now is the time to study God's Word and get a grip of what it teaches on salvation, the Christian life, the Deity of Christ, the Trinity, and all the other basics of Christianity, and the end time and the Second Coming of Christ.

Although God will allow the Devil to use his power as never before, we can comfort ourselves with the fact that the manifest power of God will increase mightily - note the two witnesses. The power of God will be manifest in other parts of the world in the same way. "They that know their God(i.e. have come to know Him in experience) shall be strong and do exploits."(DAN.11v32).

## THE SEVEN VIALS OF WRATH (REV.15 & 16)

When the 5th Seal is broken the souls of martyred Christians are seen in Heaven and they ask God, "How long before thou dost avenge our blood upon them that dwell on the earth?" The 7 vials of wrath would appear to be part of the answer to this prayer for they are judgments poured out upon the wicked, Antichrist and his followers (see REV.16v5-6), but the aim of this, even at this late hour, is to bring them to repentance for God is not willing that any should perish (REV.16v9,11); the patience and longsuffering of God is truly amazing - but where would we be without it?

1st Vial - Antichrist's followers struck with awful sores.

2nd Vial - Sea (Mediterranean?) made putrid and red as blood, every living thing dies in the Sea (no food from Sea).

3rd Vial - Rivers and fountains (wells) of water turned into blood (no drinking water for Antichrist and his army).

4th Vial - Sun's heat increases - men scorched with great heat (yet no repentance).

5th Vial - Darkness covers Antichrist and his kingdom. They gnaw their tongues for pain, blaspheme God (yet no repentance).

6th Vial - River Euphrates dried up - passage opened for an army from the East to pass to Armageddon (probably Chinese and others).  
Three devilish prophets gather world to last battle.  
Armageddon is near Nazareth.

7th Vial - the Day of the Lord's Return - thunderings and lightnings and mightiest earthquake of all time as the feet of Christ touch

the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem is split into 3 parts, all the world's major cities collapse, Jerusalem (Babylon) is buried beneath the sea as the earthquake opens up the land and joins the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea, Jerusalem buried like a millstone cast into the sea (REV. 18v21). A new city of Jerusalem is built afterwards to the North on a new mountain ("on the sides of the north, the city of the great king"). The waters of the Dead sea will be healed and fish life will abound. (see ZECH. 14v8-9, DAN. 9v26, EZEK. 47v1-12, PSA. 46, 48v1-2, ISA. 2v1-2, MIC. 4v1-2,).

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#### THE BEAST FROM OUT OF THE SEA (REV. 13v1-2)

(Aegean Sea)

John was on the Isle of Patmos in the Mediterranean when he had these revelations, he stood upon the sea shore and saw this beast rise out of the sea, i.e. the Mediterranean Sea. The four beasts Daniel saw rose out of the Great Sea (the Great Sea is the old name for the Mediterranean Sea). As all these beasts rise out of the Mediterranean Sea it shows that all these kingdoms arise in the Mediterranean area. If you look at the maps you will see that Babylon encompassed part of the area around the Mediterranean Sea, Medo-Persia still more, Greece more still, and Rome conquered all the countries around the Mediterranean and even across Western Europe as far as Britain; and each one ruled over Jerusalem and Palestine.

Babylon was depicted as a lion, Medo-Persia as a bear, Greece as a leopard with four heads, Rome as a dreadful beast with teeth of iron, nails of brass and ten horns came out of it, and a little horn.

The beast in REV. 13v1-2 has the mouth of a lion, feet of a bear, body of a leopard, and ten horns. Thus we can see that this beast is a combination of all the others seen by Daniel. The seven heads of this beast represent all the kingdoms which have and will rule over Jerusalem and Palestine during the time of Babylon (when Daniel had some of his revelations) and throughout the 70 sevens of years of Daniel's prophecy, as already mentioned. The seven heads are seven kingdoms, five are fallen (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Egypt and Syria), one is (Rome), and the other is not yet come (Antichrist), and when he comes he must continue a short space (7 years). Antichrist is the seventh head. This head is wounded to death (slain), i.e. Antichrist is slain (by a sword-in war).

His soul descends into the Bottomless Pit (Hell). Satan is permitted by God to raise him from the dead, hence the Beast ascends out of the Bottomless Pit, 11v7, Antichrist comes back to life, and all the world wonders after the Beast that was slain by a sword and did live. So having come back to life Antichrist is the 8th head of the beast and is also of the seven (i.e. the 7th head brought back to life). Power is given to him to continue 42 months (i.e. to continue to make war - margin).

The ten horns of the beast are of course the ten kingdom alliance as already mentioned.

#### THE BEAST FROM OUT OF THE EARTH - THE FALSE PROPHET(REV.13v11)

The previous beast rose up out of the sea(waters-peoples,nations,REV.17v15), this beast rises up out of the earth, at the same time that Antichrist is raised from the dead. It could be that Satan will be permitted to bring up out of the Pit a powerful angel or demon that has previously been confined there at the same time that he brings Antichrist out of the Pit, for coming up out of the earth seems to speak of coming up out of Hades(1 SAM.28v13). This angel or demon will possess a man who will be the False Prophet - Antichrist's right hand man. To display the supernatural power that he does,even bringing fire down from heaven as Elijah did,he will most certainly be possessed. The miracles performed by false Christs and false prophets will be the work of demons or angels of Satan(REV.16v14,etc).

This beast has two horns like a lamb(i.e. the appearance of a Christian or man of God - which he will try to prove by bringing fire down from heaven as Elijah did,and he will deceive many by the miracles he is able to do in the sight of Antichrist,REV.13v14); but he speaks as a dragon(the Devil), he calls people to worship Satan and Antichrist.

Both Antichrist and the False Prophet are taken by Christ and cast into the Lake of Fire(God's eternal prison) at the Return of Christ(REV.19v19-20,DAN.7v11), their physical bodies will immediately be destroyed but their soul will remain in that prison for ever - they are still there 1,000 years later when Satan himself is cast in(REV.20v10).

.....

So we can see how marvellously the revelations of Daniel and John fit together and that the Book of Daniel is in fact the key to the Book of Revelation.

The emphasis in all these revelations is on the end time and the Coming of Christ as I have already pointed out as we have gone along.

We are at the preparation stage for the revelation of Antichrist and the beginning of the 70th seven("week") of Daniel. Israel has been scattered for about 1900 years. She has to return and become a nation before Antichrist can make a treaty with her. It is only in this century that the Jews really started returning to their own land, in 1948 they became a nation. We are in the position shown on the chart where the gathering of Israel and her establishing as a nation is taking place. We are also told that there will be a great falling away from the faith(Greek-Apostasy) before Antichrist is revealed(2 THESS.2). This is taking place now, churches have never been so empty.

Yet this history, as the author admits reluctantly, is also a funeral oration. There are now signs, he says, that its long predominance in human affairs is at last drawing to a close. The churches are emptying almost as fast as the authority of their leaders declines. Yet, as he mentions, there is one area where Christianity is both growing and bursting with innovation - Africa, where Christians are doubling in number every 12 years.

"A GREAT  
FALLING  
AWAY"  
(APOSTASY)  
(2 TIM 2 v3)

Mail  
24/6/76  
EMPTY  
CHURCHES

MAIL 24-6-76  
Mr Hopkins, 80-year-old vicar of St. John Chrysostom's Centre in Anfield, Liverpool, is in

charge of a little-known aspect of God's work. Under the official title of 'redundant churches furnishing officer' he moves into old churches before the vandals get there. And now other denominations often call on his expert advice.

'I never intended that pulpits should be used for serving the demon drink,' he said yesterday. 'But I know that is what has happened to two or three which have gone into stately homes and mansions.'

Other pulpits have been shipped to the U.S. where they can fetch up to £200.

Top prices are paid for brass lectern eagles and stained glass windows. And another popular line is First World War memorial plaques. The Americans put them in the golf club,' said Mr Hopkins.

See other page about St. Paul's also.

All the world's attention is being focused on Israel and the Middle East. The scene is being set for the last 7 years of the age to unfold. Briefly, what we have to watch out for is this:--

- (1) A ten kingdom alliance emerging out of the area of the Old Roman Empire.
- (2) Antichrist arising and signing a 7 year treaty with Israel.
- (3) Antichrist fighting 3 kings of the ten kingdom alliance, defeating them and then ruling over all ten.
- (4) A skirmish between Antichrist and the ships of Chittim (this is the old name for Cyprus, which is now a NATO base, so this is a skirmish between Antichrist and NATO - there are a great many ships of Russia and NATO in the Mediterranean).
- (5) It is probably in this battle that Antichrist is slain, but is resurrected later by Satan - first the world hears that he is dead, then they hear that he is alive again.
- (6) Antichrist, after 3½ years of the 7 year treaty have passed, after this defeat by the ships of NATO, has indignation and breaks the treaty, he has intelligence with (confers with) others who break it (DAN.11v27, 30, ), and marches on Israel. He takes Jerusalem and the Abomination is placed in the Holy Place in the Temple at Jerusalem (DAN.11v31). He makes Jerusalem his capital - "He shall enter also into the glorious land...he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas (the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea) in the glorious holy mountain (Mount Zion, Jerusalem)" (DAN.11v41,45).
- (7) NATO retaliates - World War 3 and the Great Tribulation begins. (DAN.12v1).
- (8) Christ returns at the end of the Great Tribulation (MAT.24v29-31).

#### THE TEN KINGDOM ALLIANCE

Is this the Common Market? Of course not! The Common Market is, and always has been, a bit of a Red Herring.

(1) There are 12 members now, not ten. Soon others may join. The twelve are: - 1. Eire. 2. U. K. 3. France. 4. Germany. 5. Belgium. 6. Holland (the Netherlands). 7. Luxemburg. 8. Italy. 9. Denmark. 10. Greece. 11. Portugal. 12. Spain.

(2) The ten horns will emerge out of the area of the old Roman empire (the fourth beast). As you will see from the maps, two of the Common Market countries, Eire & Denmark, were never any part of the Roman Empire! So they cannot be two of the ten horns out of the fourth beast!

(3) The Common Market countries as a whole only occupy a small part of the Mediterranean Sea (only France, Italy, Greece and Spain) but the beast is shown arising out of the Mediterranean Sea.

I think it is more likely that there will arise an alliance of ten nations around the Mediterranean which could include a number of Arab nations rich in oil. The oil power they possess could be part of the "power and strength" they give to the beast (Antichrist). In any event, the 10 horns are said to be ten specific rulers who come to power just before the rise of Antichrist (see page 14(iv), not just ten countries!

ANTICHRIST, THE BEAST, THAT WICKED ONE

The Pope is NOT Antichrist. Because of the religious troubles of the Middle Ages many in the protestant church have taken the view that the Pope is Antichrist, but we must not allow the troubles of the past to cloud our interpretation of Scripture. Present day Roman Catholics are no more responsible for the persecutions of the past than modern Anglicans are responsible for the persecutions inflicted by the Anglican Church upon the Puritans in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (this persecution led to the 'Pilgrim Fathers' sailing to America where they could worship freely and they were the foundation of the U.S.A.). There are many reasons why the Pope cannot be the Antichrist :-

- (1) Antichrist (the little horn) is said to come out of one of the four areas of the old Grecian Empire - if you look at the maps you will see that Rome and Italy were never any part of the Grecian Empire. (DAN.8v8-9, 8v19-23, 11v2-4).  
The present Pope comes from Poland.
- (2) Antichrist is referred to <sup>as</sup> the "vile person" who emerges out of the area of the old Syrian Kingdom (which I have marked as Division 4 of the Grecian Empire) - (DAN.11v21). Rome and Italy were never part of this Kingdom.
- (3) Antichrist is referred to as "king of the north". i.e. from Palestine's point of view (DAN.11v40) - Rome is not remotely north of Palestine, it's almost due west (note- Alexander the Great, the he-goat with one great horn, was said to come from "the west" DAN.8v5, Greece). Rome is even further west than Greece.
- (4) Antichrist will "continue a short space" (7 years), he is given power to continue to make war for 42 months after he is raised from the dead by Satan in the midst of the 7 years (REV.11v2, 7, 13v5, 17v10-12). The Pope, or rather Popes, have been around for about 1500 years. It is no good people taking these 1260 days and 42 months and turning them into years on the so-called 'year-for-a-day' theory because it still doesn't fit anyway. When Peter said that "a day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as a day" he was simply saying that time is meaningless to Him who inhabits eternity. He was certainly not giving people licence to go through the Bible changing days into years, etc., this simply makes nonsense of any prophecies God gives. We get to a ludicrous situation, like with Jehovah's Witnesses who, to justify their 1914 date, take the "seven times" (7 years) that passed over Nebuchadnezzar (his period of madness-DAN.4v16), turn the 7 years into days, making 2,520 days, then they proceed to change those days into years, making 2,520 years. In other words 7 years = 2,520 years!! This is clearly nonsense. The process could be repeated indefinitely of course and we could make the Bible say just about anything we like - which is what a lot of people are doing - the Bible, however, becomes meaningless in the process. In any event, if we take the words of Peter as a licence to change days into years then note carefully that he says each day is a thousand years, so the equation becomes 1,260 days x 1000 = 1,260,000 years which is quite meaningless! Let us be careful and stick to what the Bible says. If "seven times" in DAN.4v16 equals 7 years, which it certainly does, then 3½ times in DAN.7v25 must equal 3½ years, right? God further verifies that it is 3½ years that Antichrist prevails against the saints, and the Great Tribulation lasts, by giving it to us in two other ways - 42 months (3½ years) and 1260 days (3½ years-as they had 360 days in each year).

Those who adopt the year-for-a-day theory fail to explain how they deal with the "5 months", "13 months", and "half hour" in REV.8v1,9v5,9v15.

When God means a year or a thousand years he says so - REV.20v2-7, Satan imprisoned during the thousand year reign of Christ.

Antichrist will continue a short space(REV.17v10). The word translated 'short' is OLIGOS which means "little, small, few"(Young); "a brief time, used in the sense of 'at short notice', suddenly, a very brief period"(Liddell & Scott); "his time is slight"- Satan's, REV.12v12, where same word used(Thayer). The same word is used in JAM.4v14 where he says, "...what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." Here he showing how extremely brief our life is in an eternal sense. Hence, Antichrist will continue for a short space of time(7 years). 1260 years could hardly be described as "a short space"! In any case could it be said that the Pope has prevailed against the saints for 1260 years? Of course not!

Then again, in all the revelations that Daniel was given about Antichrist he was told that the vision would be "at the time of the end". "The time of the end" could hardly be 1260 years.

(NOTE- "a time, times, and half a time", REV.12v14. Commenting on the word "time" we have:- 'used for years in Hellenistic Greek', Jamieson, Fausset & Brown; 'years', Matthew Henry; 'a prophetic year of 360 days', Parkhurst; 'years', Alford; 'a year, and two years, and six months'(REV.12v14) and is the same as v6 and DAN.7v25,12v7, Thayer).

REV.12v6,14 tells us that the woman is protected for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years : or 1260 days. Those who would change the 1260 days to years have a problem with the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years for

both periods apply to the woman and refer to the same event - v6 "And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days." v14 "...that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.." If we change 1260 days into years then we are saying that 1260 years =  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years! I have laboured the point enough! The periods given are literal and given in two ways so that we are in no doubt. Hence, these prophecies cannot apply to the Pope. (One last point here - in REV. 12 we are told that Satan has great wrath because he knows his time is short - this means his time is slight (Thayer), the comments made above on the word short apply, as already mentioned. "he knows that he hath but a short time" Commenting on this Thayer says, "a short time (in which to exercise his power) has been granted him". This cannot be a long time, 1260 years, for Satan knows his time is brief - 1260 days as we are told in the passage. At the present time Satan doesn't know how long he's got. When he is cast out to the earth he will know he has only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years in which to exercise all his power for God takes His restraining hand off the powers of darkness, 2 THESS. 2v7. Satan will not be able to say to God, "The contest wasn't fair, you had me tied up all the time!"

- (5) Antichrist is always spoken of in the singular number - one person. PSA. 50v16 "unto the wicked (Heb. Wicked one) God saith." ISA. 11v4 "with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked (Heb. Wicked one) - thi. goes together with 2 THESS. 2v8 "then shall that wicked (Greek-Wicked one) be revealed whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth" (the Greek word for "consume" is ANALISKO which means "shall slay" - said of the destruction of persons, W.E. VINE). See also REV. 19v15 - the sword of his mouth with which He smites the nations. 2 THESS. 2v3 speaks of Antichrist as "that man" (singular). REV. 20v10 tells us that after the 1,000 year reign of Christ and the last rebellion Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire "where the beast (singular) and the false prophet are". If the Popes were Antichrist it would say, "where the beasts (plural) are". Therefore, as Antichrist is always spoken of in the singular number - one man - in both Old and New Testaments the Popes cannot be Antichrist as there have been about 300 Popes.
- (6) Antichrist is slain by Jesus at His Second Advent (2 THESS. 2v8). About 300 Popes have lived and died without seeing the Return of Christ, so cannot be Antichrist.
- (7) Some say that "he sits in the Temple showing himself that he is God" (2 THESS. 2v4) is the Pope sitting in the Spiritual Temple, the Church, as God. In fact the Spiritual Temple of God is the Church universal consisting of every believer of all denominations, including Roman Catholics, for we are made a habitation of God by His Spirit (EPH. 2v19-22), it is NOT a building. Therefore it is impossible for anyone to sit in this Temple who is not converted. The Temple of God is anywhere there are believers in Christ because He dwells in them. Believers may gather together in a building to worship together. Another person who is unconverted may come into the building, and even claim he is God, but he is not in the Temple of God, he is only in a building, he is not part of the Church. This Spiritual Temple of God is all over the world and in Heaven, not just at Rome. (1 COR. 3v16, 6v19, 2 COR. 6v16).

