



In Memory of Dorothy Leona Losier 1911 - 1992

A MEMORIAL TO MY BELOVED DOROTHY

"My Beloved Wife" of 55 years of married life save 5 days is now safely in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the saints of all ages. She has escaped from her pains and has gained Paradise, re-united with many of our loved ones, who have gone on before. It is no doubt a busy time for her, sharing the news of the affairs of this earth. But most of all she is seeing her Savior, "face to face". We have asked the Lord, as she was suffering from cancer that the Lord would give her a painless farewell to this old world. As my son Tom, and Carol his wife and I watched our beloved slip away from this earth, she spoke my name, "Andy" and then as she quietly was breathing her last, she took a final breath and with a wonderful smile, left her body, and was carried into heaven by her ministering angel. Yes, we wept as we said goodbye, and will continue to weep, not as others who have no hope, but as the loss of our "Beloved", but praise God, the Lord's gain.

Dorothy was born December 5th, 1911, and went to be with the Lord May 16th, 1992. Dorothy was a "Beloved Wife" and a "Mother" of nine children. Two of her daughters, Catherine Anne, and Carol Marie were there in Paradise to meet their mother, to share much news with each other. Jack, Becky, Paul, John, Roger, Tom and Margie, a fine family are left behind with their father. God has given us a wonderful family with precious "In Laws" and twelve grandchildren.

The greatest memorial that we can give to our "Beloved" is a legacy through the printed Word of God. We will be sending several Biblical textbooks out to many places around the world in memory of her. To date we are printing 45,000 copies of the following. "The Battlefield and Warfare of the Christians", A Seminar on "The Second Coming of the Lord", and "Christ the Eternal Son of God". Thank you for your part in making this special memorial to Dorothy possible.

Yours for the furthering of the Gospel.

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier, Founder & President Christian Literature and Bible Center, Inc.

U.S. America

The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ



"The Trumpet Shall Sound..."

(1 Cor. 15:52)

by
Rev.Dr. Andrew J. Losier
Christian Literature & Bible Center

U.S. America

NOT TO BE SOLD

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Forward

There has been much confusion as to prophetic utterances, and unless you rightly divide the Word of truth and place these revelations in the proper category, you will run into many difficulties. The Master Plan of the Triune God needs to be thoroughly studied, both in the light of fulfilled prophecy and that which is still future. One of the most important issues that we should understand is the final aim of God in both the first coming of the Lord, and the second coming. God in his omniscience knows every event which shall ever take place and nothing is hidden from him. The earth has become the supreme testing ground and final judgement against sin. Satan the father of all ungodliness is running his course and was judged at the cross and in God's time will be cast into the lake of fire, along with the sum total of all evil, and will never show it's ugly head again.

The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will establish a kingdom of righteousness with great power, which will establish the kingdom of God forever and ever. God has so planned to establish a new creation which shall never be contaminated with sin, and will creatures in perfect harmony without dwell with his interference of temptation or sin in any form. Christ is the first fruits of this resurrected state of affairs and God has given all believers the guarantee of a blameless glorified body through the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit. We must remember, as believers that our bodies are the temple of God. May we consider the following important factors.

- 1. God is Spirit and demands spiritual worship based on the truth. (Jn.4:23-24.)
- 2. The only way that man's worship is acceptable is being born again of God the Holy Spirit. (Jn.3:5-7.)
- 3. Identification with the Holy Spirit comes by being baptized into one body, by the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor.12:13.)
- 4. If the Holy Spirit is grieved with a Christian's conduct, then any prayer is useless and is ignored by God the Father. (Eph.4:30.)
- 5. All believers need to constantly get rid of the wood, hay and stubble in their lives to become witnesses of credibility.
 (1 Jn.1:9; 1 Cor.3:9-16.)
- 6. To understand the teaching of the Bible, the believers must be constantly listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit, through the Written Word. (Jn.16:8.)
- 7. The believer must be willing to be led by the Holy Spirit in all issues of this present life. (Rom.8:14.)

- 8. In order to know the perfect will of God in our lives, we must not allow our lives to be governed by the affairs of this life. Our minds must be constantly be controlled by the Word of God and the Son of God. (Rom.12:2.)
- 9. The believer must keep on being filled by the Holy Spirit, not that we get more of the Holy Spirit, but rather that he gets all of us. Too many Christians are so filled by the affairs of this world that they do not allow the Holy Spirit to have his rightful all in their lives. (Eph.5:18.)
- 10. The Christians must use their natural gifts in the work of the Lord, and then the holy Spirit can add special gifts, as he sees fit. (1 Cor. chapter 12.)
- 11. All Christians are left in this world to bear fruit for the Lord Jesus Christ. In this, God the Father is glorified. (Gal.5:22-23; Jn.15:8.)
- 12. When we are doing the will of God, then do we have great expectation as to the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thess.2:19-20; 2 Thess.2:13-17. Tit.2:13.)
- 13. As citizens of heaven, we are but pilgrims in this world, and are waiting to be "Caught Up" by the Lord into heaven, to receive our place in the mansions of God the Father. (Phil.3:20-21; 1 Thess.4:13-18
- 14. We as believers must all be in Heaven before the Lord Jesus Christ can return to set up his kingdom of righteousness. (1 Thess.3:13; Rev.19:11-16.)
- 15. The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will be the culmination of God's power, declaring supreme authority over all.

May we study the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ with a personal interest and a sure hope in the Lord as our all in all. I count it a great privilege to present this seminar on one of the very important doctrines of all ages.

"He who testifieth these things saith, Surely, I come quickly. Amen. Even so come Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." Rev. 22: 20-21.

Rev. Dr. Andrew J.Losier.

God's humble servant, who as a sinner was saved by grace.

INTRODUCTION

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ will be one of the most awesome events in the history of the Universe. Christ will return with His Saints to rule and reign on Earth "with a rod of iron" for a thousand years (Millennium). This will mark the beginning of the end of Satan's empire. The Second Coming is frequently confused with the "Rapture", which is a prior event, and includes the return of Jesus Christ "in the clouds" to take His Saints from all ages to Heaven for a period of seven years. The Second Coming will occur at the end of the seven year period. As students of the Word, it is important that we understand the sequence and significance of events outlined by God in His Word. This book (Seminar) was written to provide Bible students with an overview of the Second Coming and related events.

In preparation for this study, it is imperative that we understand the importance of studying God's Word. It is equally important that we review God's overall Plan and Timetable as outlined in the Bible. May God the Holy Spirit be your teacher as you study these lessons.

The Importance and Objectives of This Seminar

- 1. Gain a better understanding of the Only True God.
- 2. Establish each of us and give us confidence for the future.
- 3. Understand our relation to the Triune God as Believers.
- 4. To better understand "Eschatology" (Prophecy).
- 5. Know about the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 6. Interpreting future prophetic events in the light of fulfilled prophetic events.
- 7. The importance of teaching the Word of God, keeping it within the context in which it is written.

- 8. Applying the Word of God to our present time, as a secondary application.
- 9. The great importance of the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for his own (Rapture) and with his own (Second Coming).
- 10. The resurrectional truth as God revealed it in the Bible.
- 11. Some of the events which will take place, both in Heaven and upon Planet Earth.
- 12. The importance of a thorough knowledge of the Word of God.
- 13. The study of Biblical Doctrine.
- 14. Learning as much of the Word of God before the Lord calls us home to Gloryland.
- 15. The present place and division of all the dead.

GOD'S TIMETABLE

As this age of Grace is drawing closer to the end, it is important for us all to understand the signs of the time. The young folks of this present generation, have a very great expectation of never having to pass through death, barring all accidents or sicknesses. We are coming to the close of some three periods of 2,000 years. As the Word of God, records in time:

From Adam to Abraham	2,000	years
From Abraham to Christ	.2,000	years
From Christ to our present generation almost	2,000	years
From the Rapture through the kingdom age	.1,007	years

Abraham to Christ three periods of 14 generations (Matt. 1:17). Abraham to David, David until Judah taken to Babylon, and Babylon to Christ.

