

The Visions Of Daniel

(by Alister Hamilton, Bill Turner and others)

Contents

Introduction – Page 1

The Visions Of Daniel – Page 3

The Prophecy Of Dan 9v24-27 And Its Link With The Scarlet Woman – Page 6

A Few Thoughts On Daniel 8 – Page 9

Exposition Of Daniel Chapters 10,11,12 – Page 16

The Exposition Of Dan 11v21-12v13 – Page 21

Appendix 1: The First Year Of Artaxerxes Longimanus Is 474 BC – Page 28

Appendix 2: Charts – Page 31

Appendix 3: Looking For And Hastening The Coming Of The Day Of God – Page 36

Appendix 4: Behold A Pale Horse – Page 41

Appendix 5: The Glorious Woman. Rev 12v1 – Page 41

Appendix 6: Oil For Our Lamps! – Page 42

Appendix 7: The Mystery Of God And The Mystery Of Iniquity – Page 46

Appendix 8: The Seven Trumpets And The Seven Vials – Page 47

Appendix 9: The Spiritual Qualities That Make Up The Character Of The Overcomer – Page 54

Bibliography – Page 55

All Scriptural quotations in this study are taken from the King James Version, unless otherwise stated. The King James Version follows the vast majority of Greek texts in the order of about 1,000 to 10, and it is also confirmed by the ancient manuscripts in other languages, like the Gothic and Peshitta. It is in my opinion still the most accurate translation from the original Scriptures, and is my preferred version, and other translations quoted in this study, are tested against the King James Version. The Hebrew and Greek texts are taken from The Interlinear Bible.

Introduction

The visions that the Lord gave Daniel in Dan 2,7,8,9 & 10-12 concentrate on the 4th kingdom, which is also referred to by the Apostle John in Book of The Revelation of Jesus Christ as the 7th (who is also the 8th) head of the Beast in Rev 17v3,11. The 7th head of the Beast (who is also the 8th head is Antichrist) Daniel tells us comes out of the 5th head (Syria, the King of the North). Dan 8v8,9, 11v21. With that in mind, the whole emphasis of this study will be upon the 4th kingdom, the 7th head of the Beast.

When Daniel received these visions, he had great difficulty in understanding them even with having great angelic ministrations (Gabriel et al) sent by God to help him, however, there is a beautiful promise in Dan 12v4 that at the "time of the end" (i.e., the last days that the Church is now in) knowledge about these visions will be greatly increased to godly praying Christians so that they can be understood clearly by those seeking last day prophetic truth so as to have oil for their lamps so that they might have light for the dark evil days of the Great Tribulation. Dan 7v28, 8v27, 10v12,20,21, 12v8, Matt 24v45-25v13, 2Peter 1v19

The four kingdoms mentioned in the visions given to Daniel (chapters 2,7,8) and the seven heads (which represent 7 kingdoms) of the Beast that John refers to in the Book of Revelation (Rev 17v10) are a part of "The Times of The Gentiles" that Luke refers to in Luke 21v24 and are the kingdoms that fulfil Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy in Dan 9v24-27.

Six kingdoms; Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Egypt, Syria and Rome, have ruled Jerusalem consecutively from the start of the times of the Gentiles up to Christ's death, the seventh kingdom, the kingdom of Antichrist is yet future.

"The Times of the Gentiles," mentioned in Luke 21v24, take a long time to be fulfilled. They are the periods of time during which God has allowed many different nations to have empires, and to exercise authority and power over a period of many years. This has been a long-term purpose of God and has already lasted several millenniums. These "Times of the Gentiles," started at the Babylonian captivity, when God's purposes for Israel had been frustrated by their sin; and Christ said that these Gentile times will continue right up to His second coming. These Gentile times are designed to expose the hearts of men and break their pride. On judgement day "every mouth will be stopped, and all the world will become guilty before God," not only by the exposure of personal sin, but also by the exposure of national sin. The wickedness and misuse of power of every nation, and their failure to rule justly, righteously and in love, will be exposed and revealed to all. Rom 3v19

It is obvious from comparing Matt 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21, that our Lord's answer to the apostles question about the signs which would precede Jerusalem's destruction and His second coming, has been greatly condensed. In Matt 24v15 and Mark 13v14, the Gospels of Matthew and Mark both record our Lord's reference to the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet. Dan 9v27, 11v31 and 12v11. Luke's Gospel does not mention the abomination of desolation, or refer to Daniel's prophecy; however, Luke alone records, in Luke 21v24, the equally important prophecy, that after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, the Jews would be led captive into all nations, and that Jerusalem would be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles were fulfilled. It appears that Matthew and Peter, did not understand the significance of these words and so did not include them in their recollections of Christ's ministry, (Peter was the real author of Mark's Gospel, Papias tells us that Mark wrote down Peter's recollections of the ministry of Christ). Luke probably had "The Times of the Gentiles" explained to him by his companion Paul, who had these things revealed to him by our Lord. Gal 1v11,12, Eph 3v1-8. The times of the Gentiles started when Judah was taken into captivity to Babylon, and will finish when Jesus returns to set up His kingdom.

In Rev 11v1,2, the outer court is excluded from measuring, "Leave without," is "ekbale exothen," which literally means, "cast without," the aorist active imperative of "ekballo," is here used in the sense of exclude; John is told, "Do not measure it." John is told that for 42 months the Gentiles will contemptuously tread the holy city (Isaiah 48v2) under foot, "patesousin," the future active of "pateo," here it means to trample with contempt, as in Luke 21v24, where, Jesus uses "pateo" to state that Jerusalem will be "trodden under foot of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." In Rev 11v2, "the court," "ten aulen," is the uncovered outer court outside of the sanctuary. In Herod's Temple this outer court was marked off from the inner court, by "the middle wall of partition." Gentiles were not allowed into the inner court. Eph 2v15. This outer court had a house of prayer for the Gentiles. Mark 11v17. Jesus states in Luke 21v25, that it will be a time of great distress and anguish ("sunecho," only here and in 2Cor 2v4), in a world that is in perplexity and has lost the way "aporos").

The times of the Gentile nations. "Hou plerothosin kairoi ethnon." Luke 21v24, Rev 11v1,2

As already stated, this began with the Babylonian captivity of Judah under Nebuchadnezzar, and will end with the destruction of Gentile power at the coming of Christ. Dan 2v31-45. During all this time, Jerusalem has only known temporary periods of freedom from foreign rule, like the one she is at present enjoying, and even now her sacred Temple area has the Mosque upon it, which was built by Caliph Omar in the 7th century, and so it is being "trodden down of the Gentiles," ("pateo" (Strong's NT:3961), to trample underfoot, and treat with contempt) and it appears will continue to be so trodden under, "until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." Luke 21v24. (In Heb 10v29 the strengthened form "katapateo" (Strong's NT:2662), is used to speak of the even more serious sin of trampling under foot the Lord Jesus). The rule of Jerusalem by foreign powers will only cease when Christ returns to reign.

"Kairoi," (Strong's NT:2540) "times," is used to show these are special divine times and epochs which are ordained by God, and prove that, "The Most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomsoever He will." Dan 4v17,25. The times of the Gentiles is the period when God has allowed Gentile nations in sequence to have empires and rule large areas of the world, and for much of this time Israel has been subjugated under Gentile nations. The sinfulness of these nations and their leaders has allowed Satan to dominate and control them, as we can see from the seven heads of the beast in Rev 13 and 17. God has allowed these Gentile nations to have empires in order to reveal their hearts and break the pride of the Gentiles by their total failure to produce justice and the desired happiness of their subjugated nations. This will demonstrate that without God's loving rule, sin will dominate and happiness will be impossible and all will fail. The appalling misery, carnage and destruction brought about by Satan and Antichrist will demonstrate the fearful end of evil, and break the pride of man. It will be obvious that man cannot manage to rule the world without the grace of God. The nations entering the Millennium will realise the wisdom and righteousness of God's ways, and also be willing to learn from the despised Jew. Zech 8v23.

When we consider the plans and purposes of God we are left in wonder and amazement at God's unsearchable wisdom. When Jesus comes returns He will terminate the times of the Gentiles, the age of grace, and the fullness of the Gentiles.

The fullness of the Gentile nations. "To pleroma ton ethnon." Rom 11v25,26, 15v16,18

The apostle Paul says, "I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery...that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **UNTIL** the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob." Rom 11v25,26. In Rom 11v25,26, Paul is quoting and explaining the prophecy of Isaiah 59v16-21; which confirms that the fullness of the Gentiles and the times of the Gentiles finish at the same time, the day when Christ comes to set up His kingdom and judge the wicked. The fullness of the Gentiles is the time when Christ returns and the purpose of God in calling out Gentile believers into Christ's Church is completed. Eph 1v22,23, 2v11-22, Acts 15v14, 1Cor 12v12,13. In Rom 15v16, Paul writes of "the offering up of the Gentiles," "he prosphora ton ethnon." Paul looks upon himself as a minister ("leitourgon," someone who performs a public service, and particularly a religious service), who is ministering the Gospel, ("hierourgounta," to serve as a priest, to work in sacred things, particularly of sacrifices), and he sees his sanctified Gentile converts as a pleasing and acceptable offering to God. This is the "obedience of the Gentiles," "to hupakoen ethnon," which Paul refers in Rom 15v18.

The blindness of the Israelites will continue until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in at the close of the age, when Christ appears in His glory to deliver the godly seed of Jacob. If the Church were to be removed before the Great Tribulation it would make nonsense of Paul's statement in Rom 11v25,26, that Israel experiences a "blindness in part until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in;" for Israel is almost completely deceived and corrupted by Antichrist and experiences her time of greatest spiritual blindness during the Great Tribulation. The fullness of the Gentiles takes place on the same day that the times of the Gentiles closes, the same day that Jesus, "The Deliverer," comes out of Zion and sets up His kingdom on earth, this is when "the fullness of Israel" starts, and the reproach of Israel is taken away. Rom 11v12. Which, according to Isaiah 25v6-9, is when the marriage supper of the Lamb, the resurrection, and the binding and execution of Satan and his angels occurs. "The fullness of the Gentiles" is a major part of the divine purposes for this age of grace.

The Visions of Daniel

Dan 2v30-45, 7v1-28, 8v1-27, 9v24-27, 11v21-45, 12v1-13

But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart. Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, **His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.** Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. **And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure...** In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. **And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.** The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. **After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong**

exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. **I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.** As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. **I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.** I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. **These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.** But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. **Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.** But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart...In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first. And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai. Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last. I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great. And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had there seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power. And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand. Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, **the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered. Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.** And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man. And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision. So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision. Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright. **And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be.** The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the

great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power. **And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.** And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days. And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it...Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: **and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate...**And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant. And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people. He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time. And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall forecast devices against him. Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain. And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed. Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land. At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter. For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant. And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days. Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries. 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: because it is yet for a time appointed. And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain. And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him...And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to

everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished. And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

The Prophecy Of Dan 9v24-27 And Its Link With The Scarlet Woman

In Dan 9v20-27 we read that God's dealings with Jerusalem were to cover seventy times seven years, a period of 490 years. "Week," "shabuwa," (Strong's OT:7620) literally means "seven," either days, or as here, years. These 490 years divide up in the following way.

49 years from the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem, to Jerusalem being built

The following decrees were given to restore either the Temple or Jerusalem.

By Cyrus, in 538 to 536 BC: Ezra 1v1-3, 5v13-17, 2Chron 36v22,23

By Darius the 1st Hystapes: Ezra.6v3-8. The Temple was rebuilt from about 520 to 516 BC.

By Artaxerxes Longimanus, in his 7th year 467 BC: Ezra 7v7,11-26. (There are about fifty years between Ezra 6 and 7.) It appears from Ezra 9v9, that permission was given to Ezra to rebuild Jerusalem's wall and city.

By Artaxerxes Longimanus, in his 20th Year 454 BC:

It was not until 13 years after Ezra set out for Jerusalem, that the actual rebuilding took place, when Artaxerxes Longimanus in his 20th. year, 454 BC (**Please see Appendix 1**), commanded Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem and its walls. Neh 2v1-8. The wall itself was quickly rebuilt in 52 days, Neh 6v15, but it was doubtless made more secure over the years, for the prophecy of Dan 9v25, suggests that it took 49 years for all the rebuilding of the city and wall to be finished. Usher, after 37 years of study, dates the accession of Artaxerxes as the year 474 BC, and the date of 454 BC, for the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem in Neh 2v1-8.

434 years from the completion of the street and wall of Jerusalem to the death of Jesus. Dan 9v24-26

Christ was "cut off, but not for Himself," His death was "to make reconciliation for iniquity," Christ was to die to bring in the New Covenant and make salvation available for all who would receive Him. Heb 7v22-28, 9v11 to 10v39, 1John 2v1,2, 5v9-13. God showed Daniel that the coming of the Messiah was over 500 years away. It was this prophecy of Daniel that made godly Simeon, praying Anna, and many others expect the coming of the Messiah in their day. Luke 2v25-38.

S. P. Tregelles and Ussher say that Jesus died in 29 AD. However, the following Jewish calendars give considerable force to the viewpoint that the Lord Jesus was crucified in 30 AD. In 30 AD the first day of Passover Feast was on Thursday April 6th, Nisan 15th, and the last day of the Passover Feast was on Wednesday April 12th, Nisan 21. Whereas, according to the calendar of 29 AD, the first day of the Passover Feast was on Saturday April 17th, Nisan 15th, and the last day of the Passover Feast was on Sunday April 23rd, Nisan 21st. The crucifixion was most certainly in 30 AD, on Thursday, April 6th., Nisan 15th, not on Friday, for **according to Matt 12v40 Jesus was raised from the dead "after three days and three nights."** See "the third day," "after three days," etc., in Matt 16v4,21, 17v23, 20v19, 27v40,63,64, Mark 8v31, 10v34, John 2v19, 19v42, 1Cor 15v4, Eph 4v9,10. Jesus was raised from the dead in the night of the third day. **Christ's enemies, sadly, unlike Christ's disciples, remembered well that Jesus promised that He would be raised from the dead on the third day.**

April AD 29						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
2:● 10:◐ 17:○ 24:◐						

April AD 30						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
6:○ 13:◐ 21:● 29:◐						

So we can see that there was a quite remarkable literal fulfilment of the first part of the prophecy of Dan 9v20-27; and in Matt 24v15-31 the Lord Jesus tells us that there will be a literal fulfilment of the prophecy of Dan 9v27, and that this will be clearly seen by all. Matt 24v32,33. Paul reminds the Thessalonian Christians of this fact in 2Thess 2v1-5. The desecration of the holy of holies at Jerusalem by Antichrist will inform us that the second coming of Christ and the millennial kingdom is only 3½ years away. Christ said that the day and hour of His coming was only known by the Father, but He definitely tells us that we shall know the week of His coming by Daniel's prophecy, and that when the signs He gave come to pass, His coming will be "near, even at the doors." Matt 24v33,36. The Jews should have known by the prophecy of Daniel the year that Christ was to die, and as soon as the treaty is signed we shall know the year of Christ's second coming. **Oswald J Smith** writes about this, "we shall be able to say, "Thank God the hour has struck. Within seven years at the longest Jesus will return to reign."

Jesus tells us that when Antichrist breaks the treaty with the Jews, all Christians in Judea are to flee to the mountains for safety, just as they did in 70 AD (when they fled to Pella), when this prophecy received a partial fulfilment. The Scriptures call the period of 3½ years after the desecration of the Temple "the Great Tribulation." **(Please see Appendix 7: The Mystery Of God And The Mystery Of Iniquity)**

Daniel, Paul and our Lord state that immediately after this period of great tribulation the Lord will return and set up His kingdom. Rev 7v14, Dan 12v1, Matt 24v21,29-31, Mark 13v19. The Great Tribulation ends with the destruction of the armies of Antichrist around a devastated Jerusalem. Luke 17v37, Rev 17v16-18, 18v1 to 19v21, 2Thess 2v8.

Jesus said that the overall picture of the conditions in the world just prior to His coming will be as bad as they were in the days of Noah and Lot. Luke 17v26-31. The expulsion of evil angels from the heavenly places into the earth results in a great increase in wickedness, and a wilful ignorance of the promised judgement of God. Gen 6v1-13, 1Peter 3v19,20, Rev 12v7-12. The wicked despise the riches of God's goodness, forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God is trying to lead them to repentance and salvation. Rom 2v1-4,9, 2Peter 3v3-9, Jude v14-16. Many signs are now being fulfilled, they are a great warning to the Church that it is time to put on the armour of God, for no lukewarm Christian will stand in this evil day. Rom 13v11-14, Eph 6v10-20.

The final period of seven years which brings in the end of the age

Jesus referred to the final seven years of Daniel's prophecy concerning "thy people," the Jews, and "thy holy city," Jerusalem, as the period that would precede His return, and God's kingdom being set up on earth. Immediately after these seven years Jesus will return and "bring in everlasting righteousness and seal up the vision and prophecy." When we consider this verse in connection with Rev 10v7,11 and 11v15,18, we see that the seventh trumpet will sound on the last day of these seven years and God will take over the rule of the earth and destroy the wicked. **Since most of Israel are blind to grace and are broken off, the Church now has the leading part in God's prophetic purposes, until the last seven years of this age, when both the Church and Israel have a part to play in prophecy.** Rom 11v7-26.

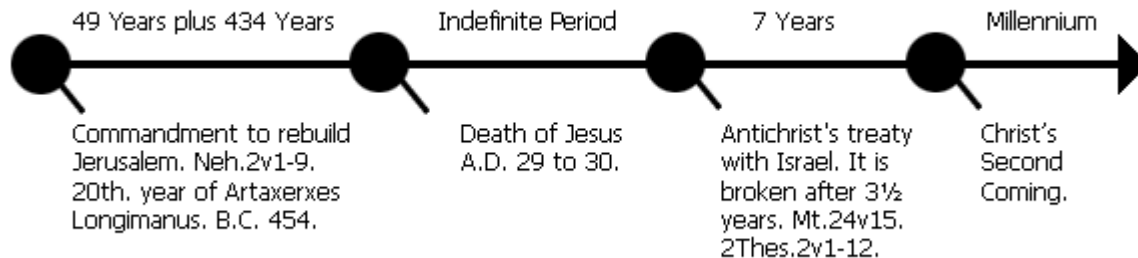
Only Babylon, and the nations that have ruled over Jerusalem during these 483 years in the past, and the seven years of Antichrist's kingdom in the future, are shown as part of the Beast. This 490 year period of Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy is referred to as "The times of the Gentiles" in Luke 21v20-24.

Other nations, such as the Turks, are not included in the Beast, even though they have reigned over Jerusalem. We know, from Rev 17v10, that at the time of John, the sixth kingdom was ruling Jerusalem, this was Rome; the seventh kingdom, the kingdom of Antichrist, has yet to come.

NB: The exact fulfilment of the first part of Dan 9v24-27, assures the fulfilment of the second part

There was a remarkable fulfilment of the first part of the prophecy of Dan 9v20-27, and in Matt 24v15-33, Jesus tells us that there will be an equally striking fulfilment of the last part of this prophecy. In 2Thess 2v1-12, Paul reminds the Thessalonians that the desecration of the Sanctuary of the Temple at Jerusalem by Antichrist, will inform us that the second coming of Christ, and the Millennial kingdom, is only 3½ years away. Jesus said that no one knew the day or the hour of His coming, but He tells us that we shall know the year, month and week of His coming by Daniel's prophecy, and that when the signs that He gave us come to pass, that His coming will be "nigh, even at the door." Matt 24v32-36.

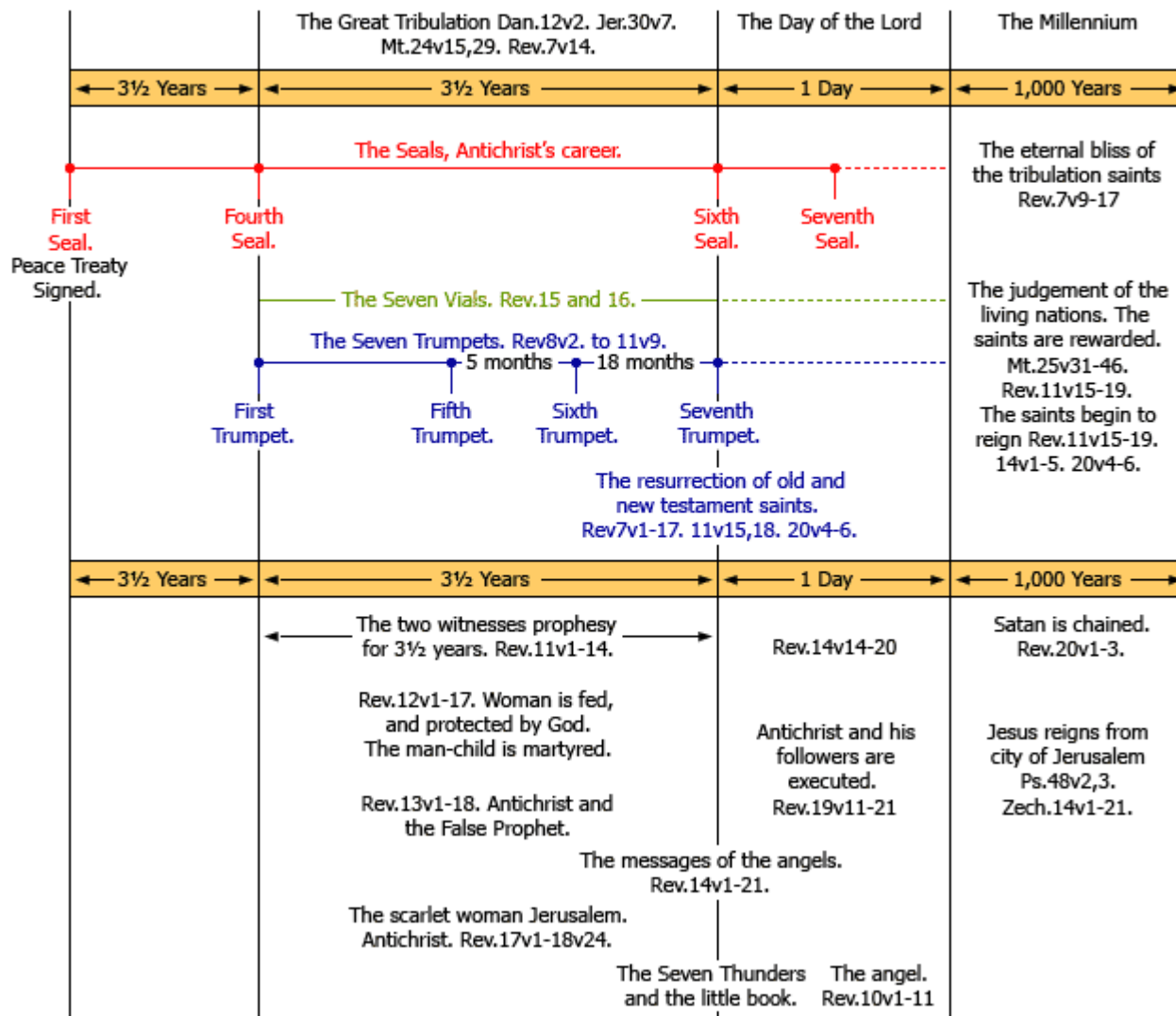
Chart Of Daniel's 70 Weeks Of Years Dan 9v20-27



The first six heads of the Beast of Rev 17v3,8-11, are six kingdoms that have conquered, ruled and tyrannised Israel and Jerusalem, during the 483 years of the prophecy of Dan 9v20-27. The first six kingdoms were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Egypt, Syria, and the sixth one was Rome; the 7th head, the kingdom of Antichrist, is still to come.

THE LAST SEVEN YEARS OF THE PROPHECY OF Dan.9v20-27.

This chart looks at the 7 years of Daniel's prophecy from the information given in the book of Revelation.



Please see Appendix: 2 for interpretation of Daniel chapters 2 & 7

A Few Thoughts On Daniel 8

The Ram And The He Goat, Antiochus And The Antichrist

In Dan 8 we see the remarkable prophecy of the rise of the Medo-Persian Empire and its destruction by Alexander the Great, the Greek general. The vision of the Ram and the He Goat is followed by the warning of the career of Antiochus Epiphanes (the 5th head of the Beast), through which God reveals the final Antichrist (the 7th head of the Beast). The following facts give a better understanding of the book of Daniel.

Daniel is written in two languages, Chaldean and Hebrew

Only a few parts of the Scripture are written in Chaldean (Aramaic) these are, Ezra 4v8 to 6v19 and 7v12-27; one verse in Jeremiah, Jer10v11; and about six chapters of Daniel, Dan 2v4 to 7v28; the rest of Daniel, Dan 1v1 to 2v3, and 8v1 to 12v13, are written in Hebrew. There is a good reason for this difference, the Chaldean portion from Dan 2v4 to 7v28, records events dealing mainly with Gentile rule and the times of the Gentiles. This would enable the Chaldeans to read these chapters in Aramaic, which was the popular language of that day. This was an effective evangelistic tract, which proclaimed the majesty of God to the Chaldeans, and also gave them a solemn warning of future tragic events in their history.

The Hebrew section of Dan 1v1 to 2v3 records the fall of Jerusalem and the deportation of the best of the Jews to Babylon, and the correct response to this by Daniel and his friends. The final section from Dan 8v1 to 12v13 deals with prophetic events connected mainly with Israel and their place in God's prophetic plan, and so it was also written in Hebrew. These Hebrew sections were veiled from the Chaldeans and seem to have been for Jewish eyes only. This veiling of truth from the worldling and indifferent is a divine principle; certain truths are only for seekers. Matt 13v10-17,34,35.

Daniel had waited for two years since his last recorded vision

The vision of Daniel 8 took place in the third year of Belshazzar's reign, so two years had passed by since he had seen the awesome vision recorded in Daniel chapter seven, which took place in Belshazzar's first year. Dan 8v1,2 with 7v1. Daniel had meditated and prayed for two years for light upon the vision of the last judgement and the world empires that would affect Israel, before God gave him the further information revealed in this vision. Visions like this are not called up to order, even by the greatest of prophets. This deep insight into God's mind and purposes, was only given to great prophets, who had walked with God, and meditated deeply on the truths of the Scriptures. Many books on prophecy are manifestly the opinions and tradition of men, and reveal that their authors have made little effort in prayer, research and meditation.

The book of Daniel is not written in chronological order

It is important to realise that the chapters of Daniel have not been arranged in chronological order; the order in time of the events and prophecies is as follows 1,2,3,4,7,8,5,9,6,10,11,12. The revelations concerning the fall of Babylon in chapters seven and eight of Daniel were given before the actual fall of Babylon, which is, recorded in Daniel chapter five.

Gabriel Accurately Foretold Future International Events To Daniel

The method of revelation of the prophecy

In Dan 8v20,21, Gabriel tells Daniel of the two kingdoms which would succeed Babylon. Daniel was not given this to him by a vision in the night as in Dan 2v19 and Dan 7v2,7,13,15; nor by revelation to his prayerful mind as in Dan 4v19-27 and 5v17. Gabriel instructs Daniel on vital prophetic truth in Dan 8v15-27, just as in Dan 9v20-27, and by an unnamed angel in Dan 7v16,23, 10v1 to 12v13. Jesus gave Revelation to John by "His angel," which is possibly Gabriel. Rev 1v1, 22v16.

God transports Daniel in vision to Shushan the capital of Persia

Daniel was transported in space and time, into the future, to Shushan the capital of Persia, and given the prophetic facts about Medo-Persia; the next empire to succeed Babylon. This was the very place where Nehemiah and Ester were later going to live. Neh 1v1, Esther 1v2-5, 2v3-5. God proved He is "The Great I Am," and not limited by time, when He transported Ezekiel back in time from Babylon to Jerusalem before its capture and destruction by the Babylonians, and revealed the sins which had brought about the captivity. Ezek 8v3. Daniel could have been taken by God into the future, either in body or spirit; or given a vision as real as life, for with God all these are possible. Paul informs us in 2Cor 12v1-4, that he did not know if he was in the body or out of the body, when he was caught up to Paradise in the third heaven, but he experienced the glory and bliss of it, and had revealed to him "unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for man to utter." Paul was forbidden to reveal the truths that he was told on this occasion, even to other Christians, they were for his own personal information and benefit. Anyway it was quite impossible for Paul to convey the glory, beauty and love of God's kingdom.

Gabriel reveals to Daniel that the two-horned ram represents the kings of Media and Persia

God told Daniel that the higher of the two horns of the ram would come up last, and took Daniel to Shushan, the capital of Persia, to show that Persia would become the dominant power. This was not so when Daniel first went to Babylon, for the Medes dominated the Persians, until Cyrus the Persian reversed the situation, and Persia dominated the alliance. The description of Persia as a ram was very appropriate, for it was Persia's national emblem. Cyrus rapidly extended the Empire Westward and Northward, his son later extended it Southwards and conquered Egypt, and as Daniel saw, it was an irresistible force. Dan 8v4. God named Cyrus 150 years before he was born, and said that He had anointed Cyrus to take Babylon and free the Israelites, this took place about 200 years after the prophecy. Isaiah 44v28 to 45v6.

Gabriel informs Daniel that the Goat is Greece

The description of Greece as a goat was very appropriate, for the goat was the national emblem of Macedonia. When Daniel received this prophecy; Greece was a disunited collection of competing and contending states. Alexander inherited

the kingdom of Macedon at his father's death in 336 BC; and united these states, and became their first king; he is the great horn on the goat. Alexander is often called "the Great," because of the astonishing speed, fury, and extent of his conquests, which Dan 8v5-8 accurately foretold.