The only PHYSICAL building that could be described as the Temple of God is that built by the Jews. Of course, like many things in the Old Testament, this was merely a 'figure' or 'shadow' of the Spiritual Temple to come (rather like the sacrifices of lambs for sin were but 'shadows' of the true sacrifice to come of the Lamb of God at Calvary-JOHN 1v29)-see also HEB.chapters 7 to 10. The Jews never accepted these truths as a nation and they continue in the old ways which were actually done away (HEB.8v13,9v8,9,24,10v1,COL.2v17) and have built another Temple at Jerusalem complete with Holy Place, etc. Jesus said that when Antichrist places the Abomination in the Holy Place (in the Temple at Jerusalem) then let them which are in Judea flee into the mountains. In other words, when he sits as God in the Temple at Jerusalem let them in Judea flee. This must mean a literal sitting in the Holy Place in a literal Temple at Jerusalem - so could not mean the Pope sitting in a spiritual temple. Why should people in Judea flee because the Pope sits in St. Peters in Rome?? It is evident that Antichrist sits as God in the Temple of God at the same time that he takes away the daily sacrifice and places the Abomination that maketh desolate (REV.13v12-15,13v4-8,2 THESS.2v3-9,MAT.24v15-21,DAN.7v8,11,21,24-25,8v9-12,17,23-25,9v27,11v31,36-37,41,45,12v1,7,11).

- (8) Some have tried to make the number 666 fit the Pope by saying that if you add up the numerical values of the letters which form the title "Vicar of the Son of God" in Latin, then it adds up to 666. Let me explain - in Latin, Greek and Hebrew each letter of the Greek & Hebrew alphabet and many of the letters of the Latin have each got a numerical value because letters were used to count before numbers were invented - hence each part of PSA.119 is "numbered" with letters of the Hebrew alphabet "Aleph", "Beth", etc. Most people are familiar

with Roman numerals - letters of the Latin alphabet - which are often seen on clocks, etc., I=1, V=5, X=10, L=50, C=100, M=1000, etc. This kind of thing applies to Greek (in which the New Testament was written), and Hebrew (in which most of the Old Testament was written). Therefore, if we take any word, phrase, or name in Latin, Greek, or Hebrew, and add up the numerical values of each of the letters we can find the number of the word, phrase, or name. Now REV.13v17-18 says that the number of his(Antichrist's) name will be 666 - i.e. taking his name in, say, Greek, and adding up the numerical values of each letter, the total will be 666.

Now to make 666 fit the Pope they have had to take one of his six titles, "Vicar of Christ", change it to "Vicar of the Son of God", write it in Latin, and then add up the values of the letters and they get 666. Of course a number of the letters in Latin have no numerical value at all and so are counted as zero. But "Vicar of Christ" is one of his TITLES not his NAME - the Bible says it will be the number, i.e. the numerical value, of his NAME! And in any event they have had to change his title into a different form in order to make it fit!

Likewise, some have taken the phrase "The Latin Kingdom" (speaking of the Roman Empire) in Greek and then found that this adds up to 666. But this is not the number of a man (REV.13v18), the number of his name (REV.13v18), the person people are commanded to worship, the man who is slain at the Return of Christ and cast into the lake of fire, it is the number of a kingdom. This particular kingdom was the 6th head of the beast and has passed away long before Antichrist makes his appearance!

If we take 666 as being the Pope how has 666 been marked in the forehead or right hand of all who worship the Beast? Let us not ignore these details but face the question squarely and honestly. One of the big problems today regarding Biblical prophecy is that so many people just take bits of the Bible that suit their particular standpoint and ignore the rest as if it doesn't matter. God's Word is absolutely accurate (see how all the prophecies of Daniel have been fulfilled to the letter so far - his revelations about future events turned out to be so accurate that some people said it must have been written after the event!)

I believe 666 will be the numerical value of Antichrist's name. This is not THE proof of who Antichrist is (this number has been made to fit Martin Luther, Hitler, Napoleon, Mussolini, etc), it is merely an additional proof. The man concerned must fit all the other prophecies as well. This number will be used as an identification of those who submit to him, and will probably be worn with pride like the Nazis wore the Swastika. The fact that God gives the number of his name simply shows that He knows the tiniest detail of this man long before he appears. As God knows ALL things beforehand He is quite capable of planning ahead and taking care of His saints, right?

- (9) Antichrist takes away the daily sacrifice and places the abomination that maketh desolate in the midst of the last 7 years - how can this possibly fit the Popes? Some say that this was Antiochus of Syria who lived long before Christ but this cannot be because Jesus places this event right at the end of the age (MAT.24v3, 14-31, DAN.9v27, 11v31.). Whichever way you look at it none of the Popes have anything to do with it.

Incidentally, at present the Jews do not offer any sacrifices (I wrote to the chief Rabbi in Israel). They offer neither yearly nor daily sacrifices as yet. He said the decision would be up to a future Sanhedrin. So this must commence before Antichrist can cause them to cease. My own view is that they may start offering sacrifices after the signing of the 7 year treaty. We will have to wait and watch.

(10) Antichrist does not come onto the scene until there has been a "great falling away" (apostasy) from the faith, so how could this apply to the Pope? There have been some marvellous moves of the Spirit and revivals whilst the Popes have been in the world (e.g. the revivals which involved Wesley, Whitfield, Finney, and many others).

Some try to say that the "great falling away" is actually a "great departing", i.e. of Christians (the Rapture) before Antichrist appears. One man professed in his book to have actually looked up the Greek on this! So let us do just this - The Greek word translated "falling away" is APOSTASIA from which we get our word apostasy.

Liddell & Scott - worst form of APOSTASIS, a defection, a revolt.

APOSTASIASTOS - apostate, rebellious.

APOSTASIS - a standing away from, so a defection, a revolt, departure from - a desisting from, disuse of, hence departing from the faith.

Thayer - APOSTASIA, a falling away, defection, apostacy, in the Bible sense from the true religion.

APOSTASION - defection, of a freedman from his patron. Also used in the sense of divorce, repudiation.

To claim then to have looked up the Greek and then say it means a great departing of Christians to be with Christ is a deceitful misuse of God's Word. And shows just

how far some people will go to make God's Word fit what they want to believe. To believe this way ourselves is one thing, to teach others the same is very serious.

The great departing from the faith has been occurring I believe nationally and internationally for some considerable time. God has sent revivals time and again but nations as a whole have not responded. It is interesting to note that judgment has nearly always followed a period when God has sent a Spirit of revival and the nation concerned has not responded - Israel had the Ministry of Jesus with all its attendant signs and wonders; they crucified Him. Still God tried again and poured out His Spirit at Pentecost, signs and wonders followed the preaching of the Word, but although thousands were converted the nation as a whole rejected God. Judgment followed afterwards when Titus and his legions marched on Israel. God sent a Spirit of revival at the time of John Wesley, etc., when Britain had lapsed into an awful state morally and spiritually. The nation responded and was undoubtedly saved from a revolution of the sort that took France. In this century in Britain we have seen the rot set in, moral and religious. Churches have never been so empty. God's Word is disregarded by the majority. Evolution is taught instead of Creation. Many ministers and priests in the churches are deeply involved in Spiritualism, Yoga, and many other practices abominable to God. Also, many openly state that they do not believe in God's inspired Word, nor do they believe in the Atoning Blood of Christ, His Deity, etc. Homosexuality (the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah) has been legalised, likewise abortion on demand. Marriage is scorned, 'living in sin' is applauded, pornography is rife. We even see 'Gay' churches formed and homosexuals invited into the ministry. Some even suggest Jesus was 'gay' because He loved His disciples. Pornographic poems are written about Jesus and obscene films made about him.

God sent a Spirit of revival in the early 1900s. This was followed by the First World War. Again He sent revival in the 1930s. This was followed by World War 2. Still the nation as a whole has not responded even though many thousands were converted and many signs and wonders were seen in these revivals. The nation has sunk into the mess described above. God told me that He is sending a Spirit of revival again very soon. I believe this is to prepare Christians for the end time. If the nation does not respond then judgment will fall from World War 3 which is I believe close at hand.

The Word of God says that Antichrist will arise at a time when "transgressors are come to the full" (DAN.8v23). Apart from all the national evils mentioned above there are the international evils, kidnappings, bombings, murders, terrorism, rivers of blood run all over from the evils of communism, etc. It is at such a time that Antichrist will appear.

- (11) The Bible describes Antichrist, his career, his blasphemy, his character, the number of his name, etc. He is described as vile, a liar, deceiver, covenant breaker, a blasphemer, no regard for women, fierce, has great power to make war, honours a strange god, etc. He speaks lies at the conference table, gains many with flatteries (silver-tongued), he divides the spoil (and hence destroys many by prosperity), he has a miracle-working false prophet who calls on people to worship Satan, etc., etc. There have been about 300 Popes all different, so how could any of this apply to the Popes? There have been many Popes who have spoken openly about the love of Christ, who have refused the pomp of coronation, and who have suffered much for their faith in Christ. Pope John XXIII was moved by the Holy Ghost to call the 2nd Vatican Council, he testified himself many times that "his decision was inspired by the Holy Ghost, that it forced itself upon him so urgently that he felt constrained to obey without delay." This was the occasion when the Catholic Church threw its arms open to all that call upon the Name of Christ. They asked the forgiveness of the Protestant Church for all the tyranny of the past (something that is for some reason not widely publicised in the Protestant Church). The Catholic Church recognise that there have been evil Popes in the past and I believe refer to them as Anti-Popes. The present Catholic leadership have a real love for God and have no objection to lay people seeking God for the Gifts of the Spirit.

None of this is the picture of a vile, lying, deceiving, blasphemer, is it?

DAN.11v37 says that Antichrist shall not regard the desire or desireableness of women. This could indicate that he may be a man of vile affections.

- (12) Antichrist shall not regard the God (plural-Triune God) of his fathers, nor any god for he shall magnify himself above all, but in place of the Triune God

and again but nations as a whole have not responded. It is interesting to note that judgment has nearly always followed a period when God has sent a Spirit of revival and the nation concerned has not responded - Israel had the Ministry of Jesus with all its attendant signs and wonders; they crucified Him. Still God tried again and poured out His Spirit at Pentecost, signs and wonders followed the preaching of the Word, but although thousands were converted the nation as a whole rejected God. Judgment followed afterwards when Titus and his legions marched on Israel. God sent a Spirit of revival at the time of John Wesley, etc., when Britain had lapsed into an awful state morally and spiritually. The nation responded and was undoubtedly saved from a revolution of the sort that took France. In this century in Britain we have seen the rot set in, moral and religious. Churches have never been so empty. God's Word is disregarded by the majority. Evolution is taught instead of Creation. Many ministers and priests in the churches are deeply involved in Spiritualism, Yoga, and many other practices abominable to God. Also, many openly state that they do not believe in God's inspired Word, nor do they believe in the Atoning Blood of Christ, His Deity, etc. Homosexuality (the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah) has been legalised, likewise abortion on demand. Marriage is scorned, 'living in sin' is applauded, pornography is rife. We even see 'Gay' churches formed and homosexuals invited into the ministry. Some even suggest Jesus was 'gay' because He loved His disciples. Pornographic poems are written about Jesus and obscene films made about Him.

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- (12) Antichrist shall not regard the God (plural-Triune God) of his fathers, nor any god for he shall magnify himself above all, but in place of the Triune God he shall honour the God (singular) of forces or strongholds (no doubt because of his great military power) - DAN.11v37-38 - he shall honour this strange god of forces.

Whatever we may say about Mary the Catholics do not disregard the Almighty, they speak thus of Him - "the Father, the God of strength, the Son, the God of Salvation, the Holy Ghost, the God of peace". There is nothing strange about

this God, it is the same one that we worship.

Some say that the "strange god" is Mary, the Angels, and the Saints, whom the Catholics exalt, but if this were so then "god" would have to be in the plural number, i.e. "gods". However, it is in fact in the singular number meaning one particular god, and that a god of munitions or fortresses.

(As a point of interest REV.8v3-5 and REV.5v8 seem to indicate that the angels of God are involved in some way with the prayers of saints, not that we should pray to them - our prayers are to the Father through Jesus, JOHN.14v13,15v16,16v23 - but angels, being ministering spirits, seem to play a part, ECC.10v20, ACTS 10v1-4, LUKE 1v9-19, DAN.9v20-23,10v12, etc.).

(13) Let us recap on the clues we have been given about Antichrist -

The ten kingdom alliance over which he will rule will emerge out of the area of the old Roman Empire, the countries mainly on the Mediterranean coast. Antichrist, the little horn, also emerges out of the area of the Roman Empire as it comes out of the fourth beast like the ten horns. The little horn also comes out of one of the four divisions of the old Grecian Empire. Antichrist arises out of the old Syrian kingdom of the Grecian Empire, shown as division 4 on the map (this is not the same as modern Syria). Antichrist is "king of the north" (from Palestine's point of view). So we have to look at the maps and see what areas were covered by division 4 of the Grecian Empire, were also part of the Roman Empire, and were north of Israel. This leaves us with Turkey, Syria and Russia. It is out of one of these countries that Antichrist will come according to the Scriptures. He has great military power so this would seem to point to Russia (a God-less persecuting power; although those true Christians in Russia still worship the Triune God as their forefathers did - but are persecuted for it). Perhaps a future Russian leader will have been born in southern Russia in the area which was once part of the Grecian Empire? We will have to wait and see.

"king of the north" (north of Israel) - DAN.11v40

Little horn out of area of Roman Empire - DAN.7v8

Little horn out of one of 4 divisions of Grecian Empire - DAN.8v9

Emerges from Syrian kingdom, division 4, of Grecian Empire "vile person" - DAN.11v21.

#### THE LITTLE HORN

The fact that Antichrist is shown arising as a little horn means that at first he will appear a small harmless person. A harmless peacemaker. But the 'little horn' very quickly "waxes (grows) exceeding great" (DAN.8v9) - Antichrist quickly grows in immense power. Whatever country he emerges in they will not want to give him the leadership (DAN.11v21), but he will work his way into the seat of power by flattery and deceit. He will become strong "with a small people", i.e. with only a few followers (DAN.11v23).

The little horn grows exceeding great "even to the host of heaven". The host of heaven here are the evil angels and demonic powers in heavenly places (DAN.8v10). As Antichrist will be possessed by Satan himself (as Judas was - LUKE 22v3) he will have power over all the evil hosts in heavenly places. He "cast down some of the hosts and of the stars (angels) to the ground and stamped upon them" (DAN.8v10). This is what Daniel saw happening in vision at the end time. This ties up with REV.12v4 where it says that the Dragon (Satan) drew a third part of the stars (angels) and cast them to the earth. If Satan is to be cast out of the heavenlies he will make sure that he drags as many as possible with him. He causes the downfall of all who walk his way, whether angels or human beings.

Antichrist 'understands dark sentences' (DAN.8v23) - this could mean that he will have understanding of occult practices, which would hardly be surprising as he is energised by Satan himself (REV.13v2). Certainly he has an evil miracle-working false prophet as his right hand man.

It is interesting that Daniel understood "hard sentences", i.e. he had understanding from God in all visions and dreams - DAN.1v17, 5v12.

Note also that the Bible says (1 JOHN 2v22-23), "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ (i.e. the Messiah, or the Son of God, the Son of the Blessed, see JOHN 19v7, MAT. 26v63-68, JOHN 5v18, MARK 14v61-64)? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father...."

What this scripture is saying is that those who are of an antichrist spirit deny the Father and Son relationship. This is true of all the false cults, e.g. Spiritualists, Jehovah's Witnesses, etc. All of them deny that Jesus was the unique Son of God (see LUKE 1v35, 2v11,26). The false religions make Jesus nothing more than a man, though they may say he was a good man, or the most wonderful man that ever lived, but still just a man (note the remarks of apostate clergy as shown on page 12). Denying the Father and Son relationship shows the antichrist spirit, the same spirit of error and falsehood that the Antichrist will exhibit. This could not be said of the Pope or the Roman Catholic Church for they do not deny the Father and Son relationship - quite the reverse!

## THE "TEN HORNS" (more notes)

DAN.7v24 "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise; and another shall arise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings."

REV.17v12 "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour (a short season-same Greek word) with the beast(Antichrist)."

The prophecy is not so much directing our attention to 10 kingdoms, but to 10 kings, i.e. 10 specific rulers, as is clear from the above; though obviously there are 10 kingdoms over which they will ultimately rule.

The distinction between "ten kingdoms" and "ten kings" is very important if we are to understand the prophecy correctly. Some, assuming it is simply 10 kingdoms have put the prophecy in the past as being fulfilled, examples:-

- (1) The Roman Empire was divided into ten kingdoms (not actually true in any case, the Roman Empire at its furthest extent consisted of about 19 to 20 countries all around the Mediterranean and across western Europe as far as Britain). - see below.
  - (2) The ten kingdoms are the Common Market (one doesn't hear too much about this interpretation these days now that there are 12 members and likely to be more soon; though years ago when you disagreed with them on this they would virtually have drummed you out of the Church as a heretic!)
- etc.