According to the Bible, we have many illustrations as to God's timing, according to His Master Plan. Let us list some of these:

- 1. The six day creation of life upon this earth, with the seventh day set aside as a "Day of Rest" (Gen.2:1-3).
- 2. Life span of man at the beginning (Gen.5:1-5).
- 3. Noah given time for preparation of an ark (Gen.6:5-7:24).
- 4. The timing of the duration that Israel would wonder through the wilderness (Num.14:20-38).
- 5. Judgement upon Judah: Seventy years in Babylon (Jer.25).
- 6. Judgement upon Israel: Seventy times Seven or 490 years (Dan.9:24-25).
- 7. The timing of the crucifixion of the Messiah (Dan.9:26) (483 yrs.).
- 8. The great tribulation to continue for 7 years. (One week of Daniel) (Dan.9:27. Rev. 6-18.)
- 9. The count down of days for the cleansing of the temple (Dan.12:13).
- 10. The fourteen generations from Abraham to David, from David until the carrying captives into Babylon, and fourteen generations from the Babylonian captivity until the Messiah (Matt.1:17).
- 11. The fullness of time for the coming of the Lord (Gal.4:4-5).
- 12. The 40 days which the resurrected Christ remained with His disciples (Acts 1:3).
- 13. The ten days until Pentecost (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:1).
- 14. The length of time for the Abomination of Desolation spoken of by Daniel and confirmed by Christ (Dan.9:27; Matt.24:15,21; Rev.9:1-21; Rev.12:7-17; Rev.11:2; Rev.13:5).
- 15. The thousand year reign of Christ upon the earth (Rev.20:2-7).

Though Almighty God is not limited to time, yet He has considered time in dealing with sin and establishing eternal righteousness for His new creation. There will be an era in God's Master Plan when time shall be no more!

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

For those who wish to understand God's revelation, they will not find it by some personal experience or revelation, but will have to "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim.2:15). "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim.3:15-17). God the Holy Spirit uses His Word in the Bible to declare understanding of God's principles in depth. It is our privilege as believers to handle God's Word, giving us a better understanding of what the future holds.

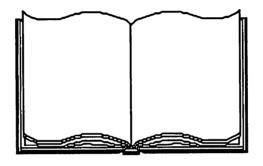
God's Master Plan is clearly presented in the Bible and can be obtained by all who are born again, if they are not lazy or careless with the freedom that God has given to believers. Paul had that problem with the Corinthian church. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with solid food; for to this time ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" (1 Cor.3:1-3). God does not force any believer to study the Bible, but expects them to search the Scripture, with a great desire to know more about the eternal things which are yet to come.

There are signs and indications of the period of time that we are living in, and out of curiosity, we should want to know what eternity holds for us as believers. This seminar has one purpose in mind, and that is, to establish each of you in the riches of love in Christ Jesus. "Oh, the depth of the riches both of wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counselor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen" (Rom.11:33-36). You and I have the opportunity to know a little of the knowledge and wisdom of the Creator of all things. If we fail to study the Bible, we are the losers. It is very important that we gain as much knowledge of the Bible as possible, while upon planet

earth. This is our "Training" for equipping us for eternity.

These lessons will have little impression upon your Christian life, except you apply this truth to your daily living for Jesus Christ with great expectancy of His imminent return. God expects every believer to be alerted as to the surrounding pitfalls, as well as being ready for the coming of the Lord, to receive us unto Himself. There is nothing in the Bible hindering His coming for His own, and it can happen in a moment, when the fullness of God's time arrives.

Lesson one



Helpful Hints on Studying the Bible

LESSON 1

HELPFUL HINTS ON STUDYING THE BIBLE

INTRODUCTION

The Bible is one continual revelation from Almighty God with temporal history included under the sovereignty of God. Although there were more than 40 scribes to write the 66 Books of the Bible, yet there is a continuity which God the Holy Spirit "Breathed" into it with Divine accuracy (2 Tim.3:16-17). As we study the Bible, we must be aware that it is imperative that we "Rightly Divide the Word of truth" (2 Tim.2:15). May we be assured that there is but one way of salvation, and that is through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Here are a few hints as to how to study the Bible. However may I warn you that unless you are born again by God the Holy Spirit you will be on your own and unable to be taught and led by God the Holy Spirit (Jn.16:13; Rom.8:14; Jn.3:3-8).

Also ,we must remember that in order to understand the Bible, we must maintain the right relationship with the Lord. You will have a deep knowledge of the Word of God, as we keep on being filled by the Holy Spirit. It is not that you get more of Him, but that He gets all of you (Eph.3:19; Eph.5:18). Avoid grieving the Holy Spirit (Eph.4:30). Allow Him to teach you (John 16:13). Let Him guide and direct you (Rom.8:14). He will provide you with the necessary gifts to do God's will in your life (1 Cor.12:11). We build our lives on the foundation of Christ (Eph.2:19-22). Finally, may we attempt through confessing our sins keep short accounts with God (1 John 1:9).

1. KNOW THE AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE

The attributes of God consist of the following:

GOD IS LOVE - He has manifested that love in many ways such as making us living souls, like Him, giving His Only begotten Son (Jn.3:16;1 Jn.3:1-3; 2 Pet.3:9; 2 Jn.4:7-10).

GOD IS RIGHTEOUS - God never does the wrong thing, and is accountable to himself alone (Rom.3:21-26. 1 Jn.2:29; Ps.18:30).

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GOD IS ABSOLUTE - The existence of God, and is absolutely in control of all. This is obvious in his creation of all things (Ps.19:1; Gen.1:1. Jn.1:1-5).

GOD IS HOLY - He is absolutely pure and without one imperfection (Ex.3:2-6; Ps.5:4; Isa.6:1-3).

GOD IS JUST - No one can point their finger at God and say that He is not just in all things. If anything looks like injustice, it is only because of our finite minds that cannot comprehend the vastness of our God (Rom.3:26; Rom.5:1-2; Job.9:12; Heb.10:38; 1 Pet.3:18; Ps.103:11-12).

GOD IS TRUTH (VERACITY) - Christ reminded us of this fact in declaring Himself to be very God and saying "I am the truth" (Jn.14:6; 2 Thess.2:8-12; Jn.1:1-5,14).

GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE - God is from eternity to eternity and never had a beginning, nor will He ever have an ending (Deut.33:7; 1 Jn.5:20; Jn.5:24; Acts 17:28).

GOD IS IMMUTABLE (NEVER CHANGES) - This is something that puzzles all of us, but we can also rejoice that it is so. God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb.13:8; Jas.1:17; Isa.46:9-10).

GOD IS IMPECCABLE (HE CANNOT SIN) - This should be comforting to all of us, to know that we are under the cloak of our sinless God. Christ could have cast the first stone at the woman taken in adultery as He has always and will always be without sin. Yes, He became sin on the cross for us through His incarnation, but it was our sin and not His (Jn.3:17; Jn.8:45-46).

GOD IS SOVEREIGN (HE REIGNS OVER ALL) - Sometimes it looks like things are out of control and God seems to be indifferent to situations, but this is not so. Consider Job, for Satan had to get permission from God as well as give an account before God (Acts.1:4-5; Jn.16:8). The final results of everything will prove God's Sovereignty (Dan.9:24).

Helpful Hints on Studying The Bible

GOD IS OMNISCIENT (HE KNOWS EVERYTHING) - There is nothing hidden from God and He knows the end from the very beginning. He is directing the affairs of all creation and has a plan which is being fulfilled in every detail (Rom.11:33-36; Matt.24:1-2).

GOD IS OMNIPRESENT (HE IS EVERYWHERE) - This does not mean that God's creation is part of Him, but rather that God's creation cannot hide anything from God, who is aware of all things. Note how Jesus was aware of Nathanael (Jn.1:47-49) (Ps.139).

GOD IS OMNIPOTENT (HE IS ALL POWERFUL) - The Triune God controls all of the power in the creation which He was able to make out of nothing as the Hebrew word "Barah" reveals. All power has been given unto the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt.28:18).

When ever you have a problem as to whether the heathen are lost, or where did sin come from, or if God knows all things, why did he create Satan? These and many other questions will come before you as you study the Bible, but remind yourself of the perfect character of God and what God said of His creation.