The accurate fulfilment of Gabriel's prophecy of the break-up Alexander's Empire

As Gabriel foretold, the horn was broken off in the greatness of its strength. Alexander was taken ill by an attack of fever, some say malaria, which was aggravated by his intemperate eating and drunken excesses, and this brought about his death at the early age of 33, in 323 BC. Alexander's brother Philip Arridaeus, and his sons Alexander Aegus and Hercules, were murdered over a period of 15 months. With the death of his heirs, four of Alexander's generals divided his empire amongst themselves; opinions vary slightly on the exact division of the empire, but the following gives some idea of how the empire was divided.

Ptolemy: Obtained the South; and ruled over Egypt, Cyprus and parts of North Africa.

Seleucus: Obtained the East; and ruled over Syria, Babylonia and Medo-Persia.

Lysimachus: Took over the North, most of Asia Minor; and ruled over Thrace, Western Bithynia, Lesser Phrygia, Mysia, and Lydia, with the Meander as a boundary.

Cassander: Took over the Western European part of the empire; and ruled Greece and Macedonia.

God's prophetic revelations of the four horns in Dan 8v8, and four heads of the leopard in Dan 7v6, were accurately and completely fulfilled more than 200 years after Daniel prophesied these events.

The Short-Term And Long-Term Visions Of Daniel Eight

In Daniel chapter eight we have a double fulfilment of prophecy

We have the prophecy of the overthrow of the Medo-Persian empire by Greece, and the growth and division of the Grecian empire, and the manifestation, out of part of that Grecian Empire, of Antiochus Epiphanes, known by some as "Epiphanes the Madman," like Hitler he was filled with a murderous hatred of the Jews, and killed 100,000 Jews on one occasion, and multiplied thousands more on other occasions. His evil career is recorded in the first book of Maccabees.

The little horn of chapter 7 arises from the fourth kingdom, the little horn of chapter 8 arises out of the third kingdom, and is referring to Antiochus Epiphanes; however, the prophecy has also a future fulfilment, for Antiochus is a type of the final Antichrist, both in actions and disposition. **There was both a near and distant fulfilment of this prophecy, Gabriel's prophecy speaks of Antiochus but also leaps into the distant future to describe the final Antichrist.** The double fulfilment of prophecy is a fact, as can be seen by the dual prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, and its destruction at the end of the age in Luke 17v31, 19v41-44, 21v20-24. The prophecy concerning the betrayal of Jesus by Judas found its first fulfilment in Ahithophel, the counsellor who betrayed David. Psalm 41v9, John 13v18.

NB: Jerome states the Jews of his time expected a further future fulfilment of this prophecy

Jerome, who was well acquainted with the Jews, because of His prolonged studies amongst them, states that the Jews of his time felt that this prophecy would have a further fulfilment in another king like Antiochus, who would arise in the future. Luther stated, "This chapter in Daniel refers to both Antiochus and the Antichrist." Jesus said "the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet," referred to events, which were still to be fulfilled in the future, not events which were already fulfilled in the past. Matt 24v15. Antiochus was a type and foreshadowing of the final Antichrist. We therefore, must study Dan 8 to correctly understand the Antichrist, and the end time prophecies.

The main burden of Gabriel's prophecy concerns, "The Time Of The End"

Gabriel reveals that the prophecy concerning "the little horn" is to be fulfilled at the end of the age. "Understand, O son of man; for the vision belongeth to the time of the end." Dan 8v17. **"Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in THE LATTER TIME of the indignation; for it belongeth to THE APPOINTED TIME OF THE END."** Dan 8v19.

"And IN THE LATTER TIME OF THEIR KINGDOM, when transgressors are COME TO THE FULL." Dan 8v23. This is the very statement made by our Lord in Matt 24v12, "Because the lawlessness is filled up, the "agape" love of Christians will grow cold." Judgement will fall on the world as it did on the Amorites, when their iniquity came to the full. Gen 15v13-16.

"Shut thou up the vision; for it BELONGETH TO MANY DAYS TO COME." Dan 8v26. Jewish Bible. There was a

fulfilment of the prophecy of the "little horn" in Daniel eight by Antiochus Epiphanes, but Gabriel indicates a further (and complete) fulfilment at a more distant date in the future, and gives a vivid and gruesome picture of what we, and the Jews, can expect from the final Antichrist, the future "little horn" and beast of Dan 7v7,8,24-27.

Gabriel's Description Of "The Little Horn," The Final Antichrist

"The little horn" will be "a king of fierce countenance," and proud words." Dan 8v23-25

Antichrist, like many politicians, will hide his true personality and aims, and by skilful propaganda and deceitful image making, present himself as a peacemaker and a strong and confident ruler with all the answers. He will successfully deceive most people, but as soon as he has established a strong power base, his true power-loving evil nature will be manifested. Even then, many people will still feel that he has the answers, for this arrogant type of person often appeals to people, just as Hitler did to Germany. Antichrist, like Hitler, will be a captivating orator; he will have "a mouth speaking great things," and arrogantly "speak great words against the Most High." Dan 7v8,25. **The little horn comes out of one of the four horns, which shows that the Antichrist comes out of part of the Grecian empire, which, by the way, did NOT extend as far as Rome.**

Antichrist will be an occultist who "understands dark sayings." Dan 8v23

The word for "dark sayings" in Dan 8v23, is "chiydah," (Strong's OT:2420,) which means, "a puzzle, a trick, conundrum, dark saying, hard question, parable, proverb, oracle and riddle." "Chiydah" occurs 17 times in the Hebrew Old Testament.

In Judges 14v12-19 "chiydah" occurs eight times over Samson's riddle. The Philistine Lords threatened Samson's wife and her family with death if she did not find out the riddle, and so she coaxed the meaning of the riddle out of Samson.

In 1King 10v1 and 2Chron 9v1 "chiydah" is used of the "hard questions" that the Queen of Sheba tried Solomon with.

In Prov 1v6, Solomon states that one of his reasons for writing his book of proverbs, was to help people understand dark sayings, which are too profound to be understood by the foolish and simple.

In Psalm 49v4, "chiydah" is used of a psalmist with a harp, singing a proverb and dark saying, which told the sad end of those who trust in riches; this was a riddle indeed to the greedy rich, but open truth to the children of God.

In Ezek 17v2, God likens Nebuchadnezzar and Pharaoh to two eagles and Israel to a vine. God warns Israel that there would be no hope of deliverance by aid from Pharaoh; there was no escape from the divine discipline of the Babylonian captivity, v1-24. **The Lord finishes with a message of hope in v22-24, a very necessary mark of true prophecy.**

In Hab 2v6, God makes a proverb and "taunting riddle" to the greedy and idolatrous in Israel.

In Num 12v8, God uses "chiydah" to tell Miriam and Aaron of His normal method of revelation to most prophets in comparison to His face to face communication with Moses.

In Psalm 78v2, Asaph uses "chiydah" to prophesy that Jesus would tell a lot of hidden truths and dark sayings in His parables, Matt 13v34,35, with the stated intention in Matt 13v10-17, of hiding divine truth from those who did not want to receive it, and revealing heavenly truths and mysteries to those who did. **Jesus is the great revealer of the divine mysteries.**

In Dan 8v23, God uses "chiydah" to state that the final Antichrist will "understand dark sayings." Some say that this refers to Antichrist's diplomatic cunning and deceit. However, its use in the above Scriptures proves that "chiydah" can mean more than diplomatic cunning, for Antichrist's deceit is referred to in Dan 8v25, "through his policy also, he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many." That "chiydah" here is speaking of more than diplomatic cunning is also revealed from the character and activities of Antichrist and his empowerment by Satan. The Scriptures tell us that Satan will give his power to Antichrist and totally dominate and direct his mind and actions. Dan 8v24, Rev 13v4. Antichrist revels in the power that flows from the supernatural knowledge that Satan possesses and gives to him. Satan's "dark sentences" give Antichrist power over men, as well as supernatural diplomatic deceit, and guidance in strategy in war.

Satan has long used the bait of false knowledge to fascinate and ensnare mankind; he used it to corrupt Adam and Eve; and has made morons of the wise and intelligent who try to explain away God as the Great Creator through false science and the theory of evolution. Gen 3v5-7, Rom 1v18-23. The fallen angels, who came and took upon them human form, and lived as men; are called, among other names, by the name "Nephilim." They are reported in ancient legends to have obtained influence over mankind, and worship as Gods, by their superior knowledge. An alternative name for the Nephilim, is "Rephaim," which means "healers," and in the Septuagint it is actually rendered as "iatroi," that is,

"physicians," in Psalm 88v10 and Isaiah 26v14. Superior medical knowledge has always impressed mankind; when Satan is expelled from the heavenly places into the earth at the start of the Great Tribulation, he will undoubtedly make this one of his ploys to deceive mankind. The servants of Satan have always made the claim to superior knowledge. The Gnostics, the Theosophists, and other occult masters, claim that their knowledge is derived from supernatural beings. According to Rev 7v7-12 and 13v2-4, after Satan is cast out of the heavenly places to earth, he gives his power, knowledge and wisdom to the Antichrist.

Antichrist will be possessed and energised by Satan. Dan 8v24

Gabriel told Daniel that Antichrist's "power shall be mighty, but not by his own power." Dan 8v24. John on Patmos, over 600 years later, was told the identical facts, "the dragon gave him his power, and his throne and great authority." **Satan shares his intellectual abilities and spiritual powers with Antichrist; he is the most powerful occultist of all time.** It is out of the malevolent and sadistic mind of Satan that the horrors of the last days are conceived and brought into being. Antichrist, like Judas, will be possessed by Satan, and will bring to pass Satan's final evil plans. 2Thess 2v7. Both Judas and Antichrist are called "the son of perdition," because they love evil and are unwilling to repent. They have reached the ultimate in evil; Judas by betraying Jesus and fulfilling Satan's desire to kill Christ, and Antichrist by bringing Satan's plans to dominate and destroy the world into reality. John 13v27, 2Thess 2v3. God has not only revealed His wonderful plans for us, He has also told us about Satan's plans, the mystery of iniquity. Matt 13v11,16,17, Rev 10v6, Eph 3v10,11.

In Dan 8v10, we read that the little horn, "waxed great, even to the host of heaven, and some of the host and of the stars it cast down to the ground, and trampled upon them." The explanation of this is found in Rev 12v4, in John's description of the dragon, "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth." In Job 38v4-7, God calls the angelic sons of God, "morning stars," and in Isaiah 14v12-14, God says of Satan, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O day-star, son of the morning!" God said that this fall was due to pride; "For thou hast said in thine heart, **I WILL** ascend into heaven, **I WILL** exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I WILL** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **I WILL** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I WILL** be like the Most High." Satan led one third of the angelic hosts into evil in the very presence of God.

After Michael and his angels expel Satan from the heavenly places, his fury will know no bounds, and this is the cause of the Great Tribulation. Rev 12v12. Antichrist is possessed by Satan and is given his authority, and fulfils his will, and so "his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power." Dan 8v24. Trampling upon the stars he casts down is certainly not the corruption of good angelic beings, or injury to them. It is almost certainly the "grievous bodily harm," and sadistic humiliation, that Satan inflicts on some of the stronger evil angels, in order to establish his authority over the rest of the powers of darkness, after his own humiliation at being cast out of the heavenly places. Satan, like some of the power-loving politicians (e.g. Stalin and Hitler) of earth, keeps his authority over the rest of the evil angels, through fear and intimidation. Evil angels have to obey Satan, those who fail to do so, suffer Satan's personal anger and retribution.

Antichrist "shall destroy wonderfully" with Satan's power. Dan 8v24

Antichrist, like Satan, is the enemy of mankind

The Greek "Satanas," (Strong's NT:4567) is derived from either the Chaldean (Aramaic), or the Hebrew "Satan," they both mean "adversary." Satan is the adversary and enemy, not only of the children of God, but also of all mankind; he only comes "to steal, kill, and destroy." John 10v10,11. Satan enables Antichrist to "destroy in an astonishing and wonderful way." He will be the biggest monster of human history, whose kingdom is built on the suffering and death of untold tens of millions of people.

Antichrist "will destroy the mighty"

According to Dan 11v42,43, Antichrist's conquests will be:

Towards the east

Towards "the south," That is Egypt, Ethiopia and North Africa, and possibly to the oil rich states of the Middle East.

"Toward the glorious land," See Ezek 20v6, where God calls Israel, "the glory of all lands."

Antichrist through "craft and by peace shall destroy many"

Antichrist will conquer by deceit and craft, by acting as a peacemaker. His treaties are soon broken; they are a means of making people drop their guard, so that surprise attacks will enable him to conquer. **His armed forces, which enter countries under treaty, supposedly to protect those countries from their enemies, take over the lands he has made treaties with.**

Satan has always hated the Israelites, and has moved evil political leaders, to persecute and kill them. Antichrist will fulfil Satan's desire to corrupt and destroy the chosen people, he starts his destruction of "the holy people," by political craft, and he will, "by peace destroy many;" this includes other nations besides the Jews. Dan 8v25. Antichrist "will confirm the covenant with many for one week (of years): and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease." Dan 9v27. When the final 3½ years are finished; "he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people." Dan 12v7. Antichrist brings another holocaust on the Jews; this is why Jesus tells Christians not to enter, and to get out of Palestine, during the last 3½ years of this age, just as He did in 70 AD. Luke 21v20-24. It is "the time of Jacob's trouble," and "there shall be a time of trouble, such as there never was since there was a nation even to that same time." Jer 30v3-9, Dan 12v1, Matt 24v21,22, Rev 7v14.

NB: The time periods mentioned in Dan 12

The period of time mentioned in Dan 12v11, is 1,290 days, which is thirty days longer than the 1,260 days ministry of the two witnesses, and the woman's preservation by God in the wilderness. Rev 11v3, 12v6,14. We learn from Dan 12v6,7, that the period of the Great Tribulation and Antichrist's attack upon "the holy people," continues, "to the end of these wonders," for "times, time and half a time;" which we learn from a comparison of Rev 12v6 and Rev 12v14, is 1260 days. It is not likely that the sacrifices are stopped a month before Antichrist's image is placed in the sanctuary, because our Lord points to the abomination of desolation as being the sign to flee from Judea, not the stopping of the sacrifices. Matt 24v15,16. Antichrist, therefore, stops the daily sacrifice at the start of the last 3½ years, at his desecration of the holy of holies. This shows that the daily sacrifices are being made. Dan 8v12, 9v27, 12v11. Jesus restores them at His return. Isaiah 66v20-23, Zech 14v16-21, Mal 3v1-4, Matt 24v15, 2Thess 2v1-4, Rev 11v1,2.

It, therefore, appears that the extra 30 days of the 1,290 days extends into the Millennium; Gabriel could well be stating that it takes a month after Jesus returns for the sacrifice and offerings to be restored, which Antichrist had removed. This extra 30 days could also have something to do with the regathering of the Jews to Palestine as well as the setting up of a priestly order. We read in Isaiah 66v20-23, that the Israelites are brought to Palestine by the Gentile nations, "And they shall bring ALL your brethren for an offering unto the Lord out of ALL nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the Lord, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the Lord. And I will also take of them for priests and Levites, saith the Lord. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord." **God orders the nations to bring all the Jews back into their land, and the nations obey Him, and come to worship the Lord.**

The period of 1,335 days is 45 days longer than the 1,290 days, and those who reach the end of these 45 days are looked upon as "blessed." This infers that it is a period of separation and judgement at Christ's coming, and the setting up of the new divine order. Jesus told us that at His coming the people of the nations will be separated like sheep from goats. Matt 25v31-46. There is also the judgement and purifying of Israel. Zech 13v8,9, Mal 3v1-6. Jesus said in Matt 13v41-43, "The Son of man shall send forth His angels and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them that do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." **The 30 days and 45 days make up a total period of 75 days, which makes us realise that the judgement of the nations is not rushed through, justice is not only done, it is seen to be done. Paul states that Christians will have a part in the judgement.** 1Cor 6v1-3.

Antichrist comes out of one of the four parts of the Grecian Empire. Dan 8v9,23

Some think that the prophecy of Isaiah 10v5,12,24, concerning "the Assyrian," is referring to the Antichrist, but this could refer to the captivity under the Assyrians. However, there can be no doubt that in Dan 11v40, he is called "the king of the north," who "at the time of the end" makes a rapid advance into Egypt, Ethiopia and Libya.

The Puzzle And Problem Of The 2,300 Days. Dan 8v13,14,26

In Dan 8v13,14, a "holy one" asks, "How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?" Another "holy one" answers and informs Daniel, "Unto two thousand and three hundred evening-mornings; and then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

Peter informs us that angels desire to look into prophetic truth, and God's plans and purposes for His children. 1Peter 1v10-12. This shows that angels do not know about, or comprehend, all of God's plans and purposes, and, like us, they have to depend on revelation from Him. They, like ourselves, often learn by the unfolding of events, and are taught God's manifold wisdom by His dealing with the Church. Eph 3v10,11. It is quite likely that the holy angel who asked the other "holy one," how long the sanctuary would be "trodden under foot," already knew the answer, and was asking the question for Daniel's sake, because the answer was directed to Daniel, "he said unto me." Dan 8v14. It is likely, that just as Paul had special insights granted to him by God, which were hidden from other apostles, some great angels, like Gabriel, have

knowledge revealed to them by God about His divine purposes, which is not revealed to other angels. 2Cor 12v3-5, Gal 1v11,12, Eph 1v9-22, 3v1-11. **Uniformity of knowledge in Heaven seems as unlikely as it is in the Church on earth.**

Some state the treading down of the Sanctuary for 2,300 days in Dan 8v13,14,26, refers to Antiochus Epiphanes, others equally confidently affirm that there is no such period in the time of Antiochus, and say it refers to Antichrist in the last days. We read that the sanctuary is to be "trodden under foot," for "two thousand three hundred evening-mornings" before the sanctuary will be cleansed; that is 2,300 repetitions of the evening and morning sacrifice. The phrase is unique, however, some say that Scriptures, like Gen 1v5, are significant, and tend to confirm that the "evening mornings" refer to 2300 days. Others think that the 2300 evening and morning sacrifices, represent 1150 days, however, no Hebrew reader would understand it in this way, nor would they make 40 days and 40 nights mean 20 days. **Leupold** states the 2,300 does not fit historical facts in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, either in the form of 2300 days, or 1,150, days, no matter how the facts and figures are juggled.

Wordsworth takes an opposite view and sums up the 2,300 in a comment on Dan 8v14, in his commentary on Daniel:

"In order to ascertain the sense of this prophecy we must consider to what it extends. It does not merely concern the taking away of the daily sacrifice, but that which led to it, viz. the sins of the Jewish rulers, especially the high priests Jason and Menelaus, and which is called 'the transgression of desolation,' i.e. the transgression which was the cause of the desolation of the sanctuary. According to the calculation used in the Book of Daniel and the Apocalypse, where $3\frac{1}{2}$ years = 42 months = 1260 days, we find that 2300 days would be equivalent to 6 years, 4 months, and 20 days.

The Feast of Dedication instituted by Judas Maccabaeus at the cleansing of the Temple in the winter of 165 BC (1Macc 4.42-58, 2Macc 10.3-6, Josephus Ant. 12.11.), a little more than a year before the death of Antiochus, seems to be the 'terminus ad quem' or point to which this prophecy reaches, which ends with the words, 'then shall the Sanctuary be cleansed;' and the 'terminus a quo,' or point from which it is to be dated, would fall late in the summer of 171 BC, which would nearly coincide with the profanation of the holy vessels by the traitorous High Priest Menelaus (2Macc 4.32,39), and the murder of the faithful High Priest Onias at Antioch (2Macc 433.34), and the commencement of the profane acts of Antiochus.

According to 1Macc 1.21 the persecution began in the 143rd year of the era of the Greeks and lasted to the 149th year, in which Antiochus died, 1Macc 6.16 (A Lapide), but the transgression began earlier than the 143rd year (1 Macc 1.11-15).

Therefore we may accept the interpretation of S. Jerome here, who says, 'Let us read the Books of the Maccabees and the history of Josephus, and we shall find six years of the desolation of Jerusalem, and three years of the pollution of the Temple by the erection of the statue of Jupiter, until the dedication by Judas Maccabaeus.' **End of quote.**

S P Tregelles puts the 2,300 days in the future, he writes on pages 104 and 105 of his commentary on Dan 9v27:

"And he (the prince who shall come) shall confirm a covenant with the many for one week.' In 'Remarks on Chapter 8' I sought to show that the horn spoken of in the two chapters is identical, and here again he appears to come before us; in fact, the allusion seems to be made to known circumstances about him. He makes a covenant with the multitude; that of course means the multitude of Daniel's people, they make a treaty with him and he with them. This takes place three years and a half before he causes sacrifice and oblation to cease, hence it is clear that they go on in his patronage for some time. This will, I believe, throw some light on the two thousand three hundred days mentioned in chapter 8v14. We find him here making a covenant for one seven years and breaking it at the end of three years and a half; and the removal of the sacrifice, etc., is so spoken of as to connect it with the breaking of the covenant. This tends, I think, to show that one thing done in the pursuance of this covenant had been the establishment of the temple worship. The period of the two thousand three hundred days is a few months short of the whole term of the seven years, enough being not included, it may be, to be allotted for those preparations which will be needful for the worship to be set up; then follows the time during which it is carried on under his auspices, and then follow three years and a half of distinct persecuting and blasphemous power." **End of quote.**

From this quote we can see that Tregelles believes that the 2,300 days is to be fulfilled by the final Antichrist.

G H Lang evidently feels the same for on page 117 of his book on "The Histories and Prophecies of Daniel," he writes:

"And surely those holy watchers feel more deeply concerned with that spot (the holy city) since the feet of the Son of God have trodden it, and near by His precious blood has reddened and redeemed the soil. How long, then, shall the desolation foretold last? When shall the great redemption take effect as regards this sacred spot? The answer is that the desolation

will cover 'two thousand three hundred evening-mornings' and then the sanctuary will be cleansed. Pember remarks that, "The words of the angel in regard to the two thousand, three hundred days during which the Sanctuary and the Host are to be trodden under foot, are, perhaps, not so mysterious as they seem.

The literal Hebrew expression is not 'days,' but 'evening-mornings', that is to say, two thousand, three hundred repetitions of the evening and morning sacrifices - which proves that actual days of twenty-four hours are intended. And we should note, that seven full prophetic years would contain two thousand five hundred and twenty days; that is, that the time mentioned by the angel is two hundred and twenty days short of the seven years.

Now as we shall see when we consider the revelation of the Seventy Sevens, the Antichrist is to make a covenant with the majority of the Jewish nation for Seven Years, at the close of which period he will be destroyed by the appearing of the Lord, and the sanctuary will be cleansed. It would seem, then, that he will not tamper with the Sanctuary, until the two hundred and twenty-first day from the commencement of the covenant: indeed it is possible that the building of the Temple may not be completed at that time. Perhaps, the two thousand three hundred days may represent the whole time of his personal connection with the City and the Sanctuary. The actual suppression of the daily sacrifices will not take place, as we shall presently see, until three and a half of the covenant-period have passed by." **End of quote from G H Lang.**

Others, as we have seen, feel that there is no evidence for an accurate fulfilment of these 2,300 days in the career of Antiochus Epiphanes, and apply it to the final Antichrist. Wise men will search the Scriptures, and wait and see, and above all allow our Lord to spiritually prepare us for the evil last days of this age, and be prepared to overcome them.

The fourth kingdom of Dan 8 has a dual fulfilment in Antiochus Epiphanes (who was the 5th head of the Beast), but in a complete and full way in Antichrist, the 7th head of the Beast at the end of this Age (of Grace). The Greek "katapateéma" is used in the Septuagint in Dan 8v13 for "trodden under foot" and is speaking of the same event that John writes about in Rev 11v1,2 where it states: "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: **and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.**"

This period of 2,300 days finishes at the Second Coming of Christ when He comes to destroy the wicked and take His people home at the 7th Trumpet. Dan 8v25, Rev 11v15-18. This period of 2,300 days, as already stated, covers a time span of 6 years, 4 months, and 20 days and is completely fulfilled by the 4th kingdom (the 7th head of the beast), which is the kingdom of Antichrist and is 7 months 10 days short of Daniel's 70th week in Dan 9v27, which is a period of 7 years. The treading underfoot of the City and Temple and the daily sacrifices being stopped occurs in the middle of the week, that is at the Beginning of the Great Tribulation, so the sacrifices would seem to be started 2 years 10 months and 20 days before the Great Tribulation starts, or 7 months 10 days after the start of the last 7 years of this age (which is Daniel's 70th week).

Exposition Of Daniel Chapters 10,11,12

The Last Three Chapters of Daniel Contain a Single Revelation

Each of the first nine chapters of Daniel deals with a single incident, subject matter or revelation, and so the chapter breaks are helpful. The chapter breaks in the last three chapters of Daniel are less helpful, for they are one revelation, the final revelation of God to Daniel; even though the angel departs in Dan 9v21, he returns to give the rest of the revelation.

This vision was given in the third year of Cyrus

We read in Daniel nine that this vision occurred two years after Daniel had mourned and prayed after he had realised that the 70 years of captivity that Jeremiah prophesied in Jer 25v8-12, was over. Dan 9v2. From Ezra 1v1-4, we find that it was 2 years since Cyrus had made the decree permitting the Jews to return to Jerusalem, only 49,697 availed themselves of the opportunity, the rest settled down in Babylon. Ezra 2v64,65, Neh 7v66. The lack of desire of the Jews to return to the land that God had promised them, and the opposition in the land by Rehum and Shimshai, gave Daniel great distress. He would not anoint himself, and cut himself off from all luxury, refraining from "pleasant bread," and gave himself to prayer, mourning and self-denial. Dan 10v3, Isaiah 66v2, Amos 6v6,7. This sadness, concern, self-denial and broken-hearted prayer over other people's needs, is a mark of true love and spirituality. Luke 14v26-33

Darius the Mede

Darius the Mede was appointed ruler of Babylon by Cyrus immediately after Babylon was taken by the Persians and Belshazzar was killed in October of 539 BC. He must not be confused with the later Persian king Darius Hystapes, who reigned 521 BC to 486 BC, and was an absolute monarch. We read in Dan 5v31, that "Darius the Mede RECEIVED the

kingdom," not "took the kingdom" as the Authorised Version states. From Dan 9v1, we find that Darius was "MADE king over the realm of the Chaldeans;" Cyrus put Darius in charge of Babylonia, while he ruled and supervised the whole of his empire. Darius was the son of Ahasuerus of the seed of the Medes. Dan 5v28,30,31, 6v1,28, 9v1, 11v1. Darius honoured the God of Daniel, and Daniel stood by Darius to strengthen him. At the fall of Babylon, Darius the Mede was 62 years old. Dan 5v31. It seems that Darius was Gubaru, (Gobryas), for the radical Arabic letters can be a translation of Darius and can mean "king, compellor, or restrainer." Persian kings appointed Medes as well as Persians to satrapies and command of armies. Gubaru is not to be confused with Ugbaru, the governor of Gutium, who was the general under Cyrus who conquered Babylon, and who, according to the Nabonidus Chronicle, died three weeks later.

Daniel never calls Darius the Mede, king of Media, or king of Persia, he is just called "king," for governors of provinces and cities were often called king. Darius had 120 satrapies under him. Gubaru is often mentioned in cuneiform documents during the fourteen years following Babylon's capture, as "Governor of Babylon and the Region Beyond the River," that is, the entire Fertile Crescent; the vast area of Syria, Phoenicia, Palestine and Babylonia. Darius ruled Babylon far better than his profligate successor, Cambyses, the son of Cyrus, who though a good general and administrator, was a drunkard and given over to unbridled passion. Daniel was the prayer warrior and spiritual giant that stood behind Darius, and also helped Darius in every practical way. Paul tells us that when loving hearts pray, world rulers are affected. 1Tim 2v1-8

The vision came just after the Passover

The vision came to Daniel "in the four and twentieth day of the first month," this was just after the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month Abib, later called Nisan; Exodus 23v15, Neh 2v1; and just after the feast of unleavened bread, from the 15th to the 21st, of Abib. The memorial of Passover would further fuel Daniel's desire for the deliverance of his people. The vision came unexpectedly, as Daniel was by the river "Hiddekel," not the Euphrates, but the Tigris. Gen 2v14. The angel is not named, Daniel recognised Gabriel in Dan 9v21, so it seems that this was not Gabriel, but another of the seven "watchers and holy ones," the seven mighty archangels who stand before God. Dan 4v17,23, Zech 4v10, Rev 5v6, 8v2. Though the angel was not seen by the others who were with Daniel, they felt his awesome presence and quaked with fear and fled. Even Daniel was utterly overcome by the glory of the angelic presence, and had to be told not to fear, and had to be supernaturally strengthened in order even to speak. It is lovely to see that Daniel was greatly beloved by the angelic messenger, as well as by the Lord who sent him.