This is not what the prophecy says! Read it carefully!

- (a) They are ten rulers who have received no kingdom as yet but receive power as rulers for a short time with the beast (Antichrist).
- (b) They arise at the time of the end immediately before Antichrist arises.
- (c) In the days when they are ruling Christ sets up His Kingdom on earth:- DAN.2v44 "...in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed." (This speaks of the 2nd Advent). (note-the 10 kingdoms over which the ten horns rule corresponds to the ten toes of the image).  
i.e. these 10 kings(rulers) are in power when Christ returns(see also below).

DAN.7v24 - Antichrist subdues(humbles) 3 of the 10 kings.

(Young-to subdue unto; be subdued to; to make low or humble)

That these three are not destroyed or wiped off the map is shown by the fact that they are still in power at Christ's return - but, along with the rest of the ten, under the dominion of Antichrist:-

REV.17v12,13,17 "...but receive power as kings for a short time with the beast. These (ten) have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast....For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled (i.e.the 2nd Advent)."

So, it can be seen, the 10 kings and Antichrist are yet future!

The "short space" Antichrist reigns (REV.17v10) is the last 7 years of the age (70th "week" of DAN.9v27) and in particular the last  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years (the Great Tribulation) - given as:-

"a time, times (2 times, Greek in the dual number), and half a time" -  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times  
(REV.12v14; DAN.7v25)  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years

"1260 days" - 30 days to their month, 360 days to their year -  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years.  
(REV.12v6)

"42 months" (REV.13v5) - i.e.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  Years.

We are given the period in 3 ways - days, months and years - so we might be sure that the period is literally  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years.

Note, it is only when Antichrist arises at the beginning of the last 7 years of the age (REV.13v1) that we see the horns (kings) with crowns for it is only then that they come to power.

Note also, that it is the same person who subdues the three kings for "he shall subdue three kings" - not three kingdoms being swept away by three different empires or countries.

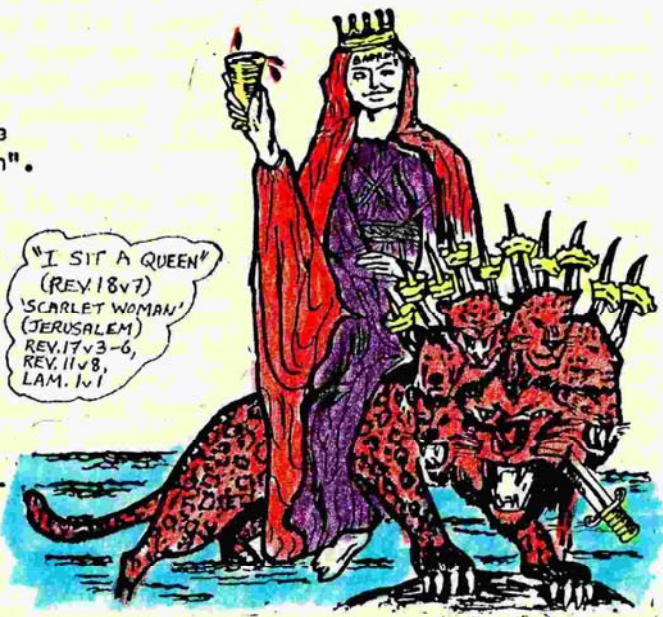
Some of the nations of the Roman Empire - Brittain; Gallia (France); Germania; Italia; Hispania (Spain); Mauritania (Morocco/Algeria); Numidia (Tunisia); Africa (Tunisia/Lybia); Lybia; Egypt; Arabia; Palestine; Lebanon; Syria; Asia (Turkey); Thracia (Bulgaria/Greece); Macedonia (Greece); Illyricum (Yugoslavia); Noricum (Switzerland/Austria/Hungary) - modern names of these areas in brackets.

THE SCARLET WOMAN, HARLOT (REV.17&18)

Many have taken this woman to be Rome merely on the basis of Rome being built upon seven hills and they equate this with REV.17v9 "The seven heads are seven mountains where the woman sitteth".

If we are to simply look for a city built upon seven hills then other cities could be the woman - Constantinople, Jerusalem, etc. You can see from the diagram that the city of Jerusalem was built on seven hills. Also Constantinople. In looking at REV.17 they completely ignore the fact that the angel goes on to say that for each mountain there is a king - "five are fallen (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Egypt, Syria), one is (Rome), and the other (Antichrist) is not yet come." So how could the angel be referring to seven literal hills?

It doesn't require "the mind that hath wisdom" to count seven hills, but it does require wisdom from God to correctly interpret the vision. Mountains in Scripture often refer to kingdoms. For example, when Babylon had become really wicked God said, "I am against thee O destroying MOUNTAIN." (JER.51v25). In DAN.2v35 we read that the smiting stone became a GREAT MOUNTAIN and filled all the earth (the kingdom of Christ)". There are many examples in Scripture - John the Baptist "every valley shall be exalted and every MOUNTAIN shall be made low", obviously referring to people and kingdoms not literal mountains and valleys. "thou shalt thresh the mountains", etc. Likewise, the seven mountains where the woman sits are seven kingdoms, and there are seven kings. These are the seven kingdoms which have, and will, rule over Jerusalem and Palestine from the time of Babylon and through the 70 sevens of years of Daniel's prophecy, the kingdoms already listed and shown on the chart. That these are the kingdoms is seen from the fact that the beast she rides is a combination of the four beasts of Daniel - lion (Babylon), bear (Medo-Persia), Leopard (Greece, Egypt, Syria), the head out of which the ten horns emerge (Rome), the ten horns (Antichrist kingdom at time of the end). The "woman" then is quite obviously Jerusalem, not Rome, for the 70 "weeks", covering the same period and events, are determined upon "THY PEOPLE AND THY HOLY CITY", i.e. the people of Israel and Jerusalem (DAN.9v24). Jerusalem has been a part of all these kingdoms represented by the heads of the beast but Rome has not. Look at the first set of maps - Rome was not part of the kingdom of Babylon, or Medo-Persia, or Greece, or Egypt, or Syria. Rome had no part in the kingdoms ruled by the first five heads of the beast, so cannot be the woman seated on them. The woman is Jerusalem. The fact there is a large gap of time between the 6th head ruling and the 7th head coming to power is seen quite clearly when we realise that Israel ceased to exist as a nation and Jerusalem was destroyed whilst the 6th head, Rome, was still in power. The 7th could not come to power until Israel was restored and Jerusalem back in their hands which has only occurred in recent times. So, in harmony with all the other revelations the 7th head (Antichrist) comes to power "at the time of the end".



Under the rule of Antichrist the city of God becomes the city of the Devil. He makes Jerusalem his Capital city for he plants his PALACE there(DAN.11v45) - a palace is a place where a king rules from. Jerusalem becomes the Capital of his empire.If, as I believe, the Antichrist will come out of Russia, then when Jerusalem becomes his capital instead of Moscow she will indeed sit "as a Queen" over a very sizeable empire - Russia and her satellites,plus the ten nation alliance out of the Roman earth. Hence,she sits upon many waters(multitudes and nations) and reigns over the kings of the earth. Her "reigning over the kings of the earth" is at the end time when Antichrist is resurrected as seen in this vision for the angel said, "the beast that thou sawest was, and is not,and shall(is about to) ascend out of the bottomless pit.." Antichrist is slain (one of the heads wounded to death-REV.13), his soul goes down into the pit, Satan is permitted to raise him from the dead; hence, he ascends out of the pit. It is then that he breaks the treaty, marches on Israel and takes Jerusalem. It is interesting that when the beast is seen rising out of the sea in REV.13 the woman is not on his back - this is the beginning of the 7 years when he first comes to power. Then we are told(v3) that Antichrist is slain and then raised from the dead. This is after  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years for he is given power to continue to make war for another 42 months( $3\frac{1}{2}$  years,v5). It is at this point that the woman rides the beast as explained above. Remember, when the angel says, "the beast that was, and is not" he is not talking about the time of John, he's talking about the time of the end for the vision is future. Likewise,Jerusalem "reigning over the kings of the earth" is future as seen in the vision when Antichrist ascends out of the abyss(compare with REV.11v7-8 - "where also our Lord was crucified" - Jerusalem).

Jerusalem under Antichrist becomes rich through trade and sits as a Queen over a large empire. Her boast is "see, I sit a queen and am no widow"(REV.18v7) - compare with LAM.1v1 and ISA.47v8. As Satan and all his evil angels will be residing at Jerusalem during this time, having been thrown out of the heavenlies (REV.12 - same period, 3½ years), Jerusalem becomes "the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." (REV.18v2).

She persecutes and murders the saints of God just as she has done in the past, and just as Jesus said she would - MAT.23v33-37 "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes; and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them ye shall scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee...." Judgment upon Jerusalem for these things was partially fulfilled in AD70 for Jesus said "upon this generation", but REV.11v8 clearly shows the dreadful state of Jerusalem at the end time under Antichrist("where also our Lord was crucified") described as "Sodom" and "Egypt", she is still killing the saints of God right up to the end(REV.11v7-14). Judgment finally falls upon her at the end of the Tribulation, REV.17v1-2, 18v1-24. We are told(18v20,24) "Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her... And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth."

The term "Harlot" was the accusation constantly hurled at Jerusalem by God's prophets - ISA.1v21 "How is the faithful city become an harlot", ISA.1v10 "Hear the word of the Lord, ye rulers of Sodom(speaking to Jerusalem v1); give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah." (See also ISA.57v8, JER.2v20, 3v1-25, 4v30, 11v15, 13v27, EZEK.ch.16, ch.22, ch.23). The city of Rome has never been God's wife so could no more be regarded as His unfaithful wife than, say, London! Spiritually speaking the Church universal is the Bride of Christ(REV.19v7-9, 21v2) and is spoken of as the Heavenly Jerusalem. Jerusalem of old was a 'figure' of the New Jerusalem to come (like all the other 'types' in the Old Testament.) - see all the above underlined scripture references.

The heads of the beast are said to be kingdoms and their respective kings - one of the heads is wounded to death, then healed. How could one of the hills of Rome be slain, healed, and then become the 8th head??(REV.17v9-11).

The names "Babylon", "Sodom", and "Egypt" are used to illustrate the wicked character of Jerusalem at the end time. The term "Egypt" may also refer to the fact that the king sets himself up as God, and as already mentioned there will be tremendous battles between the powers of good and evil as was the case in Egypt at the time of Moses.

Finally, as mentioned already elsewhere, the two witnesses prophesy at and bring judgments upon Jerusalem not Rome(REV.11v8). They are killed by Antichrist at Jerusalem, the people of Jerusalem rejoice at their death, God brings judgment upon Jerusalem after the two witnesses are resurrected(REV.11 all)

Jerusalem is buried beneath the sea at the Return of Christ and a new city is built on the sides of the north.

I believe God is going to send the greatest revival of all history for the end time. God's people are not going to cringe in a corner but are going to walk <sup>in</sup> power! When God looses Satan to do his worst God's people are going to walk in greater power than any in all history. God has indicated that this revival will come through the old-line denominations. This prophecy was given through Smith Wigglesworth:-

"Through the old-line denominations will come a revival that will eclipse anything we have known throughout history. No such things have happened in times past as will happen when this begins. It will eclipse the present-day (this was 1936), twentieth-century Pentecostal revival that already is a marvel to the world, with its strong opposition from the established church. But this same blessing will become acceptable to the churches and they will go on with this message and this experience beyond what the Pentecostals have achieved....the Pentecostal movement itself will be a light thing in comparison with what God will do through the old churches. There will be tremendous gatherings of people, unlike anything we've seen, and great leaders will change their attitude and accept not only the message but also the blessing."

To be sure, Jesus is going to make sure that the Church finishes this age with a bang! So let us love ALL who love the Lord and commit our differences to Him, He can sort them out. Love makes no pre-conditions. We are going to need each other in the dark time ahead. Let us turn our eyes from Rome & the Pope and look to the Mediterranean, Jerusalem & Russia and we'll be ready for the Beast when he comes.

Christians here during the Tribulation.

All that has been said so far proves this. Some try to say that the "elect" in MAT. 24 are not Christians but Jews because the Jews were the ones who were called "elect". This argument holds no weight at all as we shall now prove -

1 PET.1v1-2 "Peter...to the strangers(Gentiles,v10) scattered throughout Pontus,Galatia, Cappadocia,Asia and Bithynia,ELECT according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.."

LUKE 18v7 "shall not God avenge his own ELECT which cry day and night unto him.."

ROM.8v33-35 "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's ELECT?It is God that justifieth.Who is he that condemneth?It is Christ that died,yea rather,that is risen again,who is even at the right hand of God,who also maketh intercession for us.Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine,or nakedness,or peril,or sword(war)?...Nay,in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

COL.3v12 "Put on therefore,as the ELECT of God,holy and beloved,bowels of mercies..."

TITUS 1v1 "Paul...an apostle of Jesus Christ,according to the faith of God's ELECT.."

2 JOHN 1 "The elder unto the ELECT lady and her children...also all they that have known the truth.."

2 JOHN 13 "The children of thy ELECT sister greet thee."

1 PET.5v13 "The church that is at Babylon,ELECTED together with you.."

ROM.11v7 "...Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for;but the ELECTION hath.."

1 THESS.1v4 "...knowing,brethren beloved,your ELECTION of God.."

2 PET.1v10 "...make your calling and ELECTION sure.."

MAT.24v31 - His ELECT are all over the world.

Christians are called constantly the ELECT of God. If we say that "elect" in MAT.24 does not mean Christians then what about all the other scriptures? Perhaps they are not for us either? Who decides which we apply to us and which we apply to the Jews? Such an idea only leads to endless confusion. The fact is, in the Old Testament the people of Israel, and any that would join themselves to them, were called the elect or chosen of God. Now under the New Testament any who belong to Christ, Jew and Gentile, are called the elect of God.(see EXOD.12v48,EPH.2v11-22,etc.)

It is nonsense to say that MAT.24 only applies to unbelieving Jews for they regard Jesus as an impostor and would take no notice of His words,nor do they have any regard for the New Testament. If they are believing Jews,like Peter and the other apostles, then surely they would be in the Rapture? Some say that they are Jews who get converted after the Church has gone, but if every believer has gone and the Holy Spirit has been taken how can they get converted? Some would say that this is accomplished through the two witnesses but they are fully occupied at Jerusalem for 3½ years(REV.11),that would leave them with the first 3½ years in which to see hundreds of thousands saved, taught,grown in the faith,exercised in the Gifts of the Spirit,etc.,so as to be able to stand against the worst evil the world had seen and then go on to do a similar job all over the world so that "a multitude that no man can number" will come victorious, out of the worlds greatest tribulation(REV.7).Does that seem at all likely to you? How long have you been a Christian?And how far have you got in 3½ years?Think about it!

It is quite obvious to the unbiased mind that the Word of God teaches that Christians will be here in the Great Tribulation. You can't get prepared in a very short space of time, that's why we need to seek God NOW whilst we have the opportunity for time is slipping away.

Some say that the terms "saints and prophets" are more applicable to Jews than to Christians(this is because these terms are used in the book of Revelation where it speaks of the Tribulation) but this is of course nonsense. I will not bore you with another list of scriptures on "saints and prophets" as I have written them above on the word ELECT but suggest that you look up "saints and prophets" in the New Testament (e.g.ACTS 9v13,32,41,26v10,ROM.1v7,8v27,12v13,15v25,26,31,16v2,15,1 COR.1v2,6v1,2,14v33,16v1,15,2 COR.1v1,etc.,etc.,LUKE 11v49,ACTS 11v27,13v1,15v32,1 COR.12v28-29,14v29,EPH.2v20,3v5,4v11,etc.). All these scriptures,and more,refer to the Church.If we say certain ones don't who decides which? All God's people are "saints"(separated to God) and there are apostles,teachers,prophets,etc., placed in the Church by God.

The Holy Spirit is here during the Great Tribulation

From 2 THESS. 2v7 some imagine that the Holy Spirit is taken out of the world before the Great Tribulation. Well the restrainer referred to is most certainly the Holy Spirit for none other could restrain the powers of darkness. But this verse does not mean He is taken out of the world, it means that He no longer restrains the powers of darkness. It is obvious that the outpouring of the Spirit with all His attendant Gifts which began at Pentecost continues right up to the great and terrible day of the Lord, the day when the sun is turned into darkness and the moon into blood, the day He comes to destroy the wicked - compare carefully JOEL 2v28-32, MAT. 24v29-31, ACTS 2v16-21, REV. 6v12-17 - it can be seen from these scriptures that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and His gifts continues right through the Tribulation to the last day, and whosoever calls on the Lord will be saved.

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION (or ABOMINATION THAT MAKETH DESOLATE-REV.13v14-15, etc)

This is the IMAGE that is made of Antichrist and placed in the Temple of God at Jerusalem (MAT.24v15, DAN.9v27, 11v31, 12v11, REV.13v14-15 - compare 2 THESS. 2v3-4).