- a. God saw that it was good (Gen.1:3).
- b. God did not create evil for Satan is the father of evil as is recorded in Isa.14:12-17.
- c. God created Lucifer perfect (Ezek.28:12-15).
- d. Mankind was given a choice (Gen.2:7-25).
- e. God does not wish that one soul should perish (2 Pet.3:9).
- f. Hell was created for the Devil and his demons and eventually death and hell will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev.20:14).
- g. God is allowing sin to run it's course, after judging it upon the Cross (Rom.3:21-26).

Helpful Hints on Studying The Bible

- h. God will make that new creation where sin will never again express itself (Dan.9:24).
- i. Read the Bible with an understanding of the eternal plan of God.
- j. Study prophecy to establish confidence regardless of the day by day circumstances which we face.
- k. The Bible is the Word of God in it's entirety (2 Tim.3:16-17).

2. READ THE SCRIPTURE IN IT'S CONTEXT -

As one reads the Scripture we are prone to take a verse here and there, which may be alright as one quotes precious promises from the Word. However, we may apply it to the wrong thing in many instances. For example "If thine eye offend thee, pluck it out" (Mk.9:47). Keep this verse in context and read all of the kingdom teachings which Christ taught. Do we pray that our flight be not in winter, as the Scripture says? (Matt.24:20) It is important that we understand the background and purpose of the Scripture and keep it in context. Understanding the whole Bible is necessary in our Christian walk. God's truth is eternal.

3. KNOW TO WHOM THE SCRIPTURE IS REFERRING TO -

God is specific and at times He specializes in His revelation to certain groups. Israel is a special nation, chosen by God to be custodians of the Old Testament and special inheritance. They were given the Sabbath to observe, we as Christians are given the Lord's Day. Some of the Scripture identifies certain people, such as the Epistles of John are definitely for Believers of the household of faith.

4. DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PARABLES WHICH ARE LIKENED AND CERTAIN TRUTHS OR EVENTS AS ACTUAL -

Parables are often limited as to their application and must be guarded against

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stretching them beyond their limits. With actual events we will note Christ referring to them as "A Certain Man", or the "Rich man and Lazarus". "Sheo!" the place of the dead, etc.

5. ALWAYS REMEMBER TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE PRIMARY APPLICATION AND THE SECONDARY APPLICATION -

Sometimes the real meaning of passages which we study may be lost as we only apply it to our immediate situations. Relating definite truths to our present situations is permitted and profitable, but do not disregard the circumstances for which God records certain truths.

6. HOW DOES ONE INTERPRET PROPHECY?

Prophetic interpretation can best be determined by the actual fulfillment of past proclamations. Fulfilled prophecy is usually accepted, even by the liberals with reservations and explanations from a natural basis. However, fulfilled prophecy gives us a clue as to what to expect when dealing with future prophecy. For example, take the 70 years that Judah and Benjamin were enslaved in Babylon (Jer.25). Was it a figure of speech or merely a spiritual action? By no means! It was literal and to the very year that Jeremiah predicted it. Then, turn to the Book of Daniel, and examine the 70 times 7. From the Decree of Cyrus, allowing the Remnant of Judah and Benjamin to return to their land until the Messiah comes and is crucified amounted to 69 time 7 or 483 years. This was exactly fulfilled when Christ was crucified, leaving one heptad or one week of 7 years to complete the 70 times 7 or 490 years. Have the 7 years been completed? By no means, as Christ mentions the last part of this final period (Matthew 24:15; Daniel 9:26). When will this "Abomination of Desolation" take place. I refer you to Rev. 17:4-5 and also to Satan being cast down to earth by Michael the archangel. Satan will make his last stand against God (Rev.9:1-12; Rev.12:7-17). The reason that I refer to this latter prophecy recorded in Daniel, confirmed by Christ and will be fulfilled according to the Book of Revelation, is that skeptics and liberals try to spiritualize the Book of Revelation. If we were only to make a spiritual application of the terrible things to come in the Book of Revelation, then we would have to spiritualize the first 69 weeks of Daniel's 70 times 7. This is impossible to do,

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since the first 69 weeks were actual and real to the very day. Therefore, we draw the conclusion and interpretation for future prophecies from those which have already been fulfilled.

7. DO NOT PLACE TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE WRITER OF THE VARIOUS BOOKS: THE <u>WHOLE</u> BIBLE WAS WRITTEN UNDER THE COMPLETE DIRECTION OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT -

It is important as to the time of writing particular revelations and the scribes, whom God the Holy Spirit used to give us the Bible. However, always bear in mind that the Bible is the Word of God, and does not merely contain the Word of God.

8. ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THERE <u>ARE NO</u>T VARIOUS WAYS IN WHICH MANKIND WAS SAVED DOWN THROUGH THE AGES -

"Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins" (Heb.9:22). Salvation comes entirely from Almighty God, through His eternal Son Who was sent to the cross to die for the sins of the whole world. This was anticipated in the Old Testament, and by faith these animal sacrifices were made as a covering of their sins until Christ came and removed the barrier of sin. We rightly divide the Word of God, but we do not wrongly destroy the Word of God. Although we do not come under the condemnation of the law, since Christ fulfilled the law for us, yet we do not ignore the laws of God.

9. THE NEW BIRTH AND THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN FULFILLMENT OF JOEL 2:28 -

Old Testament Saints were not born again, certain ones of God's Old Testament Servants experienced the Holy Spirit coming upon them for a particular work or revelation. From Pentecost until the rapture, God the Holy Spirit is providing a new Spiritual birth upon those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Christians become members of the Body of Christ with the baptism and indwelling by God

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the Holy Spirit forever (1 Cor.12:13). Christians are peculiar people and different from those of other ages. We are to become the "Bride of Christ".

10. THE KEY TO THE WHOLE BIBLE AS TO GOD'S FINAL PURPOSE IN ALLOWING SIN TO RUN IT'S COURSE AND BE THOROUGHLY AND COMPLETELY JUDGED IS FOUND IN DANIEL 9:24 -

God has not made robots or puppets out of both His angels and mankind, but have given them the freedom of choice. God could have made all of His creation with a mere instinct under His sovereignty, but He chose otherwise so that He might judge sin, once and forever! Daniel 9:24 tells us the whole story in a summary.

- 1. To finish all transgressions forever.
- 2. To make an end of all sin forever.
- 3. Reconciliation for iniquity was provided by Christ (2 Cor.5:18).
- 4. To establish everlasting righteousness.
- 5. To complete all that the Triune God determined in eternity past concerning the visions and prophecies.
- 6. To anoint the Most Holy Son of God in providing so great salvation and making possible the elimination of sin once and forever.

11. BIBLICAL TRUTHS TO BE STUDIED AS TO THE FIRST ADVENT (COMING) OF THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD -

- A. Elijah is appointed to herald the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Malachi 4:5).
 - 1. The Scribes question the disciples (Matt.17:10-13).

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- 2. John the Baptist sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he were the Messiah (Matt.11:1-5).
- 3. Priests and Levites sent to John to ask John the Baptist who he was. He said I am not the Messiah. Are you Elijah? He answered that he wasn't (John 1:15-23).
- 4. Prophetic declaration of John the Baptist (Luke 1:13-17). Spirit of Elijah.
- 5. Elijah is to come before the Kingdom of righteousness sets up the kingdom (Rev.11:3-13). Transfiguration of Moses and Elijah with the Lord (Matt.17:1-5).
- B. John the Baptist was sent in place of Elijah (Mal.3:1).
 - 1. John the Baptist was the spirit of Elijah.
 - 2. John the Baptist was sent because in God's omniscience, he knew that Israel would reject their King.
 - 3. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem was on schedule (Matt.21:1-11). A colt was predicted upon which Christ would ride (Zech.9:9).
 - 4. The Golden gate must be closed (Ezek.44:2).

12. UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLICAL PREDICTIONS OF PROPHETIC EVENTS -

The Word of God declares that God is not a God of confusion. "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all churches of the saints" (1 Cor.14:33).