The Angelic Messenger From God

The angel had been hindered for 3 Weeks by the evil Prince of Persia

In Dan 9v21, Daniel says that Gabriel looked like a man, and, like most angels, did not appear to have wings. Here in Dan 10v5, Daniel again says the person looked like a man, but he is a glorious angelic being, who states that he has been "sent" to Daniel, but had been hindered by the evil angelic principality over Persia. Dan 10v11-14. One of God's angels killed 185,000 of the Assyrian army in one night. 2Kings 19v35, Isaiah 37v36. It is difficult for us, as human beings, to conceive or grasp the weapons or huge energies expended in these three weeks of angelic spiritual conflict, or to comprehend the suffering and conflicts that good angels endure on our behalf. In Dan 10v21, the angel said that there was none that stood with him against the evil angelic princes of Persia and Greece except Michael, the angelic prince who guards Israel. This brings many questions to the mind. Where were the angelic hosts that Jacob saw at Bethel and Peniel, and also encompassed Elisha? Gen 28v12, 32v1,2,24-30, 2Kings 6v17. It appears that we shall have to wait till we arrive in glory for the answer.

The three week delay in answer to prayer through the opposition of these evil angels, shows not only the strength of their opposition, it also reveals the painful conflicts that good angels endure on our behalf, and the victories that they win for us by their love for us and their commitment to us. It is moving to see how the angel gently, compassionately and lovingly touched Daniel to minister life and strength to him. Dan 8v18, 9v21,22, 10v9-19. Isaiah had his lips purified to speak for God by divine power. Isaiah 6v5-13. Jeremiah also was enabled to speak by the touching of his lips by the Lord. Jer 1v4-10. May our dear Lord touch our lips, and strengthen us to tell His truth.

Paul tells us in Eph 6v12,13, that these evil princes, "tas archas," dominate and give authority to the evil spiritual powers, "tas exousias," under them; and that these evil principalities and powers are the real world rulers, and are not to be confused with the less powerful evil spirits that possess people. Eph 2v1,2. **God allows these evil spirits some measure of liberty of action in order to reveal what evil is like, but God puts severe restraints upon them and their activities, and He rules over all.** 2Thess 2v7, Job 1v8-12, 2v5,6, Dan 4v17,25. The angel tells Daniel that he is leaving him to fight with Michael against the evil angelic prince over Persia, and his companion the evil angel over Greece. He promises to return and reveal to Daniel "that which is recorded in the book of truth." Dan 10v20,21.

"The Writing, or Book, of Truth." Dan 10v1,21, 11v2

Daniel affirms in Dan 10v1, that the revelation he received was true. Zechariah found out that the words of Gabriel could

be totally relied upon. Luke 1v18-20. After 3 weeks of prayer, mourning, and fasting, the angel came to Daniel and said, in Dan 10v21, "I will declare unto thee, that which is inscribed in the writing (or book) of truth." This statement proves that there are heavenly prophetic writings and books as well as earthly ones. God wrote the Law upon rock with His finger. Exodus 31v18. Moses confirmed the fact that there are books in Heaven, when he referred to, "Your book, which You have written," and the Lord refers to it as "My book," in Exodus 32v32,33. This is obviously, "The book of life," which is spoken of in Phil 4v3, Rev 3v5, 13v8, 17v8, 20v12,15, 21v27 and 22v19; in which are recorded the names of the redeemed children of God. These names can be removed by wilful sin and apostasy. Exodus 32v33. There are also books which record all the acts, thoughts, motivations, and intents of heart of all men and women. Rev 2v23, 20v12,13, Heb 4v12,13, 1Cor 3v10-17, 2Cor 5v15.

The angelic hosts are instructed in the prophetic purposes of God by "the writing of truth." **This does not mean that God's will is irresistible, for God's foreknowledge does not imply automatic irresistible foreordination; divine covenants and blessings can be revoked because of wilful sin, and divine judgements can be cancelled because of repentance.** Num 14v34, Ezek 18v1-32, 33v11-20. God, Who is truth and reality, has written heavenly books full of truth, and has revealed His heart as well as His mind in His divine purposes. God's books are full of His love, and manifest His astonishing continual dedicated sacrificial care of His creation. His power and wisdom brings these loving purposes to pass.

The Purpose of the Angel's Coming. Dan 10v14

The key phrase to the proper understanding of the angel's revelation is given in his words in Dan 10v14: "Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come." These chapters expand on the revelations given in the prophecy of the seventy weeks; God, as in Daniel chapters two, seven, eight and nine, concentrates on events leading up to the end of this age, when His enemies will be made his footstool; an event He is greatly looking forward to. Heb 10v13.

The Amazing Accuracy Of The Angel's Prophecies

The angel reveals the next four Persian kings. Dan 11v1,2

Calvin thought these were, 1) Cyrus. 2) Cambyses. 3) Darius Hystapes. 4) Xerxes. This, however, cannot be correct, for Cyrus cannot be included, as the angel told Daniel that four kings were yet to arise and stand for Persia. So the correct list must read: 1) Cambyses. 2) Pseudo Smerdis. 3) Darius Hystapes. 4) Xerxes. More less significant Persian kings followed Xerxes, but the four Persian kings that the angel concentrates our attention upon, had epochal dealing with the Jews.

Cambyses. The son of Cyrus (the Ahasuerus of Ezra 4v6) 530 to 522 BC

When Cyrus was killed in a war campaign of the North East frontier, Cambyses came to the throne. From the inscription on the Behistun Stone recorded by Darius 1st, otherwise known as Darius the Great, or Darius Hystapes; and from the accounts of Herodotus and others, we learn, with some variations, that Cambyses, in order to secure his right to the throne, had his brother Bardiya, (called Smerdis by Herodotus), secretly murdered. It seems that Cambyses was the "Artaxerxes," of Ezra 4v5-23, who upheld the objections of the enemies of the Jews, and imposed a ban on the building of the Temple. Haggai 1v4. Cambyses lived a drunken and profligate life, and enabled Satan to control him, and use him to oppose and hinder the work of God. The Temple building was hindered until the second year of the reign of Darius Hystapes. Ezra 4v24.

Cambyses invaded Egypt in 525 BC to subdue the revolt from his authority by Psammetichus 3rd, whose life he had previously spared. Cambyses defeated the Egyptian army at the battle of Pelusium, and the revolt was crushed with Great harshness; Psammetichus was executed and many temples were destroyed. Cambyses took the throne of Egypt as the first king of its 27th dynasty, taking the Egyptian royal name, titles and costumes, to obtain the Egyptian's favour, and organised Egypt as a satrapy of the Persian Empire. However, he failed to conquer Carthage, Ethiopia, and the oasis of Ammon in the Egyptians desert.

Gaumata, the Pseudo Smerdis. 522 BC

While Cambyses was returning from Egypt in 522 BC, a Magian named Gaumata, inspired by his brother Magi Patizithes, usurped the throne, claiming that he was Bardiya, also called Smerdis, the brother who Cambyses had killed, and he gained a great deal of support from the eastern provinces. Cambyses died near Carmel in Palestine, many think by suicide, because of the bad news, others think that it was possibly by sickness, the details are not clear; he left no heir. Darius Hystapes overcame and executed the rebels and took the throne.

Darius 1st. Also known as Darius Hystapes, or Daruis The Great. 521-486 BC

Darius Hystapes was a Persian officer of the same Archaemenian family as Cyrus by a collateral royal line; within a few months he had subdued the revolt throughout the Persian Empire, by violent means. Within two months Darius had killed Gaumata, the Pseudo Smerdis. The Median rebel Fravartish (Phraortes), was put on public exhibition after having his nose, ears and tongue cut off, and his eyes gouged out, and then finally impaled. Within two years Darius had defeated nine kings in nineteen battles, and had secured his throne and had consolidated the empire.

In 520 BC, the foundation of the Temple was laid. Haggai 2v18. The Persian governor of Western Euphrates, Tattenai, challenged the right of the Jews to rebuild their Temple after they had been encouraged to build by Haggai and Zechariah. Ezra 5v1-3. The Jews appealed to Darius, and stated that Cyrus had given Sheshbazzar (Zerubbabel) a written decree to build the Temple. The work on the Temple continued while this decree was searched for in the library at Ecbatana. Ezra 6v2. Darius, recognising in some measure Jehovah's person and power, then made his own decree and commanded Tattenai to provide financial aid to build the Temple from the income from the tribute from the western provinces. Ezra 6v6-12. With this material aid, and prophetic spiritual encouragement from Zechariah and Haggai (Zech 7v1 to 8v23), in the fourth year of Darius, 518 BC, the Temple was rapidly rebuilt and finished in the sixth year of Darius, in either February or March of 516 or 515 BC. Ezra 6v15.

The haste of Tattenai to obey the decree of Darius is explained by the execution of 3,000 of the leading citizens of Babylon about a year before this decree. Many Babylonians had followed a usurper, who claimed the title of Nebuchadnezzar 4th, and took over Babylon. It took a long siege to recapture Babylon; the crucifixion of 3,000 of its leading citizens served as a terrifying warning to submit to and obey Darius. Ezra 6v11-13. The opponents of the Jews knew that their death was just as sure and certain if they disobeyed the decree of Darius to aid in the rebuilding of the Temple.

Xerxes

Xerxes was the fourth king the angel mentioned in Dan 11v2, he obtained and lost great wealth through warfare. Xerxes, like many politicians, pursued wealth and power without any regard for people, he left an unenviable reputation for cruelty. Many expositors think that Xerxes was the husband of Esther. If this is true, Ester was a very brave woman to take on such a husband for the sake of the people of God. She deserves, and will probably get, a medal for valour. According to some evidence it seems that Xerxes was co-Rex with Darius from 498 to 486 BC, when Darius put him in charge of Babylon, he was sole Rex from 485 to 474 BC. See the notes on Xerxes (**in Appendix 1**) in the evidence on the date of the start of the reign of Artaxerxes Longimanus.

Xerxes went on to "stir up all against the realm of Grecia," Dan 11v2, he spent four years gathering and training an army of over two million soldiers made up of contingents from almost fifty nations; then in 480 BC he invaded Greece. It took seven days and nights for his army to pass over the Hellespont on a double bridge made by boats. The Greeks withstood Xerxes in the famous battle at the straits of Thermopylae, but after victory there, Xerxes marched South and captured Athens. Themistocles had foreseen the danger from Persia and had increased the Athenian navy from 70 to 200 ships, and, still in 480 BC, this fleet defeated the great fleet of Xerxes at the battle of Salamis. The insecure and capricious reaction of Xerxes to this defeat cost him dear; he put the admiral of the fleet to death, and this caused the remainder of his fleet to desert him. The brilliant foresight, strategy and leadership of Themistocles had altered the whole course of the war and Xerxes was finally defeated at the battle of Plataea around 479 to 478 BC. After this battle many of his soldiers joined the Athenians, and attacked the empire of Xerxes. (The history of Herodotus finished at the siege of Lesbos in 478 BC, Diodorus).

Themistocles became a national hero, but he offended the Spartans and they tried him and sentenced him to death in his absence, he fled to the Persians, who allowed him to live in style at Magnesia until his death, not long after visiting the court of Artaxerxes Longimanus. This flight of Themistocles to the court of Artaxerxes Longimanus is confirmed by Thucydides, who lived just after these events in Athens, the same town where Themistocles had lived. Charon of Lampsacus also confirms these events, he was alive at the time and still writing history even though he was an old man, having been born in 554 BC according to Suidas. Xerxes was murdered in 474 BC, and was succeeded by his son, Artaxerxes Longimanus.

The angel reveals the extraordinary career of Alexander the Great

The angel moves on to speak of Alexander the Great, who reigned from 336 BC until his early death in 323 BC. The angel omits mentioning Artaxerxes Longimanus, and several other Persian kings, and mentions the rise to power of Alexander the Great, who with a much smaller army, defeated Darius 3rd, at Granicus in 334 BC; and at the decisive battle of Codomannus in November of 333 BC, and the Persian empire came to an end at the battle of Arbela in 331 BC.

The angel then gives a detailed prophecy about even more distant future history

The amazing accuracy of the prophecies that were given to Daniel has caused major problems for those who do not believe in prophecy, they say it must have been written after the events took place. These unbelieving critics have falsely said that the book of Daniel was written between 167 and 160 BC. The internal evidence of the book of Daniel is against their conclusions, and Ezekiel further disproves their unbelief, when he testifies that Daniel was a real person who lived in his time. Ezek 14v14,20. This is a prophecy from God's "Scripture of truth," and its accuracy is due to the fact that this Scripture, like all of the Scripture, is "breathed out by God," the God who reveals the future BEFORE it comes to pass. Dan 10v21, 11v1, 2Tim 3v15,16, Rom 3v2, Isaiah 41v21,22,26, 43v9,10, 45v21. The accuracy of the prophecies of the major historical events between various kings of Syria and Egypt is beyond question. The prophecy goes at verse 21 to give another detailed revelation of the evil career of Antiochus Epiphanes. The accuracy of these prophecies was a great comfort to the people of God, when these events took place. They knew that God held their future in His hands and would bring them and their nation through, and deal with this evil man.

The Exposition Of Dan 11v5-45

Two alternative expositions

Some, like B W Newton in his "The Prospects of the Ten Kingdoms," and Pember in "The Great Prophecies of the Centuries Concerning Israel and the Gentiles," and others, state that Dan 11v5-33, is a detailed prophecy of the conflicts between Syria and Egypt from the division of Alexander's empire to the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes of Syria. Then they say that in verses 34 and 35, the prophecy speaks of the time of the end, and reveals the final Antichrist. Others say that the details concerning the Antichrist start at Dan 11v36.

Dr. S. P. Tregelles in his exposition of the book of Daniel, gives the viewpoint that at Dan 11v5, the prophecy goes from the Grecian empire to the last days of this age, and that verses 5 to 20 reveal the political events that will lead up to the revelation of the Antichrist, and verses 21 to 46 reveal his evil career.

Both of these different views agree as to the meaning and fulfilment of the prophecies concerning Persia and Greece immediately after the time of Daniel and the return from the captivity. Both of these views also agree that Dan 11v34-45 speaks of the final Antichrist, and v35 of events continuing, "even to the TIME OF THE END: for it is yet for THE TIME APPOINTED." We also note that Dan 12v1 states that, "And at that time," which shows that at least the latter part of Daniel eleven is speaking of events concerning the final Antichrist. Jesus puts "the abomination of desolation" of Dan 12v11 into the time just prior to His return. Matt 24v14,15,29-31. Does "the abomination of desolation" of Dan 11v31 refer to Antiochus Epiphanes or the end time? or does it anticipate both events? Is the "covenant" and "holy covenant" mentioned in Dan 11v30-32, the treaty or covenant that Antichrist makes with Israel? If we have an open mind and heart we will know all the necessary facts, and need not fear.

The emphasis upon the Syrian Seleucid empire and Antiochus Epiphanes in Daniel eight and eleven, strongly indicates that Syria has a leading and important part to play in the last day events, and the rise of the Antichrist. The Antichrist comes out of the seventh and eighth head of the beast, Syria was the fifth head of the beast, and Rome was the sixth. Rev 17v9-12.

It is **MOST** apparent that Dan 11v21-45 is speaking of one person and Dan 12v1 clearly shows that it is the Antichrist, for the Lord Jesus refers to this time (of the Great Tribulation) in His Olivet discourse in Matt 24v15-21, 2Thess 2v1-12. However, there was also a fulfilment of Dan 11v21-31 by Antiochus Epiphanes, who is the 5th head of the Beast and so we have the 7th head of the Beast (the Antichrist) coming out of the 5th head that is Syria. Dan 8v9.

The Revelation Of The Great Tribulation In Dan 12

The warning of the future holocaust for the world and Israel

The angel reveals that the Great Tribulation will start when Michael "stands up;" this is the future expulsion of Satan and his angels out of the heavenly places by Michael and his angels at the start of the Great Tribulation, which is also described in Rev 12v7-12. Jesus also quoted this prophecy of Daniel, when He warned us about the Great Tribulation in Matt 24v21,29, the angel in Dan 12v6,7, warns that this tribulation will last for 3½ years. Daniel was told twice that the words of the prophecy were to be "closed up and sealed until the time of the end." Dan 12v4,9. **The Holy Spirit comes to illuminate the Church and explain these prophecies at the time of the end.**

"Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Dan 12v4

The angel prophesies of an increase of travel and knowledge in the last days. What did he mean? Some have suggested that the prophecy in Dan 12v4 of people running to and fro and knowledge increasing was a prophecy of the increase of travel and knowledge that we see in the world today, and give this as a proof that we are in the last days, and there may be some truth in this. However, as this statement is made in the same verse as the instruction to seal the prophecy until

the last days, it has a specific reference to the knowledge of prophetic truth that was revealed to Daniel. This has been fulfilled in two ways in our day.

The excited diligent examination of prophetic truth

Firstly, there has been an excited and diligent perusal of prophecy in these last days by many Christians and Christian leaders. Many Christian expositors, some who lived long before our day, have stated that this would be a sign of the last days.

C. F. Keil says that in Dan 12v4, "many shall run to and fro," is used of going to and fro through a land in order to seek out or search, to go about spying, and is used in Zech 4v10, of the eyes of God; and states that it has the meaning "to search through, to examine, a book; not merely to "read industriously" (Hitzig, Ewald), but thoroughly to search into it (Gesenius)."

Other translators confirm this viewpoint, and say that "knowledge shall be increased," refers to the knowledge of prophecy in the last days. Leupold states, "Many shall diligently peruse it, and knowledge shall increase." Tregelles suggests it means, "Many shall scrutinise the book from end to end." Fausset writes, "Many shall scrutinise it, running through every page."

The eager travelling to seek and find truth

Secondly, many Christians have undertaken extensive travelling to find the answers regarding the interpretation of prophetic truth:

Bishop C. Wordsworth wrote on Dan 12v4, over 120 years ago, in his 1871 edition:

"Many shall run to and fro: Rather, many shall diligently seek after and eagerly peruse the words of this prophecy. The Hebrew word 'shut' here used, signifies to traverse the sea, as merchantmen do in ships, in order to visit distant lands, and find merchandise there. Cp. Zech 4v10, "The eyes of the Lord which run to and fro." 2Chron 16v9 and Amos 8v12, "They shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord." The consequence of this running to and fro is here expressed, 'knowledge shall be increased' in the 'latter days.' The world may boast of its own knowledge; but true knowledge can only be increased by diligent and eager perusal of God's Holy Word, especially of the prophetic Scriptures, in the latter days." End of quote.

In Dan 12v3, we are told, "And they that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." These are the words Jesus uses in Matt 13v43, "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father." Our Lord in His prophetic discourse to His apostles, says in Matt 24v45-47, "Who then is a faithful and WISE servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, that He shall make him ruler over all His goods." It is vital to know prophetic truth in these days, lack of a correct knowledge of prophetic truth can lead to apostasy. Matt 24v48-51. See also Luke 12v42-48. Some people and preachers feel that prophetic truth is the hobbyhorse of fanatics; our Lord took the very opposite viewpoint, He made it quite clear that the knowledge of prophetic truth is essential for survival in the last days. "Those who are wise" and tell the truth about these last days and illuminate and protect the Church with prophetic truth will receive our Lord's "Well done," and shine as the stars for ever. Dan 12v3, Matt 24v44-46, 25v1,14,21-23.

The Exposition Of Dan 11v21-12v13

The "vile person" who stands up in Dan 11v21, is referred to in Dan 7v8 as a "little horn" which comes up amongst ten horns (before the beginning of Daniel's 70th prophetic week), which Rev 17v12 says are ten kings, the "little horn" is the 7th head of the Beast, who is also the Antichrist (who is also the 8th head). The Antichrist is also called "the king of the North", that is north of Israel. The large armies that Antichrist have could not be mustered by either Syria (which at this present time is wracked by civil war) or Turkey in this present day, so we must look further north for the place from which Antichrist shall arise from. The only viable place is the countries that exist from the breakup of the old USSR, in particular Russia.

We shall find the 10 horns, which are 10 kings from the countries that made up the (old) USSR, the most powerful of which is the Russian Federation, the other 9 horns will be other countries around the Russian borders, especially those which contain large numbers of ethnic Russians, like Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan. The little horn comes up amongst the 10 horns would seem to indicate that as Russia is the most powerful of these countries, it is in Russia that the little horn comes from, he will hold supreme political and military power in Russia, a position that is now present in the presidency of Russia, which Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin (born 7th October 1952) holds at this time. Vladimir Putin in his times as President has vastly curtailed the freedoms that

the inhabitants of Russia briefly enjoyed after the collapse of the USSR. He is also an ex KGB officer having served in it for 16 years from 1975-1991 rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In 1991 he retired from it to enter politics in his native Saint Petersburg, he moved to Moscow in 1996 and joined President Boris Yeltsin's administration where he rose quickly, becoming Acting President on 31st December 1999 when Yeltsin resigned unexpectedly. Putin won the subsequent 2000 presidential election and was re-elected in 2004. Because of constitutionally mandated term limits, Putin was ineligible to run for a third consecutive presidential term in 2008. Dmitry Medvedev won the 2008 presidential election and appointed Putin as Prime Minister, beginning a period of so-called "tandemocracy". In September 2011, following a change in the law extending the presidential term from four years to six, Putin announced that he would seek a third, non-consecutive term as President in the 2012 presidential election, an announcement which led to large-scale protests in many Russian cities. He won the election in March 2012 and is (at present, 2014) serving a six-year term. Many of Putin's actions are regarded by the domestic opposition and foreign observers as undemocratic. The 2011 Democracy Index stated that Russia was in "a long process of regression [that] culminated in a move from a hybrid to an authoritarian regime" in view of Putin's candidacy and flawed parliamentary elections. So is it to Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin that we should look for the one will appear as a great peace maker but quickly will show his true character as a ruthless power hungry crazed dictator, who will be worse than Hitler and Stalin, who will break the covenant with Israel setting up his image in the Temple in Jerusalem in the middle of Daniel's 70th week, this is he who will be revealed as the Antichrist, the son of perdition? Dan 8v25, 9v27, 11v21-24, Matt 24v15-21, 2Thess 2v1-12, Rev 6v1-17, 8v1, 13 (all)

In Rev 13v11-18 Antichrist's "right-hand man" is described, he is referred to as "The False Prophet" (Rev 16v3, 19v20, 20v10), in Antichrist's presence he does mighty signs and wonders, even making fire come down from Heaven on earth in the sight of men. Matt 24v24, 2Thess 2v9,10, 2Tim 3v1-9. This was the very sign that Elijah did to prove that he was indeed a prophet sent by God, exercising mighty power and authority. 1Kings 18v1-46, 2Kings 1v1-18, 1Cor 1v22. The False Prophet will most probably arise out of Islam, and he will be an evil radical extremist cleric with not only a great evil desire for the occult but also one who wants not only religious but political power and position as well.

Antichrist, by setting up his image in the Temple in Jerusalem will claim to the Muslims that he is Allah and to the Jews that he is their Messiah and the False Prophet will claim that he is Muhammad to the Muslims and Elijah to the Jews. Jerusalem is the 2nd most holy site to Muslims after Mecca and with Antichrist setting up his image in the Temple in Jerusalem, Jerusalem will then become the centre of Islamic worship, not Mecca.

The Devil desires to do three things through Antichrist and his armies:

- 1) To be worshipped as God in Jerusalem, the place where the True God was worshipped. 2Thess 2v1-4.
- 2) He wants to smash up the Jews and the Christians. Matt 24v9, Dan 12v7.
- 3) And to destroy **ALL** of mankind. Matt 24v22, Rev 11v18.

The little horn appears as a great peace maker, but soon he shows his true character that he is simply using peace as a cover so that he might "go forth conquering and to conquer." Dan 8v25, 11v21-24, Rev 6v1,2. We are told that the 7th head comes out of the 5th head (Dan 8v9, 11v21), in other words, he arises out of Syria, and this is done by brokering a wide reaching peace treaty (covenant) with many nations (including Israel) in the middle east. Dan 9v27. The little horn having made this peace treaty will then bring into Syria a large Russian army under the pretext that it is required to keep the peace in Syria and the surrounding countries.

Having seized power in Syria, three of the ten kings rebel against him, however, he ruthlessly crushes this rebellion, with the result that all ten kings give their "power and strength" unto him. Dan 7v8, Rev 6v3,4, 17v13.

It is after the ten kings give him their power and strength (probably about half way through the first three and a half years of Daniel's 70th prophetic week) that he stirs up his power and courage against the king of the South (Egypt), this king is also stirred up against the king of the North with a great army, however, the king of the South is betrayed by persons within his own government and army, so that he is beaten by the king of the North. Dan 11v25,26.

After the war between Egypt and the king of the north, the king of the north returns to Russia with great wealth and riches and his heart is moved against the covenant that he had made with many nations including Israel, he then returns to Syria and then makes moves against Israel to attack it, however NATO forces stationed in Cyprus (Chittim) come against him and during this war he is killed and his soul descends into the Abyss, however, the Devil is given permission to raise him out from the dead, i.e. Satan will copy the Resurrection of Christ by God, this event will even take place at the Feast of Passover (this is the Passover that occurs midway through the 4th year of Daniel's 70th week). Having raised him from the dead the Devil will personally possess Antichrist giving him all of his evil spiritual and mental powers, energies and authority. Dan 8v24, 11v28-30, Rev 13v2,3,14, 17v8.

At this same time there is war in Heaven, Michael and his angels fight against the dragon and his angels, but there is no place found in Heaven for them with the result that the Devil and his evil angels are cast out of the heavenlies into the earth and at the same time God's restraining hand is removed from Satan and his evil angels. The Devil comes down into the earth with **GREAT** wrath and this marks the start of the Great Tribulation (**NOTE: The Great Tribulation is due to the great wrath of the Devil, it is NOT the wrath of God**), the last three and a half years of the Age of Grace. The Devil then proceeds to put his evil plan (the Mystery of Iniquity) into full effect, which is to smash and destroy the world and mankind. Dan 12v1, Matt 24v15-22, 2Thess 2v1-12, Rev 7v14, 12v7-12.

Antichrist being personally possessed by the Devil, will perform great lying signs, wonders and miracles (to deceive, if possible, even the elect), the False Prophet will even call fire down from Heaven upon the earth in the sight of men, the very sign that the Two Witnesses and Elijah did to prove that they were sent by God. 1Kings 18v1-40, Matt 24v24, 2Thess 2v9, 2Tim 3v8, Rev 13v13.

With Antichrist being openly raised from the dead to all the watching world, all those in the world who's names have not be written in the Lamb's Book of Life from the foundation of the world will worship the Devil and Antichrist and follow him (this will be especially true of those who live in the countries under the control of Antichrist). Antichrist, having been raised from the dead will order his army to march against Israel, rapidly taking Jerusalem and placing in the Holy of Holies in the Temple, the Abomination of Desolation, even as the Lord Jesus said he would. The False Prophet will have an image of Antichrist made from some kind of precious metal and will then cause it to live and speak and cause as many who do not bow down and worship the image of the beast to be killed. All the peoples in the countries under Antichrist's control if they wish to buy and sell (i.e. to simply exist) will have to take the mark of the Beast on their forehead or right hand. Matt 24v15-21, Dan 9v27, 11v31, Rev 13v3,4,8.

The setting up by Antichrist of the abomination of desolation in the Holy of Holies in the Temple in Jerusalem marks the beginning of the last three and a half years of this Age (of Grace) and is referred to as "the Great Tribulation" and "Jacob's Trouble." In Rev 7v14 'great tribulation,' should read, 'the tribulation, the great one,' Greek, 'tes thlipseos tes megales.' It is an emphatic phrase which calls attention to the adjective 'great,' rather than the noun 'tribulation,' the same construction occurs in the references to 'the city, the great one,' (in reference to Jerusalem) Greek, 'tes poleos tes megales,' in Rev 11v8, 14v8, 16v19, 17v18, 18v10,16,18,19,21. This 'great tribulation,' is not the 'much tribulation' spoken of in Acts 14v22, which all Christians can expect, it is the terrible time of world-wide distress which Jesus warned us about in Matt 24v15-21, Dan 12v1, Jer 30v7, Mark 13v14,19,24.

Once again I mention that it should be noted that the Great Tribulation is **NOT** the wrath of God (Please see Appendix 8), **BUT** the wrath of Satan, because once he has been cast out of the heavenlies into the earth he knows that his time upon earth is short, for at Christ's Second Coming his evil angels are put into the Lake of Fire and he is put into the Abyss for a thousand years. As the Great Tribulation progresses the wrath of the Devil increases. Matt 25v41, Rev 12v12, 20v1-3.

The opening of the fourth seal, Rev 6v7-8, corresponds to the beginning of the Great Tribulation. At this seal there emerges a pale horse, the Greek word "chloros," means a yellowish green, and is the word from which "chlorine" is derived. Death is seated upon this horse and Hades follows. Death reaps and Hades garners, a terrible picture of the most dreadful slaughter that the world has ever known. Multitudes die in the wars and purges that Antichrist starts to further his design for conquest and worship. This seal can be no other than the time of Great Tribulation that the Lord Jesus warned us about. Matt 24v21,22,29-31. Dan 11v44, 12v1,6,7, Rev 13v5. Death and Hades have power over the fourth part of the earth, this shows that there will be very wide-spread war around the Middle East, that will have its effects on a large part of the world. We know that Antichrist loses some battles earlier in his career and does not achieve total victory in the Middle East until a few days before the end of the Great Tribulation.