The False Prophet, endowed with tremendous Satanic supernatural power, is able to bring the image to life, to cause it to speak and live (it will no doubt be animated by a powerful demon or evil angel rather like a demon spirit enters and uses and speaks through the body of a spiritualist medium).

People are called to worship the image and the Beast (Antichrist) which it represents. This is another reason that Jerusalem is called Babylon because Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon erected an image (of which the head of gold was him) and commanded all to worship it - but the saints of God chose to die rather than do so. May God grant us the same strength and grace in the evil time ahead.

Because of his resurrection from the dead, his bringing the image to life, and bringing fire down from heaven in the sight of men, Antichrist is accepted by the Jews as the Messiah. He sits as God in the Temple of God "showing himself that he is God"-2 THESS.2. The Jews always expected a conquering Messiah to come who would destroy their enemies, that's why they missed the coming of their true Messiah; they didn't understand that He was to come first to suffer and later to conquer. They rejected Him. Jesus said, "I am come in my Father's name and ye receive me not, but if another comes in his own name him ye will receive" (JOHN 5v43).

Indeed they do, they receive Antichrist who sets himself up in Jerusalem, conquers Egypt and the surrounding Arab nations who have always been a thorn in Israel's side, and proceeds to try and conquer the rest of the world. He makes Jerusalem rich through trade for he controls the middle east oil, those who bow to the Beast will get their oil supplies in exchange for other things. Jerusalem sits "as a Queen" (REV.18v1-24).

It is rather interesting that there is a legend among the Jews that some hundreds of years ago there was a Rabbi who made an image of clay and by writing some secret letters on its forehead he brought the statue to life (this is a parody on the creation of man who was made of earth and brought to life). The image then went about doing his bidding. After a while he removed the lettering from its forehead and it became lifeless again. The image was carefully hidden away and a number of Jews believe that it is still there and WILL COME BACK TO LIFE WHEN THE MESSIAH COMES!! This legend is referred to in the Talmud - the code of Jewish civil and religious law. The image was created for the express purpose of destroying the enemies of Israel. No wonder many of the Jews receive Antichrist as Messiah! The image of Antichrist will go about destroying, and killing all who will not worship him - hence it is called 'the Abomination of DESOLATION' 'STANDING in the holy place', or 'the Abomination that MAKETH DESOLATE'.

All this may seem hard to believe but we must remember that in that time the most tremendous supernatural power will be unleashed as in the time of Moses (EXOD.4v2-7, 7v9-12, 17-22, 8v2-7, 8v16-19 (note Satan can only go so far), 8v21-31, 9v3-11, 18-33, 10v4, 21).

Notice the plagues upon Egypt WHICH GOD'S PEOPLE WERE KEPT FROM (providing they obeyed the voice of the Lord) and the first sign to Pharaoh:-

- (1) Rods become serpents (EX.7v9). If a rod can be turned into a snake, and man can be made out of the dust of the ground, then an image can be brought to life.

17.

- (2) Rivers turned to blood(EX.7v17)
- (3) Frogs throughout the land(EX.8v2)
- (4) Dust to lice(EX.8v16)
- (5) Swarms of flies(EX.8v21)
- (6) Greivous murrain(EX.9v3)
- (7) Boils on Egyptians(EX.9v9)
- (8) Greivous hail(EX.9v18)
- (9) Locusts(EX.10v4)
- (10) Great darkness(EX.10v21)
- (11) Smiting of the firstborn(EX.11v5 - I don't believe these children suffered in the slightest, God simply 'took them' to be with Him. But it was a greivous loss to the parents).

Pharaoh set himself up as God, persecuted and slew God's people, and God brought judgments upon him and his kingdom. There was great conflict between the powers of good and evil.

This is an exact parallel with the end time - Antichrist sets himself up as God in Jerusalem, hence Jerusalem called "Egypt", he persecutes and slays the people of God. God brings judgments upon him and his kingdom. Some of these judgments are:-

- (1) "Locusts" (only these are demon spirits - REV.9v3-4)
- (2) Greivous sores upon Antichrist and his followers(REV.16v2)
- (3) Sea turned to blood(REV.16v3)
- (4) Rivers turned to blood(REV.16v4-6)
- (5) Darkness(REV.16v10)
- (6) Great hail(REV.16v21)

These judgments are similar to those numbered 2, 7, 8, 9, & 10 of the judgments upon Egypt. This is not mere coincidence - God is showing us that the situation in the end time will be similar to that time in Egypt, but ALSO that God will protect His people from His judgments at the end time as He kept His people at the time of Moses.

e.g. EX.10v21-23 - when God brought thick darkness upon the land of Egypt "all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings".

.....

#### Note

The scarlet colour of the Dragon, the Harlot and the beast which carries her shows the gross wickedness of these for 'scarlet' signifies gross sin (ISA.1v18).

The ABOMINATION is also referred to as "the abomination that ASTONISHETH" (DAN.11v31 - margin). Can you think of anything more astonishing than an image being brought to life?

Some have tried to equate the ABOMINATION with the Roman legions in AD70, etc., but this is quite incorrect - Jesus spoke of the "abomination spoken of by Daniel the prophet" in reference to the end time and the Great Tribulation (MAT.24v15-22).

DAN.7v17 - "These great beasts, which are four, are four kingdoms which shall arise out of the earth."

These beasts, as shown on the charts, are Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. Now it might appear that the charts show five kingdoms - the above four and Antichrist - but this is not really the case.

We only have a new beast when the previous beast has been conquered. The first beast (Lion-Babylon) was conquered by Medo-Persia, so we had a new beast (the Bear). The Medo-Persian empire was conquered by Greece, so we had a new beast (the Leopard). Upon the death of Alexander four of his generals, who had helped create the kingdom, seized the empire which then was split into four parts. It is the same kingdom, hence it is the same beast - but split into four. Thus we see the same beast with four heads - four in control. Hence the four heads of the leopard show the later development of the third beast. The Grecian empire was conquered by Rome, so we have a new beast - the fourth dreadful beast. The fourth beast reigns up to and beyond the 69th seven of years of Daniel. Then follows the indefinite period of the Church Age when Israel is scattered. The prophecy does not pick up again until Israel is re-established as a nation for the 70 sevens of years are determined upon Israel and Jerusalem. The last or 70th seven of years begins with the appearance of Antichrist. Antichrist and the ten kingdom alliance emerge out of the area of the old Roman Empire "at the time of the end", thus the Antichrist kingdom is not shown as a new beast (Antichrist does not conquer the Roman Empire) but as a later development of the fourth beast. Hence the angel says, "These... are four kingdoms which shall arise" The ten horns on the fourth beast are without crowns, i.e. have received no kingdom; have crowns later (REV.13) when they receive kingdom with Antichrist at the end.

A comparision of DAN.ch 8 and ch 11

DAN. 8

- v3 - The ram with two horns(Medo-Persia)
- v4 - " " conquers west,north&south.
- v5 - He Goat with one great horn(Alex-ander the Great).
- v6-8 He Goat conquers Medo-Persia & becomes great.
- v8 - At height of his power Alex.died, four seized kingdom.
- NOW THERE IS A BIG LEAP FORWARD IN TIME
- v9 -10 Out of one of the four divs.of the Grecian empire comes "a little horn"(Antichrist).He grows exceeding great.
- v11-14 Antichrist takes away the daily sacrifice & treads Jerusalem "the place of his(God's)sanctuary"under foot.
- v17 - "At the time of the end the vision shall be".

(Antichrist magnifies himself against the "prince of princes" by taking Jerusalem & setting himself up in the Temple") v11,25.

DAN.11

- v2 - Fourth king of Persia(Xerxes) stirs all against realm of Grecia but is defeated.
- v3 -This results in Alex.the Great standing up & conquering Medo-Persia.
- v4 -At height of his power he dies and 4 of his generals seize kingdom(kingdom doesn't go to Alexs. family-posterity),they were never as powerful as Alex. "not according to his dominion" for some of the empire went to others besides these four.
- v5 -King of south(Egypt)
- v6 -Daughter of king of Egypt given in marriage to king of north(Syria) and is murdered.
- v7 -Her brother invades Syria.
- v8 -He conquers Syria
- v9 -returns to Egypt
- v10-Some of king of Syria stirred up to battle
- v11-King of Egypt fights Syria
- v12-Defeats Syria
- v13-King of Syria returns with great army against Egypt
- v14-Jews helped king of Syria
- v15-Syria conquers Egypt
- v16-Syria conquers Palestine(becomes 5th head of the beast- prior to this conquest Palestine was ruled by Egypt the 4th head)
- v17-King of Syria gave his daughter Cleopatra in treacherous marr. alliance to King of Egypt.
- v18-King of Syria invaded Asia Minor
- 19 & Greece,was defeated by Romans- returned to his own land & was slain.
- v20-A raiser of taxes stands up in the Syrian kingdom.
- NOW THERE IS A BIG LEAP FORWARD IN TIME
- v21-Out of the area of the old Syrian kingdom arises "a vile person" (Antichrist)

From here to the end of the book of Daniel is about Antichrist and the time of the end.

The Second Coming of Christ and the Rapture

MAT.24v3 - "What shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?"

How important is the teaching of the Second Coming of Christ? We gain an idea by noting the following:-

The 'new birth'(conversion) is mentioned in the New Testament 9 times

Baptism is mentioned 20 times

Repentance is mentioned 70 times

The Second Coming is mentioned 380 TIMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT ALONE!!!

This shows the tremendous importance which God attaches to this subject - yet so many Christians seem to show a great ignorance of this great truth. If God thinks the subject is so important then we ought to pay a lot of attention to it.

This doctrine of the Second Advent is not preached a great deal but unfortunately when it is it is often preached in error. People take plain statements of Scripture and make them say the opposite to what God plainly states. God intended His Word to be understood by the simplest saint. He did not intend that people should have to be theological geniuses or experts in Church history before they could understand it.

Example - It is widely taught by many 'teachers' of the Word that the early Church believed that Jesus could come 'any moment', that Peter, Paul and the others lived every day in expectation that Jesus might return. This is utterly false as is so plain from the following:-

JOHN 21v18-19 - Jesus said to Peter, "Verily, verily I say unto thee, when thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkest whither thou wouldest; but when thou shalt be OLD, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what DEATH he should glorify God."

Here Jesus tells Peter that he will be martyred an old man. 36 years later Peter wrote:-

2 PET.1v13-15 "Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle (body), to stir you up by putting you in remembrance, knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath showed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able AFTER MY DECEASE to have these things always in remembrance." - he then goes on to warn them about false teachers, etc., who will come amongst the flock after his death.

How could Peter go about talking about Jesus coming 'any moment' when he had been told he would be martyred an old man? The same applies to any prophecy which the Lord gives the Church, how can Christ come before the prophecy has been fulfilled? The 'any moment' theory makes complete nonsense of the gift of prophecy.

Then there was Paul:-

2 THESS.2v1-9 :- Paul warned the Christians not to be deceived by anyone who suggested that the day of Christ was at hand because that day will not come until there is a great falling away (apostasy) and the revelation of Antichrist, whom the Lord would destroy with the brightness of his Coming.

In the face of these, and many many other scriptures it is truly astonishing how people can teach that the early Church believed Jesus could come 'any moment'. (see my booklet on "The Second Coming of Christ" for much more detail on this).

Likewise, some today suggest that Jesus can come 'any moment' but they ignore or twist a lot of scripture. When the disciples asked, "What shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?", Jesus didn't say, "There wont be any, just expect me any time!" He gave many signs that would herald His Return, and He said that when we see these things come to pass then we are to look up for our redemption draweth nigh.

Paul says (EPH 1v10) that He will come in the dispensation of the fulness of times and gather together all in Christ - in heaven and on earth.

It is a definite time - not anytime!

Throughout Scripture there is the phrase "that day" or "the day" or "the last day"

JOHN 6v39 "And this is the Father's will..that of all he hath given me I should lose nothing but should raise it up again at the LAST DAY".

ACTS 17v31 "he hath appointed a DAY in the which he will judge the world in righteousness."

2 TIM 1v18 "The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in THAT DAY".

2 TIM 4v8 "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me in that DAY, and not to me only but to all those who love his appearing."

HEB.10v25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as ye see THE DAY approaching."

1 COR.3v13 "Every man's work shall be made manifest, for THE DAY shall declare it."

ROM.13v12 "the night is far spent, THE DAY is at hand."

ZECH.14v4 "his feet shall stand in THAT DAY upon the mount of Olives."

etc., etc.

"appointed a day", "the last day", "the day", "that day", "the latter day" - what day? - The day of the Lord Jesus Christ, the day He returns to this earth.

"The Day of the Lord" is the same as "the Day of Christ"

Some try to twist scripture to suit their doctrine by saying that "the day of the Lord" and "the day of Christ" are two different days. The folly of this is clearly seen from the following:-

1 COR.1v8 "that ye may be blameless in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ"

2 COR.1v14 "we are your rejoicing, even as ye are also ours in the day of the Lord Jesus."

1 COR.5v5 "that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

This shows it is quite incorrect to say that "the day of the Lord" is the Coming to destroy the wicked and "the day of Christ" is the Coming for His saints. It is one and the same day.

When will the Rapture be?

The resurrection of the dead Christians and their gathering together to the Lord with the live Christians -

Called - the "harvest" MAT.13v30,39 (see MAT.13v24-30,36-43)

Takes place at :-

(1) "the end of the world" MAT.13v39 (not years before the end of the world)

(2) "the last trumpet" 1 COR.15v51-52, REV.11v15-18, 1 THESS.4v14-17, MAT.24v31 (there are no more trumpets after the LAST one)

(3) "on the last day" JOHN 6v39,40,44,11v23,24 (not years before the last day - the last day is the last day of this age)  
*See also Job. 19v25-27.*

(4) "after the great tribulation" MAT.24v29-31

(5) After the "falling away" (apostasy) and the revelation and career of Antichrist, who will be destroyed at the return of Christ 2 THESS.2v1-9

(6) "not until the heavens depart" JOB 14v12, 2 PET.3v10-14

REV.3v10 "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience,I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world,to try them that dwell upon the earth."

Some have the notion that the above tells us that the Church will not go through the Great Tribulation. This is quite untrue as you can see from the context. This letter was written to the church at Philadelphia in the time of John. This was a promise to THEM - therefore it must have been fulfilled in their time. If the scripture referred to the Great Tribulation then John would have been telling these particular christians "because you have been faithful the Lord will keep you from the Great Tribulation which is 2,000 years in the future." They would have thought he was mad! You see how we make nonsense of scripture by taking it out of context? This "hour(or season)" of temptation must have been some particular trouble which came upon the world at that time(meaning the Roman world,for "the world" can mean "the world under Roman rule" - see LUKE 2v1).

Some argue that the seven churches in Revelation are symbolic of seven epochs in Church history - nonsense of course for one can find each kind of church in EVERY age, even as there was one of each in the time of John! But even if we accept this false notion that would make us to be the Laodiceans.But the above promise was to the Philadelphians!!!

21.

#### Two Resurrections(REV.20v4-15)

At the Rapture the first of TWO resurrections takes place. If this took place before the Great Tribulation then there would have to be another resurrection (of saints killed in the G.T.) after the Great Tribulation. This would make three resurrections not two.

The two resurrections are spoken of as being 1,000 years apart. If the resurrection of Christians took place before the Great Tribulation then the two resurrections would not be 1,000 years apart.

At the Rapture "death is swallowed up in victory" so how can saints be slain afterwards in the Great Tribulation?

Obviously death is swallowed up in victory after the Great Tribulation,on the last day,at the end of the age,at the beginning of the 1,000 years reign of Christ.

.....

#### ISA.25v6-12 - Second Advent

"Who have waited for our God" i.e.Christ coming for His saints - the time death is swallowed up in victory(1 COR.15), tears wiped away, rebuke of His people taken from off the earth.

#### ISA.27 all - Second Advent

v1 - slaying of the dragon.

v4 - the destruction of His enemies.

v6 - the millennial kingdom.

v13- on THAT DAY the great trumpet shall sound.

.....

#### "For the day of the Lord shall come as a thief in the night"

Some suggest that this means He will come 'in secret' for His saints, but 2 PET.3v10 says that when he comes as a thief the heavens will depart with a great noise,etc., which is hardly a coming in secret! This occurs after the tribulation as the Lord Himself also states in REV.16v15 where He says,"Behold I come as a thief" - this is after the 6th vial of wrath is poured out!

Coming "as a thief" refers to the suddenness and unexpectedness of His Return, not secrecy. But Paul says that the Christians are not in darkness that that day should overtake them as a thief because we have all the prophecies and signs that the Lord told us to watch out for that will tell us that He is coming. That day will overtake the unbelieving, wicked, and the sleeping Christians as a thief.(Paul - see 1 THESS.5v1-7).

### Preparation for the time ahead

LUKE 21v36 "Watch therefore, and pray always that ye may be counted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass and to stand before the Son of man."

What this verse really means is clearly illustrated in the N.E.B.:-

"Be on the alert, praying at all times for strength to pass safely through all these imminent troubles and to stand in the presence of the Son of man."

It is an escaping through, not out of.

We need to pray now that He will prepare us for the time ahead and that we will have all the necessary strength and equipment to pass through these troubles which lie ahead. God will do it and will keep us as He has His saints in the past.

ISA.65v13-14 "Therefore thus saith the Lord God (to the wicked), Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed: behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit."