In various view points of what the Bible teaches, all cannot be right. Of course it is permissible to use the Biblical truth in a secondary application, providing the real and direct meaning is understood. We are going to briefly view the various viewpoints held by outstanding Theologians. Their teachings are primarily based

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upon their thorough knowledge of the Hebrew and Greek, which sometimes as used in context or out of context will have plural meanings, as compared to the English vocabulary. Some of the beliefs of these super educated Theologians, depart from the literal meanings of events occurring in the future. They cannot deny the fulfillment of the past predictions, but sometimes will have to spiritualize certain events to establish their trend of thought. As we study the second coming of the Lord, may we thoroughly understand the Master plan of God. God has placed sufficient evidence in the Bible, for believers to understand God's purpose. The Bible must be studied prayerfully and with the guidance of God the Holy Spirit. You will not always find a sequence of events, but rather a combination of various events to take place. The Master Plan of God can be pieced together as a jig saw puzzle, providing that one knows the over all purpose of Almighty God.

13. OUR PURPOSE OF EXTENDED LIFE UPON PLANET EARTH

With a marvelous future prepared for every believer, it would be far better for all believers to enter into the eternal beyond. However, we are left in this world for a supreme purpose, and that is to make Christ known through evangelism and teaching the Word of God, and to build our character, well pleasing to God. Much depends upon the individual Christian, as to what responsibility he will have in eternity to come. We are to search the Scripture for these marvelous nuggets of gold, silver and precious stones. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath made us alive together with Christ (by grace ye are saved), And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (Eph.2:4-6).

As the future Bride of Christ, may we search out these marvelous truths, given to us by God the Holy Spirit. May each of us be molded and made according to the Bridegroom's desire. He has already prayed for us with the great compassion. "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world" (Jn.17:15-18). It will be a grand and glorious day when we see the Bridegroom face to face. As Christ's

Helpful Hints on Studying The Bible

future bride, may we be found faithful to Him and be able to hear Him say to each of us, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matt.25:21).

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen" (Jude 24-25).

CONCLUSION

If we follow these instructions as we study the Word of God, we will have eliminated some of the problems which we face. It is always difficult to understand our infinite God with our finite minds. That is why we as Believers are given God the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. When you have a question or conflict in understanding difficult problems faced in the Bible, always refer back to the character of God. If you have a problem concerning, whether the heathen are lost refer to 2 Peter 3:9. There are many truths which we must accept according to God's statement and value. Always remember that, "For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (1 Cor.13:12). Always remember, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure" (1 John 3:1-3). "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

We will be studying various aspects of what the Bible teaches in the form of favorite chapters of the Bible.

- 1. Genesis Chapter 3 as it deals with the origin of sin.
- 2. Psalm 23 as it deals with God's care over his own.

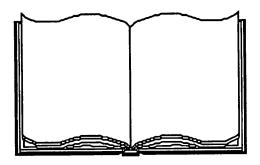
Helpful Hints on Studying The Bible

- 3. The Gospel of John Chapter 3 concerning the necessity of a new birth.
- 4. First Corinthians Chapter 13 with the emphasis on love.

Lesson 1 - Questions

	When did the promise of the coming of the Lord become part of God's Master Plan?
2.	What is God's ultimate aim in this present creation? Cite Scripture.
	Name and explain the two phases of God's promises to send the Messiah as recorded in the Old Testament.
4.	Why was Christ rejected by the religious leaders of Israel?
	Where is the first reference of a virgin birth? Give the sequence to verify that first statement from God.
6.	What two phases of the coming of the Lord do we find in the New Testament?
7.	Why did Christ send his disciples only to evangelize among the nation Israel? (Matt.10:5-14)
8.	What changed the evangelistic approach? (Lk.22:35-38)

Lesson two



Interpretations of Events Involving the Coming of Christ

LESSON 2

INTERPRETATION OF EVENTS INVOLVING THE COMING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

There are three dominant schools of thought on the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Although I consider the "Premillennial" viewpoint to be consistent with the teachings in the Word of God, I have summarized the ideas of the other two viewpoints below (Amillennial and Postmillennial).

I. AMILLENNIAL - No Millennium

SPIRITUALIZE

We will enter into the kingdom of God directly. Such truth as described in the Scripture is to be spiritualized only with the intent that we should prepare for an eternal kingdom of God.

ALLEGORIES

This method of allegorizing the Scripture, draws it's reasoning from Gal.4:19-31. vs. 24. "Which things are an allegory; for these are the two covenants; the one from Mount Sinai, bearing children for bondage, who is Hagar." The Sweedenborgan cult is very outspoken with this theory and interpretation of the Bible. You have the example of Isa.14:12-17; and Ezekiel 28:1-19 (The word prince of Tyre). Then you have the parables of Christ, which are likened to certain kingdom principles.

THE FALLACY

- 1. This would bring a question to any definite statements made in the Scripture.
- 2. The fulfilled prophecy would be turned into myths.

Interpretation of Events Involving The Coming of Christ

- 3. Such interpretation would lead to doubt.
- 4. There would be a confusion as to the meaning of the Bible.
- 5. Time and signs in prophecy would be ignored.
- 6. Fulfilled prophecy would have to be denied.

II. POSTMILLENNIALISM - Christ will come after the millennium

Before the second world war, the great cry went forth, during and after world war one, that this will be a war to end all wars. President Woodrow Wilson tried his best to establish the League of Nations, whereby all international problems could be settled apart from war. We were then to live in a utopia world according to their aspirations, but with the wrong timing of events, according to what the future held. There will be such a day when righteousness will rule upon this earth, by the Eternal Son of God, according to the Bible.

"And he shall judge among the nations, and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isa.2:4).

"And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it" (Micah 4:3-4).

I remember before, "Those early Days", when K.D.K.A. of Pittsburgh was one of the earliest radio broadcasting systems in the U.S.A. My Dad had his own radio built by a technician, with all of the fine wires trying to avoid all of the squeaks and static whistles. We also had those little crystal sets to manipulate and try to get some sort of sound. Cars were few and far between and I drove at the age of 13 years because licenses were unheard of in the early days, or weren't really necessary, as long as one could drive. I drove a Durrant touring car

Interpretation of Events Involving The Coming of Christ

of my own to high school, back in 1927. I also drove a Model T truck for a grocery store as a high school student. My earlier days, I worked in a grocery and Butcher shop for \$3. a week, after school and all day Saturday, added up with paper and pencil the total costs of the groceries, and delivering many orders of groceries to various customers. Perhaps you would consider me as "Andy the Aged"! However I have experienced great changes in this world, with world affairs far from being peaceful. We live in a day of "Wars and Rumors of Wars", just like the Lord said it would be.

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nations shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matt.24:6-8).

These are the days of trouble, with continual war taking place, some place or places upon planet earth. "Proclaim this among the nations, Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up; Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye nations, and gather yourselves together round about; there cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord" (Joel 3:9-11).

We all would like to experience peace upon this earth in our day, but God's timing is not according to the wishes of man. These are not the days of peace among nations, but rather the Lord Himself provides inward peace as we trust in Him as our Savior, Lord, and Master. This inward peace passes all understanding!

THE GREAT PLANS OF POLITICAL DREAMERS

God revealed to the prophet Daniel, some very interesting prophecy, concerning the nations of the world. Daniel was taken captive to Babylon as a young man, being of the Tribe of Judah. As God revealed to Jeremiah that Judah would be taken into captivity for 70 years (Jer.25). That literally happened, in the days of Daniel and Ezekiel. No one can spiritualize this historical event, as it literally happened.

Interpretation of Events Involving The Coming of Christ

It was during Daniel's time that God through his angel Gabriel, revealed to him the future great empires that would dominate the world. Babylon, Medo Persia, Greece, and Rome. This again has been literally fulfilled. As God foretold of the future great nations, so it has come to pass. People of all nations have rallied around their leaders to bring about "One Great World Power"! Often the pretense to get into office or to be popular would be to advocate "World Peace". We will be discussing these great empires later on, and discover the final end of these four great empires. At the moment, I want to point out a few aspirations of some of our own American leaders like President Woodrow Wilson, hoping that the "League of Nations" was the answer in preparing the world for better and not for worse. The "Postmillennial Theory" was being accepted in Christian circles. The theme was, "Building a Better World to Live In"! Many were deceived into dreaming of a time when war would be no more! The religious leaders who were advocating this policy, that we all must help to build this peaceful world and bring in the Millennium by our own efforts, and then the Lord Jesus Christ would come to a prepared peaceful world. They failed to realize that when Christ does come to set up his kingdom of righteousness that he has to use a "Rod of Iron" to enforce his righteousness upon the nations.