The main area of conflict during the Great Tribulation will be in the Middle East and Israel, this is why it is called "the time of Jacob's trouble." Jer 30v7. The fourth seal gives a ghastly picture of death, bloodshed and horror. Antichrist will excuse the carnage and distress he causes with the usual dishonest and deceitful political excuses that are made by megalomaniacs like Hitler and Stalin. The result will be a travail and sorrow that effects much of the world. **Most people have thought that Satan's way of selfishness and greed is the way to Utopia, the Great Tribulation will prove that this is not true.** God allows Satan to fulfil his desires and plans for 42 months, and the world experiences death, destruction and Armageddon. Antichrist is the embodiment of evil and Satanic power, and will cause even greater carnage, death, and destruction than those two other arch villains, Hitler and Stalin. God allows the fruits of men's evil ways to come upon them to prove to all, that the way of the transgressor is very hard indeed. Ezek 14v21.

With Satan and his evil angels being cast down into the earth and the resultant great wrath of the Devil, he goes forth and through Antichrist fulfils his evil desires to kill every Christian that he can and also goes about destroying the Jewish nation for such is his great hatred of not only the Church but also of Israel, God's people according to the flesh. However, during the Great Tribulation a new authority is given to the Church by God to deal with this great evil from the Devil, Antichrist, his followers and the wicked. There will not only be great power and authority in acts of deliverance, mercy and healings, but also God is going to let the wicked know that He is not only a God of love and mercy but also a God of

righteous judgement as well, and so He will give power and authority to the Church for acts of judgement and discipline (through the gifts of the Holy Spirit and angelic ministry) upon the wicked, He will also bring judgement and discipline upon the wicked directly in response to the prayers of the suffering saints upon earth and the martyred saints in Heaven through the seven trumpets and seven vials. **(See Appendix 3: Looking For And Hastening The Coming Of The Day Of God and Appendix 8: The Seven Trumpets And The Seven Vials)** Dan 7v25, 11v32,33,35, 12v7, Zech 12v8, Luke 18v1-8, Rev 6v9-11, 8v2-6, 11v3-6, 12v10, 13v5,7,10, 16v1-21.

With Satan and his evil angels being cast out of the heavenlies into the earth and God's restraint being removed from thereof so that the mystery of iniquity works fully at the start of the Great Tribulation, "they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men" (Dan 2v43). This is a reference to the "nephilim" and "rephaim" that the Lord Jesus was referring to when He said "As it was in the days of Noah" in Luke 17v26. A major cause of lawlessness will be a greed, which results in escalating crime and violence on a world scale, just as in Noah's day, when every thought of men was only evil continually, and violence filled the whole earth. Gen 6v5-13. This moral degeneration was also caused by evil spirits infiltrating mankind by taking upon themselves giant fleshly bodies, which though outwardly similar to human bodies were basically different (genetically) from those of mankind. 1Pet 3v19,20, Jude v6. These were the "giants" of Scripture, these giants are called: The Nephilim, Gen 6v4, Numb 13v32,33. The Anakim, Deut 1v28, 2v10,11,21, 3v11,13, 9v2, Josh 11v21,22, 14v12-14. The Emims, Deut 2v10,11. The Zamzummins, Deut 2v19-21. The Rephaim, Deut 2v11,20, 3v11,13, Josh 12v4, 13v12, 15v8, 18v16, 2Sam 21v16,18,20,22, 1Chron 20v4,6,8. The valley of the giants, Josh 15v8, 18v16. etc. Goliath and his compatriots were evil angels in flesh, the sons of the giant. 2Sam 21v15-22. The children that were born to the giants did not have souls and spirits given to them by God, they became the abode of evil spirits, these products of Satan's biological engineering will not be resurrected, for in Isaiah 26v14, we read the "dead," who are "deceased" (Hebrew is "rephaim" (OT: 7496) "giants") will not be resurrected by God. It is when Michael and his angels cast the Devil and his angels out of Heaven into the earth, and God's restraining hand is removed from the Devil and his evil hosts, that the Great Tribulation then ensues, with the result that these evil angels that have been cast down into the earth will again mingle with the seed of men ("daughters of men," Gen 6v2), which will result in giants once again upon the earth. Dan 2v43, 2Thess 2v1-12, Rev 12v7-17. **(Please see Appendix 4: Behold a pale horse)**

(NOTE: Gen 6v12 states "...all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.")

It does **NOT** say that man was "born astray" or "born in sin" **BUT that man corrupted him own way!** This is exactly the same Truth that the prophet Isaiah states in Isaiah 53v6 which says **"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way..."** Man sins because he wants to NOT because he has to! Ezek 18 (all))

The Lord Jesus warns Christians in Jerusalem and the surrounding area that as soon as they see the abomination of desolation in the Holy of Holies in Jerusalem they are to flee to a place of safety, even as the Christians fled to Pella in 70 AD when the Romans surrounded Jerusalem just before they completely destroyed it, for then there will be a great persecution of Christians by Antichrist and his followers. Dan 7v25, Matt 24v7, Luke 17v34-36, 21v20-24, Rev 13v7,10. These Christians will find that place of safety in Ammon, Moab and Edom (which are part of modern day Jordan) for Dan 11v41 tells us that these areas are not taken by Antichrist, indeed, when these Christians flee to this place of safety, many by supernatural means, Antichrist sends an army after them to kill them, but the earth helps them and swallows this army up, thus protecting these Christians, who have fled from Jerusalem. This group of Christians who flee from Jerusalem is represented by the glorious woman of Rev 12v1. Matt 24v15-21, Luke 17v31, Rev 12v6,13,14. **(Please see Appendix 5: The Glorious Woman. Rev 12v1)**

With the "mystery of iniquity" working fully during the Great Tribulation, by the Devil putting his plans and purposes into full operation through Antichrist to kill as many people as he can and destroy as much of the world as he can, Antichrist goes full out in his attempt to conquer all nations for world domination. However, Egypt again attacks him, but this time Antichrist crushes not only the king of the south but all the countries far and wide around the middle east.

Dan 11v32-35, 12v3,4,10 informs us that there will be a great increase in interest in last day prophetic truth with the result that Christians who have this truth firmly fixed in their souls, minds and spirits will go to great lengths to pass on and instruct others in this truth, for what we believe about end time prophecy is critical to whether or not we come through the Great Tribulation with an overcoming faith so that we are able to stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ and receive white robes. **(Please see Appendix 9: The Spiritual Qualities That Make Up The Character Of The Overcomer)** Our perception of last day prophetic truth will decide the spiritual equipment that we will believe for and receive, for they are inseparable linked! The ministering of truth by these Christians to those seeking it will bring vast numbers into the Eternal Kingdom during the Great Tribulation. Many of these Christians in the countries under Antichrist's control will pay dearly with their lives for passing on this truth to those seeking it. One of the divine purposes for this suffering will be for the refining and purification of the saints. Rom 5v1-5, James 1v2-4,12, 2Peter 1v19, Rev 7v9-17. **(Please see Appendix 6: Oil For Our Lamps!)**

Dan 11v37,38 states: "Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not

shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things."

Antichrist (who is not only the 7th head of the Beast, but the 8th as well), personally possessed by the Devil demands, as he sits in the Temple in Jerusalem, the worship and adoration of all, and those who refuse to do so are immediately executed. He arrogantly speaks against the God of Heaven, the One True God. Being possessed by the Devil, Antichrist revels in the great evil spiritual and intellectual energies and powers that he experiences by being so, hence the desire for any kind of (sexual or emotional) relationship with a woman is considered beggarly to him and so he has no appetite for it. Secretly he will worship and honour "the god of fortresses" and this seems to be referring to the Devil, whom he is possessed by. Satan has given Antichrist all of his great mental and intellectual abilities (as well as his evil spiritual energies) to aid him in his conquests over all the countries that he wages war against so enabling him to enlarge his territories, hence Antichrist will worship the Devil and offer onto him (as acts of worship) large amounts of wealth made up of gold, silver and other precious items. Dan 7v25, 8v24, John 17v3, 2Thess 2v1-12, 1John 5v20, Rev 13v2,15.

As the Great Tribulation progresses, Antichrist hears "tidings out of the east and out of the north" (Dan 11v44) that trouble him, the tidings out of the east is most lightly referring to the great army of 200 millions of the kings of the east that is referred to in the 6th Trumpet and 6th vial. The tidings out of the north is referring to some kind of political trouble back in Russia, in all likelihood an attempted coup.

The Sixth Trumpet: Rev 9v13-21

This trumpet lasts for 13 months, and during this time appalling bloodshed and destruction is caused by a great army of 200,000,000. Rev 9v15,16. This is an earthly army, not an angelic one, and it is composed of the kings of the East who make their way to fight in the Middle East in the last months of the Great Tribulation. This is also referred to in the sixth Vial, which states that these armies are gathered for destruction at Armageddon. Rev 16v12-14, 9v14. The slow progress of this army to the Middle East indicates that great battles take place on the way to the Middle East. A third part of mankind are said to be killed by this army, some of these deaths could be through war and pillage in the lands which this army conquers, as it goes to the Middle East. There is a perfect description of the killing agents now used in modern warfare, heads that roar like lions, obviously speaks of guns on tanks, or armoured gun carriers; smoke clearly refers to the use of poison gas, or nerve gas; and brimstone, obviously refers to exploding shells, napalm, or fire storm weapons. Rev 9v17-21. What an horrific picture! It bodes ill for all the nations through which this army passes. One is greatly concerned for Christian communities in South Korea and elsewhere, who will be faced up with this army. There is an urgent need for Christian leaders in these countries to seek for power judgement gifts, like those of the two witnesses, in order to protect the Christians in their care.

Most of the details about the seven trumpets can be taken literally, however, it is impossible at this time to exactly apply some of the details. However, if we are alive when the trumpets sound, we will recognise the fulfilment of them, and we will realise that what is happening is under the direct control of God and brought to pass in His will. So while the worldling will be full of fear at the events that are happening, instructed Christians will have peace in their hearts. Luke 21v25-27. The tragedy is that even the calamities of these days will not make men who love evil repent. **How terrible is the hardening power of sin.** Rev 9v20,21. There is a real connection between idolatry and immorality, the idolater really worships demons. Deut 32v17, 1Cor 10v20.

The Sixth Vial: Rev 16v12-16

The drying up of the river Euphrates for the armies of the kings of the East

The drying up of the river Euphrates allows the armies of Antichrist to be gathered from the East to Armageddon for destruction at the great last day. Antichrist gathers His armies in order to win the battle with the nations who oppose him. It seems that God dries up the Euphrates to make it easier for these armies to be gathered to Armageddon for destruction. In Rev 9v13-21., we see that the sixth Trumpet is also linked with the river Euphrates, and the movement of a vast army of 200 million, but the sixth Trumpet starts 13 months before the end of the Great Tribulation, and this is many months earlier than any of the Vials, never mind the sixth Vial. It is obvious, therefore, that this army has spent much of those 13 months subduing the armies and nations in its path, and that it does not arrive in Palestine until around the sixth vial. Isaiah 11v15,16, 10v20-22. Satan persuades these armies to come to fight for Antichrist by means of three false prophets, who do mighty signs and lying wonders through the power of three unclean spirits. Rev 16v13,14, 2Thess 2v7-12. The Two Witnesses do wonders that lead people to the true and living God, Satan does lying wonders to deceive and destroy mankind. There is no time in Church history when God's wonders are more needed than today, and in the final days of this age.

Here, almost at the end of the Great Tribulation, our Lord warns Christians to be watchful

The argument that the Church is already raptured by this time, is refuted by Rev 16v15, which tells us that even as late as this, at the very end of the Great Tribulation, the Church is still on earth, and still waiting for the coming of Christ.

Jesus warns that he will come as a thief, and tells us to watch and be prepared, this warning would be pointless and incorrect if He had already returned. In 1Thess 5v2-4, Paul tells us that though the day of the Lord will come upon the world as a thief, we are not in darkness that it will overtake us as a thief. It will only come upon the backslidden Christian, and the sinner as a thief, the world will not be expecting His return. Some think that this keeping of garments is a reference to the inspection of the temple guard by the captain of the guard, anyone who was found asleep on duty was beaten, or had their garments set on fire. The coming as a thief, certainly does not refer to a secret rapture, for Peter tells us that when the Lord comes, "as a thief," the heavens will pass away with a great noise, the elements will melt with fervent heat, and the earth and its works will be burnt up, this is certainly not a secret rapture. 2Peter 3v10, Luke 12v39. For "garments," see Rom 13v11-14, 1Cor 3v15, 2Cor 7v1, Eph 4v20-24, 6v10-20, Col 3v8-14, James 1v27, 1Peter 1v13, 1John 2v28, Jude v23, Rev 3v3-5, 7v14, 19v7,8.

Armageddon: Rev 16v16

"Armageddon," is derived from "Har," "valley," and means the valley of Megiddo." There have been many battles upon the plain of Esdraelon before Megiddo, and probably all the conquerors of Palestine have fought on this plain. Joshua 12v21, Judges 4 to 8, 1Sam 31, 2Chron 35v20-27, Zech 12v11, Joel 3v2. When Jesus lived at Nazareth He was only a few miles from this plain, how He must have meditated as He looked upon this plain, and thought of the things that had happened in the past and would happen in the future. This is where Deborah gained a decisive victory over Sisera. Judges 5v19. Antichrist's armies defeat the armies of the West in a great battle at Armageddon a few days before our Lord's return. Armageddon is also the place where Antichrist's armies are destroyed by Jesus at His return. Ezek 39v2-4,11-16, Rev 16v14-16, 19v17-21.

Dan 11v45 states: "And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; **yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.**"

This is a wonderful comfort not only to Daniel, but **ALL** believers who love the Lord, for it makes clear that Antichrist will be dealt with by God and his evil wicked deeds will come to an abrupt halt at the Second Coming of Christ. Psalm 2 (all), Isaiah 42v13-17, 63v1-6, Dan 2v45, 7v26, 8v25, Rev 11v15-19, 14v9-11, 19v11-21.

The Lord Jesus refers to Dan 12v1 in Matt 24v21 (with Mark 13v9, Luke 21v20-24, Rev 17v16, 18 (all)), where He states: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." The Great Tribulation is also known as Jacob's Trouble (Jer 30v7), the time when the Jewish people experience their greatest holocaust, far greater than even what they experienced during WWII when 6,000,000 of them were killed by Hitler and the Nazis. Dan 8v24, Rev 12v7. There will also be a great persecution of Christians during the Great Tribulation, especially in the countries under the control of Antichrist, however, we see from Rev 7v9-17 that "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; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb... And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." John sees an innumerable multitude of Christians who have come through the Great Tribulation with a triumphant faith, they are worshipping before the throne in Heaven, and giving God all the glory for their victory. The people who say that there will be no Christians in the Great Tribulation must "take away" this part of the Revelation. Rev 22v19. To hear many people speak you would not think that God was able to look after His children in the Great Tribulation, but where sin abounds, grace does much more abound. These Christians "came out of the Great Tribulation" by either being martyred or coming through it with an overcoming faith. Note: to come "out of" (Greek "ek" (Strong's NT:1537) something "one" must first have been in it!

It is essential to remember that the Great Tribulation is not the result of God pouring out His wrath on the wicked. The Bible makes it quite clear that it is the direct result of the restraining hand of God being taken off the powers of darkness, and the consequent evil activities of Satan and Antichrist. Matt 24v15,21, 2Thess 2v7-12, Rev 12v7-12. The judgements of God are poured out on the earth, but they only fall on the wicked, God's people will be preserved from them as they have always been. Rev 9v4, Num 11v1-3,33, 16v49, Ezek 9v4-6, Rev 16v2,10. In Rev 7v9-17 God reveals the victory over evil that an innumerable number Christians will experience who are in the Great Tribulation. This vision will inspire them to be steadfast in those evil days, they know that if they are faithful, they will be waving palms before the throne in glory. **It is a wonderful comfort to know that the grace of God, and the blood of Christ, can give every Christian on earth who desires it, complete victory over the world, the flesh, the Devil, and the Great Tribulation.** Rev 7v10,14. Those who suffer with Him are glorified with Him, and God wipes every tear from their eyes, their precious Saviour shepherds ("poimanei," the future active indicative of "pomaino," to shepherd"), and leads and guides them for ever. Rev 7v17, Rom 8v17,18, 2Cor 4v17,18.

The angel, who is making known to Daniel what is noted in the Scripture of truth in Dan 12v2 refers to the 1st

Resurrection that occurs at Christ's Second Coming, it is also called by the Lord Jesus "the resurrection of life." Isaiah 26v19, Ezek 37v1-28, John 5v29. At this resurrection both Israel and the Church are raised from the dead and judged, the Christians who are alive (at the Second Coming) will also be changed and caught up to meet the Lord in the air with the resurrected saints, only a third of the Jews who are alive at Christ's Second Coming will stand with the resurrected OT saints to be judged by Him, for the other two thirds of the Jews are executed by Christ at His Second Coming for following Antichrist. Isaiah 66v20, Zech 13v8,9, 1Cor 15v50-56, 1Thess 4v13-18, Rev 7v1-8, 11v15-19, 14v1-5,9-11.

Daniel sees another two angels one of whom asks the man clothed in linen who was above the waters of the river: "...How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?" Dan 12v6. The "wonders" that the angel is referring to is all that has been referred to from Dan 11v31-45: the abomination of desolation being set up in the holy of holies in Jerusalem (and the daily sacrifices stopped), the Great Tribulation, the power of the holy people being completely shattered and the numerous terrible wars that occur during that period of time. The man clothed in linen answers thus in Dan 12v7: "...it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished." The phrase "time (singular), times (dual) and half a time" is the period of three and a half years and is the length of the Great Tribulation. This period of three and a half years is referred to in different ways in both the book of Daniel and The Revelation of Jesus Christ as 1260 days, 42 months and time, times and half a time. **God has done this to drive home to His people that He means exactly that, a period of three and a half years.**

The strong link between some of Daniel's prophecies and the Revelation is also confirmed by the fact that the period of 3½ years is mentioned several times in both books and in obviously related prophecies. Dan 7v25 9v27, 12v7 with Rev 11v2,3, 12v6,14, 13v5. The literal translation of "week" in Dan 9v27 is "seven," and from the context, this is seen to be seven years, which is divided into two periods of 3½ years. That it is a period of 3½ years is further confirmed by a comparison of Dan 12v6,7,11,12 and Rev 12v6,14.

These time periods prove that Rev 4v1 to 19v21, is dealing with the last 3½ years of this age

We can see from the number of times that the period of 3½ years is mentioned, that Rev 4v1 to 19v21, is concerned with this period of 3½ years. It is mentioned in Rev 11v2 and 13v5 as 42 months; in Rev 11v3 and 12v6 as 1260 days; and in Rev 12v4 as "a time, times, and half a time." Dan 12v6,7, 7v25, 9v27. There are no long periods of time mentioned in Rev 4v1 to 19v21. The longest period of time is covered by the seven seals, which reveal the career of Antichrist during the last seven years of this age. Chapters 4 and 5 of Revelation speak of events in Heaven just prior to these last seven years. The only other periods of time mentioned besides the 3½ years, are short periods of time. Rev 6v11, 8v1, 9v5,10,15, 11v14, 18v9,17.

The year for a day theory is complete nonsense

It is total folly to make a day mean a year, as some have done, for where God means a year, as in Rev 20v2-7, He says so. **God gave this period of 3½ years in three ways, days, months and years, to convince us that He means just what He has said.** Those who make 2Pet 3v8, Num 14v34 and Ezek 4v6, the excuse for a year for day theory, are twisting the Scriptures; and disqualify themselves from being taken as serious prophetic students; and prove that they cannot "correctly analyse the Word of truth." 2Tim 2v15. Their absurd theories make prophetic dating quite meaningless. In Num 14v34 and Ezek 4v6, the days are literal days, and the years are literal years, they are certainly not a principle of prophetic interpretation. In Num 14v34, God states a fact of judgement, not a principle of prophetic interpretation; the 40 days of unbelieving spying out of Canaan, received a judicial sentence of 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, and God's breach of promise. Num 13v17 to 14v45. In Ezek 4v6, Ezekiel's symbolic act brought to public notice the 430 years of past sin for which judgement was to come, and in 2Pet 3v8, Peter compares the many years of God's longsuffering with His tremendous judgements on the day of the Lord. If we apply the year for day theory to Rev 12v6,14, we have a period of 1260 years from Satan being cast out of the heavenly places and the heavens cleansed, to the return of Christ, which is clearly complete nonsense. People use this method of interpretation, so that they can twist the facts, for a symbolically interpreted prophecy, can be made to mean almost any thing they desire. Who decides which dates are symbolic and which are literal? We should accept the time periods God has given to us and not tamper with them. How do these people explain the "half hour" of Rev 8v1, and the "five months" and "thirteen months" of Rev 9v5,10,15? If we fail to interpret Scripture dates literally, we end in utter darkness. **Jesus interpreted these 3½ years of Daniel's prophecies literally as the other years in this prophecy, let us follow His example.** Dan 9v20-27, Matt 24v15-21.

Daniel then asks the question in Dan 12v8: "And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?" The Hebrew word for "the end of" is "'achariyth (akh-ar-eeth')" (Strong's OT:319) and means the last or end, hence, the future; also posterity, latter part or actual close. Daniel was asking what will the outcome of all this be, he wanted to know God's program for Israel beyond the tribulation period, especially in regards to the Temple in Jerusalem and the resurrection of Israel mentioned in Dan 12v2. The angel then answers in Dan 12v11: "And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days." As the Great Tribulation lasts 1260 days, with the Lord Jesus coming immediately after it, the 30 days runs into the Millennium Kingdom and during this 30 days the priests are purified and

purged so that they can minister in the Millennium Temple in Jerusalem, the Temple rebuilt and the daily sacrifices started again. Mal 3v1-3, Zech 14v16-21. The angel then stated in Dan 12v12: "Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days." This 75 days running into the Millennium Kingdom is the time it will take for the Lord Jesus to judge the faithful Old Testament saints who have been resurrected at the 1st Resurrection (along with the New Testament Church and the nations which are left) that is mentioned in Dan 12v2. The judgement of the Old Testament saints, the nations and the Church will **NOT** be rushed by the Trinity, it will be a completely open judgement so that everything: every thought, intent, imagination, motive and action of every individual will be seen by all, so that every mouth may be stopped. Dan 12v2, Matt 25v14-46, Rom 3v19, Rev 11v15-18.

The angel then finishes the conversation with Daniel by giving him wonderful comfort in Dan 12v13 by saying: "But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days." The angel was telling Daniel that he would sleep with his fathers and that Messiah would come in the flesh and make atonement for not only his sin, but the sin of the world so that he, along with both OT and NT saints, would be raised at the 1st Resurrection and enter into their inheritance in the Millennium Kingdom. Isaiah 53 (all), Ezek 37 (all), Dan 2v44, 7v13,14,27, 9v20-27, John 3v16, Rev 11v15-19, 20v6.

Appendix 1: The First Year Of Artaxerxes Longimanus Is 474 BC

The decree of Artaxerxes in his 20th year

Most prophetic students would consider that the decree of Artaxerxes in the 20th year of his reign in Neh 2v1, and Nehemiah's return to Jerusalem, fulfilled the start of the 490 years of prophecy that are mentioned in Dan 9v20-27. Some have put this decree at 445 BC; however historical evidence shows that 474 BC was the year of accession of Artaxerxes Longimanus to the throne, and 454 BC is his 20th year. It is difficult to make an accurate chronology of late Persian history, however, there are several important witnesses.

Thucydides vital evidence on the year of accession of Artaxerxes Longimanus

Thucydides gives crucial evidence on the year of accession of Artaxerxes Longimanus. Anstey writes on pages 291 and 292 of his book, "The Romance of Bible Chronology:" "The truth is, there are no authentic records of the late Persian period in existence. The method of measuring time by means of Olympiads was not adopted till more than 60 years after the death of Alexander the Great. It was not used in the Parian Chronicle. A Chronology was framed by Eratosthenes and Apollodorus, and all the known facts of past history were made to fit into it. Hence discrimination is needed to enable us to separate what is really certain from what is a matter of opinion and conjecture.

The one event which Thucydides does mention in his brief and hurried summary of this unwritten period, is the flight of Themistocles, and just here at this very point which he does touch the chronology of this period, he is in flat contradiction to Ptolemy's Canon. Writing of the year 471 BC, Thucydides says, Themistocles had been ostracised and was living at Argos. Lacedaemonians and Athenians sent officers to arrest him. He fled to the Corcyreans. They conveyed him to the neighbouring continent. The officers constantly enquired in which direction he had gone, and pursued him everywhere. He stopped at the house of Admetus the King of the Molossians, who protected him and would not give him up to his pursuers, though they pressed him to do so. And as Themistocles wanted to go to the King (of Persia), Admetus sent him on foot across the country to the sea at Pydna (which was in the Kingdom of Alexander). There he found a merchant vessel sailing to Ionia, in which he embarked. It was driven by a storm to Naxos, but at length he arrived at Ephesus. Themistocles then went up the country with one of the Persians who dwelt in the coast, and sent a letter to Artaxerxes the son of Xerxes, who had just succeeded to the throne." **End of quote.**

Anstey states that this shows that Ptolemy's Canon is in error, for according to Ptolemy's Canon, in 471 BC Xerxes was in the 15th year of his 21 year reign, after which Artabanus reigned 7 months, and then Artaxerxes Longimanus came to the throne; this would have made Artaxerxes only a boy of 14 in 471 BC, when Themistocles arrived in Persia, and according to Ptolemy, Artaxerxes Longimanus did not come to the throne until 464 BC, seven years later.

Anstey continues: "This event is dated in Ptolemy's Canon 7 years later than the time at which it occurred. No blame attaches to Ptolemy for this. He did the best he could with the materials at his disposal. But real blame does attach to the modern scholar, who refuses to recognise a proved error, and continues to regard as an infallible guide, a table of reigns, which as regards this part of the Persian period, is incapable of verification, suspect as to its source and false in its facts." Quote ends.

So we see that after Themistocles had been accused and convicted of treason in his own country, Thucydides records that Themistocles fled to Persia when Artaxerxes had but "lately come to the throne." Thucydides Book 1 Chapter 137. Thucydides was in the best position to know about Themistocles for they both lived in Athens, and Thucydides was born about the time, or just after Themistocles death. Thucydides also lived during the reign of Artaxerxes Longimanus, for we read in Neh 5v14 and 13v6 of the thirty second year of the reign of Artaxerxes Longimanus. According to Thucydides and

Diodorus, Artaxerxes reigned forty years; this would be from 474 to 434 BC: Usher would give a 51 year reign to Artaxerxes from 474 to 424 BC; whereas Clinton says he reigned from 464 to 424 BC.

Note on Themistocles

Themistocles was an Athenian statesman and general. He developed the harbour at Paraeus and increased the strength of the Athenian navy from seventy to about two hundred ships to prepare for the threatened invasion by the Persians. In the seventh year of his reign, Xerxes and his Persian army invaded Greece; Themistocles persuaded the Athenians to trust in their naval power and strategically directed the battle at Salamis, and Xerxes was defeated; and Themistocles became a national hero. His success made him arrogant, and dangerous anti-Spartan intrigues caused him to be exiled for about five years. His intrigues against the Spartans continued, and the Spartans accused him of treason, and had him tried and convicted in his absence, in his own city of Athens, and obtained a sentence of death against him. Themistocles was forced to flee and after various adventures came to the court of the Persian king Artaxerxes Longimanus, and he was allowed to live in style at Magnesia until he died. The arrival of Themistocles at the court of Artaxerxes Longimanus, and the date of that arrival, is of critical importance in the study of the prophecy of the seventy sevens of Daniel 9v20-27, for it fixes the start of that prophecy.

Note on Thucydides

Thucydides has been called the first and best of impartial and scientific historians. The date and manner of his death is unknown. Anstey says Thucydides lived from 471 to 401 or 396 BC; others say 460 BC or earlier. Thucydides was an outstanding Greek historian; he was born in Athens and was a member of the aristocratic family that included the great general and statesman Miltiades, and was connected with the royal family of Thrace, where he had an estate and some gold mines. Thucydides caught the plague in the great pestilence, which raged in Athens from 430 to 427 BC and was fortunate to survive it. In 424 BC he was elected "strategos," a military magistrate and general, and was stationed in Thrace and was given command of the fleet in the Thraceward region. In 422 BC Thucydides failed to prevent the capture of the important Thracian city of Amphipolis, when the Spartan general Brasidas took it through a surprise attack in the middle of winter. Thucydides was recalled, tried, and sentenced to an exile, which lasted twenty years.

Thucydides spent most of the twenty years of his exile in Thrace and was there for the rest of the war. Thucydides, like John Bunyan, made valuable use of his exile, he spent his time writing, travelling and gathering material for his remarkable "History of the Peloponnesian War." He did not return to Athens until the Spartans took it in 404 BC and peace was made. In his "History of the Peloponnesian War," Thucydides gives an account of the war between Athens and Sparta, but failed to finish the work, stopping his account of the events in the middle of 411 BC; more than six and a half years before the end of the war. (431 to 404 BC). He describes events leading up to the war, and in books 2 to 8, the war itself.

Thucydides stood alone amongst the historians of his day for historical integrity. Most of the classical historians were often careless and inaccurate in their histories, but Thucydides was remarkable for his meticulous critical historical research. Thucydides complained that his predecessor Herodotus included too many "mythical" elements and that his primary reason for writing was to please his audience; he also complains that other historians were unclear in their chronology. Herodotus, 484 to 424 BC, Xenophon, about 430 to 437 BC; and Ctesias, 5th. century BC; all lacked the accuracy and integrity of Thucydides in their histories, as Thucydides said of these chroniclers, "They cared only for popularity and took no pains to make their narrative trustworthy." This contrasted greatly with his own searching scrutiny of historical materials and strict adherence to the facts. Thucydides writes, "'As to the deeds done in the war, I have not thought myself at liberty to record them on hearsay from the first informant or on arbitrary conjecture. My account rests either on personal knowledge or on the closest possible scrutiny of each statement made by others. The process of research was laborious, because conflicting accounts were given by those who had witnessed the several events, as partiality swayed or as memory served them."