God wrought deliverances under the hands of Samuel, Jephthae, David and the prophets, who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight and turned to flight the armies of the aliens; others were given grace and strength to suffer for God (HEB.11). They did it all by faith in a miracle working God. Never forget that God has always taken care of His people - He gave them bread every day in the wilderness, provided water in the desert, made their clothes last 40 years, Elijah - the cruise of oil, fed by ravens, etc., Jesus fed 5,000 and 4,000 with a few loaves and fishes. He is still the same God. So let us trust Him, seek Him to prepare us, He has everything under control (Antichrist can't have his crown until Jesus breaks first seal) and "He careth for YOU" (1 PET.5v7)

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(MAT.6v31-33)

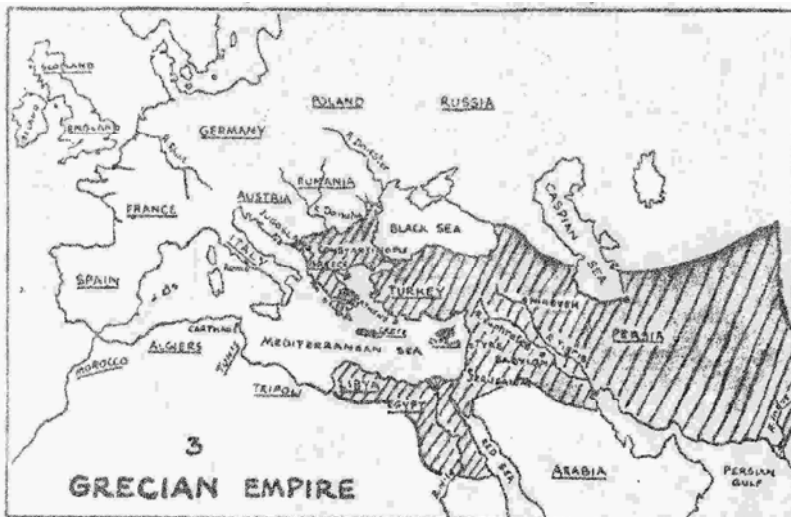


# THE FOUR EMPIRES OF DANIEL (Chapters II, VII, & VIII)



At one period Thrace was also included in this Empire

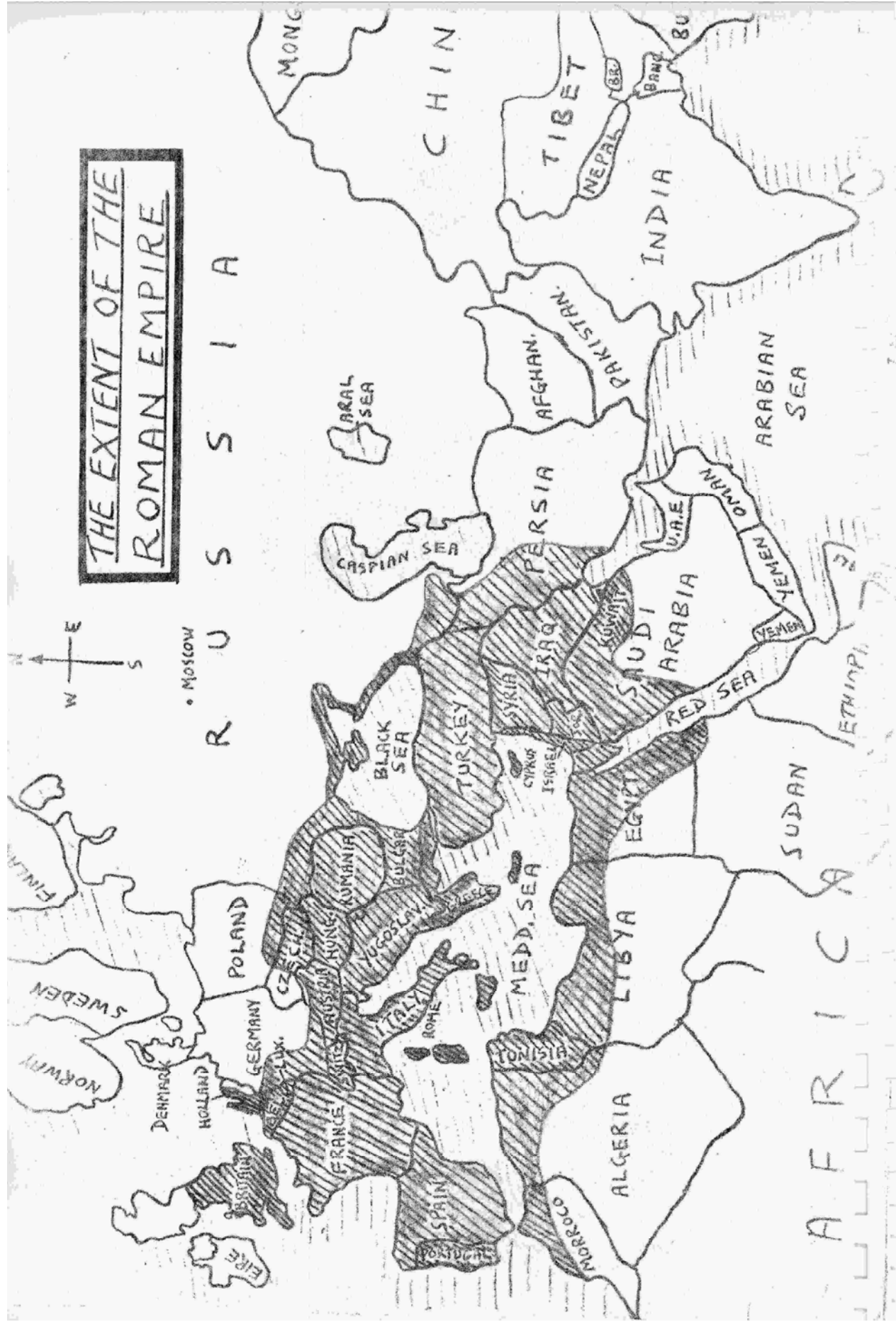
Notice how each successive empire occupies more and more of the land which surrounds the Mediterranean Sea, until finally the Roman Empire occupies all the area around the Mediterranean. It is out of this final area



that the ten  
kingdom alliance  
& Antichrist  
will emerge.  
Each empire  
has ruled over  
Palestine and  
Jerusalem.  
In Daniel's visions,  
and John's, each  
'beast' (empire)  
came out of the  
'great sea' (Med. Sea),  
i.e. each arises in  
the Med. area - so  
also will Antichrist.

# THE EXTENT OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

R U S S I A



A F R I C A



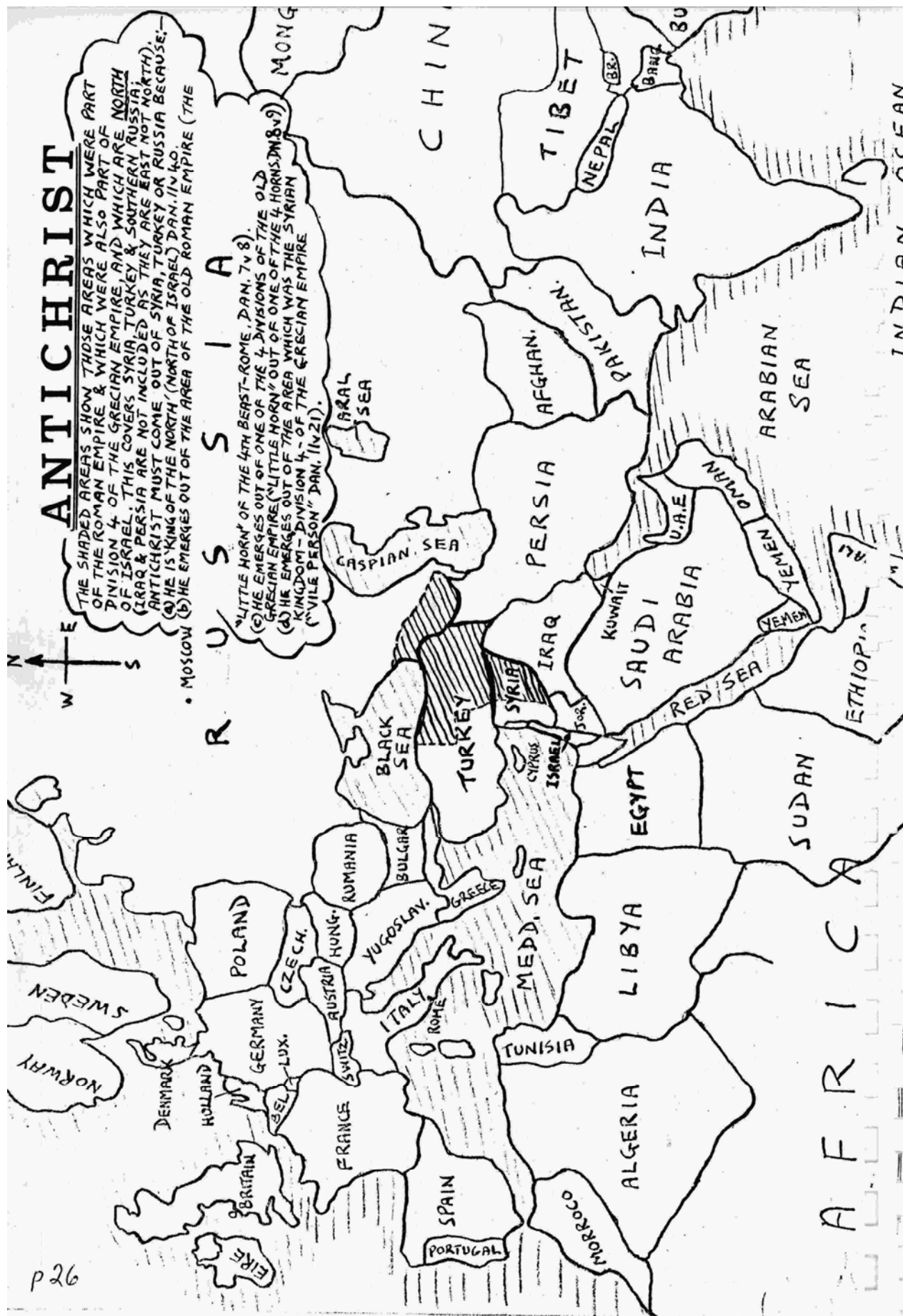
# ANTI CHRIST.

THE SHADED AREAS SHOW THOSE AREAS WHICH WERE PART OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE & WHICH WERE ALSO PART OF DIVISION 4 OF THE GRECIAN EMPIRE, AND WHICH ARE NORTH OF ISRAEL. THIS COVERS SYRIA, TURKEY & SOUTHERN RUSSIA. IRAQ & PERSIA ARE NOT INCLUDED AS THEY ARE EAST NOT NORTH). AN ANTICHRIST MUST COME OUT OF SYRIA, TURKEY OR RUSSIA BECAUSE:-  
1) HE IS KING OF THE NORTH' (NORTH OF ISRAEL) DAN. 11/40.  
2) HE EMERGES OUT OF THE AREA OF THE OLD ROMAN EMPIRE (THE

1

SSIA  
LITTLE HORN OF THE 4TH BEAST-ROME, DAN. 7v8).

(C) HE EMERGES OUT OF ONE OF THE 4 DIVISIONS OF THE OLD GRECIAN EMPIRE ("LITTLE HORN" OUT OF ONE OF THE 4 HORNS, DAN. 8 v. 9)  
(D) HE EMERGES OUT OF THE AREA WHICH WAS THE SYRIAN KINGDOM - DIVISION 4 - OF THE GRECIAN EMPIRE ("VILE PERSON" DAN. 11 v. 21).



# THE COUNTRIES OF THE

## COMMON MARKET (12+1?)

- ① EIRE ② U.K. ③ FRANCE ④ GERMANY ⑤ BELGIUM
- ⑥ HOLLAND (THE NETHERLANDS) ⑦ LUXEMBURG ⑧ ITALY ⑨ DENMARK
- ⑩ GREECE ⑪ PORTUGAL ⑫ SPAIN ⑬ TURKEY? (PAGE 12)

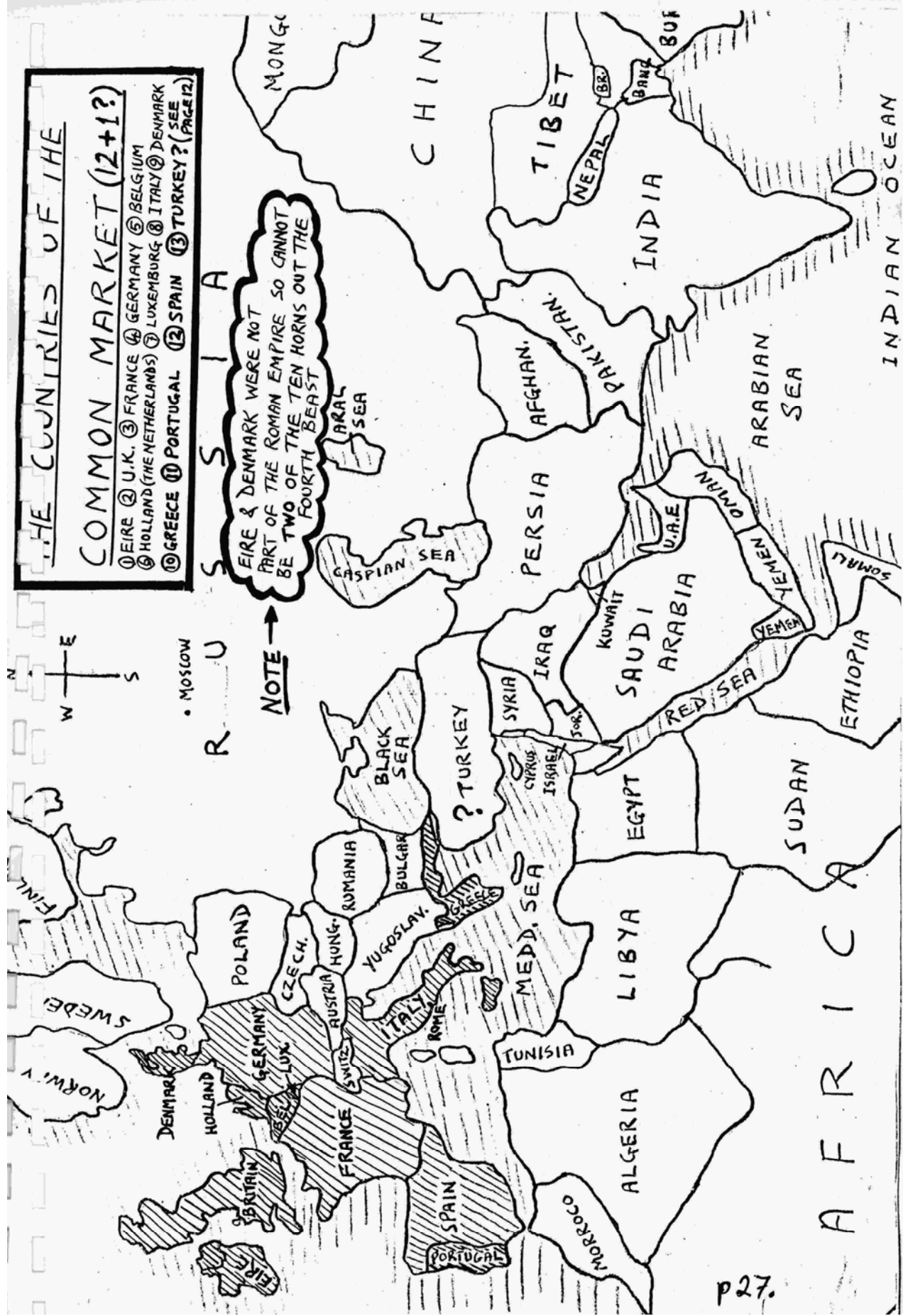


• MOSCOW

R U S S I A

NOTE →

EIRE & DENMARK WERE NOT PART OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE SO CANNOT BE TWO OF THE TEN HORNS OUT THE FOURTH BEAST



long to the literature of Gnosticism. For similar views, after Plato and Philo, see Freudenthal, "Hellenistische Studien," p. 69 (see ADAM).

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** G. Brecher, *Das Transcendentale, Magie und Magische Heilarten im Talmud*, Vienna, 1850; A. Kohut, *Die Talmudisch-Midrassische Adamssage in Ihrer Rückbeziehung auf die Persische Yima- und Meshiasage*, in *Z. D. M. G.* xxv. 59-94; M. Grünbaum, *Neue Beiträge zur Semitischen Sagenkunde*, pp. 54 et seq., Leyden, 1893; *JEW. ENCYC.* i. 174-175; A. Hilgenfeld, *Die Jüdische Apokalypitik*, Jena, 1857.  
E. C.

L. B.

—In Medieval Times: In the Middle Ages arose the belief in the possibility of infusing life into a clay or wooden figure of a human being, which figure was termed "golem" by writers of the eighteenth century. The golem grew in size, and could carry any message or obey mechanically any order of its master. It was supposed to be created by the aid of the "Sefer Yezirah," that is, by a combination of letters forming a "Shem" (any one of the names of God). The Shem was written on a piece of paper and inserted either in the mouth or in the forehead of the golem, thus bringing it into life and action. Solomon ibn Gabirol is said to have created a maid servant by this means. The king, informed of this, desired to punish him, but Ibn Gabirol showed that his creature was not a real being by restoring every one of its parts to its original form.