Note: Just a few of our own Presidents' aspirations:

- 1. THE NEW DEAL WITH HAPPY DAYS
- 2. THE GREAT SOCIETY
- 3. THE NEW WORLD ORDER

REVIVAL OF POSTMILLENNIALISM

For sometime, the "Postmillennial" teaching was defunct, but it keeps appearing, and someday that Dictator of world order will deceive the nations, led by the ecumenical religious crowd into one great world power, where war will be abolished for a limited time only. Then the Dictator with world power rules the world under the power of Satan. That day is coming and it will bring the doctrine in part of the "Postmillennials" to a reality, BUT thrusting this whole world order into "The Great Tribulation"! It will be Satan's counterfeit to the coming

Interpretation of Events Involving The Coming of Christ

"Kingdom Of Righteousness". The new world order, that we all would like to see, will never happen! There are a few things that Christ himself has proclaimed when upon this earth, which verifies a world of chaos, as we have today.

FALLACIES

- 1. A perfect world order, or a peaceful world cannot be obtained by totally depraved man. It will take the Eternal Son of God to come with great power and rule with a rod of Iron.
- 2. If man could establish a perfect world order to issue in the kingdom, (but he can't) the coming of the Lord under their system would be determining the date of the coming of the Lord. "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not even the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matt.24:36). "Watch, therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of man cometh" (Matt.25:13). "Be ye, therefore, ready also; for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not" (Lk.12:40). "And shall not God avenge his own elect, who cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Lk.18:7-8)
- 3. There shall be wars and rumors of wars before the Lord sets up his thousand year kingdom of righteousness upon this earth. "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matt.24:7-8).
- 4. The one peaceful world order will come before the Lord returns, under the rule of Satan. He will counterfeit what God has promised and bring a short season of peace upon the earth under the Dictates of the first and second Beasts mentioned in Rev.13:1-18. "And they worshipped the dragon who gave power unto the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" (Rev.13:4)

Interpretation of Events Involving The Coming of Christ

III. PREMILLENNIAL - Christ will come before the millennium

This is the doctrine of the coming of the Lord before the Millennium can begin. Christ will come to rapture home the believers of all ages. It also involves the coming of the Lord in the sky to precede the Great Tribulation. It is in fulfillment of several Scriptures and events which are to take place, sometime after this great air lift. It is the only possibility of the coming of the Lord for his own, so that he might come and set up his kingdom of righteousness with his own. This may seem to some of you to be a very strong dogmatic stand to take, but it is the only plausible conclusion to be establish based upon the following Biblical truths.

- 1. Christ is in heaven preparing a place for his future Bride in the Mansions of God the Father. "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3). Where are we to go, when Jesus comes in the clouds? Directly to heaven. What is the purpose of this air lift? That we might be with Christ in the Mansions of God the Father. For we are to be presented as a complete "Bride To Be", to God the Father, in preparation for the marriage.
- 2. There is another important factor with this air lift, and that is, we must all receive our glorified bodies before the wedding day. Therefore all the members of the body of Christ must be in heaven to be clothed with the royal bridal dress, which is measured to size, upon our glorified bodies. Although the Old Testament saints are not the Bride to be, nevertheless they also must come with the Lord, along with those who have gone to be with the Lord as Christians. The Old Testament saints will be the friends of the Bridegroom at the wedding feast. "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom, but the friend of the bridegroom, who standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice; this my joy, therefore, is fulfilled" (Jn.3:29). That will be a wonderful moment when that trumpet sounds and the believing dead of all ages come forth to receive those glorified bodies. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for this trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (1 Cor.15:52).

Interpretation of Events Involving The Coming of Christ

- 3. Since the total "Bride to Be" of Christ will have to be present at the marriage in heaven, so they must first of all be present in heaven. The millennium cannot start until the Saints of God are present in heaven.
- 4. Another very important factor to be considered is the zero hour for the Tribulation to begin. One must carefully read Revelation Chapters 4 and 5 to understand the count down for the Tribulation to begin. The opening of the seals will be the key moment for this to begin. As John on the Isle of Patmos saw this as a preview, so we all must be present. Why do I say this? When the scroll is taken by the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, the 24 Elders bow before him and we as a great chorus, burst out in singing. "And they sang a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God a kingdom of priests, and we shall reign on the earth" (Rev.5:9-10).
- 5. There is another important moment in time when the heavens shall open and the Lord Himself shall descend, riding upon that white victory horse, to destroy the great armies gathered together for the battle of Armageddon (Rev.19:11-21). We will follow upon horses, dressed in those fine bridal garments, to behold the King of kings and Lord of lords destroy the wicked armies, merely by the word of his mouth. That will be a great moment for all believers! "To the end he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ WITH ALL HIS SAINTS" (1 Thess.3:13).
- 6. The pre-millennial and pre-tribulation belief is the only truth whereby there is no time set. The other viewpoints try to determine a set time when Christ will return to this planet earth. "Watch, therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of man cometh" (Matt.25:13). "For as the lightening cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt.24:27). "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matt.24:36).
- 7. Other very important factors to be considered are the current affairs in this world.

Interpretation of Events Involving The Coming of Christ

WORLD AFFAIRS

- 1. Jerusalem burned and destroyed under Titus in 70 A.D.
- 2. The Hebrew People scattered around the world.
- 3. Great persecution of the Hebrew people under many nations.
- 4. Wars and rumors of wars to continue.
- 5. The Hebrew nation re-instated in 1948 in their own land.
- 6. The Hebrew people returning to their home land from around the world.
- 7. The beginnings of the revival of the Roman Empire through the Common Market of Europe.
- 8. A great falling away from the truth of God's Word.
- 9. The desire of the ecumenicist for a united one world government, uniting religion and politics.
- 10. The great upheaval of the Russian Empire, with the northern block of many flags.
- 11. Israel to eventually be dwelling in safety for a limited time (Ezek.38-39).
- 12. The armies of the north to make a surprise and secret attack upon Israel (Ezek.38-39).
- 13. The Rapture of the Believers of all ages.
- 14. The restraining power of God the Holy Spirit will be removed from the earth at the time of the Rapture.
- 15. The Battle of the holy angels with the demons in Heaven.

Interpretation of Events Involving The Coming of Christ

- 16. The Abomination of Desolation spoken by Daniel and confirmed by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 17. The Battle of Armageddon
- 18. The setting up of The Thousand Year Kingdom of Righteousness by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 19. The final battle with Satan.
- 20. The casting of the complete Demonic realm into the everlasting Lake of Fire.
- 21. The Great White Throne Judgement, involving the resurrection of all the unregenerate people of all ages, before they are cast into the everlasting Lake of Fire with Satan and his Demonic World.
- 22. The New Heavens and the New Earth, where sin will be abolished forever and ever (Dan.9:24).
- 23. Satanic worship spreading throughout the whole world.
- 24. Time periods of the past and the total of this age of grace are very similar.

BIBLICAL TRUTH GIVES US THE CLUE

God foretelling all of these important issues, gives us peace within our hearts, knowing that God is sovereign over all. Yes, God has granted volition to man, desiring that mankind being made in God's likeness would choose the better way. What God has provided is all of grace, lest any man should boast. That great love that sent Christ to the cross has made possible our new creation. We have been partakers of the Divine nature, being born again by the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us forever and ever. This is that great protection that we have by God the Father and God the Son. We cannot be possessed by the demons, once we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Although we cannot be possessed by these demons, we can be obsessed by the devil

Interpretation of Events Involving The Coming of Christ

and his demons (fallen angels). We have become God's elect, and a place is being prepared in the Heavenly Father's mansions for us. The Bridegroom has spent almost 2,000 years preparing His future Bride a place in His Father's mansions, and then we fail to enjoy a taste of heaven! Since Christ has already entered Jerusalem by the golden gate, then He will enter the golden City by a massive descent from heaven, with all of the saints (1 Thess.3:13).

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as he is pure" (1 Jn.3:1-3).