Charon of Lampsacus

Was born 554 BC, and was still writing history in 464 BC (Suidas). Charon of Lampsacus, like Thucydides, said that the flight of Themistocles to the court of Artaxerxes Longimanus took place in 471 BC; Ptolemy's Canon said that he was not king until seven years later. Anstey states that it is a fact that Ptolemy's canon is contradicted by competent witnesses at various points.

Cornelius Nepos, about 100 AD

Was a Roman historian who lived about 100 AD, he was a friend of Cicero and Catullus. Twenty-five of his short lives of statesmen and warriors have survived in his "De Viris Illustribus." He deals mainly with Greeks. Nepos supports Thucydides, he wrote: "I know that most historians have related that Themistocles went over into Asia in the reign of Xerxes, but I give credence to Thucydides in preference to others, because he, of all those who have left records of that period, was nearest in point of time to Themistocles, and was of the same city. Thucydides says that he went to

Artaxerxes." **End of quote.** Nepos, Themistocles, Chapter 9.

Plutarch, 46 to 120 AD

The Greek historian and philosopher Plutarch is famous for the literary beauty of his parallel biographies of great Greeks and Romans, in which he matched one against the other. The translations of these "Lives," by Thomas North became a source of some of Shakespeare's plays. Plutarch writes: - "Thucydides and Charon of Lampsacus, say that Xerxes was dead, and that Themistocles had an interview with his son, Artaxerxes; but Ephorus, Dinon, Clitarchus, Heraclides and many others, write that he came to Xerxes. The chronological tables better agree with the account of Thucydides." Them. c. 27. **End of quote.**

Diodorus the Sicilian, of the 1st century AD

The Greek historian Diodorus places the death of Themistocles in 471 BC. It is reported that after his arrival in Persia, Themistocles asked for his audience with Artaxerxes to be postponed for a year in order to learn the Persian language, so that he could communicate with Artaxerxes in the Persian language.

Jerome, 340 to 420 AD

Jerome translated into Latin the Greek "Chronicon" of Eusebius, only fragments of the Greek manuscript exist, but Jerome's translation is still extant. Eusebius was the first one to adopt reckoning chronological events by the hypothetical era of the Greek Olympiads, (four year periods beginning in 776 BC); and he, unfortunately, adapted historical events to his Chronology, instead of adapting his Chronology to events. The Chronology of Eusebius has been followed by all kinds of authors and determined the Chronology in Western Europe, till the time of Bede, and since, up to almost the present day. Eusebius puts the arrival of Themistocles in the fourth year of the 76th Olympiad (76 times 4 = 304 taken from 776 = 472. So in the fourth year would be 473 to 472 BC.

James Ussher, 1581 to 1656 AD

Ussher was born in Dublin, and educated in Trinity College. He took holy orders in 1601 and in 1607 became Professor of Divinity at Trinity College, Dublin. In 1625 he became Archbishop of Armagh, purely on merit, and in 1634 Primate of all Ireland. Ussher was a great scholar, after a life-time of study he felt the evidence dictated that Artaxerxes Longimanus came to the throne in 474 BC; and as do other leading chronologers; Petavius, Vitringa 1659-1722. Ernst Wm. Hengstenberg, 1802-1869; writes in his "Christology of the Old Testament," Vol. 2, page 395: "Kreuger--- places the death of Xerxes in the year 474 or 473, and the flight of Themistocles a year later." Ussher is one of several authorities who put the arrival of Themistocles in Persia in about 473 BC, when as Thucydides records, Artaxerxes Longimanus had but "lately come to the throne."

Bishop William Lloyd took Ussher's Chronological dates and put them in the margins of his Lloyd's Bible, however he altered Ussher's date of the 20th year of Artaxerxes Longimanus in Nehemiah 2v1, from 454 BC to 445 BC.

S P Tregelles

Writes an instructive footnote on page 100 and 101 of his "Remarks on the Prophetic Visions in the Book of Daniel."

"On the 20th of Artaxerxes: Some have found a difficulty in making out the chronology of the seventy weeks, because they have thought that the time from the 20th of Artaxerxes to the crucifixion of our Lord would not fully accord with that marked out in the prophecy. If it had been so, it need have surprised no one; whatever be the result of the chronological calculations, the word of God is the same; we know that it is certain, and everything else must bend to it. But here I believe the difficulty to be wholly imaginary. It is true that we may find some from the date printed in the margin of our Bibles; but the history of this date, as it here stands, is rather curious. Archbishop Ussher drew up a scheme of Chronology, which is commonly followed, rather from convenience than from its absolute correctness being supposed. About a hundred and fifty years ago Bishop Lloyd undertook to affix Archbishop Ussher's dates to our English Bibles; but IN THIS INSTANCE, he made a considerable alteration and substituted another date of his own, so as to adapt the reign of Artaxerxes to his own theory.

The date which stands in our Bibles for the 20th year of Artaxerxes is 446 BC - this makes the commencement of his reign 465 BC; but the authority of the best and most nearly contemporary historian will put the matter in a very different light. Thucydides mentions that the accession of Artaxerxes had taken place before the flight of Themistocles; this authorises us to adopt Ussher's date and place the commencement of the reign 473 or 474 BC. This would give the date of 454 or 455 BC If we add to this the date of the crucifixion it will give us the exact period of the sixty-nine weeks. In doing this we must remember that the birth of our Lord was about four years before the Common Era, so that the thirty-third year of His life, when He is supposed to have suffered, would correspond with the year twenty-nine of our reckoning. I believe

this to have been the true date; first because of the day of the week on which the Passover commenced in that year; and also, because of the consuls of that year (the two Gemini) having been mentioned by several writers as those of the year when our Lord was put to death.

This remark does not affect the instruction given us by God in this chapter; it is a point, which I only notice for the removal of difficulties.

It is a great pity that Archbishop Ussher's date should in this particular case have been misrepresented: it was a point to which he had paid particular attention. About the year 1613 he lectured on the subject at Trinity College, Dublin, resting on the testimony of Thucydides. He then discussed difficulties connected with the supposed length of the reigns of Darius and Xerxes so as to adapt other events to this certain date. From October 1615 he corresponded at various times on the point with Thomas Lydiat (the scholar most familiar with such subjects of any in England), until 1643; and in 1650, after thirty-seven years of minute consideration, he published the result in his '*Annales Veritis Testamenti*,' where the date is 3531. This answers in Ussher's '*Collatio Annorum*' to 474 BC, or the third year of the seventy-sixth Olympiad. His judgement in 1613 seems to have been doubtful; but in 1617 he says, 'These things being laid together do show, that the expulsion of Themistocles from Athens fell no later than the beginning of the fourth year of the seventy-sixth Olympiad; to which time you (i.e. Lydiat) doubtfully refer the beginning of his troubles; how much sooner so ever, my opinion is, that at that time Themistocles fled into Persia, as Eusebius noteth, whose testimony I have no reason to discredit, unless I have some better testimony or reason to oppose against it. The year before that, which is the third of the seventy-sixth Olympiad, I suppose Artaxerxes Longimanus to have begun his reign: to whom as yet '*neosti basileuonta*,' Themistocles fled, as Thucydides sufficiently proveth.' (Works, 15, p. 11). Ussher in thus laying down this date had no motive for bringing the space of 483 years from the 20th of Artaxerxes to 29 AD; for his division of the seventy Heptads differs from mine, and he did not regard 29 AD as the date of the crucifixion of our Lord." **End of Tregelles quote.**

NB1: There is some evidence for a 51 year reign of Artaxerxes Longimanus

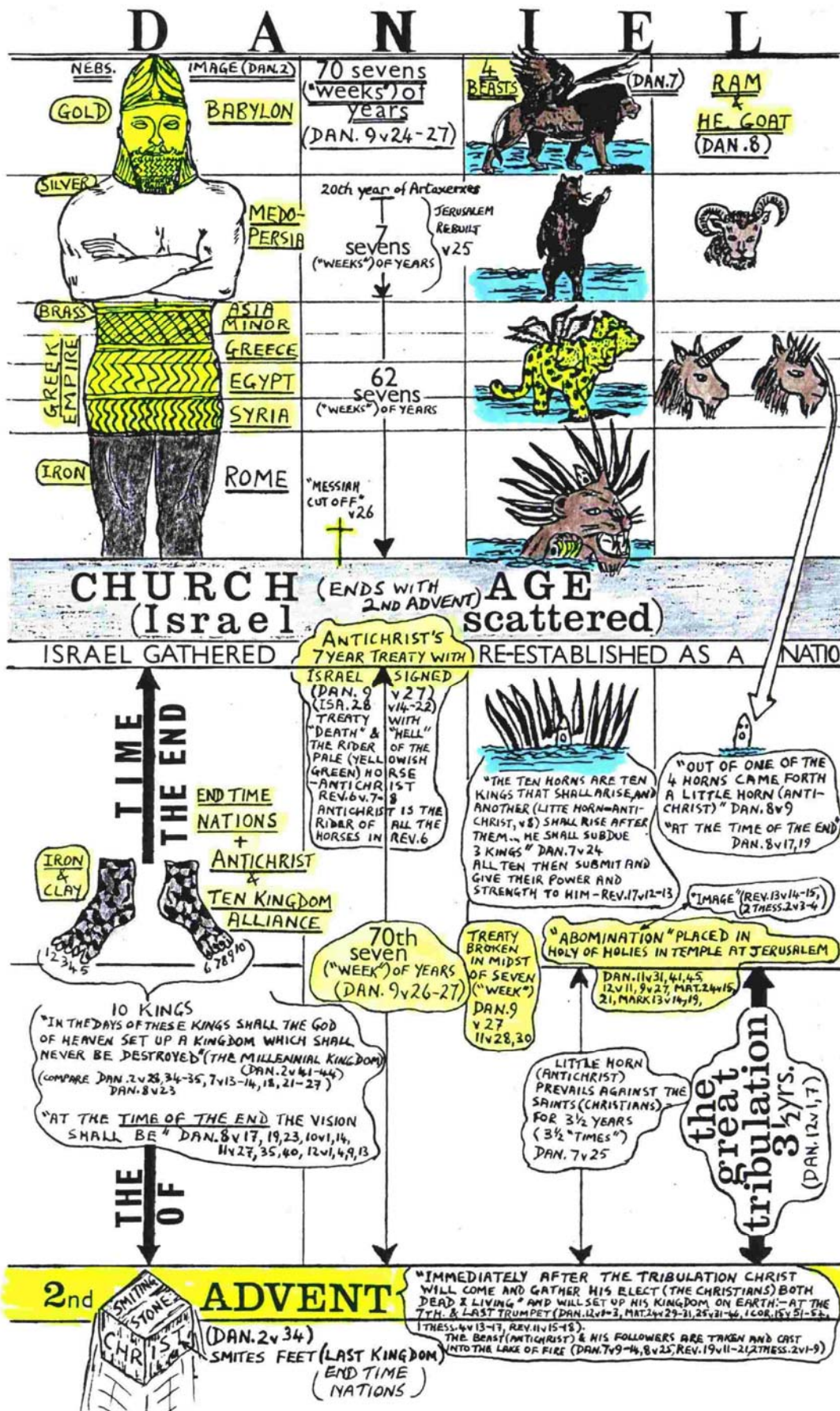
One cuneiform text, (reproduced by "The Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania, Series A: Cuneiform Texts," edited by H. V. Hilprecht, Vol. 8, Part 1, by Albert T. Clay, 1908, published by Department of Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania), is dated, "51st year, accession year, 12th month (of) Darius, king of lands." Darius 2nd succeeded Artaxerxes to the throne. This evidence is said to be "a scribal error," by some historians; who favour two other tablets, which they say refer to Artaxerxes "41st year, (and) accession year" of his successor Darius 2nd.

NB2: Xerxes appears to have been co-rex with Darius for some time before Darius died

The Father of Xerxes, Darius the Great, made it quite clear that of his son Xerxes was to be his successor. In a relief at Persepolis, Xerxes is seen standing by his father's throne, dressed in identical clothing to Darius, and with his head on the same level as the head of Darius. The Persian kings insisted that in the pictures represented on royal reliefs, the king's head was always higher than the head of all others on the relief. This suggests that Xerxes was not only the appointed successor of Darius but also was Co-Rex with Darius for some time before Darius died.

Historical evidence shows that Xerxes was selected as crown prince and viceroy of Babylon about 498 BC, and that a palace was completed for him in Babylon by about 496 BC. See pages 215 and 216 of A. T. Holmstead's, "History of the Persian Empire;" and pages 80 and 100 of William Cullican's, "Medes and Persians." Some think that the evidence for a reign of 21 years for Xerxes is inconclusive, one piece of "evidence," a papyrus text from Assuan in Egypt, has the date "year 21, the accession year of Artaxerxes;" however Xerxes is not mentioned. In any case a co-regency in 496 BC would give a reign of 22 years to 474 BC, which gives ample scope for the 21 year reign of Xerxes.

Appendix 2: Charts



J O H N

BABYLON (head No.1)

LION-BEAST

MEDO PERSIA (head No.2)

BEAR-BEAST

Greek
Empire

(head
No.3)

Asia Minor
Greece

Egypt (head No.4)

Syria (head No.5)

**LEOPARD
BEAST**

ROME (head No.6)

TEN-HORNED BEAST

*THE TEN HORNS ARE TEN KINGS THAT RECEIVE POWER AS KINGS A SHORT

SEASON WITH ANTICHRIST

CHURCH AGE

(Israel scattered)

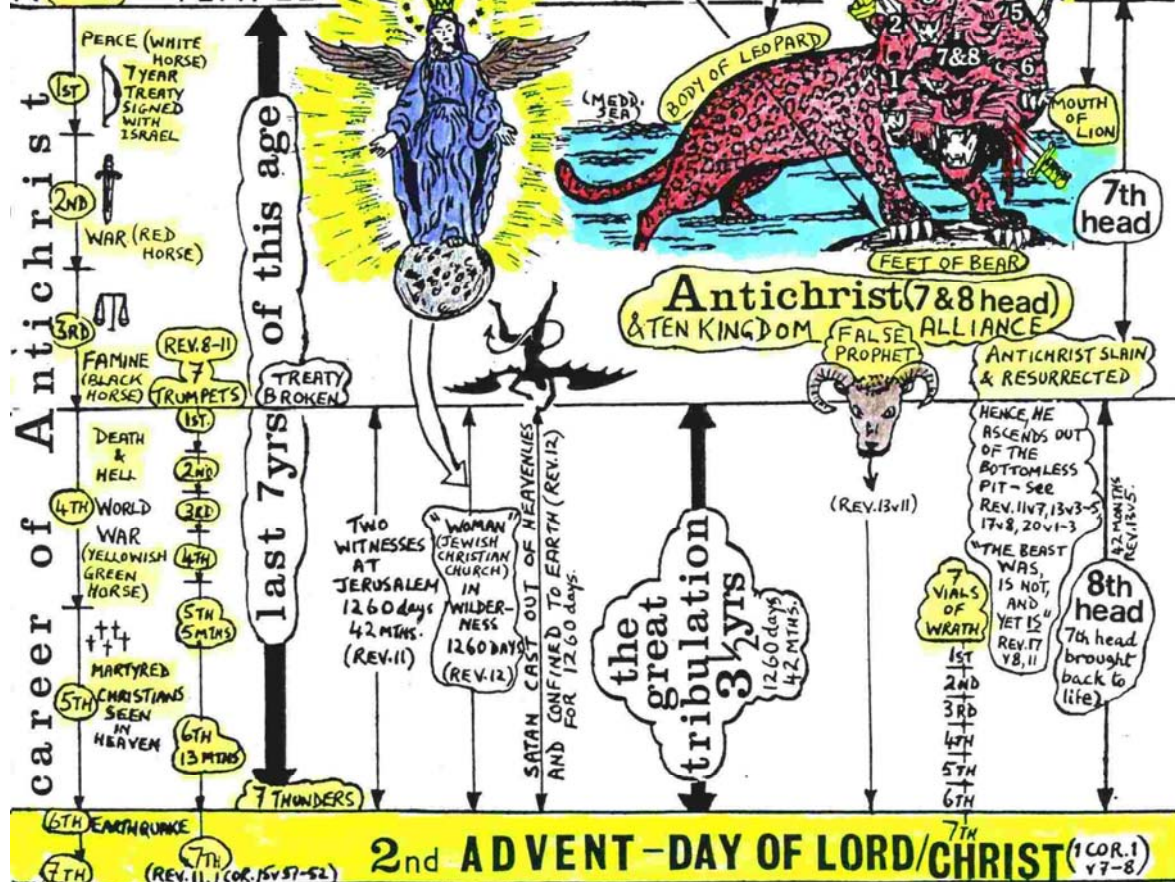
TEMPLE

REBUILT


REV. 5
(DAN. 12 v 4, 9)
BOOK WITH
7 SEALS

REV. 17 v 12-13
(DAN. 7 v 8, 20-27)

... ONE IS...
(ROME IN THE
TIME OF JOHN)
... THE OTHER IS
NOT YET COME
(ANTICHRIST) - HE
IS THE 8th AND IS OF
THE SEVEN




BABYLON (DAN. 7, 8, 11, 12)



MEDITERRANEAN "GREAT SEA"

(LION WITH EAGLE'S WINGS)


MEDOPERSIA (RAM)



(BEAR)

"GREAT SEA"

GREECE (HE-GOAT)




(LEOPARD 4 HEADS & WINGS)

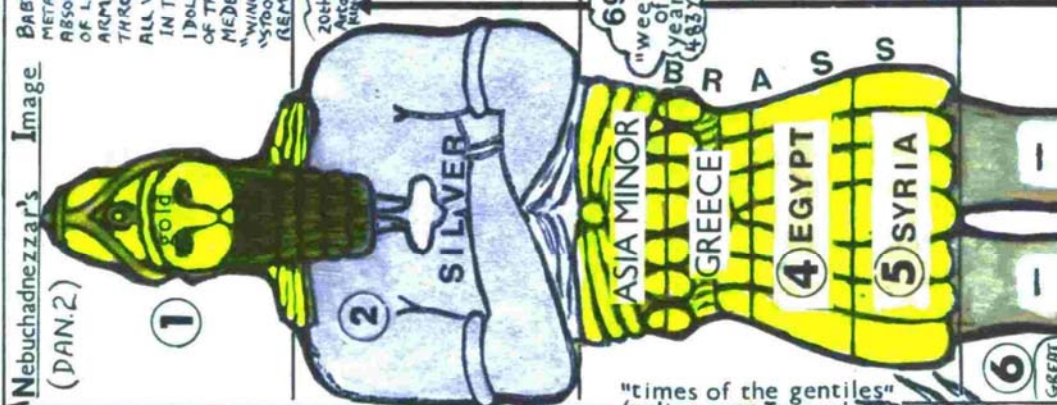
"GREAT SEA"

(HE-GOAT)

ROME (DREADFUL BEAST)



Nebuchadnezzar's Image (DAN. 2)



1 GOLD
2 SILVER
3 ASIA MINOR
4 EGYPT
5 SYRIA
6 GREAT

69 Weeks (483 Years)

20th year of Antiochus Epiphanes (Nab. 2:1-9) & his friends prospered in the reign of Cyrus & Darius who sought their counsel (DAN. 5:1-6). 6428 etc. see also DAN. 8:26, EZRA 4:1, etc. (MARGIN - "RAISED UP ONE DOMINION", i.e. ONE HALF OF KINGDOM BECAME STRONGER THAN THE OTHER - CYRUS THE PERSIAN WAS STRONGER THAN DARIUS THE Mede - ALSO SHOWN BY THE HORNS OF THE RAM ONE HORN BEING HIGHER THAN THE OTHER (DAN. 8:3, 20) RISE IN BEAR'S MOUTH - CONQUESTS IT IS DEVOURING. CHANGE FROM GOLD TO SILVER SHOWS A DETERIORATION IN GOVERNMENTAL POWER, FOR, UNLIKE NEBUCHADNEZZAR, DARIUS SHARED HIS POWER WITH 120 PRINCES, WHO MADE HIM CAST DANIEL INTO LIONS' DEN AGAINST HIS WILL (DAN. 6). JEWS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR OWN LAND, WHEN THE EMPIRE BECAME WICKED & SATAN WORE THE CROWN GOD DELIVERED IT INTO THE HANDS OF THE GRECIANS. AS HE HAD DONE WITH BABYLON.

REPRESENTED BY BRASS (MUCH INFERIOR TO GOLD & SILVER), LEOPARD (INFERIOR TO LION) WITH FOUR HEADS & FOUR WINGS, AND AN HE GOAT (SYMBOL OF IMPURITY AND OF THE WICKED, MAT. 23:31-36). MUCH IS SAID ABOUT "GREEK CULTURE" BUT IN FACT THEY HAD NO REGARD FOR THE GOD & WERE IDOLATROUS. THEY HAD MANY GODS - ZEUS, ATHENA, HERAKLES, MEDUSA, POSEIDON BEING A FOM. IDOLATRY IS AN ABOMINATION TO GOD. IT IS TRUE THAT GREECE ALLOWED THE SEEDS OF THEIR OWN "CULTURE" AND IDOLATRY AMONG THE PEOPLE (SATAN OFTEN USES INFILTRATION RATHER THAN FORCE); LATER ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES OF SYRIA TRIED TO WIPE OUT THE JEWISH RELIGION ALTOGETHER. THE EMPIRE WAS FINALLY DELIVERED TO THE ROMANS. THE HE GOAT WITH ONE HORN WAS ALEXANDER THE GREAT, AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS POWER (MAD 33) HE DIED. 4 OF HIS GENERALS SEIZED THE KINGDOM (HENCE 4 HORNS REPLACED THE ONE) WHICH WAS DIVIDED INTO 4 - GREECE, ASIA MINOR, EGYPT & SYRIA (HENCE THE LEOPARD KINGDOM IS SHOWN WITH 4 HEADS & 4 WINGS - 4 IN CONTROL). THE LEOPARD IS A SWIFT ANIMAL - WHICH SHOWS THE SPEED OF ALEXANDER'S CONQUESTS. ONE OF THE 4 DIVISIONS OF THE EMPIRE BECAME THE NEW KINGDOM OF EGYPT & ANOTHER THE NEW KINGDOM OF SYRIA - EACH IN TURN CONQUERED & RULED OVER JERUSALEM & PALESTINE (SO THEY ARE THE 4th & 5th HEADS OF THE BEAST). GREECE WAS A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP, ALEXANDER BEING DEPENDENT UPON HIS ARMY FOR HIS POWER, WHEREAS NEBUCH, WAS DEPENDENT ON GOD ALONE. THIS FURTHER CORRUPTION OF GOVERNMENTAL POWER IS SHOWN IN THE DESCENT FROM SILVER TO BRASS FOR GOD REGARDS BRASS AS THE "GROSS" OF SILVER (EZEK. 22:18, JER. 22:28-30).

IRON TEETH (STRONG TO DEVOUR - CONQUER) & NAILS OF BRASS (ALL OF WHICH SHOWS THE DREADFUL CHARACTER OF THIS OPPRESSING KINGDOM WHICH BROKE IN PIECES, TORE & STAMPEL UPON ALL THE EARTH AROUND THE MEDITERR.) THEY WERE IDOLATROUS & HAD MANY GODS. ROMAN EMPERORS WERE DEIFIED. IRON (ALSO REGARDED BY GOD AS THE "DROSS" OF SILVER - EZEK. 22:18) SHOWS A FURTHER DECLINE, FOR

BABYLON - HIGHEST OF ALL THE KINGDOMS - REPRESENTED AS FINE GOLD (MOST VALUABLE METAL, SEE LAM. 4:2), LION (KING OF BEASTS), EAGLE (KING OF BIRDS), NEBUCHADNEZZAR RULED WITH ABSOLUTE POWER AND WAS ANSWERABLE ONLY TO GOD, WHO DEALT WITH HIM WHEN HE STEPPED OUT OF LINE. HE HAD GOD'S PROPHETS AS HIS COUNSELLORS. HE WAS NOT DEPENDENT UPON HIS ARMY FOR HIS POWER FOR GOD GAVE HIM HIS KINGDOM AND IT WAS SECURE TO HIM EVEN THROUGHOUT HIS 7 YEARS OF MADNESS WHEN GOD WAS HUMBLING HIM. GOD DEALT WITH ALL WHO WOULD NOT SERVE HIM.

IN THE DAYS OF HIS GRANDSON BELSHAZZAR GOD & HIS PROPHETS WERE FORGOTTEN (DAN. 5:1), IDOLATRY, BLASPHEMY, DEMON WORSHIP AND THE SLAUGHTER OF GOD'S PEOPLE BECAME THE ORDER OF THE DAY - SATAN NOW WORE THE CROWN OF THE KINGDOM, SO GOD DELIVERED IT TO THE MEDES & PERSIANS. (DAN. 5:31).

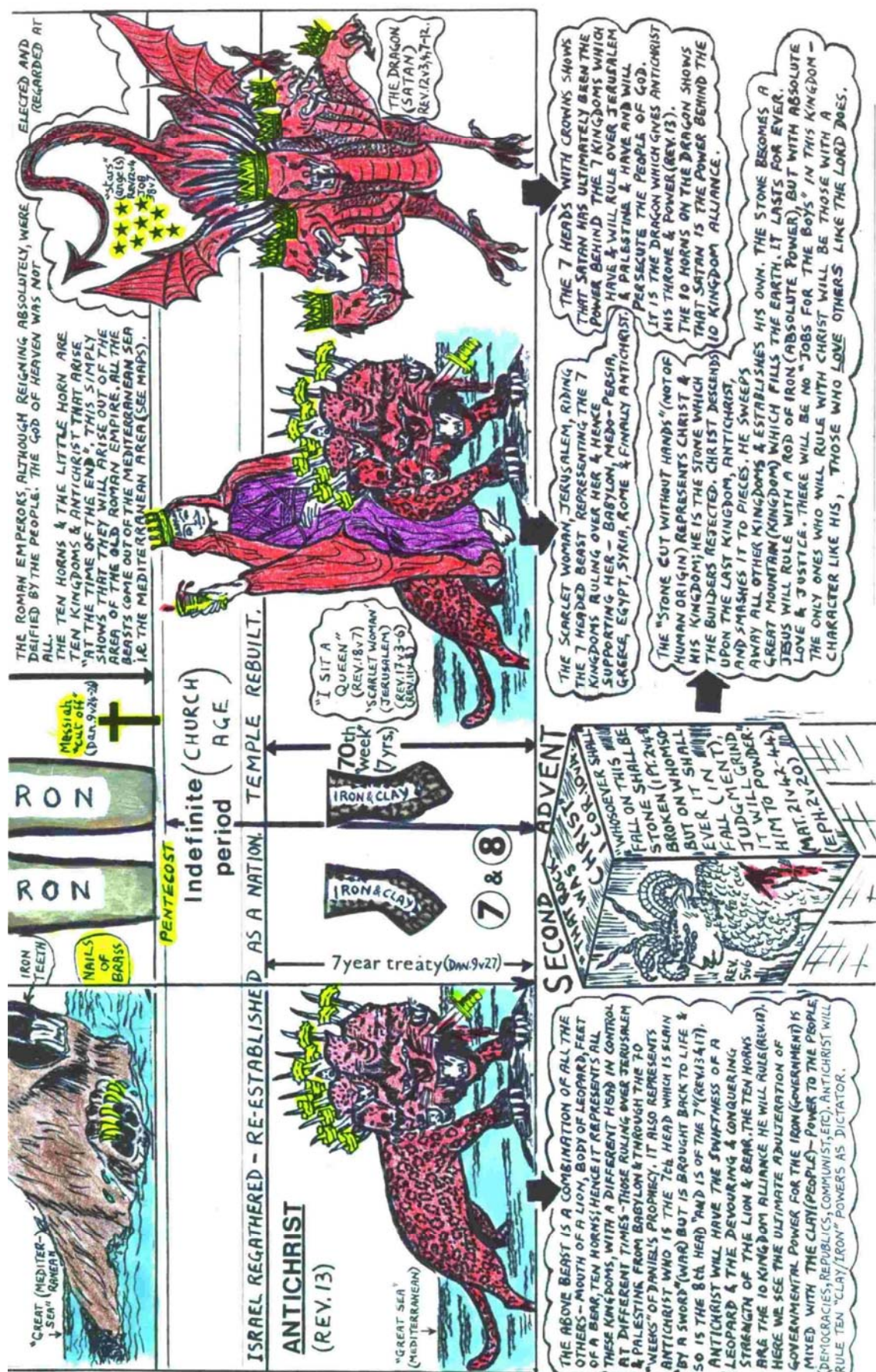
"WINGS PLUCKED OFF" (ABILITY TO CONQUER BROUGHT TO AN END). (DAN. 7:4). "STOOD UPON ITS FEET & GIVEN THE HEART OF A MAN" - SPEAKS OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S REMARKABLE CONVERSION - DAN. 7:4, 4:1-37.