Elijah of Chelm, in the middle of the sixteenth century, was the first person credited with having made a golem with a Shem, for which reason he was known as a "Ba'al Shem." It is said to have grown to be a monster (resembling that of Frankenstein), which the rabbi feared might destroy the world. Finally he extracted the Shem from the forehead of his golem, which returned to dust (Azulai, "Shem ha-Gedolim," i. No. 163). Elijah's grandson, known as the "hakam Zebi," was so convinced of the truth of this that he raised the question as to whether a golem could be counted as one in a "minyan" (quorum; Responsa, No. 93, Amsterdam, 1712; Baer Heteb to Shulhan 'Arukh, Orah Hayyim, 55, 1). The best-known golem was that of Judah Löw b. Bezaleel, or the

Golem of "hohe Rabbi Löw," of Prague (end of Hohe 16th cent.), who used his golem as a Rabbi Löw. servant on week-days, and extracted the Shem from the golem's mouth every Friday afternoon, so as to let it rest on Sabbath. Once the rabbi forgot to extract the Shem, and feared that the golem would desecrate the Sabbath. He pursued the golem and caught it in front of the synagogue, just before Sabbath began, and hurriedly extracted the Shem, whereupon the golem fell in pieces; its remains are said to be still among the debris in the attic of the synagogue. Rabbi Löw is credited with having performed similar wonders before Rudolph II. ("Sippurim," p. 52; comp. Gans, "Zemah Dawid," p. 46a, Frankfurt-on-the-Main, 1692). A legend connected with his golem is given in German verse by Gustav Philippson in "Allg. Z. f. d. Jud." 1841, No. 44 (abridged in "Sulamith," viii. 234; translated into Hebrew in "Kokebe Yizhak," No. 28, p. 75, Vienna, 1862).

It is sometimes alleged that Elijah of Wilna also made a golem, and the Hasidim claim the same for

Israel Ba'al Shem-Tob, but apparently the claims are based on the similarity in the one case of the name "Elijah" and in the other of the appellation "Ba'al Shem" to the name and appellation of the rabbi of Chelm. The last golem is attributed to R. David Jaffe, rabbi in Dorhiczyn, in the government of Grodno, Russia (about 1800). This golem, unlike that of R. Löw, was not supposed to rest on Sabbath. Indeed, it appears that it was created only for the purpose of replacing the Sabbath goy in heating the ovens of Jews on winter Sabbaths. All orders to make fires were given to the golem on Friday, which he executed promptly but mechanically the next day. In one case a slight error in an order to the golem caused a conflagration that destroyed the whole town.

From this story it becomes probable that the whole of the golem legend is in some way a reflex of the medieval legends about Vergil, who was credited with the power of making a statue move and speak and do his will. His disciple once gave orders which, strictly carried out, resulted in his destruction. The statue of Vergil saved an adulteress, just as did the golem of R. Löw in Philippson's above-mentioned poem (J. A. Tunison, "Master Virgil," p. 145, Cincinnati, 1888).

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** *Ha-Maggid*, 1867, Supplement No. 42; Pascheles, *Sippurim*, pp. 51-52, Prague, 1870; Rubin, *Ma'ase Ta'atim*, p. 117, Vienna, 1887; Tendler, *Sagen und Legenden der Jüdischen Vorzeit*.

J.

J. D. E.

**GOLGOTHA** (literally, "the skull"): Locality mentioned in the New Testament as the scene of Jesus' execution (Matt. xxvii. 33 and parallels). The name is an Aramaic emphatic state, and corresponds to the Hebrew גִּלְגֻּלְתָּא. In the Greek translation of the Gospels the "l" is elided except in one manuscript (Codex Bezae); "Golgotha" is the proper form. It was outside the city wall (John xix. 20), near a tomb, a gate, and a road, and in a prominent position (Mark xv. 29, 40; John xix. 20, 41). Two places answer to this description: (1) The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which is identified by tradition with Golgotha; it lay beyond the second wall and was near tombs and a road. A temple of Venus was erected on the site; and from the analogy of the temple of Zeus, which was built on the site of the Second Temple, this seems to imply that it was once a sacred spot. (2) A skull-shaped rock above the grotto of Jeremiah, about which there is a Jewish tradition that it was the place of stoning. The name does not occur in Talmudic literature. See also ADAM.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** A. McGrigor, in *Encyclopædia Britannica*, s.v. *Sepulchre, Holy*; Cheyne and Black, *Encyc. Bibl. s.v.*  
E. C.

J.

**GOLIATH**: A Philistine giant of Gath (I Sam. xvii. 4). The name "Goliath" is probably connected with the Assyro-Babylonian "Guzali" = "running, ravaging spirits," "destroyers" (Jastrow, "Religion of Assyria and Babylon," p. 500; Muss-Arnolt, "Concise Dictionary," s.v. "The Throne-Carriers"; Delitzsch, "Assyrisches Handwörterb." s.v.).

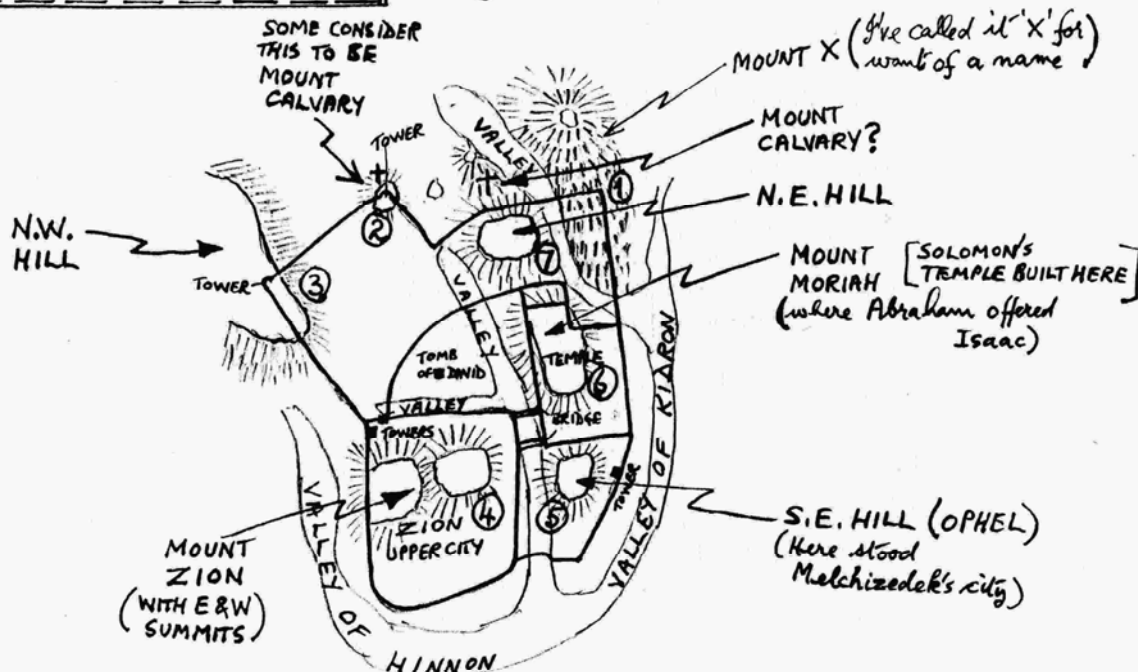
—**Biblical Data:** Goliath was the champion of the Philistines, who had encamped between Shochoh and Azekah against Saul and the men of Israel arrayed for battle in the valley of Elah. He is described



ROME IS MORE WEST THAN NORTH  
OF PALESTINE - BUT RUSSIA IS  
DUE NORTH.



[all the valleys are  
from 100 to 300 feet deep.]



#### ANCIENT JERUSALEM

REV.17v9 "...The seven heads are seven mountains(or hills - Gr.'ORE') on which the woman(the city,v18,ch.11v8) sitteth."

Many have assumed that Rome must be referred to because Rome is on seven hills, but Rome and the Pope do NOT fit all the prophecies. The Beast or Antichrist is described as the 'king of the north' - Rome is not remotely north of Palestine, but Moscow IS!(see map top left). Also the city is described as "where also our Lord was crucified"(REV.11v8) - i.e. Jerusalem. It can be seen from the above that Jerusalem in the days of the Apostle John was built on seven hills —

(1) NE corner built on the side of a mountain, X (2) North wall partly built on Mount Calvary(?) (3) N.W. Hill (4) Mount Zion (5) S.E. Hill (6) Mount Moriah (7) N.E. Hill.

(For Constantinople - PTO)

## GUIDE - BOOK

FOR

### CONSTANTINOPLE AND DISTRICT

**Situation.**—Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire, is situated at the junction of the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmora, in lat.  $41^{\circ} 0' 16''$  N. and long.  $28^{\circ} 59' 14''$  E., and may be said to be composed of three different towns, viz. Stambül, Galata-Pera, and Skutari. The two first named are on the European shore, and are divided by the Golden Horn; while Skutari lies on the Asiatic shore, and is separated from them by the Bosphorus. Stambül, or Constantinople proper, occupies the site of ancient Byzantium, and, like ancient Rome, is built on seven hills. On the first of these, on which stood the original city of Byzantium, are the Old Seraglio, the Mosque of St. Sophia, and the Hippodrome; on the second the Porphyry Column, on the site of the ancient Forum of Constantine;

NOTE

## The 70 "Weeks" of Daniel

It is worthy of note that the term "week" really means "seven". We in the West are only familiar with a week of days, but the Jews were familiar with other "weeks":-

### 1. Week of Days

"Six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the sabbath....." (DEUT.5v13-14).

### 2. Week of Sabbaths

This was a Jewish festival lasting seven weeks called the "Feast of Weeks"(LEV.23v15).

### 3. Week of Years

"Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard.... but in the seventh year shall be sabbath of rest unto the land.."(LEV.25v3-4).

### 4. Seven Weeks of Years

"seven sabbaths of years"(49 years) brought them to the year of Jubilee(LEV.25v8-13)

Hence we can see that when we speak of "weeks of years" in relation to Daniel's "70 weeks of prophecy", we are not twisting the scriptures to our liking by using some 'year-for-a-day' theory, we are simply correctly using a phrase which the Jews were very familiar with - notice the phrase used in DAN.10v2(see margin of your Bible) "...I Daniel was mourning three full weeks of days."

EZEK.ch 4 cannot be taken as a licence to go through the Bible changing days into YEARS or years into days for the prophet was merely illustrating the prophecy to the people as was the custom in those days - it was "a sign" to them(v3). Illustrations are more easily remembered than mere words. Neither can 2 PET.3v8 be taken as a licence to go through the Bible changing days into years or years into days for it simply means that time is meaningless to Him who inhabits eternity.

In DAN.9v24 the "Seventy weeks" are "weeks of years", as is obvious from the context. The Temple which Herod rebuilt took 46 years(JOHN 2v20).

The above prophecy of Daniel(which he had about 538 BC) was incredible in its accuracy:-

To understand the prediction we must ascertain when the command "to restore and build Jerusalem" was issued so as to know the starting point of the 70 weeks. Three decrees affecting Jerusalem are mentioned in EZRA - that of Cyrus in 536 BC(ch.1), that of Darius Hystaspis about 519 BC(ch.6v1-12), and that of Artaxerxes Longimanus about 458 BC(ch.7v11-28). None of these can be the decree foretold by Daniel for all three relate only to the Temple and worship. In fact Cambyses(called Artaxerxes in EZRA 4v7,11,23 - not Artaxerxes Longimanus),who ruled after Cyrus, when he heard that some of the Jews were starting to rebuild the CITY,gave commandment that they should cease immediately and that Jerusalem could not be rebuilt until they had commandment and authority from the king. This decree came later from Artaxerxes Longimanus in the 20th year of his reign(NEH.ch.2) in response to the plea of Nehemiah who wept about the state of Jerusalem(ch.1) and asked the king "that thou wouldst send me unto Judah unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres that I may build it"(NEH.2v5). Nehemiah himself gives the date - "The month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king"(ch2v1).

The date of Artaxerxes'accession to the throne is one of the best known dates in history, being given in Encyclopaedia Britannica as 465 BC. In "THE BIBLE AS HISTORY" by Werner Keller (p307) the date is given as 465 BC. This would make the 20th year of his reign 445 BC. The date 445 BC is also given in the "NEW BIBLE COMMENTARY" compiled by some fifty scholars, including Prof.Bruce of John Rylands Library, Manchester. Kindly note, no doctrinal question is involved in this date but I believe every effort has been made by modern research, literary and archeological, to pinpoint this date with accuracy.

The month Nisan, 445 BC, is the starting point then of the 70 weeks of prophecy. Nisan is the first month of the Jewish sacred year(the 7th month of the civil year - this explains why the month Nisan in the 20th year of the king came AFTER the month Chislev in the 20th year of his reign, cf.NEH.1v1 & 2v1). For the Jews the first of Nisan is New Year's Day. As the prophet names no other day the prophetic period must be reckoned,according to Jewish custom, from the first day of the month named, the first of Nisan.

Now as the Jewish year .. was ruled by the paschal moon the date of any Nisan can be definitely calculated in relation to our own Julian dating. We are greatly indebted to the painstaking work and research of the late Sir Robert Anderson who, in his book



Only once did our Lord offer Himself publicly and officially as Israel's Messiah. It was on that first memorable Palm Sunday. No student of scripture can fail to see that this was the crisis of His ministry. Previously He had avoided all public recognition of Messianic claims, even charging His disciples that they should not make Him known as Christ - the Messiah (MAT. 16v20). Now His ministry was near its end and His testimony had been fully given, the arm of the Lord had been bared before all (ISA. 53), and the purpose of His entry into Jerusalem was to proclaim openly His Messiahship. He came as the King of Peace. Solomon before Him was caused to ride upon a mule to be anointed king over Israel (1 KGS. 1v33) and he also was a king of peace. The people placed their garments under Him - a custom when someone was acknowledged as King (2 KGS 9v13). They began shouting from a Messianic Psalm - "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord!" (JOHN 12v13, PSA. 118v22-26). Jesus Himself, knowing His rejection, quoted from this very same Psalm afterwards saying, "The stone which the builders refused is become the headstone of the corner." His apostles themselves now make Him known. He accepts the acclamation of the whole multitude of disciples and

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when the Pharisees protested He silenced them with the indignant rebuke.. "I tell you that if these should hold their peace the very stones would immediately cry out." These words can only mean that the divinely appointed time had arrived for the public announcement of His Messiahship. This was Israel's day ("this thy day" LUKE 19v41-44), the predicted day of His public offer as "Messiah the Prince". They rejected Him, and the accusation on His cross was "This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" (JOHN 19v19). He was crucified 5 days after His triumphant ride to Jerusalem.

No date in history is made clearer than the commencement of our Lord's public ministry... Luke tells us that it was the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar (ch. 3v1). Now the reign of Tiberius began 19th Aug. AD 14 so that the fifteenth year of his reign when our Lord commenced His ministry was AD 29, and the first Passover of our Lord's ministry was in the month Nisan of that year.... three Passovers after this, in AD 32, our Lord was crucified.

According to Jewish custom our Lord went up to Jerusalem on the 8th Nisan (JOHN 11v55, 12v1, and Josephus Wars Book 6 ch. 5 para. 3) which as we know fell that year on a Friday, and having spent the Sabbath at Bethany He entered the Holy City the following day. The Julian date of the tenth Nisan was 6th April AD 32.

The length of time between the decree to rebuild Jerusalem unto the appearance of Messiah the Prince... 173,880 days... exactly 69 prophetic weeks of years. Daniel's prophecy was fulfilled to the very DAY!

I submit that this is clear evidence of Divine inspiration.

It will be noticed that Jesus died just AFTER the 69 weeks:-

"and AFTER three score and two weeks (which follow the seven weeks) shall Messiah be cut off, but not for Himself.." (DAN. 9v26).

Jesus places the 70th week in the future for in speaking of His Second Advent and the signs which precede it He speaks of "the abomination that maketh desolate spoken of by DANIEL THE PROPHET" (MAT. 24v15, DAN. 9v27, 11v31, 12v11). This clearly shows that there is a long gap between the 69th and 70th weeks.

But just as the first 69 weeks were fulfilled to the very day, so shall the 70th week and all the prophecies connected with it be fulfilled to the very letter. This should be a source of great comfort to the Christian for here we have light to take us through the darkness ahead. Many will be in fear and confusion "men's hearts failing them for fear" but the Christian can be full of hope knowing that the Lord said all these things would happen and that every passing day brings His Blessed Advent nearer. If the prophecies concerning the first Coming of Christ were so accurate - to the very day - at the end of the 69th week - how sure may we expect to be the prophecies concerning His second Advent at the end of the 70th week??!!

Peter tells us that we have a sure word of prophecy -

2 PET. 1v19 - "We also have a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well to take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." He goes on to say that these prophecies were not men's ideas but were given by the Holy Ghost, as the above accuracy demonstrates, therefore we can depend on them.

Prophecy, he says, is a light in a dark place. But before it is a light to us we must "take heed", we must study and know the prophecies.