The Bridal Suite in heaven is being prepared for the Body of Christ, which will become the Bride of Christ. Those Believers of all ages will behold that great Wedding feast prepared for the Bride of Christ. The Bride to be (Christians) will have been made ready for that great event! The judgement seat of Christ will be past, and the rewards for faithfulness will have been given, the selfish good works will have been removed as "Wood, Hay and Stubble, and the good works giving glory and honor to the Lord will shine forth forever through the Gold, Silver and Precious Stones."

The Lord Jesus Christ is looking forward to that day when he can return with the trumpet sounding, and with all of the precious souls in his presence, waiting for their new glorified bodies. We which remain and are alive, just keep looking up, for our deliverance is drawing near. For almost 2,000 years the Lord has been preparing a place for us in the Mansions of God the Father. That to me is another manifestation of the Divine love, that sent Christ to Calvary. "Oh the love that drew salvation's plan, Oh the grace that brought it down to man!"

As we continue our study in this all important revelation of the coming of the Lord, may we learn to "Rightly divide the word of truth". We need to clarify the often mentioned mistake of a general resurrection. The Bible separates the Believers and unbelievers into two separate resurrections, which we will discuss next.

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the

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deep things of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God" (1 Cor.2:9-12).

"Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we all shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (1 Cor.15:51-53).

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of the Lord is present. Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come the falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" (2 Thess.2:1-3).

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present age, Looking for that blessed hope, and glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people of His own, zealous of good works" (Tit.2:11-15).

Lesson 2 - Questions

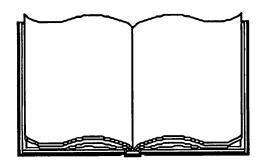
1.	Why should we have a thorough knowledge of the characteristics of the Author of the Bible?
2.	When you have a problem in understanding certain factors in the Bible, how do you approach the difficulties?
3.	What is God's ultimate goal in allowing sin to continue?
4.	How should we interpret future prophecies?
5.	What is the better method of teaching the Bible, through topical messages, or in context of the chapters? Please explain.

Lesson 2 - Questions

6.	Where should the	importance rest as one studies the Bible,	upon the writer or	upon
	the Holy Spirit? I	Explain why.		•

7. Why is it necessary to know the Master plan of God as set forth in the whole Bible?

Lesson Three



Resurrection and Events Leading up to the Second Coming

LESSON 3

RESURRECTION AND EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE SECOND COMING

INTRODUCTION

The resurrection is a very important study in relation to the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the doctrine that differentiates between Christianity and heathen religions. As to the Old Testament Saints, they looked forward to that great resurrection day. They prepared a place of burial for their dying, and even desired to be buried in their own promised land. We have the example of Abraham, when Sarah died at the ripe age of 127 years. He purchased the cave of Machpelah (Gen.23:1-20). Jacob, when he was dying requested that they carry him back to their land and bury him there rather than in Egypt. Joseph too, requested that when God has his people return to their land, that they carry his body back with them, to be buried with his own people. That body was carried for 40 years through the wilderness as a testimony of a resurrection day.

Having evangelized among the Masai for some 14 years, I had a difficult time teaching the resurrection truth. Finally, one day as I was talking with an elderly Masai by the name of Kasharin, I asked him about the dividing of their inheritance among the sons, when they are dying. I learned that the older son got a double portion of the cattle, sheep and goats and each of the sons got their portion. Then the aged father would say to the older sons, "Do not take the inheritance away from the younger sons, and if you do, I will look up from the ground and see you"! As usual I would try to teach Biblical truth from some phase of their culture, and so this gave me a wonderful opportunity to teach the resurrection. Their belief was, that they lived on only through their children, and did not bury their dead. They had such a fear of death that they would often drag the dying elderly out into the jungle to keep death from their huts.

As we study the importance of the resurrection, in the coming of the Lord, may we understand what the Bible teaches. When Lazarus died, please note that Martha was fully aware of that resurrection day. "Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (Jn.11:23-26)

Resurrection and Events Leading Up to The Second Coming

OUTLINE

- I. Evidence Of The Possibility Of Resurrection
- II. The First Resurrection
- III. The Second Resurrection

I. EVIDENCE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF RESURRECTION

Abel

The first sound that we are aware of, beyond the grave was the crying of the voice of Abel, having been murdered by Cain. "The Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel, thy brother? And he said, I know not: am I my brother's keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground" (Gen.4:9-10). This gives us the first evidence of a continual existence of human beings, after death of the physical body.

Enoch

The disappearance of Enoch at the age of 365 years, after he had a wonderful fellowship with the Lord for many years. This of course is encouraging to us to know that an "Air Lift" to heaven is possible! "And Enoch walked with God, and he was not; for God took him" (Gen.5:24).

Jacob

The road way to heaven is a surety, for the Lord himself will be our guide. However, as Jacob was fleeing from his brother Esau, he stopped at Bethel. "And he dreamed and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham, thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and

Resurrection and Events Leading Up to The Second Coming

to thy seed" (Gen.28:12-13). There is a direct pathway to heaven, upon which we someday shall travel to be in the presence of God.

Samuel

Here is another example of life after death as saul was permitted by God to behold Samuel, who had died and was in the place of the Old Testament saints. "And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? Then said Samuel, Why then, dost thou ask of me, seeing the Lord is departed from thee, and is become thy enemy? And the Lord has done to thee, as he spoke by me; for the Lord hath torn the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbor, even to David. Because thou obeyest not the voice of the Lord, nor executest his fierce wrath upon Amalek. Therefore hath the Lord done this thing unto thee this day" (1 Sam.28:15-18). This is another clue that we obtain from the great beyond. The soul of those Old Testament saints are very much aware of the Biblical events taking place here upon this earth.

<u>Elijah</u>

As in the case of Enoch, so we also have the translation of the prophet Elijah. Elijah was taken into heaven by the means of a whirlwind. "And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and separated them (Elisha and Elijah), and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven" (2 Ki.2:11). This is another example of the possibility of that great "Air Lift", which God has promised would take place. The souls of those who have departed are very much alive and waiting that great resurrection day.

Isaiah

Although Isaiah was not physically lifted up into the heavens, he was given a very important vision of heaven itself. "I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple" (Isa.6:1b). Isaiah was given that great commission directly from the throne of God. He answered the call of the Lord's with no uncertain or wavering reply. "And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I, send me" (Isa.6:8). Just because we do not see beyond the cloud of darkness, it does not mean that there is no hope beyond the grave.

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Ezekiel

Ezekiel had a strange experience as he saw the wheels way up in the middle of the sky! "And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. Wherever the Spirit was to go, they went, there was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up beside them; for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels" (Ezek.1:19-20). As we begin to see, there are various ways that Almighty God revealed that pathway to heaven, as evidence of the possibility of traveling into space at God's given time.

Daniel

Daniel did not get to see the heavens open, but Gabriel was sent to him for some special Bible lessons in Eschatology. "And it came to pass, when I, even I, Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for meaning, then, behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who 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 on my face; but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man; for at the time of the end shall be the vision" (Dan.8:15-17). "Yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man, Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications, the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee; for thou art greatly beloved. Therefore, understand the matter, and consider the vision. "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" (Dan.9:21-24). Contacts with the heavens above through God's messengers is one means of giving us confidence that God is mindful of all that is going on upon this planet earth.

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Zechariah

An angel talked with Zechariah. "And an angel who talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep" (Zech.4:1). "Then I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a flying scroll" (Zech.5:1). The scroll is filled with judgement, as we are reminded in the Book of Revelation, as to the scroll of the seals, trumpets and bowls. Zechariah also saw other heavenly symbols, including four chariots. Zechariah asked what these chariots represented and was told, "And the angel answered and said unto me, These are the four spirits of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth" (Zech.6:5).

It is also interesting to note as God revealed great prophecies to Zechariah of battles to be fought that he also was informed of the coming of the saints to rule and reign with the Lord. "And the Lord my God, shall come, and all the saints with thee" (Zech.14:5b). This declaration is repeated in 1 Thessalonians Chapter 3 verse 13. "To the end he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."

Shepherds

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, an angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were very much afraidAnd suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Lk.2:8-14).