20th year of Antiochus Epiphanes (Nab. 2:1-9) & his friends prospered in the reign of Cyrus & Darius who sought their counsel (DAN. 5:1-6). 6428 etc. see also DAN. 8:26, EZRA 4:1, etc. (MARGIN - "RAISED UP ONE DOMINION", i.e. ONE HALF OF KINGDOM BECAME STRONGER THAN THE OTHER - CYRUS THE PERSIAN WAS STRONGER THAN DARIUS THE Mede - ALSO SHOWN BY THE HORNS OF THE RAM ONE HORN BEING HIGHER THAN THE OTHER (DAN. 8:3, 20) RISE IN BEAR'S MOUTH - CONQUESTS IT IS DEVOURING. CHANGE FROM GOLD TO SILVER SHOWS A DETERIORATION IN GOVERNMENTAL POWER, FOR, UNLIKE NEBUCHADNEZZAR, DARIUS SHARED HIS POWER WITH 120 PRINCES, WHO MADE HIM CAST DANIEL INTO LIONS' DEN AGAINST HIS WILL (DAN. 6). JEWS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR OWN LAND, WHEN THE EMPIRE BECAME WICKED & SATAN WORE THE CROWN GOD DELIVERED IT INTO THE HANDS OF THE GRECIANS. AS HE HAD DONE WITH BABYLON.

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Appendix 3: Looking For And Hastening The Coming Of The Day Of God

It has been the consensus amongst Christians for many centuries that they individually or collectively can do absolutely nothing to hasten the coming of the day of God. However, it is the complete opposite that is true, 2Peter 3v12 states:

"Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?" (NKJV)

"Hastening" is in Greek, "speúdontas," the present active participle (accusative also) of "speúdo" (Strong's NT:4692), which means "to speed" i.e. urge on (diligently or earnestly); by implication, to await eagerly, (make, with) haste unto, to cause something to happen soon, to hurry up. Archbishop Trench, in his work "The Authorized Version of the New Testament" makes the following comment:

"...Hastening on;" i.e. "causing the day of the Lord to come more quickly by helping to fulfil those conditions without which it cannot come; that day being no day inexorably fixed, but one the arrival of which it is free to the church to hasten on by faith and by prayer."

Both "looking for" and "hastening" in the Greek are in the present continuous tense (active voice), which shows that each individual believer **MUST** keep praying (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336) and "entunchano" (Strong's NT:1793), **both of which have the meaning, "to make "interventions" (with power) so as to affect a change in the circumstances."**) and watching for the signs of the Lord's Second Coming to appear and to keep it up until He actually comes in great power and glory to destroy the wicked and to take His people home. Luke v17v20-18v8 (esp. 18v1), Luke 21v36 (RSV), Rev 5v1-14 (esp. v8), 8v2-6 (esp. v3,4).

With this in mind, each individual believer can by praying (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336) and "enteuxis" (Strong's NT:1783), which mean, "to make "interventions" (with power) so as to affect a change in the circumstances.") hasten the coming the day of God. The following seven **NBs** contain the thoughts and great desires that are upon God's heart at this present time that He is seeking His Church to pray ("proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336) and "entunchano" (Strong's NT:1793)) into being and so to quicken the coming of the day of God.

NB1: As the last seven years (the 70th week of Daniel's 70 week prophecy, Daniel 9v20-27) of this Age (the Age of Grace) rapidly approaches, especially the last three and a half years of this Age (the period known as The Great Tribulation, Dan 9v27, Matt 24v15-28, Rev 7v9-17), the Devil is busy endeavouring to put his evil servants into positions of power and authority; wicked people who will put the Devil's and Antichrist's evil plans into operation (which is to kill as many people (both believers and non-believers) and destroy as much as possible, before they themselves are destroyed at Christ's Second Coming by being consumed by the breath of His mouth, 2Thess 2v8). It is during the last three and a half years of this Age, that the Mystery of Lawlessness (the Devil's evil plan) will work fully; which will be the result of the Devil and his evil Angels being expelled from the Heavenly places by Michael and his Angels into the Earth, and God's restraint upon the Devil and the powers of darkness being completely removed, hence The Great Tribulation will begin, which should be pointed out is due to the "great wrath of the Devil, because he knows that he has a short time," and **NOT** the wrath of God. Rev 12v7-17 (esp. v 12), 2Thess 2v1-12.

The Devil will then proceed to put his evil plan (the Mystery of Lawlessness) into operation through Antichrist and other evil persons, whom he has put into positions of power and authority (Matt 4v8-10, Rev 13v1-10, 16v12-16), so it is **NOW** most vital, that we, the believers, are obedient to this most important injunction made by Paul in 1Timothy 2v1-8 (with Rom 13v1-7), to make "interventions" (with power) ("proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336) and "entunchano" (Strong's NT:1793), 1Tim 2v1), (for and against) "for all men, for kings and all who are in authority," that God will put honest, upright, wise, godly and compassionate persons into places of power and authority, and thwart the Devil's attempts to put his own evil servants into these places; for it is the Most High Who rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomsoever He wishes, and sets over it the lowest of men. Daniel 4v17.

NB2: Rev 12v6,14 states:

"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...And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that **she might fly into the wilderness, into her place**, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent."

This group of specially prepared Christians (that flee from Antichrist in Jerusalem and the surrounding area) is definitely said to have a place prepared by God for them to escape to at the beginning of the Great Tribulation; it is **MOST** important that Christians should pray (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) **NOW**, for God to prepare the areas of Edom, Moab and Ammon ("the wilderness" that is referred to in Rev 12v14 and which are situated in the eastern part of

modern day Jordan) to be ready to receive this "glorious woman" at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. Christians firstly should invoke the following covenant names in the heavenly places over these three areas (and modern day Jordan), Yahweh Tsabaoth, the Lord of Hosts (1Sam 17v45, Psalm 46v7,11), and Yahweh Jireh, the Lord Who See and Provides (Gen 22v14), that these areas will know continuous angelic protection from this time forth, right up until the second coming of the Lord Jesus, but especially during the dark evil days of the Great Tribulation, and that **ALL** things will be **FULLY** "prepared" by "the Lord Who Sees and Provides" for His people. Secondly, Christians should also impart the divine benediction by using the priestly blessing of Numbers 6v22-27 upon Edom, Moab, Ammon and modern day Jordan. If Christians pray like this **NOW**, these areas of Edom, Moab and Ammon, will most certainly be **FULLY** prepared and protected by God, to receive His people at the beginning of the Great Tribulation, so that they are fed, kept, guarded and protected right up until the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus. **NOTE:** Rev 5v8, "...which are the prayers (Greek "proseuche" (Strong's NT:4335), "to make interventions with power so as to affect a change in circumstances.") of saints." 2Pet 3v12. (We see in Rev 4 and 5, the preliminaries in Heaven just before the seals are opened, that is, before the events of the last seven years of this Age start to come to pass (Daniel's Seventieth prophetic week, Dan 9v27). The seven seals reveal Satan's evil plans for the world during the last seven years of this age. Paul calls Satan's plans "the mystery of iniquity." 2Thess 2v7. The seals reveal the major catastrophic stages of the career of Antichrist from the time when he makes the covenant, until the great day of the wrath of the Lamb brings his evil career to a close. It is the "prayers of the saints" (Rev 5v7,8) that precipitates God the Father to invite the Lord Jesus to take the Book out of His right hand so as to loose the seven seals thereof to bring to pass the last seven years of this age. Dan 9v27, 6v1-17, 8v1)

NB3: We read in Matt 9v37,38:

"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, **but the labourers are few**; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, **that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.**"

It is also most essential for Christians (especially those Christians in Israel) to pray (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336), "to make interventions with power so as to affect a change in circumstances.") **NOW** for God to raise up the Two Witnesses, and other Christians whom He will set in the Body of Christ with the same level of power and authority as the Two Witnesses. We **MUST** also pray (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) for God to give these "labourers" the same kind of power and authority that He gave unto the prophet Elijah (1Kings 17v1-21v29, 2Kings 1v1-2v11 Dan 11v32, Rev 11v3-6), and then to "send them forth into His harvest." It is also a necessity for us to pray (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) for God to fulfil such prophecies and promises, as those stated in Rev 11v3-6 and Zech chapter 4, but especially the wonderful promise and prophecy that He spoke through His servant Malachi in Mal 4v5,6 (with Luke 1v17 and Matt 17v11):

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers, the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Christians **MUST** pray (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) **NOW** for "last day Elijah ministries" to be set in the Body of Christ by God! Rev 5v8.

The number of "last day Elijah ministries" that God will be able to set in the Church will be directly proportional to the amount of praying (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) performed by the Church for God to set such ministries in it; i.e. the more the Body of Christ prays (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) for God to set such ministries in the church, the **MORE** "last day Elijah ministries" will **actually be set in it by God!**

Behind every great prophet and prophetess, there has **ALWAYS** been someone behind the scenes, who has earnestly sought the Lord and prayed (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) them into their ministry. Very often this is the result of the prayers (Greek "proseuche" (Strong's NT:4335)) of a godly loving mother or aunt; as in the case of Jeremiah, when his aunt, the great Old Testament prophetess, Huldah, was the person responsible for praying (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) him into his prophetic ministry as a young man. We can gauge the depth of her spirituality and prophetic ministry from the incident when King Josiah asked Hilkiah, the high priest, to inquire of the Lord as what should be done at that time, Hilkiah promptly went and sought out Huldah, and as soon as he had asked for the word of the Lord, Huldah was able to give it too him straight away. However, when the remnant of those left in the southern kingdom came and asked Jeremiah to seek the word of the Lord for them, it was ten days before the reply came from the Lord for them (which they didn't heed anyway); and so from this, we can see just how in touch with the Lord Huldah was and the depth of her spirituality and prophetic ministry! 2Kings 22v3-20 (esp. v14), Jer 1v1-19 (esp. v6), 32v7, Jer 42v1-22 (esp. v7).

NB4: Rev 12v1 (with Rev 12v2-17) states:

"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon

her head a crown of twelve stars."

The vision of this glorious woman reveals to us one of God's major purposes for the last days. She represents a group of people, who are foreknown, designed, specially created and empowered by God for the Great Tribulation. It is a group of praying (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) people, with prepared hearts and special ministries for the last days, who will operate with awesome power as a prayer-warrior group behind the scenes. God also gives a definite promise that He will protect, provide and empower the seeking hearts in His Church in a new and special way in the last days, and will not leave His Church defenceless in the Great Tribulation. This glorious woman reveals that part of the Church will be clothed with the fullness of God's power, and will be transported, protected and fed by God. **This group is a major part of God's answer to the mystery of iniquity, and it is one of many such groups, who operate in Israel and other parts of the world.**

Another of the desires upon the great loving Heart of our Heavenly Father, is the necessity for His people to get ready and prepared for the dark evil days of the Great Tribulation; however at the present moment in time, very few, if any, Teachers or Preachers in the Church are talking about these vital Truths, and when they do mention it, it is nearly always to state that the Christian does not need to be concerned about the Great Tribulation, because they will miss it, having been raptured before it starts. **I wish to state here and now, that those (so called) preachers and teachers who propagate such lies, the Lord Jesus plainly states are amongst the false prophets and teachers of the last days, and a severe judgement awaits them!** The Lord Jesus clearly states that His Second Coming will be visible to every eye, and will be with great power and glory, the elements melting with fervent heat, which will be accompanied by the greatest earthquake that the earth has ever known! It is **NOW** vital for **EVERY** Christian (especially those Christians in Israel) to get close to the Lord Jesus, and pray (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) that He will prepare His people into such groups (as represented by the glorious woman in Rev 12v1) in every country around the world, but **ESPECIALLY** in Israel! Dan 11v32, Joel 2v28-32, Zech 12v8, Matt 24v21-30,48-51, 28v20, Luke 18v1-8, 2Pet 3v10, James 3v1, Rev 1v7, 12v1-17, 16v18.

NB5: Psalm 2v8 and Rev 5v7 reads:

"Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession...And **he came and took the book** out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne."

The "He came and took the book," is the fulfilment of the "ask of me" of Psalm 2v8, it is when God brings to pass the prophetic events that will close the Age, and bring in Christ's kingdom. Psalm 2v8, Dan 2v44,45, 7v13.

It is most important for **ALL** believers to pray (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336), "to make interventions with power so as to affect a change in circumstances.") **NOW** that God will invite the Lord Jesus to come and ask Him for His inheritance and possession, so that He takes the Book out of His Father's right hand, so as to open the seven seals thereof to bring to pass the last seven years of this Age, so that the Father can then, at the end of these seven years, send the Lord Jesus to come and deal with the wicked once and for all, to take His people home and bring in everlasting righteousness by sealing up vision and prophecy and setting up the Millennium Kingdom. **NOTE:** Rev 5v8, "...which are the prayers (Greek "proseuche" (Strong's NT:4335)) of the saints..." with Matt 6v9,10, "After this manner therefore pray (Greek "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT4336)) ye...**Thy kingdom come.**" (It is the "prayers of the saints" (Rev 5v7,8) that precipitates God the Father to invite the Lord Jesus to take the Book out of His right hand so as to loose the seven seals thereof to bring to pass the last seven years of this age. Dan 9v27, 6v1-17, 8v1) Dan 9v27, Matt 6v5-15, Luke 11v1-13 (esp. 11v2), 2Pet 3v12, Rev 11v15-19.

(The seven seals show the major stages in the career of Antichrist, from the covenant, to seven years later, when he and his evil system is destroyed on the great day of the Lamb's wrath. An angel asks who is worthy to rule the world after Antichrist has brought the world to almost complete ruin; the answer is only Christ and His faithful brethren. Rev 5v5,9,10, Rom 8v19. This age will close when Jesus has enough brethren to rule the Millennial kingdom with Him. Rev 14v1-5, 17v14, 2Pet 3v12. John's vision in Rev 4 and 5, was not a revelation of events in Heaven in the time of John, it was a vision of events in Heaven just prior to the last seven years of this age. When Jesus opens the seven seals, it starts the last 7 years of this age, and the mystery of iniquity. Dan 9v20-27.

Satan's plans are restrained by God, and even when the mystery of iniquity is allowed to have its final fling, God reigns and His kingdom will surely come quickly. All of Heaven's inhabitants are perfectly satisfied at Christ's worthiness to open the seals and receive the kingdom, and they rejoice that divine love will rule the nations, after the evil rule of men. John was heartbroken and wept because no one could open the book and loose the seals, but one of the elders comforted John and said, "Weep not; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the book, and loose the seals thereof." As God, Jesus was the source of David's family and the means of its sustenance, anchorage and strength; as a man He was the offspring of David. Isaiah 11v1,10, Rom 1v3,4, Rev 22v16. John looks for this Lion of Judah, but sees a Lamb as it had been slain. The most courageous act of the Lion of Judah was His death as the Lamb of God, this shows His courage and love more than all else. The title "Lamb" occurs 29 times in Revelation, but it is only

applied to Jesus 4 times in the rest of the New Testament. John 1v29,36, Acts 8v32, 1Pet 1v19. Men often use mighty beasts and birds of prey as symbols of power, but God uses a Lamb to show the greatest act of courage, strength and love the world has even known; Calvary is the ultimate act of power and love. The Lamb of God is worthy to reign because of the sacrificial love revealed in His death upon Calvary.

The Lamb of God has not only redeemed sinners, but has made them kings and priests unto God as well, and the faithful saints will reign with Christ in the Millennium and eternity. Rev 5v10, 20v4-6, 22v3-5. Christ has won the right to reign, the Father has no favourites, He has "no jobs for the boys," those who rule will have to prove their worthiness to rule, even as Jesus has proved His worthiness to reign. Rev 3v21, 5v5, Phil 2v6-11, Rom 2v11, Acts 10v34, Heb 5v5-10, Dan 7v13,14. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!)

NB6: On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up and said in Acts 2v16-21 (with Joel 2v28-32):

"...This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; **And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh:** and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

The Lord Jesus, during the His Post-Resurrection ministry to the Apostles, had told them "I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high," when He (the Holy Spirit) that was with them, would then enter them, which was the Baptism in the Holy Spirit that they would receive. Luke 24v49, John 7v39, 14v17, Acts 2v4,38. It was during the Post-Resurrection ministry that the Lord Jesus had instructed them regarding Joel's prophecy, that this was the glorious prophecy which referred to the "Promise of the Father" (i.e. power from on high), and that it was **vital** for them to tarry in the Upper Room, and pray (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336), "to make interventions with power so as to affect a change in circumstances.") this great prophecy and promise into reality. The Lord Jesus did not tell them the precise timing of when they would receive the Promise of the Father (this was because that if they had known, some of them might have just sat back and said, "well I don't need to pray (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)), God is going to do it anyway"), but simply said, "ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." Acts 1v5. The Apostles were obedient to His command, and with other disciples (one hundred and twenty of them in all), they prayed (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) Joel's wonderful great prophecy and promise into reality. Acts 1v14,15, 2v1-4. The great outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost was only a partial fulfilment of Joel's prophecy, which also had a fulfilment throughout the whole of the Age of Grace to encourage the Church to pray for revival, blessing, spiritual gifts and ministries from their risen Lord. 1Cor 12v7-11, Eph 4v7-16. Joel's great prophecy and promise has a final and complete fulfilment at the end of the Age of Grace, for it specifically says, **"it shall come to pass in the last days...I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh...before that great and notable day of the Lord come."** Even as the one hundred and twenty disciples in the Upper Room prayed (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) Joel's wonderful prophecy and promise into reality on the Day of Pentecost, it is also **VITAL** for the Church to pray (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) **NOW** for God to pour out of His Spirit upon the Church and the world...i.e. **"upon ALL flesh."** God's people need to claim the complete fulfilment of Joel's great prophecy and promise **NOW**, and **MUST** continue to claim the complete fulfilment of it right up until the Lord's Second Coming. There will certainly be a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit when Daniel's Seventieth week starts, when Antichrist "confirms a covenant with many (including Israel) for one week," which also refers to the opening of the First Seal. Dan 9v27, Rev 6v1,2. Another and even greater outpouring will occur, when Antichrist breaks the covenant, and sets up his image in the Temple in Jerusalem (at the beginning of the Great Tribulation). During the last seven years of the Age of Grace, the Church and the world will know a time of the greatest worldwide revival that has ever been experienced, and **NOW** is the time for the Body of Christ to pray (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) so that this great outpouring becomes a reality very soon, and also is **FULLY** experienced during the last seven years of this Age. Acts 2v16-21, Rev 5v8, 11v3-6, 12v1.

NB7: With the Devil and his evil angels being cast out of the heavenlies into the earth, and God's restraining hand being removed from them, the Great Tribulation then ensues. The responsibility for the restraint upon the powers of darkness and the wicked upon the earth, during the Great Tribulation, will be the Church's, and it will be through each individual believer's prayers (Greek, "proseuche" (Strong's NT:4335)) and "interventions" (with power), (Greek, "enteuxis" (Strong's NT:1783)), both of which mean, "to make interventions with power so as to affect a change in circumstances."), that this restraint will occur. The amount of evil and wickedness that will be found in any society around the world during the Great Tribulation, will be inversely proportional to the amount of prayer (Greek, "proseuche" (Strong's NT:4335)) and "interventions" (with power) (Greek, "enteuxis" (Strong's NT:1783)) that the believers of that society will make, in other words, the more prayer and "interventions" (with power) that the believers make for their society in which they live, the less evil and wickedness will be manifested in it. Hence, as soon as Antichrist sets up his image in the Temple in Jerusalem and breaks the peace treaty with Israel, the Great Tribulation then ensues and these are the signs that the

Christian should be earnestly watching for, so that as soon as they appear, the responsibility for restraint upon the powers of darkness, wicked persons and wickedness in the world will lie solely with the Church. It is at this time that each individual believer **MUST** start making prayers (Greek, "proseuche" (Strong's NT:4335)) and "interventions" (with power) (Greek, "enteuxis" (Strong's NT:1783)) against the evil angels and wicked people upon earth to restrain their activities. When the wicked see Divine judgement falling upon other evil persons (which will be via the believer's prayers (Greek, "proseuche" (Strong's NT:4335)) and "interventions" (with power) (Greek, "enteuxis" (Strong's NT:1783))), many (although not all) will think twice before putting their evil desires into practice to hurt, harm or kill God's dear children, hence, the believer's prayers and "interventions" (with power) will actively restrain the wicked. It will be during the Great Tribulation that the last World War will occur (before the 2nd coming of Christ), and the desire of the Devil (through Antichrist) will be to smash the world completely, which Antichrist will do with vast conventional armies and limited exchanges of nuclear weapons. So, it is vital for Christians to exercise prayer (Greek, "proseuche" (Strong's NT:4335)) and "interventions" (with power) (Greek, "enteuxis" (Strong's NT:1783)) **NOW**, so that they will be spiritually prepared for those terrible dark evil days, and can act as an effective restraint upon the powers of darkness and the wicked during the last three and half years of this Age, so that the country and society in which they live is not completely destroyed by Antichrist's armies and followers. Isaiah 26v9, Dan 9v27, 11v32,41, Zech 12v8, Luke 18v1-8, 2Thess 2v1-12, 1Tim2v1-8, Rev 6v7,8, 9v13-21, 11v3-6,18, 12v13-17.

(Also NOTE: Another reason why God cannot let the last seven years of this Age (of Grace) begin to come to pass is that the required number of overcoming Sons, who will replace the present world rulers (the Devil and the evil angels) in the heavenly places during the Millennium, must first be begotten, educated and tested; and so when God knows that this number is at hand, He will then invite the Lord Jesus to take the Book out of His right hand, so that He might loose the Seven Seals thereof; which will then bring to pass Daniel's 70th (prophetic) week, which will end with the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus when He comes in great power and glory (so that **EVERY** eye will see Him), to deal with the wicked once and for all, to take His people home and bring in everlasting righteousness by sealing up vision and prophecy. It will be when the six and seventh seals are opened and the seventh Trumpet sounds (these all occur on the last day of this age (the Age of Grace) at the Second Coming of Christ) that the "mystery of God" will be completed. (The "mystery of God" is God's plan to put both Heaven and Earth under the rule of His Son Jesus and His bride (i.e. the Church), and to fulfil upon the earth the promise made to Abraham and his seed, Israel, that they should inherit the earth. The inhabited earth to come is not again to be put under angels, but under Christ and His brethren who overcame.) The believer who accepts the call of their Lord, to rise up with Him into the heavenly places, to conquer and defeat the Devil and powers of darkness, so as to enter into and inhabit their Heavenly Canaan, will be exercising a priestly ministry of the Melchizedek Priesthood (by manifesting God's great power and love to the worlding and Church thought the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, upon earth and the heavenly places), with Jesus as their Great High Priest (after the Order of Melchizedek). It is the Christians who are exercising a priestly ministry of the Melchizedek Priesthood who will be praying (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) and "entunchano" (Strong's NT:1793), which mean "to make interventions with power so as to effect a change in circumstances.") for the Lord Jesus to take the Book out of the Father's Right Hand and so bring to pass the last seven years of this age. These Christians will also be praying (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) and "entunchano" (Strong's NT:1793)) for God to bring judgement upon the wicked who are persecuting and killing Christians during the dark evil days of the Great Tribulation. These Christians are a group of people, who are foreknown, designed, specially created and empowered by God for the Great Tribulation; a group of praying people, with prepared hearts and special ministries for the last days, who will operate with awesome power as a prayer-warrior group behind the scenes. God also gives a definite promise that He will protect, provide and empower the seeking hearts in His Church in a new and special way in the last days, and will not leave His Church defenceless in the Great Tribulation. Some of these Christians will belong to a group of believers in Israel during the dark evil days of the Great Tribulation, who are represented by the glorious woman of Rev 12v1 (already mentioned in **NB2** and **NB4**), which reveals that part of the Church will be clothed with the fullness of God's power, and will be transported, protected and fed by God. This group is a major part of God's answer to the "mystery of iniquity," and it is one of many such groups, who operate in other parts of the world. It is these Christians who will be exercising a priestly ministry of the Melchizedek Priesthood during the last seven years of this age (and even more so during the dark evil days of the Great Tribulation) and who will be amongst those who will rule with Christ during the Millennium. (Rev 5v10, "...and hast made them kings and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.") Dan 9v20-27 (esp. v27), 10v13-21, 11v32, Matt 25v41, Mark 16v15-18, Luke 17v20-18v8, 19v11-27, 24v46-49, John 3v13, 7v37-39, 12v40, 17v24, Acts 1v4-8, 2v16-21, Rom 1v17, 4v1-25, 8v12-39, 1Cor 9v24-27, 12v1-14v40, 12v31, 15v50-54, Eph 6v12, Col 3v1,2, 1Thess 4v13-18, 2Thess 2v1-12 (esp. v8), 1Tim 2v1-8, 2Tim 4v8, Heb 2v4,5-13, 3v1-4v16, 7v25, James 1v12, 1Pet 2v1-9, 5v1-4, Rev 1v7, 4v1-5v14, 6v12-17, 7v1-8, 8v1,2-6, 10v1-11 (esp. v7), 11v15-19, 12v1,6,7-9,14-16, 14v1-5, 21v7).

The believer, by praying (Greek, "proseuchomai" (Strong's NT:4336)) and making "interventions" (with power) (Greek, "enteuxis" (Strong's NT:1783)) as indicated in these seven NBs ("nota benes"), will surely "hasten the coming of the Day of God." 2Peter 3v12

Also see the "Introduction" of "Jesus Prays For His Own" at: www.truthforthelastdays.com for a full study on the Greek words for the making of prayer.

Appendix 4: Behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill...with the beasts of the earth. Rev 6v7,8

With the Devil and the evil angels being cast out of the heavenlies by Michael and his angels into the earth and God's restraint being removed completely from them; because the Devil knows that his time upon earth is short (three and a half years) before he is cast into the Abyss for the duration of the Millennium, he comes down with great wrath, which results in the Great Tribulation. The Devil and the evil angels as soon as they are cast into the earth and God's restraint is removed from them start implementing fully "the mystery of iniquity" (for up to this time God has restrained the Devil from implementing his evil plan), their first evil creative act is that of creating giant human-like beings who are not inhabited by human souls but by other evil spirits, just as they did during the Pre-Adamic ages and also before and after the Flood in the days of Noah. After this they will then proceed to create all types of dinosaurs, hominids and many other types of fierce creatures, birds and insects, even as they also did during the Pre-Adamic ages for the purpose of killing and destroying mankind and the animals, creatures and insects upon earth created by God because of their great hatred of God, man and the creation. The kingdom of darkness is one where the evil angel with the greatest power rules down and dominates the lesser powers, it is a kingdom of ruthless holding down, where the only thing that binds the Devil and the evil angels together is a common hatred of God and good. These fierce evil creations of the Devil and the evil angels will also be possessed by demons (even as they were during the Pre-Adamic ages) for the sole purpose of manifesting evil on a great scale like never before seen or experienced upon the earth or in Creation. This kind of possession will also add greatly to the ferocity of these evil creations, with the result that the death and carnage upon earth carried out by them is infinitely greater than without such a possession. It will also mean that these evil creations of the Devil will be able to be controlled even more easily by the Devil and Antichrist, with them also being used by the armies of the Kings of East and Antichrist to devastating effect in wholesale mass slaughter upon the earth. Rev 6v8 states, **"behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill...with the beasts of the earth."** "Power" in Greek is "exousia" (Strong's NT:1849), which means "freedom of action, right to act," then authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength. "The beasts" in Greek is, "toón theeríoon" which is from "therion" (Strong's NT:2342) and which means (venomous, wild) beast, a wild animal, it is the same Greek word that is used of Antichrist. Rev 11v7. The "wild beasts" that are referred to here (in Rev 6v8) are the dinosaurs, hominids and other fierce creatures that the Devil and the evil angels will make during the Great Tribulation. The Devil is the one who gives Antichrist his throne, authority and power to rule and act, God's restraint having been completely removed from the Devil and the evil angels so that the "mystery of iniquity" works fully. Gen 6v1-12, Dan 2v43, 8v24, 12v1, 2Thess 2v1-12, Rev 12v7-17, 13v2.