The 'day star', or morning star, is the planet Venus which, at certain seasons, rises in the twilight in the eastern sky immediately before the Sun itself comes up over the horizon. At times this star is so bright that it partially dispels the surrounding darkness. It is then a forerunner or herald of the coming sunrise. In the same way the prophetic truth which the Lord has given to us about the end time is a herald of the coming Sun of righteousness. When we begin to see these things coming to pass the day star arises in our hearts and we know that the Sun of righteousness will soon appear and fill the whole earth with his glory! (MAL. 4v2)

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads (don't be down-hearted), FOR YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWETH NIGH." (LUKE 21v28).

"..when ye shall see these things come to pass (so we must be here), know that it (i.e. the Kingdom of God) is nigh, even at the doors." (MARK 13v29).

Jesus also warned us that there will be many false Christs and false prophets at this time, and even now there are many, e.g. Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Christadelphians, Anthroposophists, Swedenborgianists, Theosophists, Christian Spiritualists, Christian Scientists, Cooneyites, Scientologists, Children of God, Yogis, to name a few. But even more subtle than that there are false prophets in the Church itself telling Christians that they needn't bother about the book of Revelation, etc., because the Church will be raptured before all this happens:-

EZ.12v7<sup>1</sup>"...they of the house of Israel say, The vision that he seeth is for many days to come, and he prophesieth of the times that are far off."

Just as today when false prophets in the Church say, "Don't worry about the Great Tribulation, we will all be gone by then."

EZ. 13v1-10(esp.v5&10)

God speaks against the false prophets who prophesy "peace" when there is no peace. They were lulling people into a false sense of security instead of preparing them for what was to come.

"Ye have not gone up into the gaps(breaches),neither made up the hedge FOR THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL TO BE ABLE TO STAND IN THE BATTLE IN THE DAY OF THE LORD."(v5).

How strikingly similar is the situation today! Prophets of God are trying to warn christians to prepare for the awful times ahead, but they are resisted by false prophets in the Church who tell christians to take no notice and that they wont see these troubles, that they will all be raptured before it all takes place.

God says that they prophesy out of their own hearts and follow their own spirit and that they have had nothing from God!(v1-3). God says,"I have not sent them"(v6).

It is interesting that the children of Judah went into captivity in Babylon in 606 BC. God said they would be in captivity 70 years. Exactly 70 years later in 536 BC God stirred up the spirit of Cyrus the Persian king to make a decree allowing God's people to return home (JER.25v12,EZRA 1&2). God watches over His Word to perform it. Let us then take heed of what God has to say to us in His Word and we shall then not be found wanting when the things He has spoken of come to pass.

Not only was the above prophecy regarding the appearance of the Messiah at the end of the 69th week accurately fulfilled, but also all the other prophecies of Daniel regarding the rise and fall of the various kingdoms - Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and its eventual four-fold division, and Rome. Then there was all the details about Alexander the Great, the battles between the kings of the north and south, even details of treacherous marriage alliances, how people would die,etc. All fulfilled to the very letter! Yet Daniel had these revelations up to 600 BC!

Then there are all the other prophecies of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, etc. Space would not permit to write them all but let us look at the prophecies regarding Jesus:-

ADORATION BY MAGI - PSA.72v10,15,ISA.60v3,6

ADVENT - GEN.3v15,DEUT.18v15,ISA.9v6,28v16,42v1-7,55v1-5,ISA.61v1-2,GEN.49v10,ADVENT,TIME OF - DAN.9v25,MAL.3v1-3. (NUM.24v17&MAT.2v2.

ASCENSION AND EXALTATION - PSA.16v8-11,ACTS 2v24-36,PSA.24v7-10,68v18,110v1.

BETRAYAL BY OWN FRIEND - PSA.41v9,ACTS 1v16

" FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER - ZECH.11v12

BETRAYER'S DEATH - PSA.69v25,109v8,ACTS 1v16-20

BONE NOT TO BE BROKEN - PSA.34v20

BURIAL WITH THE RICH - ISA. 53v9

CASTING LOTS FOR VESTURE - PSA.22v18

CONVERSION OF GENTILES - ISA.11v10,ISA.42v1

CRUCIFIXION - PSA.22v14,16,17 (note-crucifixion was unknown until introduced by the Romans).

CRY FROM THE CROSS - PSA.22v1

DEATH WITH MALEFACTORS - ISA.53v9,12

DEATH ATTESTED BY CONVULSIONS OF NATURE - AMOS 8v8-10,MAT.27v51,45,

DESCENT INTO EGYPT - HOS.11v1

DESERTION BM DISCIPLES - ZECH.13v7

DECLARED TO BE THE SON OF GOD - PSA.2v7-12,LUKE 1v31-33,HEB.1v5-6,ISA.9v6

FORERUNNER OF CHRIST - John the Baptist,ISA.40v3,MAL.3v1,4v5.

GALILEE,MINISTRY IN - ISA.9v1-2.

GALL & VINEGAR GIVEN HIM ON CROSS - PSA.69v21.

INSULT,BUFFETING,SPITTING,SCOURGING - PSA.35v15,21,129v3,ISA.50v6.

MASSACRE OF INNOCENTS - JER.31v15.

MIRACULOUS POWER - ISA.35v5,53v1,

MOCKING - PSA.22v7.

NATIVITY,FROM VIRGIN - GEN.3v15,ISA.7v14.

NATIVITY,PLACE OF - NUM.24v17,19,MIC.5v2.

PATIENCE IN SUFFERING - ISA.53v7,9.

PERSECUTION,DESPISED & REJECTED - ISA.53v3,PSA.22v6,PSA.35v19,69v4,JOHN 15v25,

PRIEST LIKE MELCHIZEDEK - PSA.110v4,HEB.7v17. (ISA.49v6-7.

PURIFICATION OF TEMPLE - PSA.69v9,JOHN 2v17.

RESURRECTION - PSA.16v10,41v9-10,HOS.6v2.

SILENCE UNDER ACCUSATION - PSA.38v13,53v7(after all His miracles & ministry what

SPIRITUAL GRACES - PSA.45v7,HEB.1v8-9,ISA.11v2,61v1, (more was there to say?)

LUKE 4v18.

TRIUMPHAL ENTRY TO JERUSALEM - PSA.8v2,ZECH.9v9.

VICARIOUS SUFFERING - ISA.53v4-6,DAN.9v26.

These are but a few of the vast number of prophecies which were fulfilled,there are literally hundreds. How accurate and sure then may we expect to be all the prophecies about the end time,"the Great Tribulation, and the glorious Return of

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GOG AND MAGOG

There seems to be a lot of confusion in Christian circles as to where Gog and Magog fit into the prophetic picture.

It is of great importance to know where Gog and Magog fit into the scheme of things because there are many today who are garbling things up, as they are with many scriptures on the end time.

Many are saying that Gog and Magog occurs at the end of this age. This is a dangerous error as I will now show:-

1. When Gog and Magog invade Israel God intervenes and destroys them (EZ.38&39, REV.20v7-9).
2. When Antichrist invades Israel he defeats them and makes Jerusalem his capital(DAN.11v41-45).

If we equate Gog and Magog with Russia and we say that this is at the end of this age, we are saying that when Russia invades Israel God will intervene and destroy Russia. Many, even in Israel, are being told this today. But it will not happen! Antichrist will defeat Israel, and they will not be delivered until the Return of Christ.

Israel certainly has the protection of God at the moment as the Arab/Israeli wars have shown. But Israel will lose this protection when she makes a covenant (treaty) with Antichrist (described as 'Death' and 'Hell' - compare REV.6v7-8 with ISA.28v14-22). God says that their treaty with Death and Hell will be broken and they will have no protection from the following invasion and shall be trodden down(ISA.28v18). - see below.

If we want to know where Gog and Magog fit in we can do no better than listen to Jesus who told John:-

- (1)The Lord returns and destroys the wicked and Antichrist(REV.19v11-21); (2) Satan and his hosts are locked up for 1,000 years(REV.20v1-3); (3)Christians are resurrected and reign with Christ for 1,000 years(REV.20v4-6); (4)After the 1,000 years is finished Satan and his hosts are loosed and go forth to deceive the nations - GOG AND MAGOG to gather them together to battle(REV.20v7-9); (5) Gog and Magog invade Israel and God intervenes and destroys them(as described in REV.20v9 and in EZ.38&39).

Some, who have lived through this age and through the 1,000 years will say, "Why didn't God intervene and deliver them from Antichrist in the same way?" and God will answer(EZ.39v23-29) that He allowed them to go into captivity before because of their sins, therefore God hid His face from them and gave them into the hands of their enemies. But now He has had mercy on them and regathered them and poured out His Spirit upon them(ZECH.12v9-10) and they are His people and He is their God.

Because the Jews are God's ancient chosen people, and God has brought them back into their own land, a lot of christians imagine that Israel is a land full of people praising God and looking misty-eyed towards Heaven with love in their hearts for their God. Nothing could be further from the truth! Israel is a very irreligious nation. They keep the feast days, Yom Kippur(Day of Atonement),etc., not because they believe in any of it, but because to them they are just holidays- rather like a lot in Britain have Easter Holidays, Whit Week, Christmas, etc., not because they necessarily have any religious beliefs, but because they are traditional holidays.

Those in Israel who are Orthodox Jews and believe in the Law of Moses, etc., are a minority and regarded by the rest as curiosities!

Not only are most of Israel irreligious but also just as wicked as a lot of people elsewhere. There are, for example, probably as many harlots on the streets of Tel Aviv as there are walking the streets of Soho in the West End of London, or a great many other places. Many Israelis are agnostics (i.e. purely materialistic - those who hold that we know nothing outside the material world), atheists or communist. During the 1973 Arab/Israeli War nearly all members of the Israeli Cabinet were either atheists or agnostics, with the exception of the National Religious Party members. There were only two others who even vaguely believed in a Supreme Being.

God said that they would return to their own land in unbelief, but God is going to have to deal sternly with them yet again to spiritually awaken them and cause them to turn from their evil ways unto the living God. God has done wonders for them, as in days of old, in all the times they have been attacked by far superior forces - 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973 - time and again God has intervened and given them victory and saved them from annihilation. But has this brought them closer to God? Or caused them to look towards Him or seek Him? For a few, yes! But, alas, for the majority, no! All these victories only served to feed their pride and fill them with arrogance - the kind of arrogance that said, "Two million Jews beat forty million Arabs because our two million are better than their forty million!" or "You have only to fire a few shots into the air and the Syrians run like rabbits!" or "You have only to point a tank in the direction of Cairo and the Egyptians collapse immediately!" No glory was given to God.

After destroying all the Arab armies in 1967 in a mere 6 days, instead of being

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humble and thankful to God for such a miracle, they were as arrogant and self-assured as ever, as though their own brilliance and the strength of their own arm had done it all.

Well, God allowed them to suffer somewhat in the 1973 War and they didn't find things quite so easy. Even so, God, who is merciful, answered the prayers of a lot of Christians, including mine, and delivered them once again. I did a lot of praying for Israel at this time and it was quite remarkable. I went to see a dear elderly saint of God at the time Israel had pushed back the Syrians and were turning their attention to the Egyptians. The trouble was that the Israeli airforce could not operate because of the SAM missile screen on the Egyptian front. We prayed for Israel's deliverance and this elderly saint gave a prophecy - she had a vision of the Arab nations like a big dragon attacking Israel, then she saw God cut off the dragon's tail, pull out its claws and pull out its teeth. The following day I was astonished to read the newspaper. On the front page the story said that the Israeli chiefs were meeting to discuss how "they might pull the dragon's teeth - the SAM missile screen that was causing them such problems". Of course the miraculous happened. An Israeli commander, acting against orders, took a group of commandos, crossed the canal through a weak point in the Egyptian lines and they proceeded to destroy the missile bases. You know the rest.

Still they refuse to acknowledge God as a nation. Finally they will make a treaty with Antichrist, who I believe will come out of Russia, a nation of atheists dedicated to the destruction of the things of God, the most wicked man the world will ever know. God forbids them to make such covenants (EXOD.23v31-32, DEUT.7v1-2, JUD.2v2, etc.). When they do this they will lose His protection - "...your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand.." (ISA.28v14-22). God goes on to say that when the invasion comes they will have no protection. Compare this scripture with REV.6v7-8 - the rider of the yellowish-green horse, described as "Death" is Antichrist and "Hell" follows him. This is the time Antichrist breaks the treaty with Israel and marches on them. He takes Israel and makes Jerusalem his capital. Israel will be delivered at the Return of Christ.

Now, apart from REV.20v7-9, which clearly places Gog and Magog after the 1000 year reign of Christ, there are other proofs that Gog and Magog is not at the end of this age :-

- (A) Gog and Magog come against Israel with primitive weapons - shields, swords, and clothed in armour and helmets, bows, arrows, javelins, spears (EZEK.38v4-5, 39v3, 9, 10). These are literal bows, arrows, etc., because after God destroys Gog and Magog all these weapons are used as firewood for seven years and the people have no need to cut down trees during this time for firewood (EZEK.39v9-10).
- (B) They come against Israel on literal horses and in literal chariots because afterwards beasts and birds (vultures and other scavengers) feed upon them (EZEK.39v20). The chariots must be made of bamboo or similar which a number of animals feed on. In Egyptian times they made ocean going ships from reeds. Camels have lips which are tougher than leather and have been known to eat bushes with large thorns, copper wire and even the thatched roofs of African huts when really hungry!

Such a primitive army could hardly apply to armies of today, and the suggestion that there may be such a disarmament treaty that everyone will do away with all their weapons, guns, tanks, vehicles, planes, bombs, etc., and Russia will come riding against Israel with bows and arrows and riding horses, is just too ludicrous for words! In any case John describes a tank in operation (REV.9v17-19) during the Great Tribulation.

Obviously when Christ returns He brings all wars to an end and destroys them which destroy the earth. All modern weapons of war are no longer made. By the end of the 1000 years all means of making modern weapons of war, tanks, planes, guns, etc., no longer exist. So when Satan goes forth to deceive the nations to gather them together to battle, they can only prepare primitive weapons as described. They all ride literal horses and are great in number. God obviously allows them time to prepare (EZEK.38v7).

(C) Another proof that Gog and Magog is after the 1000 years and not at this time is that Israel is described as "dwelling safely", "unwalled", "dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates", "at rest", "Israel dwells safely"(EZEK.38v8,11,14).

This hardly describes Israel today! They use nearly all their income on maintaining their armies who keep constant guard on all their borders.

Israel's borders are certainly not "unwalled" for they are sealed off by a complex system of double fences,minefields,and electronic devices.

Ezekiel certainly describes Israel as she will be during the 1000 year reign of Christ - walls,bars,gates(which speak of military defence) will not be needed. So,let's place Gog and Magog where it belongs-after the 1000 year reign(REV.20v7-9).

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VICTORY OVER ANTICHRIST

REV.15v2-3 "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast(Antichrist), and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb.."

Here in this vision we see the secret of overcoming Antichrist and all that he stands for.

Some Christians despair at even the thought of going through the Great Tribulation let alone being victorious over Antichrist! Isn't it good to know that we can go through in victory and triumph? In REV.7(all of which speaks of events on the last day when Christ returns) we read of "...a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands...These are they which came out of great tribulation(Greek-the Tribulation, the Great one); and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (REV.7v9,14). Palm leaves are symbols of victory! In other words, everyone of this numberless multitude of every nation comes out of the Great Tribulation, not just saved, but IN VICTORY AND TRIUMPH! You and I can be part of that throng! Isn't that great? Isn't it good to know that despite how awful the time will be, the darkest in all history, despite all that the Devil and Antichrist can do, a multitude that no one man can number are going to come through in triumph? Doesn't that give you hope?(Out of every nation-including yours!)

THE SEA OF GLASS

This is the same sea of glass spoken of in REV.4v6 and is the same as the LAVER in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness(EXOD.30v18-21, 38v8), and also the same as the MOLTEN SEA which Solomon made for the Temple(2 CHR.4v6, 1 KGS.7v23). These were all for the priests to wash in before ministering to the Lord.

The LAVER was made of "the looking glasses of the women"(EXOD.38v8). These were pieces of brass or bronze highly polished to form a mirror. These were fitted together edge to edge to form a container which was filled with water. The priests washed in the Laver before their service to God. When they looked into the Laver what did they see? Well, of course they saw themselves! Their own image! Just as you do in any mirror. We may of course have a dirty mark on our face and be unaware of it until we look into a mirror, then we see ourselves as we are, and we can wash and clean ourselves up.

Hence, the Laver (and the Molten Sea) are figurative of the Word of God. We look into the Word and it shows us what we are like, where we are wrong, and how to put it right. This isn't so much a question of cleansing from sin as formation of character. We may think that we are alright until we look into the Word of God and His Law and see what Jesus is like (who fulfilled the Law), then we realise that we are very far from being alright! But by taking heed to the Word of God and with the help of the Spirit we are changed, albeit slowly, into the image of Christ. However, if we are only hearers and not doers of the Word, then James tells us ---

JAM.1v22-25 "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whose looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

We need to take note of the Word of God and DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!-Otherwise, it is a pointless exercise.

Hence, just as the priests came daily to wash in the 'Laver' or 'Sea' before performing the service of God, so we (who are all now priests - REV.1v6, 1 PET.2v5) come daily to the Word of God and let it correct and guide our way, life and attitudes, and (hopefully) make us like Jesus in love, grace, truth, compassion, etc.