The Transfiguration

This is a very important revelation from the heavens, to behold the Lord Jesus Christ with Moses and Elijah. "And was transfigured before them; and his face did shine like the sun, and his raiment was as white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with him" (Matt.17:2-3). It helps us to understand that there will continue to be identifications after death. It also assures us that we shall know as we are known, and recognize one another in the heavenlies. Peter, James, and John never saw Moses and Elijah upon this earth,

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but they were able to recognize them. How much more will we know each other, as we knew each other while on earth.

Stephen

Stephen gave a heart stirring message to all his people as he stood before them as he faced martyrdom. When God so desires, he can cause his own to see the great beyond clearly. "But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55-56). What evidence God has recorded for us, as we look forward to that great event, when the trumpet shall sound, and the heavens open, with the appearing of the Lord himself with the saints of all ages!

The Apostle Paul

Paul had an unusual experience of meeting the Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus, which was very unique, but we also read of another revelation of great importance. "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell; God knoweth) - such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell; God knoweth) - How he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter" (2 Cor.12:2-4). This certainly should give us sufficient evidence of great things to come, for those who believe.

John on the Isle of Patmos

The revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ to John is the culmination of all prophecy and gives us a tremendous insight to the things to come. It has been a pretelevised view, confirming what the prophet Daniel had seen, giving us the completion of the Master Plan of God. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is at hand" (Rev.1:3).

We get a glimpse into heaven, and tremendous preview of great events, both in heaven and which will take place upon this earth. The Book of the Revelation of

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Jesus Christ gives us a final clue as to the destination of the Saints of all ages, and especially the preparations for the establishment of the kingdom of righteousness upon the earth. Without the evidence from this great revelation, there would be more confusion among the believers than ever.

II. THE FIRST RESURRECTION

Introduction

The Bible clearly denotes that there will be two definite and different resurrections. Christ as the Incarnate One, is the first fruits of the first resurrection, as he rose from the grave, the third day after the crucifixion. We are also given evidence that eventually all of the graves of the saints of God will be opened. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself, so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgement also, because he is the Son of man, Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done goods, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (Jn.5:25-29). It is also of great interest to have evidence that some graves were opened, when Christ was crucified. "Jesus, when he cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the spirit. And behold the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks were split; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints that slept were raised, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many" (Matt.27:50-53). There are the following observations to be made from these two references (John 5:25-29 & Matt.27:50-53):

John 5:25-29:

- All the dead shall hear the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2. All the dead shall eternally live, either with Almighty God, or live an eternal living death apart from God.

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- 3. The good spoken of here, does not refer to personal good, but rather of the obedience to the requirements for salvation as recorded in the Bible.
- 4. The evil spoken of here refers to the unbelief in the salvation that God has so freely offered.
- 5. This resurrection is divided into two separate categories:
 - (a) Resurrection of life,
 - (b) Resurrection of eternal damnation.

Matthew 27:50-53:

- 1. The yielding up of the spirit refers to the yielding up of life. "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit, and having said this, he gave up the spirit" (Lk.23:46). Some have wrongfully stated that he died a spiritual death and this was efficacious for the payment of our sins, rather than the shed blood of our Savior on the cross. If this had been the case, then all of the Old Testament blood sacrifices were illustrations to no avail.
- 2. The torn veil in the temple from top to bottom, eliminated temple worship and the earthly high priests, for now Christ became the high priest after the order of Melchizedek. "Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment but after the power of an endless life. For he testifieth, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek" (Heb.7:16-17). This demonstration within the temple, came from heaven to earth, as the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom.
- 3. The earth did quake and the rocks split, demonstrating to the evil power, that judgement was sure against all evil by the mighty sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross.
- 4. The graves were opened, and many of the bodies of the Old Testament saints were raised. These saints were seen by many in the Holy City of Jerusalem. Who they were, we do not know, but they were recognized as being raised from the dead.
- 5. The centurion believed that this was the Son of God.

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THE OLD TESTAMENT PREPARATION

We have a few examples in the Old Testament of their hope beyond the grave, God having revealed unto them that there is life after the physical death.

- 1. Abel's blood cried out to God, having communication with his Creator (Gen.4:10).
- 2. Job had confidence that he would live again. "And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my heart be consumed within me" (Job.19:26-27).
- 3. Abraham purchased a sepulcher (Gen. 23:1-20).
- 4. Jacob was carried back to the promised land from Egypt (Gen.49:29-33; Gen.50:1-13).
- 5. Joseph's body carried through the wilderness for 40 years, so that he too could be buried in the land of Canaan (Gen.50:22-26).
- 6. The prophets of the Old Testament declared this hope. "And the Lord my God, shall come, and all the saints with him" (Zech.14:5b).
- 7. Martha was well taught as to the resurrection. "Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day" (Jn.11:24).

NEW TESTAMENT REVELATION OF THE RESURRECTION

1. Christ Taught The Resurrection

"Jesus said unto her, O am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (Jn.11:25-26) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself, so hath he

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given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgement also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth: they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (Jn.5:25-29). "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give its light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matt.24:29-31).

2. The Angels declared the coming of the Lord

"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Who also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:10-11).

3. God the Holy Spirit reveals the resurrectional truth

"To the end he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints" (1 Thess.3:13). "For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them who are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words" (1 Thess.4:15-18).

4. The unity promised by the Lord requires the resurrection

"And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also who shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one as thou, Father, art in me, and I in

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thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (Jn.17:19-22).

5. Believers have the hope of the resurrection

"For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised; and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain, ye are yet in your sins. Then they also who are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (1 Cor.15:16-19).

6. Without the resurrection, there would be no body of Christ

"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell" (Col.1:17-19).

The Word of God clearly states that there will be two resurrections, (1) The resurrection of all Believers of all ages. (2) The resurrection of all unregenerate of all ages. The Believers of all ages are "The Elect" and the Lord will send forth his angels to gather them together from this whole world. "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matt.24:31).

This first resurrection will begin, when Christ appears in the clouds at the time of the Rapture, and will end after the great tribulation. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years" (Rev.20:6). This infers that this first resurrection will extend through the great tribulation, before the kingdom of righteousness begins That will be a glorious day for all the saints of God. "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?" (1 Thess.2:19).

It is important that our lives testify of this coming resurrection in all of it's fullness! We need to be concerned about being well established in the Lord, with good works, glorifying his precious name. It will be necessary for all believers to stand

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before the judgement seat of Christ and have all of the wood, hay, and stubble removed from, our lives (1 Cor. 3:9-15; 2 Cor. 5:10). "To the end he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints." Amen! (1 Thess.3:13).

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved" (Jn.3:17). "For God hath not appointed us to wrath but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us that, whether we's wake or sleep, we should live together with him" (1 Thess.5:9-10). "When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day" (2 Thess.1:10). "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him" (2 Thess.2:1).

III. THE SECOND RESURRECTION

Introduction

It is very important that we understand that there will not be a general resurrection, as some teach and preach, but there are two distinct resurrections. The first resurrection began with Christ as the first fruits, bringing the Old Testament Saints from "Sheo!", the place of the dead. This is where Lazarus the poor beggar went to be in the bosom of Abraham. Now that Christ rose from the grave, he led captivity captive, opening up "Sheo!" and leading forth all of the Old Testament saints, bringing them into the Heavenly Paradise. You may remember that Christ promised that the thief on the cross, who believed would be with the Lord in Paradise (Lk.23:39-43). The rest of the dead, where there had been a great gulf fixed, will remain there until the end time when all of the unregenerate dead will be raised up, and commanded to stand before the Lord Jesus Christ to be judged, and cast into the Lake of fire forever and ever.

The Separation Of The Sheep From The Goats

This will be the great event that takes place, when the Lord returns to earth with all of the saints to rule and reign for the thousand years. The kingdom of righteousness will start with the kingdom believers, and the others must be

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The Great White Throne Judgement

Down through the history of man, God has made partial judgments, which sometimes were very severe, but the eternal judgement will take place before the great white throne, where Christ will sit and judge the people of all nations. We are reminded from God's Word that every knee among all of the unregenerate souls shall bow before the Lord Jesus Christ, whom they rejected. "Wherefore, God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father" (Phil.2:9-11). This will take place at the great white throne. "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and hades delivered up the dead that were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

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Conclusion

This will be the final judgement of all sin and death, and will never again appear, when God makes his new heaven and new earth (Dan.9:24).