Appendix 5: The Glorious Woman. Rev 12v1

During the last seven years of this age (of Grace) and especially the last three and a half years (the period known as The Great Tribulation), God is primarily not going to use the mainline denominations to minister His Presence, Power and Life through to the world (and the Church), but He is going to use small groups of Christians who are earnestly and fervently seeking His face in prevailing prayer for His plans and purposes (and His Presence and Power to fulfil them). These groups of praying Christians will meet wherever they can, but mostly like the early church they will be gathering in their homes in informal fellowship meetings, and it is in this kind of meeting that God is going to manifest His Presence and great Power in a way never known or experienced before from the foundation of the world (Acts 2v16-21). During the last few decades, God has been raising up these small groups of earnestly seeking praying Christians and preparing them for the Great Tribulation. **(NOTE:** It will (mainly) be these small groups of praying Christians in Israel (and in every country around the world) that will make up the Glorious Woman of Rev 12v1, a group of people, who are foreknown, designed, specially created and empowered by God for the Great Tribulation. It will be these believers who will fully trust and rely upon their Dear Saviour for His plans and purposes and His Presence and Power to fulfil them and this will be because they have no finances, political power or position behind them, so they have no choice but to have full faith and confidence in their Risen Lord, not like the many immature believers in the established denominations and worldly minded and unspiritual Pentecostal churches who have been kept in such a state by their blind leaders, who are in that state because they have followed the way of the Laodicean church, who find seeking the Lord for His plans, purposes, Presence and Power to demanding. A large majority of the 'foolish virgins' and 'evil servants' will be those Christians who have belonged to and attended the established denominations and unspiritual worldly minded Pentecostal churches, and likewise the vast majority of the 'faithful and wise servants' and 'wise virgins' will be those who fellowship and attend the small informal fellowship meetings. Matt 6v6, 15v14, 24v45-25v13, Acts 2v42-47, 4v23-31, Rev 3v14-22.) These groups will contain a considerable greater proportion of women than men and these praying women will be God's instrument in bringing in the last great revival upon the earth as spoken by God through the prophet Joel (Joel 2v28-32, Acts 2v16-21). It will be the same as when He used two elderly sisters, Peggy and Christine Smith, who were eighty four and eighty two years old respectively, one of them was nearly blind and the other bent almost double with arthritis. Unable to attend public worship, their humble cottage became a sanctuary where they met with God, even as godly Anna had done in the Temple in Jerusalem. Luke 2v36-38. These two dear sisters received a promise from God, which was, 'I will pour water upon him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground.' Isaiah 44v3. Having received this promise they prayed and sought the Lord incessantly, a group of men in the same district who were also praying in a barn experienced a foretaste of the coming blessing and a young in this meeting one night stood up and read out Psalm 24v3-6 with his hands held up

to Heaven crying out, 'Oh God, are my hands clean? Is my heart pure?' He got no further, but fell prostrate to the floor. An awareness of God filled the barn and a stream of supernatural power was let loose in their lives and this was the beginning of the great Hebrenian revival of 1949-52. These two dear elderly sisters had prayed fervently for over twenty years for revival and our wonderful Risen Saviour did not disappoint them. In these informal fellowship meetings, God will bring those Christians to a spiritual maturity far quicker than He ever could in the mainline denominations and unspiritual Pentecostal churches that practice one man ministries ever could (which keeps God's people perpetually in a state of spiritual immaturity), for in these informal fellowship meetings it will only be 'body ministry' operating, i.e. God, the Holy Spirit will use and minister through **every member** of the Body of Christ. 1Cor 12v7 states: 'But the manifestation of the Spirit is given **to every man** to profit withal' and 1Cor 14v26: 'How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, **every one of you hath** a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation...' The Church, which is the Body of Christ, is going to be changed from one that is totally vulnerable, to one that is empowered with the might and power of God and **NOT** only in defence but also in attack. **We need to pray that God will give us the realisation of this and pray it into reality.** It will be this kind of Church in many countries, equipped with the true 'charismata' ('gifts of grace'), which will preserve the 'denominational churches' from total destruction due to the terrible evil and persecution in the world during the Great Tribulation when the Mystery of Iniquity (or better, Lawlessness) works fully. The Christians in these informal fellowship meetings will also collectively exercise the same spiritual power and authority in judgement upon the wicked (through the gifts of the Holy Spirit) during the Great Tribulation, like the Two Witnesses will manifest. Dan 11v32, Zech 12v8, Luke 18v1-8, Rev 11v3-6.

It is also the 'Gideon Principle' that is going to operate during the dark evil days of the Great Tribulation, God will only use those humble trembling souls, who feel their great need of His strength, blessing, power and presence. Judges 6v12,15 states, 'And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour...And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house,' and 1Cor 1v27,28 states, 'But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are.' The first words that the Angel of the Lord (Heb. Malak Yahweh, which means Yahweh Messenger, Who was none other than the pre-incarnate Christ, not only the Sent One under the New Covenant, but also under the Old as well, John 12v49) speaks to Gideon who had been hiding in the winepress from the Midianites threshing corn, are: 'The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.' The Lord sees Gideon **NOT** as he felt, **BUT** as He would make him, and gives him repeated demonstrations of His power to build up his faith to enable him to carry out the Lord's commission to deliver Israel. The Lord came and visited him on different occasions and gave him the signs of the fleeces, God built up his faith again and again, until he could believe. He did not expect Gideon to believe by raw faith (i.e. He did not just say to him, 'come on now believe the word that I have spoken'), no, the Lord visited him again and again and built up his faith. Judges 6v36-40. (Abraham and Sarah were visited by the Lord and angels, in order to strengthen their faith and overcome their unbelief and failure in the past. Gen chapters 17 & 18 (esp. 17v18, 18v12-15). See Rom 4v20, "was strengthened in faith;" Abraham's faith was strengthened by these visits, and the unveiling of the Divine presence and purposes. An increase of faith is always due to something that God does; either through the deposit of a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the soul and spirit, or through an open revelation of the Divine person and presence, or through angelic revelation, or through some other act and manifestation of Divine power. These divine encouragements transform our faith to a living faith. This is a great consolation and leads to peaceful trust in God, instead of fretful striving. Let us cling fast to our heavenly Father's unveiling of His presence and purposes, and thank God for His angels, and cherish their help, and even more the Lord who sends them. James 2v21-26). God then showed Gideon that the Midianites and the Amalekites were trembling with great fear at the thought of the sword of Gideon the son of Joash coming against them for they knew that God had delivered them all into his hand. Judges 7v13-15. With man, the lesser the odds look that a thing will happen increases the probability that it will actually happen, however, it is the reverse that is true with God, in that the greater the odds, the greater the certainty it will happen and we see this in Gideon's three hundred men destroying, by God's Presence and Power, one hundred and twenty thousand men of the Midianites. When it is time for God to fulfil His purposes, **NOTHING** can stop it and the wicked and the powers of darkness tremble in great fear. Hence, as it is written in Acts 2v17, 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh...' will most surely come to pass (and we should continue to pray earnestly for this divine promise to be fulfilled until it actually is!), for this is one of the major divine purposes that God has for His people during the last seven years of this age, but especially the last three and a half years of this age, the period known as the Great Tribulation, when God visits His people with His Presence and Power like never before, to give the Church great authority and power over the Devil and the evil angels. God is going to show the wicked that He is not only a God of Love and Mercy, but a God of judgement as well!

Appendix 6: Oil For Our Lamps!

We can gauge the importance of Christ's Second Coming by contrasting the number of times it is mentioned in the Scriptures alongside other teachings:

- 1) The "new Birth" (conversion) is mentioned 9 times in the New Testament.

2) Baptism is mentioned 20 times

3) Repentance is mentioned 70 times

4) The Second Coming is mentioned 380 times in the New Testament alone!

Matt 25v1-13 states:

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

The question is: "What does the oil in the lamps represent"?

The "virgins" represent Christians who are waiting for the return of the Bridegroom (Christ), 5 are wise and 5 are foolish, the wise have extra oil the foolish do not. The Bridegroom tarries and they all fall asleep, suddenly at midnight a cry goes up, "The Bridegroom cometh." They all awake, the foolish find that 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!

This is 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 (including the wise) fell asleep.

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

It is not the Baptism in the Spirit and the 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 refilled. There are a lot of Christians who get 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 the gifts of the Spirit who are scared to death to even think about the Great Tribulation.

What difference is there between the wise and 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 was 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 in the lamps then represents the correct interpretation of end-time prophetic truth! 2Peter 1v19 states:

"And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."

In Matt 24v3 the disciples had asked the Lord Jesus the following question:

"...Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

So in response the Lord Jesus had given them the end-time signs to look out for, i.e. end-time prophetic truth. He refers them to Daniel's 70th prophetic week in Daniel 9v27 (with Dan 11v31, 12v11) and the Great Tribulation which immediately precedes His return. The 70th week of Daniel, the time of the 7 year treaty between Antichrist, Israel and many other countries, will be the darkest time in the world's history, midnight representing the start of the Great Tribulation when Antichrist breaks the covenant with Israel and sets up his image in the Temple. 2Thess 2v1-12, Rev 13 (all) Hence the cry goes up, "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. Matt 24v29-31. In the parable He comes after midnight when the foolish have gone to try and buy oil (the point 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 darkness – as far as the Church is concerned the last three and a half 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 middle of Daniel's 70th week. Once the last three and a half years of this age starts (the Great Tribulation), they have no more prophetic light and their lamps go out. The fact that half of them were foolish shows that half of the Church will 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 (and so forth), 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 **ALL IMPORTANT** oil"

Matt 25v1-13 is simply carrying on from Matt 24, especially from the parable of the faithful and wise servant and the evil servant in Matt 24v45-51:

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. But if that evil servant says in his heart, '**My master is delaying his coming,**' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

So, these servants represents Pastors and Teachers who are to teach the Body of Christ Truth (including end-time prophetic truth), however, the evil servant not only believes the lie of a secret pre-tribulation advent and rapture, **BUT** has also taught it to those Christians in his church as well, i.e. the foolish virgins, with the result that **BOTH** the evil servant and the foolish virgins backslide and go into apostasy. Matt 24v51, 25v12

Psalms 119v105: **"Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."**

These 2 parables in Matt 24v45-25v13 are teaching the Body of Christ just how important the correct interpretation of last day prophetic truth is, it does **NOT** teach that that is all you need to get through the dark days of the Great Tribulation! In the parable of the 10 virgins the Lord was illustrating how vital it is to have light for the darkness – **THE LIGHT HE (the Lord Jesus) HAS PROVIDED!** You can have everything else like the foolish virgins, purity, grace, looking for the coming of the Lord and so forth and yet backslide and go into apostasy in the time of darkness, during the Great Tribulation.

Let me give you an example of just how important the correct interpretation of prophecy is:

I want you to think of a Christian with a tremendous ministry, someone who has a healing ministry in which he sees 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 finance and food, experienced supernatural transport 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 sees demons cast out in his/her ministry. Someone who has seen thousands upon thousands of people come to Christ.

Now let me ask you this question: How many of you believe that such a person would be prepared for any trouble or tribulation that came along? I suppose that very many people would be of the opinion that they definitely would be. However, the people who think that are **VERY** wrong!

The people I had in mind when outlining the above great ministry is the Apostles. Matt 10v1,8:

"And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease...Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

They saw miraculous provision of finances, food, clothes (Matt 10v9,10), the fish with the coin (Matt 17v27), the miraculous catch of fish (Luke 5v4-7), Peter walked upon the water with the Lord (Matt 14v28-31), the disciples in a boat with the Lord were all transported with the boat to land (John 6v21), they saw the power of the Holy Spirit in preaching

(Matt 10v20), the momentous ministry of Jesus, His miracles, raising the dead, casting out demons, 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 and so forth), they were in His presence not for a few days, **BUT** for over 3 years. Peter, James and John were taken up the mountain where they saw Him transfigured (and so saw His pre-incarnate Glory) and heard the voice of the Father.

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, Matt 26v33-35..) when the time came they **ALL** forsook Him, and fled and were in unbelief, defeat and despair. (Matt 26v56) Luke 24v21 states: "But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel..." Now they even doubted that He was the Redeemer! After His Resurrection the Lord reminded them through the women of what He has previously had told them about His suffering and death but they would not believe! Luke 24v11: "And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not."

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, experience, why did they collapse?

THEY FAILED BECAUSE THEY IGNORED BIBLICAL PROPHECY, THEY DELIBERATELY SHUT THEIR EARS TO THE PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE LORD'S SUFFERING AND DEATH!

Luke 24v25: "Then he said unto them, **O fools, and slow of heart to believe ALL that the prophets have spoken:**"

The disciples only listened to the prophecies they liked, i.e. John 1v45: "...We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." They recognised Him as the Messiah of whom the prophets wrote, **BUT** they ignored other things the prophets wrote regarding His suffering and death (Isaiah 53, Psalm 22 and so forth), even though the Lord Jesus pointed out these things many, many times to them! Matt 16v21-23, 17v9, 20v17-19, 26v1,2, Luke 9v43-45, 17v25 and so on...

Luke 24v25-27: "Then he said unto them, 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? **And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.**"

They refused to accept the Truth of a suffering Messiah, because they had received and believed the false man made traditions of the Scribes and Pharisees, which taught of a Messiah coming in great power and glory, Who would throw the Roman yoke from off Israel and restore the kingdom to them.

They missed the first Coming of Christ completely and only saw the Second! Matt 15v1-20, 16v6, Mark 8v15, 1Peter 1v18

John 16v12: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now."

Indeed, so ingrained in their minds and spirits were these unscriptural man made traditions of the Scribes and Pharisees, that even after the 40 days of post resurrection ministry to them by the Lord Jesus, they still retained the old lies of the Scribes and Pharisees on this. Acts 1v6 states: "When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, **Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**"

HOW BINDING ARE UNSCRIPTURAL MAN MADE TRADITIONS!

In Matt 24v3, the disciples ask the Lord Jesus this question:

"Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

So, the first thing to watch out for is when he (the Prince who is to come) makes a covenant (peace treaty) with many nations, including Israel (for one week), which is the start of Daniel's 70th week, i.e. the last 7 years of this age. Three and a half years later, Antichrist breaks the treaty with Israel and sets up his image in the Temple in Jerusalem claiming that he is God, Christ comes at the end of this second three and a half year period (known as the Great Tribulation), i.e. "...immediately after the tribulation of those days..." Matt 24v15-21, 29-31 (with Dan 9v27, 11v31, 12v11) to destroy the wicked and to take His people home. 2Thess 2v1-12, Rev 11v15-18. NOTE: Luke 17v20-18v8, esp. Luke 17v26-30:

"And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; **but on**

the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. **Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed."**

The day that Christ comes to take His people home and destroy the wicked is the SAME day, NOT separated by three and a half years!

Appendix 7: The Mystery Of God And The Mystery Of Iniquity

The following is a synopsis of C L Parker's excellent commentary on the two mysteries mentioned in 2Thess 2v1-2 and Rev 10v7.

"There is something which is called '**The mystery of God**', which is only ended when the Lord returns at the seventh trumpet. Rev 10v7, Eph 3v9,10, 3v9-11, Rom 16v25,26. There is also a reference to '**the mystery of iniquity**' which was already working in Paul's day, but was hindered from completion by God until He was ready to allow it. The word 'mystery' does not mean mysterious, but simply a secret hidden from the outsider but revealed to the initiated, e.g. the secret teaching of Freemasons, which is only known to them. Thus both God and Satan have plans which are hidden from the man in the street, but are revealed to their own children. The Christian, of course, knows the truth, but the ordinary Spiritist is deceived by his master. Only a few know the deep things of Satan. Luke 10v24, 1Peter 1v10-12, John 15v14,15, Rev 1v1, 2v24, 2Thess 2v7.

The Mystery of God

The world does not credit God with any plan at all. To them it all seems a meaningless jumble without any particular purpose. Indeed, the world conceives of God as a fool who can't see His own kingdom. As a matter of fact, however, the intention of God is to put both Heaven and Earth under the rule of His Son Jesus and His bride (i.e. the Church), and to fulfil upon the earth the promise made to Abraham and his seed, Israel, that they should inherit the earth. The inhabited earth to come is not again to be put under angels, but under Christ and His brethren who overcame. Heb 2v5-13, Rom 8v12-39, Luke 19v11-27, Rev 21v7. There must therefore be begotten, educated and tested, a sufficiently large number of overcoming Sons to take the place of the present world rulers, i.e. Satan's angels, now in the first heaven but later to be cast out upon the earth, and finally into Hell. Dan 10v13-21, Rev 12v7-9, Matt 25v41, 1Cor 9v24-27, 12v31, Eph 6v12, 2Tim 4v8, James 1v12, 1Peter 5v1-4.

Now this depends not upon God but upon His children. If the Church was faithful, then the time would have been shortened, but unfortunately there have been centuries where the Gospel has hardly ever been preached at all, so hardly any overcomers have arisen as kings and priests. Therefore, the length of this period, though known to God, was not revealed to His sons lest they should be tempted to grow slack and say, 'the time is not yet,' or forget that the length of the interval depended on their exertions, and that they would hasten or retard the day of Christ or lose a crown through carelessness. 2Peter 3v12, Rev 3v11. When, however, the Lord knows that the requisite numbers of overcomers is to hand, then He will stand aside and allow Satan to proceed with His plan. 2Thess 2v6-12.

The Mystery of Satan, 2Thess 2v7, Rev 2v24

Satan and his angels are already doomed to Hell for the ages of ages (because of their impenitence and wickedness) and therefore have no hope of success, or of establishing any successful kingdom upon earth. However, being filled with a murderous hatred of God and man, they desire to damage them as much as possible before their own final ruin. Therefore, during the last seven years of this age they will stage a kind of mock kingdom of Heaven upon earth, a Devilish parody of God's Millennial kingdom, even using God's city and Temple for this purpose. God will allow Satan to do this fearful thing for the following reasons amongst others.

a) To show mankind the madness of preferring Satan to Jesus, and thus bring them to repentance and a willingness to accept Jesus as Lord. This folly has wrecked the human race since Eden, but this fearful experience will bring to an end to Satan's power of deception during the Millennium, his mask will be torn off and he will be seen for what he is, the enemy of man. Gen 2 all, Acts 3v14, Rev 13v7,10,15, John 8v44.

b) To show the Jews the madness of rejecting their Messiah, and so bring them to a willingness to accept Jesus as Lord.

c) To break the pride of the Gentiles by giving them an opportunity one by one, and finally all combined, to govern the world according to their own ideas so that any hope of happiness apart from God may be finally shattered by their own failure. This will make them willing to accept God's plan of learning about Him from the despised Jews. Zech 8v23. Following Antichrist will result in the complete collapse of society and bring the earth to the brink of destruction, from which Christ will deliver them at the last moment, so that the few remaining Jews and Gentiles will enter into the Millennium broken and shocked by the judgement of God. Zech 12 all, Isaiah 13v9-16. As were Noah and his family when

they saw the ruin caused by the flood and obliged, and at any rate happy, to submit to the iron rule of Christ and His Brethren. Psalm 2 all, Rev 12v5, 2v27, 19v15.

Thus God will use this last plan of Satan to break the pride of man, and when this is accomplished will imprison Him until He has again need of him to test the inhabitants of the Millennial earth. The human race as a whole will have had an experience similar to that of the prodigal son, and will return to God only after the terrible experience of trusting the Devil, having learned to obey God by the things they have suffered. It is of first importance to remember that against God Satan has absolutely no power. No evil being, demon or man can do anything other than what God permits. 2Chron 18v18-22, Job 1v12, Matt 8v31, Psalm 76v10. Satan is wholly a tool in the hands of God to punish the wicked, to correct the righteous, 1Tim 1v20, 1Cor 5v5, to bring glory to the Sons of God, Eph 6v10-20, Job 1 and 2, James 1v12, to test the true character of everyone. Rev 20v7,10, Matt 4v1. Against us Satan only has the power that is given to him by God. Job 1 all. Against God he is helpless. Rev 20v1-3. God alone knows the length of this period of waiting, Matt 24v36, Mark 13v32, Acts 1v7, but God's children will know when the last seven years, and the Great Tribulation begins. Matt 24v15-22, Dan 9v27, 2Thess 2v1-12." **End of C L Parker's synopsis.**

God restrains Satan until the last 3½ years of this age, the time known as, "The Great Tribulation," when "the mystery of iniquity" will work. Even those days are shortened by God to protect mankind from Satan's plan to destroy mankind. Matt 24v21,22, 2Thess 2v7, Rev 12v12, Dan 8v24, 12v1-7. This explosion of evil and destruction is allowed, in order to show what Satan and his angels, and the effects of evil are like; and also show the justice and necessity of their eternal judgement, and confinement in everlasting chains of darkness, after the destruction of their bodies in the lake of fire. 2Peter 2v4,17, Jude v13, Matt 25v41,46, Rev 19v20, 20v10. Every mouth will be stopped by the awesome justice of God. Rom 3v19. The horrific carnage on earth produced by this awful manifestation of evil, produces a stunned and shocked silence in all the inhabitants of the heavenly kingdom. Rev 8v1. The happiness of the eternal "ages of ages" in the kingdom of God; depends on everyone in that kingdom, not only loving righteousness, but also hating evil with all their being. This manifestation of evil produces an eternal hatred of evil in the children of God; and permanently banishes evil from the kingdom of God.

Appendix 8: The Seven Trumpets And The Seven Vials

The Seven Trumpets. Rev 8 and 9 and 11v15-19

The seven trumpets are stated in Rev 8v2-6 to be the direct response of God to the prayers of His people on earth. From these verses we see the close link between the angels of God, and the Church of God and its prayers. Heb 1v14. Our heavenly Father and the heavenly hosts take very definite action on the behalf of the Church during the Great Tribulation, the world cannot do what it likes to the children of God and get away with it. The trumpets are judgements on the world for their evil treatment of God's saints, the wicked know this but do not repent. Rev 8v13, 9v20,21. Exodus 9v13-35. The seven trumpets do not come out of, or follow on, the seven seals, for the second coming of Christ occurs and the end of the age occurs at the sixth and seventh seals and the seventh trumpet. The fifth and sixth trumpets themselves take over 18 months to run their course, so the trumpets must start several years before the sounding of the seventh trumpet and the sixth and seventh seals on the last day. This stepping back in time and viewing the events of the last few years of this age from various aspects, occurs several times in Revelation. The ministry of the two witnesses is shown to run at the same time as the seven trumpets by the account of the ministry of the two witnesses being placed between the sixth and seventh trumpet.

When these trumpets are blown God intervenes in the affairs of men in the Great Tribulation in answer to the prayers of the saints. The first four are distinguished from the latter three by the fact that the first four deal with nature as it effects man, and the latter three with man himself, and they are particularly terrible and are called "woes." There is no reason why we should not interpret the effects of these trumpets literally, for the plagues of Egypt came true as Moses had promised and these plagues will too. Like the Egyptian plagues, the first four of the trumpet plagues and judgements will effect a limited area in the Middle East around Palestine, for, "the earth" can mean "the land," that is, the land of Palestine.

The First Trumpet. Rev 8v7

At this trumpet hail, fire and blood rain from Heaven and destroy all green grass and the third part of the trees. This can be taken literally, for what God has done before, He can do again. Exodus 9v17-35. This will result in the loss of both fuel and food.

The second Trumpet. Rev 8v8,9

This does not say that it was a mountain, but "as it were a great mountain burning with fire," that is, something resembling one for size and burning with fiery heat, it could be a great meteorite, or a guided missile. The water turning to blood has happened before. Exodus 7v19,20, Psalm 46v2. Whatever this great fiery object is, will deprive a great many

people of fish and destroy a large number of ships, and will seriously effect life in the area where it falls. The sea here probably means the Mediterranean, and it will probably fall on the Eastern end; "the earth can mean, "the land," that is, the land of Palestine.

The Third Trumpet. Rev 8v10,11

In the previous trumpet, the waters of the sea were polluted, at this trumpet a third of the waters on land are affected. The great star like a blazing torch could be a meteorite, or even a missile of some kind. It is called Wormwood because of its bitter effect on the water, which unlike the normal wormwood, is said to be poisonous. The Old Testament refers to wormwood in seven places Deut 29v18, Prov 5v4, Jer 9v15, 23v15, Lam 3v15,19, Amos.5v7.

The Fourth Trumpet. Rev 8v12,13

A third of the heavenly luminaries are darkened in the sense that they do not shine for a third part of the day. This is not the darkening of the sun on the last day, which occurs about 2 years later. Matt 24v29, Rev 6v12,13, Acts 2v19,20.

The Fifth Trumpet. Rev9v1-12

This trumpet lasts for 5 months. Rev 9v5,10. The star falling with great speed and force from heaven to earth, is obviously the angel of Rev 9v2,11, "the angel of the bottomless pit," called "Abaddon," and "Apollyon," both of which mean destruction. "Fallen," is "peptokota," the perfect active participle of "pipto," to fall, so the angel is already down. "Pipto" is probably used to show the speed and force of the angel's descent. "Given," is "edothe," the aorist passive indicative of "didomi," Rienecker states that this is the theological or divine passive and indicates that God is the one who gives the key. This refutes the theory, put forward by some, that this could be Satan, who was cast out of Heaven 2 years before by the archangel Michael and his angels, Satan is not imprisoned in the Abyss until the end of the Great Tribulation. Rev 12v7-14, 20v1-3. This cannot be a wicked angel, for the key of the Abyss belongs to Jesus, and He would certainly not entrust it to an evil angel. Rev 1v18. There is very little difference between falling, alighting and descending, and the angel of Rev 9v1, could descend like the angel of Rev 20v1. "The Abyss," is a part of Hades where unbelievers and wicked angels are imprisoned. Luke 8v31, Matt 8v29. See Rev 9v1,2,11, 11v7, 17v8, 20v1,3. Jesus went into the abyss to pay the penalty of our sins. Rom 10v7, Eph 4v9.

The angel sets free an enormous number of evil spirits from the Abyss to try and torment those who do not have the seal ("sphragida") of God on their foreheads. Rev.9v4. They are likened to a plague of locusts and scorpions, because of their number and the suffering they cause. Locusts are dreaded as much as an earthquake, or the eruption of a volcano, in the lands they menace. God will release evil spirits who have been confined in the abyss, to inflict the wicked who are persecuting the Church in the Great Tribulation.

Those who have chosen evil will taste its bitter fruit, a suffering as great as that of the bite of a scorpion. God limits the attack of these evil angels on the wicked, to a period of 5 months. Those who have chosen to follow Satan into evil, will find out how wicked and cruel evil spirits can be.

The Sixth trumpet. Rev 9v13-21

This trumpet lasts for 13 months, and during this time appalling bloodshed and destruction is caused by a great army of 200,000,000. Rev 9v15,16. This is an earthly army, not an angelic one, and it is composed of the kings of the East who make their way to fight in the Middle East in the last months of the Great Tribulation. This is also referred to in the sixth Vial, which states that these armies are gathered for destruction at Armageddon. Rev 16v12-14, 9v14. The slow progress of this army to the Middle East indicates that great battles take place on the way to the Middle East. A third part of mankind are said to be killed by this army, some of these deaths could be through war and pillage in the lands which this army conquers, as it goes to the Middle East. There is a perfect description of the killing agents now used in modern warfare, heads that roar like lions, obviously speaks of guns on tanks, or armoured gun carriers; smoke clearly refers to the use of poison gas, or nerve gas; and brimstone, obviously refers to exploding shells, napalm, or fire storm weapons. Rev 9v17-21. What an horrific picture! It bodes ill for all the nations through which this army passes. One is greatly concerned for Christian communities in South Korea and elsewhere, who will be faced up with this army. There is an urgent need for Christian leaders in these countries to seek for power judgement gifts, like those of the two witnesses, in order to protect the Christians in their care.

Most of the details about the seven trumpets can be taken literally, however, it is impossible at this time to exactly apply some of the details. However, if we are alive when the trumpets sound, we will recognise the fulfilment of them, and we will realise that what is happening is under the direct control of God and brought to pass in His will. So while the worldling will be full of fear at the events that are happening, instructed Christians will have peace in their hearts. Luke 21v25-27. The tragedy is that even the calamities of these days will not make men who love evil repent. How terrible is the hardening power of sin. Rev 9v20,21. There is a real connection between idolatry and immorality, the idolater really

worships demons. Deut 32v17, 1Cor 10v20, Isaiah 44v9-20.

Sorcery And Witchcraft. "Pharmakeia" (Strong's NT:5331)

In Rev 9v21, the A.V., T.R., and Mcde, read, "of their sorceries," "ek ton pharmakeion auton." "Pharmakeion," is the genitive plural of the noun "pharmakeia." Codex A reads "pharmakion." The manuscripts Mab, p47, Aleph, C, Hodges and Farstad, and the Critical Texts; read, "ek ton pharmakon auton," "of their drugs," and probably refers to the practice of drugs being used in sorcery, magic and enchantment. "Pharmakon" means "drug," and "pharmakeia," the use of drugs. Plato uses "pharmakeia" in a good sense to speak of medical treatment, but advises that drugs should not be used in diseases that were not serious, or they could complicate matters. "Pharmakeia," was also used to describe the misuse of drugs in murder by poisoning. The word "pharmakeia" only occurs in Gal 5v20, Rev 9v21 and Rev 18v23. The adjective "pharmakos," is used as a noun to describe a person who dealt in drugs, a sorcerer, enchanter, and magician, who used drugs and potions, to make spells, charms and enchantments, it speaks of a person "devoted to magical arts." "Pharmakeus," "sorcerers," only occurs in Rev 21v8; and "pharmakos," "sorcerers," only in Rev 22v15. "Mageia," "sorceries," only occurs in Acts 8v11 and "mageuo," "sorcery," only in Acts 8v9. "Magos," is translated as "wise men" in Matt 2v1,7,16, and "sorcerer" in Acts 13v6,8.

In the time of Paul, sorcery and witchcraft were very similar to their modern equivalents; images of people were made and destroyed, and curses were put upon people by invoking the powers of darkness. In Paul's time, divination, astrology and the use of the occult powers forbidden in Deut 18v10-22, were rife, and a common practice. People were full of fear and used amulets and charms in an effort to protect themselves from witchcraft, sorcery, magical spells and the evil eye. That magical practices were rife in Paul's time, can be seen from the large number of books on magic that were burnt in the revival at Ephesus, the value of these books approached one hundred thousand pounds at today's valuation. Acts 19v19. "Pharmakeia" is used in the Septuagint of the Egyptian sorcerers Jannes and Jambres, who opposed Moses. Exodus 7v11,12,22, 8v18, 2Tim 3v8. They had very real evil power, and even turned sticks into snakes by the power of Satan. The manifestation of this kind of evil power was one of the chief obstacles to the spread of the Gospel in the early Church, and this is why miracles were so essential, they were needed to confirm the truth of the Gospel. Philip and Paul compelled the Gentiles to believe in Jesus, by doing greater miracles than the sorcerers and occultists. Acts 8v4-13, 13v6-12, 19v11-20, Rom 15v18-21.