I once remember having an argument with another Christian about doctrine. We were both rather hot-tempered about it and parted in anger. In my mind as I sat there thinking I decided he was a waste of time and not worth bothering with and I dismissed him from my thoughts. I picked up the Bible and opened it at random and these words set on fire by the Spirit of God leapt out of the page at me - "...why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." and "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up; for God is able to make him stand."(ROM.14v 10, 4). We have to be very careful about judging others! It mattered not who was right or wrong in the argument, the point is my attitude was wrong. I was setting someone at nought because he didn't agree with me(it turns out I was dead wrong anyway!!). Fortunately,I acknowledged the voice of the Spirit and set my attitude right. This is how we can cleanse our way by taking notice of the Word of God.

PSA.119v9 "Wherewithall shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word."

Jesus wants to cleanse the Church of every spot and wrinkle that She might be beautiful in character --

EPH.5v26-27 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

This is one of the reasons God is going to allow the Church to go through the Great Tribulation --

DAN.11v35 "And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end."

DAN.12v10 "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried.."

Hence, we read in REV.7v9,14 that the multitude that no man can number of all nations who all stand before the Throne of God on the last day, have all washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb and are therefore clothed in white robes which is figurative of righteousness(REV.19v8).

Also we read in REV.19v7-8 that the Lamb's Bride (the Church), who has just come out of the Great Tribulation, has "made herself ready" and hence is arrayed in fine linen white and clean "which is the righteousness of saints." Of course the Tribulation saints only form a part of the Bride of Christ, they join all the other saints of the Church age who have gone on before to be with the Lord.(1 THESS.4v14-17).

If Christ is going to cleanse us we have to allow Him to work on our character, and do the things He says - that's why we read that the Bride(the Church) "hath made herself ready"(REV.19v7).

Getting back to the original point then, the "Sea of glass" speaks of the Word of God. It is upon this Word that the overcomer is stood. It is the foundation of all his life, faith, and hopes. But we need to be sure we are stood upon the Word of God and not on church tradition! If church tradition accords with the Bible, that's fine; but if it doesn't, it should be rejected out of hand. To stand upon the words and ideas of mere men instead of the Word of God is to be stood upon sinking sand. But to be stood upon the Word of God is to have a firm foundation that will weather the severest storms. (see also MAT.7v24-27)

#### SEA OF GLASS, LIKE UNTO CRYSTAL(REV.4v6)

It is the vessel rather than the contents that is referred to (see 2 KGS.25v13) called a "sea" because it held a large quantity in contrast to the Laver which held a much smaller amount.

In Revelation it is described as "like unto crystal". We often use the phrase "clear as crystal". This is the thought here. Glass that is perfectly clear(not foggy or misty). This speaks of the faultless clarity and purity of God's Word. PSA.12v6 "The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."

Seven is the number of completion or perfection. God completes things or a series in seven - 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Vials, 7 Thunders, 6 days of Creation + Sabbath, etc. In fact the whole Bible is built on a fantastic system of sevens that it is impossible for man to duplicate (see the booklet "The Miracle of Septenary Design in the Scriptures").

So, the Word of God is perfectly pure and therefore utterly reliable! Isn't it good to have a foundation that has been tested and is reliable? After speaking of the end time and the Great Tribulation Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."(MARK 13v31).

It is upon this utterly pure, reliable and faultless Word of God and all the prophecies it contains that the overcomers are stood. It is a foundation that does not let them down.

#### IT IS MINGLED(MIXED, BLENDED) WITH FIRE

Fire speaks of the Holy Ghost(ACTS 2v3-4). That means they have the Word of God together with the power of the Spirit. It is one thing to quote Bible texts (as many do, for example on Divine Healing); it quite a different matter to have the power of the Spirit of God to back it up! That is something we need to seek God about so that we are not just quoting verses but also have the power of God operating in our lives to make the things spoken of in the Word a reality in our experience.

#### HAVING THE HARPS OF GOD

The harps speak of PRAISE! This is something that the Lord is trying to teach the Church about in these days. It is not a question of telling God how wonderful

He is all the time as though He was full of vanity, but of having a positive attitude to life and circumstances. Some in the world would say "looking on the bright side". However, this is a very 'hit and miss' affair as far as the world is concerned for they are 'trusting to luck'; but the Christian has a much firmer basis for his rejoicing and 'looking on the bright side' - the Word of God on which he stands.

I once read that there are two languages in the world - the language of the Kingdom of God, and the language of the Devil. The language of the Kingdom always looks for the good in anything or anyone and 'counts its blessings'. The language of the Devil spends all its time moaning and groaning, looking on the dark side instead of the bright side, and is always fault finding and pulling people to pieces. Some people speak one language and some the other; some speak a mixture of the two. I was amazed how evident this was even with Christians (including myself) when it was pointed out! And looking and listening around us it is all too evident in the country and in the world. The news media for example almost exclusively speaks the language of the Devil; if it is not bad news, then it isn't news! We know one has to report facts, and there ~~are~~ are a lot of awful things happening in the world, but why not seek out as much (if not more) good news as bad news? There is plenty about. For instance, why not report how well workers have done sometimes? Enough time is spent reporting disputes and strikes! I remember a reporter going to see the boss of a firm once to get some information on a dispute. The boss said that he would give him his story on condition that he wrote them a piece in his paper about what a good job these men had done in the very bad winter that had just passed. The reporter wasn't interested! Isn't that sad? If someone commits a murder, etc., it is headline news, but if someone does a great work for charity, it hardly gets a mention. The result of this kind of attitude is, as one person very aptly put it, we end up poisoning ourselves with bad news. A nation should applaud that which is good and punish that which is evil (ROM.13v3-4). But when only evil is highlighted and good hardly gets a mention then people begin to feel that doing good is a waste of time because no one appreciates it anyway. This kind of attitude rubs off on other people. We find practically the whole country - workers, bosses, M.P.s., unions, political parties, and 'Uncle Tom Cobly and all', all pulling each other to pieces, fault finding, and hurling abuse and insults at each other. All this affects the young who see their elders acting in this fashion and consequently grow up with the same attitude. If people from top to bottom started looking for the good in others, seeing their own faults and failings more clearly, started counting their blessings more, and showed more respect for others, we would see a vast difference in the country not the least of which would be a much better atmosphere. We all have a responsibility including the media for "every idle word that men shall speak (or write) they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment" (MAT.12v36). It is an awesome thought that every thing we say or write, ~~every~~ word that a reporter, newscaster, etc., speaks or writes - ALL shall be accounted for before God! Many reporters today seem to delight in digging up any 'muck' they can find about people and broadcasting it to the world. God is not pleased with this kind of attitude for if He should expose all the secrets of all our lives to the world who would stand without shame? "If the Lord should mark iniquities, ...who shall stand?" (PSA.130v3). How different the Lord's way is - PROV.10v12 "Hatred stirreth up strifes; but love covereth all sins". PROV.17v9 "He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends."

Let us follow the Apostle Peter's advice - "And above all things have fervent love among yourselves: for love shall cover the multitude of sins." (1 PET.4v8).

Also the Apostle Paul - "...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, THINK ON THESE THINGS." (PHIL.4v8).

Praise looks upon the positive rather than the negative. In the dark days ahead the Christian has been given in the Word of God a great deal of light, and many promises and glorious visions of the future Kingdom of God, etc., which he will share, to encourage him to endure and overcome in the evil day; therefore he has a lot to sing and rejoice about as he looks forward to the Return of the King of Kings. He has a glorious hope and a great God.

We are exhorted to praise at ALL times - "I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise shall be continually in my mouth." (PSA.34v1). All times means whether we feel good or bad, whether we feel we have done well or done badly, whether we feel we have done well as a Christian or done badly and let the Lord down - at ALL times! The Devil always tries to knock us down and accuse us/68r minds over every little thing (or big thing), he constantly tries to trip us up. Praise therefore, no matter what we feel like, helps to defeat him for we are told that praise brings the victory and stills the enemy (PSA.8v2, MAT.21v16, 2 CHRON.20v22,). In the Old Testament the tribe of Judah (whose name means "Praise", see GEN.29v35-margin) was first sent into battle (JUD.1v1-2), i.e. praise is the first step to victory over the enemy. Judah (Praise) always went first before the armies of the Lord (NUM.2v9, 10v14). Praise, if genuine, shows faith in God and releases the power of God for God inhabits the praises of his people (PSA.22v3). Praise can release from bondage, can break the fetters and chains (ACTS 16v25-26).

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However, praise in itself is not enough. We also need to be stood upon the Word of God - like the overcomers in the vision. Many today praise God with cotton wool in their ears (like the disciples - LUKE 9v43-44). Many are praising God but shutting their ears to what His Word says about the dark days ahead. Some people praise but have no real faith in God or His power. Hence, the praise of many has a hollow ring to it. The Hebrews praised God after Pharaoh's army was destroyed (EXOD.15v1-21) but later they collapsed when faced with the wilderness because they didn't believe God's Word or His promises to bring them into a good land. It is no good praising if we do not believe and stand upon the Word of God. We need both. If we believe God's Word with all its promises and then praise God, it releases the power of God that makes those things a reality in our experience. So let us take note of the Word of God, stand upon it (trust it, put our faith in it, rely upon it), and then praise God that He is going to fulfil it - then we have the victory like the overcomers in the vision.

Notice the harps they have are "the harps of God" - that means their praise is of God because it is based upon His Word and inspired by God Himself. Our praise must be based upon the truth, not the ideas and traditions of men. Many are praising God about a pre-tribulation rapture which they think is coming, but they are going to be disappointed for they are not stood upon the truth and therefore such praise is meaningless. Our praise is only "of God" if it is based upon the truth that is in His Word.

.. What are these overcomers singing? They are singing first of all ---  
THE SONG OF MOSES

This is found in EXOD.15, DEUT.31v30, 32v1-43. Basically it is about the great power of God, the mercy of God towards His people, and the vengeance of God on the enemy who seeks to destroy His people. In EXOD.15 they were rejoicing over God destroying Pharaoh's army. This is very interesting because, as I have pointed out before, the situation at the end time with Antichrist will be very similar to the situation at the time of Pharaoh. Pharaoh was a type of Antichrist who regarded himself as God. His magicians performed miracles with Satanic power, just as the False Prophet and Antichrist will do. They had the people of God in bondage, just as Antichrist will. God poured plagues upon the Egyptians (note-to try and bring them to repentance, EXOD.7v23, 20, 8v15, 19, 9v27, 30, 34, 10v3, 7, 16, 17) just as He will pour plagues upon Antichrist and his followers (to try and bring them to repentance - REV.16v9, 11, 9v20-21), but just as God's people were preserved from the plagues in Egypt, so God's people will be kept from the plagues in the Great Tribulation. Finally, just as God delivered His people out of the hand of Pharaoh, so He will deliver His people out of the hand of Antichrist when the time is fulfilled - DAN.7v21, 22, 26, 27.

The Song of Moses is all about God's great power over the enemy and His ultimate vengeance upon them (DEUT.32v43) for shedding the blood of His servants. Therefore, in singing the song of Moses we look not so much at what the Devil and Antichrist are going to do, but at what God is going to do! We are to look to Him and His great power. The Lord is my strength, is my salvation, is my God (DEUT.15v2) - is (present experience): my (personal experience).

THE SONG OF THE LAMB The overcomers secondly are singing ---

This is found in REV.5v9-14. The Lamb of course is the Lord Jesus Christ. He does not appear in Heaven in the form of a Lamb, or a lion(REV.5v5) any more than redeemed saints sit on clouds playing harps(REV.15v2),etc. These are symbolisms like much of Revelation which have definite meanings which are meant to teach us many things. Jesus is referred to as the Lamb because He was "the Lamb of God" who took our sins upon Himself so that we could be forgiven and reconciled to God (EXOD.12v3-13, ISA.53 all, JOHN 1v29, ACTS 8v32, 1 PET.1v19, REV.5v6). The Lamb referred to in REV.5 is one that had been slain - this is the Lamb that was slain for our sins. This is what the Song of the Lamb is about (REV.5v9). It is also about the fact that He takes the Book with seven seals - i.e. all the last 7 years with the Great Tribulation is placed in the hands and under the control of the very one who loved us so much that He died for us. The song is also about the fact that our great Redeemer is the only One who is worthy to take over the reins of power when mans wicked rule is brought to an end(REV.5v12).

So, the overcomers rejoice in God's great Redemption, and that all things in the evil time are under the control of the One who died for us and washed us from our sins in His own blood(REV.1v5), and that He will finally bring mans evil rule to an end(REV.6v14-17, 19v7-21) and reign upon the earth together with His saints (REV.5v10, 20v4).

Praising God for His great Redemption also helps to defeat Satan, the Accuser, for we are told that we "overcome the Devil by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony"(REV.12v11).i.e.When 'the accuser' accuses us about sins which we have repented of, we look to the Blood of the Lamb which washed away our sins. The fact that we repented of our ways and were cleansed from sin by the Blood of Jesus is 'the word of our testimony'. We do not argue with Satan on the grounds of our

own righteousness, but on the grounds of the shed Blood of Jesus - that is our ground of rejoicing. This will be very important in the Great Tribulation because the Accuser and all his hosts will be cast out of the heavenlies to the Earth - we will be surrounded by evil powers who will try to destroy us by attacking our minds and accusing us of all sorts of things. We will need to remember that we can have boldness to enter into the very presence of God, not because of anything we have done or will do, but by nothing else but the Blood of Jesus (HEB. 10v19). He has made the way for us, and we rest in, and rejoice in, that.

So, to recap on the song of the Lamb - we rejoice in the One who loved us, and died for us, and washed us from our sins in His own Blood, who has made us kings and priests and sons of God (1 JOHN 3v1), and who has placed before us unworthy sinners the fantastic possibility of reigning with Him when He takes over the reins of power!

Hence, we overcome Antichrist, the Devil and all they stand for by:-

- (1) Standing upon the Word of God.
- (2) In the power of the Spirit of God.
- (3) Rejoicing in God's great power, and
- (4) Rejoicing in His great Redemption.

Notice it says that they have the victory over --

#### THE BEAST (ANTICHRIST)

They have the victory over his deceit, lies, miracle-working false prophet, the many miracle-working false Christs and false prophets that will abound (MAT. 24v24), etc., because they know the Scriptures, they have sought God to prepare them and they are able to discern between the true and the false.

#### HIS IMAGE

They have the victory over the image of the Beast. They refuse to bow to it and worship it because they are looking to a great God who helps them to stand for the right like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego (see DAN. 3 all).

#### HIS MARK, THE NUMBER OF HIS NAME

This mark or number of Antichrist's name is given (a) to identify those who are his followers, and (b) to prevent anyone buying or selling who hasn't got the mark. In those lands under Antichrist's control no one will be able to buy or sell unless they worship Antichrist. This makes it difficult for those who refuse the mark to buy food and other necessities. The fact that the overcomers have the victory over his mark and the number of his name means that they have the victory in these circumstances. As they refuse to bow to Antichrist and look to God, God gives them grace and looks after them and their needs (didn't Jesus feed thousands with a few loaves and fishes? I believe God will work similar miracles during this time. It is also interesting that the Hebrews sang the song of Moses at a time when they were about to enter into the wilderness where God provided food, drink, and all their necessities for forty years!). So, we look to God and His great power to provide in that evil time.

The fact that the overcomers standing upon the sea of glass are spoken of as being in Heaven before the last 7 plagues are poured out shows that they were in fact put to death. Although the plagues are aimed at bringing the followers of Antichrist to repentance primarily, they are also judgments for the third vial turns the rivers and wells to blood and the angel says God is just in doing this for they have shed the blood of saints and prophets and He therefore has given them blood to drink (REV. 16v4-6). Not all God saints are put to death by Antichrist, many are preserved. But, whether we live or die in that time the means of overcoming Antichrist is the same --

WE STAND UPON THE WORD OF GOD, WITH THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT, REJOICING IN GOD'S GREAT POWER AND HIS GREAT REDEMPTION.

(Now that I have written all this I must now go and seek the Lord and practice praise, etc., that all these things will be a reality in my life. I pray that God will enable you to do the same).

# THE OVERCOMER (REV. 15v2-3)

THE SONG  
OF  
MOSES  
GOD'S GREAT  
POWER

THE SONG  
OF  
THE LAMB  
GOD'S GREAT  
REDEMPTION



"THE HARPS OF GOD"  
(SPEAKS OF PRAISE & HENCE FAITH)

"OF GOD"  
(MEANS INSPIRED BY GOD BECAUSE  
BASED UPON HIS WORD - HENCE IT  
MEANS THEY BELIEVE GOD'S WORD  
AND HIS PROMISES).

"MINGLED WITH FIRE"  
(THE POWER OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT)

"SEA OF GLASS"  
(THE WORD OF GOD)

"LIKE CRYSTAL"  
(THE PURITY & HENCE  
UTTER RELIABILITY  
OF HIS WORD)

THE OVERCOMER STANDS UPON THE WORD OF GOD (AND ALL THE PROPHECIES, ETC, IT CONTAINS), IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, REJOICING IN (AND HENCE BELIEVING IN) GOD'S GREAT POWER AND HIS GREAT REDEMPTION.

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