When Balaam tried to curse Israel by sorcery, God would not allow it, and made him bless them; so Balaam corrupted the Israelites by using beautiful women to seduce them to immorality and idolatry. He died under divine judgement. Num 23v23, Joshua 13v22, Jude v11, Rev 2v14. Witchcraft and sorcery are repeatedly condemned and forbidden in the Scriptures, and God warns that eternal punishment awaits those who do not repent of their occult practices. Exod.22v18. Lev 19v31, 20v6,27, Deut 18v10-22, Isaiah 2v6, 47v9,12, 57v3, Jer 27v9, Dan 2v2,27, Mal 3v5, Rev 9v21, 21v8, 22v15, Micah 5v12.

Paul puts witchcraft and sorcery in the works of the flesh; because they both arise from the desire to possess, and manifest, spiritual power while still indulging in the sins of the flesh. People reject God, and go into idolatry, witchcraft and sorcery, so that they can experience spiritual power and still indulge in the desires of the flesh, free from the constraint of righteousness and God, and so God gives them up to their lusts, and the reprobate mind that they desire. Rom 1v18-32, NB: v24,26,28. However, God's love and protecting mercy is around mankind, in spite of their depravity, and their rejection of Him. Jesus said that God is good and kind even to the unthankful and evil. Luke 6v35,36, Matt 5v45. The Seraphim ceaselessly praise and worship God for His continual caring dedicated holiness, and protecting love for His creation. Isaiah 6v1-5, Rev 4v8-11. Paul told the idol worshippers at Lystra how kind and good God had been to them. Acts 14v16,17, 17v30. Paul says God restrains the powers of darkness, and protects mankind from their most evil plans and malice. 2Thess 2v7. Because of God's restraint on the powers of darkness, only a small fraction of worldly people were possessed by evil spirits in Paul's day, even though they were so addicted to occultism, in the form of charms and magic. This fact of God's protecting mercy also explains why witchdoctors do not have to be exorcised when they hear the Gospel and become Christians. W.F.P. Burton, said that none of the many witch-doctors he had seen converted needed exorcism when they became Christians, when they had faith in Jesus and His atoning blood, the power of God automatically set them free from the power of Satan. Col 1v12-14, Titus 3v5.

The Seventh Trumpet. Rev 11v15-19

At this trumpet, "The kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ." Rev 11v15, Zech 14v9, Dan 7v13,14, Matt 25v14-30, Luke 19v11-27, Isaiah 24v21-23, Rev 10v5-7. The saints of the Old Testament and New Testament are raised from the dead. Rev 11v18, Ezek 37v1-28, Hosea 13v14, Dan 12v1-3, Isaiah 24v21, 25v7-9, 26v19-21, 1Thess 4v13,14, 1Cor 15v23,24,51-53, Luke 14v14, John 5v28,29. When this trumpet sounds, the New Testament saints are caught up to meet Jesus, 1Thess 4v16,17, Matt 24v31, and they are judged and rewarded. Rev 11v18, 1Cor 3v12-15, 2Cor 5v9-11. The wicked are destroyed at this trumpet. The words, "And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come," are taken from Psalm two, and it speaks of God's judgement on the last act of rebellion against God by man before the Millennial kingdom is set up. God judges the wicked who have brought an holocaust upon the world and made it unfit to live in. God destroys those who "destroy the earth." A tremendous picture of this wrath is revealed in the

Scriptures. Isaiah 42v13-17, 63v1-6, Rev 6v12-17, 11v19, 19v11-20. Compare Gen 6v11. These seven trumpets herald in the kingdom of God, and as the events they introduce appear, we shall expectantly wait for the sounding of the seventh trumpet which ushers in the kingdom of God.

The elders burst out in a song of thanksgiving to God for taking up His power and reigning, they rejoice that Antichrist's reign of sin and death is over. We read in Rev 15v5-8, that no one could enter into the Temple of God in Heaven until the seven vials were poured out; in Rev 11v19, we read that the Temple is opened again, so the seven last plagues have been poured out. It seems that God intended the earthly temple to be a pattern of the heavenly one. Heb 8v5, 9v23. The ark of the covenant is seen in the Temple and it shows the faithfulness of God to His covenant with Israel and His Church. The promises made both to Israel and the Church of a kingdom will be fulfilled at the seventh trumpet. Rev 10v7, Heb 9v4, 10v1, 12v26-29. Certain natural and supernatural happenings that occur at the seventh trumpet, are mentioned elsewhere in Revelation. "Lightnings." Rev 4v5, 8v5, 16v18. "Voices." Rev 4v5, 10v3,4, 16v18. Thunderings." Rev 4v5, 8v5, 7v10, 10v3,4, 14v2, 16v18, 19v6. "Earthquake." Rev 6v12,14, 16v18-20, Zech 14v4,5, Acts 1v10-12. "Great hail." Rev 16v21.

The Seven Vials Of God's Wrath. Rev 15 and 16

The sign of the Vials is a special wonder

In Rev 15v1, John records that he saw another great sign, "seemion," a sign, wonder, token, it is used 7 times in Revelation. Rev 12v1,3, 13v13,14, 15v1, 16v14, 19v20. This sign was very striking for John describes it as, "great and marvellous," "mega kai thaumaston," and John does not describe any other wonder with both of these adjectives. "Thaumaston," is something amazing that causes wonder, it is a verbal adjective derived from "thaumazo," to wonder. God reveals to John the seven angels with the seven last plagues, "plege." "Plege" originally denoted a blow, stroke, stripe or wound, but it came to be used of calamities and misfortunes in general; it occurs 14 times in Revelation out of the 20 times that it occurs in the New Testament. Luke 10v30, 12v48, Acts 16v23,33, 2Cor 6v5, 11v23, Rev 9v20, 11v6, 13v3,12,14, 15v1,6,8, 16v9,21, 18v4,8, 21v9, 22v18. The seven plagues are described as, "the last," they finish, complete, and bring to a conclusion the active judgements of God in the Great Tribulation; "finished," is "etelesthe," the aorist passive indicative of "teleo," to bring to a conclusion, to complete.

The vision of the murdered martyrs who had been victorious over Antichrist

John saw the Christians who had "come victorious (the present active participle of "nikao," to gain a victory, to be victor, to overcome), out of the conflict with the Beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name," standing on the glassy sea and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. They were rejoicing at the power and grace of God that had given them the victory. The song of the Lamb could be the song of redeeming grace mentioned in Rev 5v9-12, and the song of Moses is probably the song which Moses and the Israelites sang in Exodus 15v1-21, which Miriam took up and sang with the women of Israel, of the glorious triumph of the Israelites over Pharaoh. These Christians had chosen death rather than deny Christ and serve and follow Antichrist, they had not been preserved in body from Antichrist's wrath, but they had been victorious and preserved in soul from the defiling and damning influence of the Beast. The "good report" and victory of faith of those who are faithful to death, is every bit as great as the victory of the woman of Rev 12, who is delivered by God's Almighty power. See Heb 11v32-40. Dying for the faith is usually much more trying on our faith, than believing God for deliverance. In the early Church the day when Christians were martyred, it was often called the day of their victory. Christian victory does not consist in avoiding trouble, but, if necessary, being willing to be faithful even unto death. Rev 7v9-17.

The saints attribute their victory to God's amazing dedicated grace and love

These victorious saints sing a song of exultant praise before God and give Him the glory for their victory. The world had wondered at the beast, but these saints are lost in wonder, love and praise at the "great and marvellous works" of the "Lord God Almighty." Rev 4v8, Amos 4v13. They rejoice that God's ways are "just and true," "dikaiai kai alethinai," and in Rev 16v7, and a voice out of the altar states that the judgements of God are "true and righteous," "alethinai kai dikaiai." Rev 6v9-11, Deut 32v4. They realise that all creation should fear and worship Him, and that His perfect justice will judge the wickedness of the nations, and all the world will come and bow down before Him and worship Him.

These saints acknowledge that only God is truly holy, "for Thou only are holy." The Greek word for holy is "hosios" and it occurs in the New Testament in Acts 2v27, 13v34,35, 1Tim 2v8, Titus 1v8, Heb 7v26, Rev 15v4, 16v5, and it conveys the idea of perfect purity, it is used differently than "hagios," which has the fundamental meaning of separated and devoted. "Hagios" is used to speak of the Holy Spirit, the holy angels, the holy city, holy prophets, the holy child Jesus, and saints. The Greek word "hagnos" which is from the same root as "hagios," is often used to speak of physical purity in the New Testament. 2Cor 7v11, 11v2, Phil 4v8, 1Tim 5v22, Titus 2v5, James 3v17, 1Pet 3v2, 1John 3v3. The Greek word "hieros," which has the meaning of sacred, only occurs in 1Cor 9v13 and 2Tim 3v15. God is pure and completely dedicated to us, let us be pure and completely dedicated to Him. 1Pet.1v15,16. God is just, holy and true in His character, ways and judgements, and all of Heaven acknowledges this, and worships Him for it. Rev 3v7, 6v10, 15v3, 16v7,

19v2,11.

God's "strange act" of judgement becomes a fact because of men's wickedness. Isaiah 28v21

John tells us that, "The Temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power." A majestic and awe-inspiring sight. The glory of God was openly manifested in the Tabernacle and the Temple, and many of the prophets had personal visions of the glory of God. This glory usually protected the people of God, but, as in the case of the sons of Korah, it could also be manifested in judgement. Exodus 14v18-20, 33v9-11, 40v34-38, Lev 10v1,2, Numb 3v1-14, 16v19, 1Kings 8v10,11, Isaiah 6v1-6, Ezek 1v4,26-28, 10v1-5,15-19, 44v1-4. We read in Rev 15v8, that no one can enter into the Temple in Heaven until the plagues are finished, which shows that they cannot be stopped. The wicked could individually escape these plagues by repentance, but we read that they do not repent, but blaspheme God to His face. Rev 16v9,11,21.

God is the just judge of the whole earth and of all nations, and He is always righteous in His judgements, and here, as in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, His righteous judgements fall on the people of the nations that follow Antichrist. Gen 18v25. God is stated to be, "The King of the nations," in Rev 15v3, in Mabcde, A, Hodges and Farstad, and the Critical Texts. See Jer 10v7, 1Tim 1v17. God is the King before whom even the wicked of every nation will be forced to bow the knee, and confess that He is Lord, even when they refuse to repent of their sins. Isaiah 45v21-25, Rom 14v10-12, Phil 2v5-11.

The Outpouring Of The Vials. Rev 16

The Greek word for Vial, "phiale," means a broad, flat saucer or bowl, which is broader at the top than at the bottom. Several things show that these 7 plagues are poured out during a period of weeks or months at the end of the Great Tribulation.

These seven plagues are said to be the seven last plagues

These do not appear to be the plagues that the two witnesses have power to inflict, for these seven plagues are determined in number and time by God, whereas the plagues of the two witnesses occur as often as they desire. The fact that these plagues are spoken of as the last plagues shows that there have been others before them. These seven last plagues are far more widespread and severe than the plagues of the two witnesses, they are God's direct judgements on the wicked.

These seven plagues only cover a short period of time at the end of the Great Tribulation

This is proved by the fact that during the pouring out of these plagues, no one is able to enter into the Temple, "naos," in Heaven, and it is still open well toward the end of the Great Tribulation; it is certainly not closed throughout the Great Tribulation. This is the real Temple of which the earthly Tabernacle and Temple was a shadow, and from which judgement also came, as in the case of Nadab and Abihu. Lev 9v24, 10v1,2. During these plagues God will again issue forth out of the sanctuary in judgements, which get more and more severe. However, we know that during this period, whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2v17-21.

The large number of martyrs in Heaven proves it is towards the end of the Great Tribulation

In Rev 6v9-11, well into the Great Tribulation, the martyred saints ask God to avenge their blood, and cry for judgement on their evil murderers. In Rev 15v2-4, the martyred saints state that the time for God's vials of judgement on those who kill His saints has come. God's final execution of the wicked occurs at the 7th Vial, and 7th trumpet, on the last day. Rev 16v5,6.

The movement of the armies mentioned in the sixth Vial will take a few weeks

The sixth vial shows us that the vials must be poured out at least several weeks before the Great Tribulation ends, the troops mentioned here may already be marshalled and near Euphrates at this time. In Rev 9v13-21, the Euphrates is also mentioned, and the army is said to number 200,000,000, and its murderous activities are said to last for 13 months. From these facts we can ascertain that the Vials are poured out during the last weeks or months of the Great Tribulation. These seven plagues will be the most severe and widespread plagues that man has ever known, but even these greatest of God's plagues fail to bring the vast majority of the wicked to repentance. Rev 16v9,11,21. Beyond doubt these vials are to be taken literally, many of them are like the judgements that came upon Egypt, and what God has done before to one nation, He can do in a greater measure to many nations. The five plagues of Egypt and the first four trumpet judgements did not directly affect man, but here evil men are directly and severely attacked from the first Vial.

The First Vial. Rev 16v2

The mark of the Beast will be a visible mark in the forehead, like some Indian religions have on their foreheads. This first Vial is poured out upon, those who follow and serve Antichrist. They had followed Antichrist to escape his wrath, now they experience the seven great plagues in which the wrath of God reaches its climax. The "noisome and grievous sore," "helkos kakon kai poneron," is looked upon by the translators as a severe and painful malignant ulcer or sore. This seems to be even more severe than the sixth Egyptian plague of boils, but the followers of Antichrist do not repent. Exodus 9v8-12. The curse spoken of in Deut 28v27,35, comes upon the followers of Antichrist.

The Second Vial. Rev 16v3

The sea is "turned into a fluid like the blood of a corpse," Phillips, that is, an evil smelling, putrid, and contaminated fluid. This cannot mean that all the seas of the world were affected in this way, otherwise all life would cease in the world in a matter of days. It is probably speaking of a sea that would affect Antichrist and his followers, like the sea of Galilee, or Red sea, it kills all the living things in the sea. It cannot be the Dead sea, which as its name suggests, already has no life in it..

The Third Vial. Rev 16v4-7

At the fourth Vial the rivers and fountains of waters are turned to blood, like the sea in the second Vial. So in these two Vials we have an effect similar to the first Egyptian plague. Exodus 7v17-25. This deprives Antichrist and his armies of food in the form of fish, and causes a severe shortage of drinking water. We are not told if this water is poisonous, as the bitter water was under the third trumpet. The Egyptians either had to drink blood or suffer extreme thirst, and the followers of Antichrist will be in a similar difficult situation, they will have to transport water for a considerable distance if they desire to drink.

Two angels proclaim that God is righteous in His judgements, and that the wicked deserve the plagues they are receiving because of their evil treatment and murder of God's children. All the inhabitants of God's kingdom are totally satisfied that God's judgements are just., this is one of the great themes of Revelation. Rev 4v11, 5v12,13,14, 6v10, 7v9,10, 11v17, 15v2-4, 19v1-6. Judgement and anger is God's "strange act ," Isaiah 28v21, and foreign to the beautiful, kind and indescribably lovely character of the God of love, but His judgements are just, necessary, and unavoidable, and spring out of His great love for His creation.

The Fourth Vial. Rev 16v8,9

Antichrist's followers are blistered and burnt with great heat from the sun, literally, "scorched a great scorching," a previously unknown plague. These first three plagues fail to bring them to repentance, they blaspheme God to His face, they are irrevocably hardened and unreconcilable, even God cannot bring them to repentance; their attitude to God will be exactly the same on judgement day. Men's hatred of God is very real, continual sin brings a person to the place where they can't repent. These evil people could escape these plagues by repentance, for Rev.16v9., tells us that God has power over these plagues, they only fall on the wicked, the people of God are safe from them. The faithful Israelites were safe from the wrath of God on the wicked in Egypt, the wilderness and Canaan. Rev 9v4, 11v3-6, Num 11v1-3.33,34, 16v1-3,28-35,49, Ezek 9v3-6.

The Fifth Vial. Rev 16v10,11

A darkness falls on the throne of the Beast, like that which covered Egypt in the ninth Egyptian plague. Exodus 10v21-29. Antichrist's false claim that he is God, is destroyed step by step, he cannot protect his followers, and the centre of his administration, which seems to be the Temple at Jerusalem, is in darkness. The effects of the first and fourth Vial are still in operation according to Rev 16v10. We have the picture of the wicked sitting in darkness gnawing their tongues for pain; they know these plagues are from God, but instead of using their tongues to cry for mercy, they use them to blaspheme God to His face. They are irrevocably hardened in sin and rebellion against God.

The Sixth Vial. Rev 16v12-16

a) The drying up of the river Euphrates for the armies of the kings of the East

The drying up of the river Euphrates allows the armies of Antichrist to be gathered from the East to Armageddon for destruction at the great last day. Antichrist gathers His armies in order to win the battle with the nations who oppose him. It seems that God dries up the Euphrates to make it easier for these armies to be gathered to Armageddon for destruction. In Rev 9v13-21, we see that the sixth Trumpet is also linked with the river Euphrates, and the movement of a vast army of 200 million, but the sixth Trumpet starts 13 months before the end of the Great Tribulation, and this is many months earlier than any of the Vials, never mind the sixth Vial. It is obvious, therefore, that this army has spent much of those 13 months subduing the armies and nations in its path, and that it does not arrive in Palestine until around

the sixth vial. Isaiah 11v15,16, 10v20-22. Satan persuades these armies to come to fight for Antichrist by means of three false prophets, who do mighty signs and lying wonders through the power of three unclean spirits. Rev 16v13,14, 2Thess 2v7-12. The Two Witnesses do wonders that lead people to the true and living God, Satan does lying wonders to deceive and destroy mankind. There is no time in Church history when God's wonders are more needed than today, and in the final days of this age.

b) Here, almost at the end of the Great Tribulation, our Lord warns Christians to be watchful

The argument that the Church is already raptured by this time, is refuted by Rev 16v15, which tells us that even as late as this, at the very end of the Great Tribulation, the Church is still on earth, and still waiting for the coming of Christ. Jesus warns that he will come as a thief, and tells us to watch and be prepared, this warning would be pointless and incorrect if He had already returned. In 1Thess 5v2-4, Paul tells us that though the day of the Lord will come upon the world as a thief, we are not in darkness that it will overtake us as a thief. It will only come upon the backslidden Christian, and the sinner as a thief, the world will not be expecting His return. Some think that this keeping of garments is a reference to the inspection of the temple guard by the captain of the guard, anyone who was found asleep on duty was beaten, or had their garments set on fire. The coming as a thief, certainly does not refer to a secret rapture, for Peter tells us that when the Lord comes, "as a thief," the heavens will pass away with a great noise, the elements will melt with fervent heat, and the earth and its works will be burnt up, this is certainly not a secret rapture. 2Peter 3v10, Luke 12v39. For "garments," see Rom 13v11-14, 1Cor 3v15, 2Cor 7v1, Eph 4v20-24, 6v10-20, Col 3v8-14, James 1v27, 1Peter 1v13, 1John 2v28, Jude v23, Rev 3v3-5, 7v14, 19v7,8.

c) Armageddon. Rev 16v16

"Armageddon," is derived from "Har," "valley," and means the valley of Megiddo." There have been many battles upon the plain of Esdraelon before Megiddo, and probably all the conquerors of Palestine have fought on this plain. Joshua 12v21, Judges 4 to 8, 1Sam 31 (all), 2Chron 35v20-27, Zech 12v11, Joel 3v2. When Jesus lived at Nazareth He was only a few miles from this plain, how He must have meditated as He looked upon this plain, and thought of the things that had happened in the past and would happen in the future. This is where Deborah gained a decisive victory over Sisera. Judges 5v19. Antichrist's armies defeat the armies of the West in a great battle at Armageddon a few days before our Lord's return. Armageddon is also the place where Antichrist's armies are destroyed by Jesus at His return. Ezek 39v2-4,11-16, Rev 16v14-16, 19v17-21.

The Seventh Vial. Rev 16v17-21

a) This vial occurs at the same time as the sixth and seventh seal and the seventh trumpet

All these occur on the last day, the great day of God's wrath, and they all stress judgement, for it is the day of vengeance of our God. Isaiah 61v2. In the seventh Vial some of the details of the sixth seal and the seventh trumpet are expanded, and there are several new pieces of information. The words "It is done," can be translated, "It is all accomplished," which is the same thought as the words of the angel of Rev 10v6,7, that at the seventh Trumpet, "there will be no more delay," the kingdom of God has been set up, and the prophecies concerning the coming of Jesus, and the establishing of His kingdom are fulfilled. We read again of "voices," Rev 11v19.4v5, 10v3,4; and "thunders," Rev 4v5, 8v5, 11v19, 14v2, 7v10, 19v6; and lightnings." Rev 4v5, 8v5, 11v19. There must be great storms and tremendous winds to keep hailstones in the air which are a talent in weight, i.e. from 45 to 130 pounds in weight, it is no wonder that God says that this plague is exceeding great. Rev 11v19.

b) There is mention again of the greatest earthquake that the world has ever known. Rev 16v18-20

This earthquake shakes and moves every mountain and island in the world, and greatly changes world geography; it is mentioned several times in Revelation and elsewhere. Rev 6v12-14, 11v19, Zech 14v4,5, Isaiah 24v17-21, Haggai 2v6,7. This earthquake occurs when the feet of the Lord Jesus touch the Mount of Olives, and the city of Jerusalem is divided into three parts, this is the final fall of Jerusalem, which spiritually is as evil as ancient Babylon, under Antichrist. Zech 14v4, Rev 16v19. This last great earthquake divides the city up and buries the old city beneath the waters of the new river that flows both to the former and hinder sea. Dan 9v26. "The end is determined by a flood." Zech 14v8,9, Ezek 47v1-12. The new city is built upon the new mountain that is north of the site of the present city. Psalm 48v1-3.

Carnal reasoning would say that the judgements of the Vials would make the wicked cry for mercy, but only a remnant do, the vast majority turn and revile God to His face. They are fearful, but are certainly not repentant. Rev 6v14-17, James 2v19, Matt 8v28,29, 27v3-5, 28v1-4,11-15, Acts 24v24-26. The case of Judas reveals to us that remorse is quite a different thing from repentance. The Scriptures also reveal the dreadful truth, that obdurate sinners, like Felix, who trembled in fear as Paul preached to him; can be greatly convicted about their sins, and fully realise the fact and truth about the judgement of God, and yet in spite of this, they refuse to repent. These defiant sinners harden their hearts against God, even though they know that they are going to be judged by the living God, for their evil and selfish lives,

and experience His justice and righteous anger. Heb 10v30,31, 1Peter 4v18.

Appendix 9: The Spiritual Qualities That Make Up The Character Of The Overcomer

Mention must be made of this subject as it is so important, the promises given to the overcomer are so great that the subject deserves special consideration. Christ has solemnly warned the Christians of the last days that they will have to live very careful, prayerful and godly lives if they are to overcome and come through the gross darkness with flying colours. Matt 7v24-29, 24v11-13, 42-25v13, Luke 8v14, 18v1-8, Mark 4v19, 1John 2v28. Let us consider the spiritual qualities that cause a person to be an overcomer and the things an overcomer does and is.

1) They Love The Word Of God. They are not lazy in Bible study, they learn the doctrines and truths of God's Word, they know Truth and long for more, it is the joy and rejoicing of their heart. Joshua 1v8, Psalm 1 all, John 17v17,26, Acts 17v10,11, 20v32, Rom 6v17, Eph 6v14,17, 2Tim 3v15-17, Heb 5v11-14, 2Pet 2v2.

2) They Love To Do God's Will. They actively serve God, they seek the lost, they have an evangelical fervour. Isaiah 52v7, Matt 6v10, 26v42, 28v18-20, John 4v34, 5v30, 12v26, Rom 12v1,2, Col 1v9, Heb 10v7, 12v23. They obey the will of God as revealed by the Spirit of God. Rom 8v14, Eph 4v30, 1Thess 5v17, Rev 2v7,11,17,29, 3v6,13,22. They obey the will of God as revealed by the Word of God, e.g. "follow after love and desire spiritual gifts." Matt 7v21, 12v30, Luke 6v46, 11v34, John 14v21-24.

3) They Love To Seek Their Father's Face. They love to pray, they have a life of public and private praise and prayer, they tarry for the Spirit, they wait on God. Psalm 27v8, 34v3,6, 37v9, 62v1,2,5,6 84v4-10, 91v1,2,9,14,15, Matt 6v5-15, Luke 11v1-13, 18v1-8, Eph 6v18,19, 1Thess 3v10, 5v17, Jude v20,21.

4) They Love To Walk With God In Their Daily Lives. They live a practical holy life. Rom 8v5-14, Gal 5v16-26, Eph 4v1-3,17-32, 5v1-6v9. By the grace of God they keep themselves pure and in victory. They are not in bondage to sin. By the grace of their Saviour they have overcome the world, the flesh and the Devil. Psalm 37v23,24, Matt 5v8, John 16v33, Rom 6v14-23, 2Cor 7v1, Phil 3v7-21, 1Thess 4v2,3, 1John 2v13-17, 3v1-10, 4v4, 5v4, Rev 14v1-5.

5) They Love the Brethren. Psalm 133v1-3, John 13v34,35, 15v12-15, Acts 1v14, 2v1,44-47, 4v32,37, Phil 4v1, 1Thess 2v11, 1John 3v10-24, 4v7-5v3. They love to have fellowship with God's people, and dwell on the things of God together. Deut 6v4-9, Prov 27v17, Mal 3v16-18, Heb 10v24,25. In home as well as church building. Matt 23v37-39, Acts 2v1-4 with 1v13, Rom 16v5, 1Cor 16v19, Col 4v15, Philemon v2. Our conversation should be centred on heavenly things and should be such as becomes the Gospel of Christ, gracious and loving like those of our gracious Lord, "They were all astonished at the beautiful words that fell from His lips." Luke 4v22 cf. Col 4v6. If this is not so, there is a definite need of reconsecration. Matt 15v10,11, Mark 7v20-23, Eph 5v4,5.

6) The letters to the churches in the book of Revelation give us a very good idea of what the Lord expects of the Christian, and what an overcoming Christian is like. We read the Christians are to have works, love, service, faith, patience, increasing works, a willingness to be faithful unto death, a separation from the world, spiritual alertness, and the thing that will assure all these, they must keep their fervent first love for Christ. Perhaps more qualities of the overcomer could be added to these, but these will suffice. In ALL things we are to follow the example of Christ, for by His grace we can overcome ALL that comes our way. Matt 11v28-30, 13v23, Luke 8v8,15, John 15v1-8, 1John 2v6, 4v17, Rev 12v10,11.

When the Church or a local church lives in victory, there are multitudes of souls saved and bodies healed and an abundance of miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit, as well as a lovely manifestation of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. When a church was overcome by sin, the Lord gave these Christians the most scathing rebukes. Rev 2v5,16,21-23, 3v15-17. These Scriptures make it quite clear that the Lord in the midst of His churches will not pass over sin or coldness of heart. Because Christ loves His people He chastens them, so that they might not be condemned with the world. 1Cor 11v29-32. Sometimes people may be beyond repentance and the only thing that the Lord can do is to make a public example of them. Heb 6v4-6,8, 10v19-39, N.B 26-31, Rev 2v22,23. It behoves us all to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Psalm 2v11, Isaiah 66v2, Rom 8v15, Eph 5v15, Phil 2v12, Heb 12v21,28,28, 1Pet 1v17, 1John 4v18. Let us also keep our minds on the great grace of our God and the wonderful promises that He has given to us to encourage us on the Christian way. John 17v23, 2Pet 1v1-10, etc....

Let no one think that they can treat this subject lightly, Truth is our shield and buckler, and our sword. Psalm 91v4, Eph 6v14,17. It will not be enough to say when the Great Tribulation arrives, "we were wrong after all." The false prophets of Israel said the same in their day, and we know what God thought of them. It is for Pastors and teachers to prepare their flocks for the Great Tribulation **NOW**, before the evil day comes. This subject is so important in the eyes of God, that He has made it by far the most prominent Truth in the Bible, to fill people with lies about this subject will certainly **NOT** please the Lord. It behoves us all to tremble at this Word of the Lord and take it as seriously as God has! Isaiah 66v2, Rev 22v18,19.

The Lord Jesus told His twelve apostles on at least four separate occasions, that He was going to be rejected by that generation, betrayed into the hands of men, scourged, beaten and killed, and the third day He will be raised up. However, the twelve apostles refused continuously to believe the Truth that He was trying to give to them (which was the result of their minds being filled with the unscriptural traditions of the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees), which if they had received, when the time came, they would have had the truth firmly fixed in their minds, and have been spiritually prepared for it. But because they point blankly refused to accept His words on this vital matter, their minds became reprobate on this issue, and so, when it did happen they ALL failed and forsook Him! And the same will happen to believers who continuously refuse to receive and believe the Truth regarding a post-tribulation Advent and Rapture. When the Great Tribulation starts, those Christians who are believing for a pre-tribulation advent and rapture will be so overwhelmed by the tremendous inrush of evil into the world, that the vast majority of them will backslide and go into apostasy, ending up with the worldling persecuting believers. The people who are looking for a pre-tribulation advent and rapture think that by continuously believing it and saying it is so, that they will make it such, however, this is such a tremendous folly! It is truth that will give them victory in the evil day, not a pack of half-baked lies. Matt 16v21-23, 17v22,23, 24v48-51, 26v47-56, Luke 17v25, 18v31,33, Rom 1v28.

Yahweh Shalom

Alister Hamilton, 24th, August 2014

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