- 1. All transgressions will be finished.
- 2. All sin will come to an end.
- 3. Reconciliation by way of the cross will be completed.
- 4. Everlasting righteousness will be established.
- 5. God's prophetic utterances will be completed and sealed.
- 6. The Most Holy Eternal Son of God will receive the glorified anointing.

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Lesson 3 - Questions

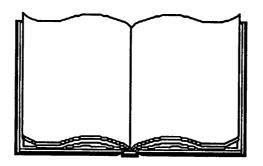
1. Why is the resurrection so very important with the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ? Give Scripture.
2. Give some Biblical evidence concerning the belief in the resurrection.
3. Name and explain why some Old Testament saints believed in the resurrection.
4. Give some evidence from the New Testament that a resurrection was expected.
5. What did Christ have to say about resurrection?
6. How many resurrections will there be? Name them.
7. Write a short thesis on the Rapture.
8. Why do you think that God opened some graves when Christ was raised from the dead?

Lesson 3 - Questions

9. When will all of the unregenerate be raised from the dead? Give Scripture.

10. When will the goats be separated from the sheep , according to Matthew 25:31-

Lesson Four



The Rapture

LESSON 4

THE RAPTURE

INTRODUCTION

There has been much confusion and misunderstanding as well as misinterpretation concerning God's revelation of the coming of the Eternal Son of God in the clouds and the coming of the Lord to rule and reign upon this planet earth. May we keep in mind the coming of the Lord for the believers and the coming of the Lord with the believers. The coming of the Lord in the clouds is the necessary phase that must precede the coming of the Lord with the saints, to rule and reign upon this earth for the thousand years. This is very important for us to clearly understand God's teaching on this subject, rightly dividing the Word of truth (2 Tim.2:15).

There is a very important statement which Jesus made as he was being questioned before Caiaphas the high priest and the Sanhedrin (Mk.14:53-65; Matt.26:57-68). Christ was asked by the high priest, "I adjure thee by the Living God that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God" (Mk.26:63). Here is what Jesus answered, "Jesus saith unto him, thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven" (Matt.26:64). Perhaps the first part of Christ Jesus' statement was fulfilled when they stoned Stephen (Acts 7:54-60). Faithful Stephen was God's witness as the first martyr, who saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God, walting to receive his spirit into Paradise. "The coming in the clouds" will be fulfilled both as Christ comes for his own and as he comes with his own. Both phases of the second coming of the Lord are very important.

The Nation Israel has rejected their Messiah and cried out as he was to be crucified, "When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this righteous person, See ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children" (Matt.27:24-25). Israel has suffered severely for such a statement, and have been scattered abroad. But, according to God's promise, Israel is returning to her land, under great difficulties and continual war since April 1948. As terrible as their great persecution has been, they will pass

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through the most terrible time, during the great tribulation. Gabriel the angel of God revealed this to Daniel, and the details are found in the Book of Revelation.

The Coming Of The Lord In The Clouds

As we read the Old Testament and understand the two phases of the coming King of kings and Lord of lords, is a great help to us in understanding the two phases of the coming of the Lord to establish his kingdom of righteousness. Israel failed to accept the suffering Messiah as recorded in the Old Testament (Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53), desiring only a deliverer from the heel of Rome. So, today we have those who think that they can bring in a "New World Order" and establish negotiable peace among all nations. This is but a confused and idle dream. Why, even Christ when he returns top planet earth will have to rule with a rod of iron. The next great event must be the rapture of the living saints, out from the wrath to come (1 Thess.1:10). To the Christian, this will be the greatest day of our lives apart from salvation. We shall hear that trumpet sound and looking up, we will behold the Lord Jesus Christ in all of his shikinah glory, appearing in the clouds. The graves will open as those believer's bodies rejoin their souls and are transformed into an eternal glorified saint, and we shall all be changed and receive our glorified bodies. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess.4:16-17). If the kingdom were to be established at that time, then we would all go to Jerusalem for the coronation of the King of kings and Lord of lords. But the Lord himself has made a promise to the believers, that we all would be taken to the mansions of God the Father, where the Bridegroom has been preparing a place.

The most direct statement from the Lord himself should be sufficient for all believers in understanding this great "Air Lift"! "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also, And where I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord we know not where thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (Jn.14:2-6). Let us consider some of the reasons for this great

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"Air Lift" to precede the establishment of the kingdom of righteousness.

- 1. Christ proclaimed his coming in the clouds to lead us to heaven and a place in the Father's mansions.
- 2. The future bride of Christ must be presented to God the Father.
- 3. Some 2 thousand years Christ has been preparing a place for his bride.
- 4. All of the Saints must receive their glorified bodies in preparation for the duties during the kingdom age.
- 5. The Divine rewards to be given as all believers stand before the judgement seat of Christ (2 Cor.5:10; 1 Cor.3:9-15).
- 6. All believers of all past ages must arrive in heaven, so that they can all come with the Lord, when he comes to establish his kingdom of righteousness (1 Thess.3:13).
- 7. The great tribulation cannot begin until the total body of Christ is safely in heaven, to behold the opening of the sealed scroll (Rev.4 & 5).
- 8. "The bride to be" of Christ will be delivered out from the wrath to come, by the Lord Jesus Christ in person (1 Thess.1:10).
- 9. Christ desires to pour out his riches of glory upon his future bride (Rom.9:23-24).

That great "Air Lift" will bring forth both the Old Testament saints and the total body of Christ. God the Father is gathering together this bride to be for his Son, from Pentecost, until the Rapture. We shall be transformed and changed into the likeness of the Lord, when we see him "face to face"! "Beloved,now are we the children of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1 Jn.3:2). With great love, the Lord is preparing a place for his future bride in his Father's mansions. He is preparing us a place where we may dwell with him in heaven, while the wrath of God is poured out upon this wicked world (Rev.6-18). God does not wish that one soul should perish, and has provided a way of escape for all. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him. God also bearing them witness, both with

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signs and wonders, and with diverse miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will?" (Heb.2:3-4).

We who are believers should constantly be looking for that great "Air Lift", to escape that most dreadful out pouring of the wrath of God. We have a blessed hope and a glorious expectation. "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God our savior Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people of his own, zealous of good works" (Tit.2:13-14). That special day when the Lord Jesus Christ comes for his beloved will be the greatest event in history since the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Although Christ shall come quickly (Rev.22:12). this event will not be without a world wide upheaval. All world events and activity will be in chaotic conditions due to this "Great Air Lift"! "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him, and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." This will probably be the turning point among the youth of Israel, when the 144,000 youth have their eyes opened as to the Lord Jesus and the Messiah who was to come. "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev.22:20).

The Signs Of The Times

In my textbook, "What Does the Future Hold?" we have viewed the signs of the time, which are important to us, and especially to the young Christians, who may never taste of death, barring an accident or sickness unto death, and be "Caught Up" into the presence of the Lord without facing a natural death. Just to name a few of these signs as to the soon coming of the Lord to rapture us home to glory. -

- 1. Israel is returning to her land as God promised (Deut.30:1-5).
- 2. The formation of the European Common Market. This is the long planning of the United States of Europe, which comes into it's completion this year with 325 million people uniting together, making the final steps of that final great revival of the Roman empire under one powerful dictator, "The prince that should come" (Dan.2:1-43; Dan.7:1-8,15-28; Dan.8:23-27; Dan.9:27; Dan.11:36-45).
- 3. The False Efforts to create a "New World Order" with hope of a world wide peace

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(Jer.6:11b; Jer.8:14-15; Matt.24:4-8).

- 4. The dissolving of the Soviet Union, and the forming of a Federation of States. These will play a part in that secret attack upon Israel as mentioned in Ezekiel 38 & 39.
- 5. The Kings of the East will move across the Euphrates river. We here in the United States are greatly concerned about the economical giants such as Germany and Japan.
- 6. Our Powerful American Nation is becoming weak Internationally. In our stupidity, we are going deeper into debt to help the countless nations economy, borrowing money to give to them, without a hope of ever receiving a repayment.
- 7. The unrest in the Middle East with continual undeclared war. The satanic element is working hard to drive Israel out of the land and claim the control of all of the oil deposits.
- 8. The Pollution of the Water Ways of the World, As a fore-runner of God's revelation concerning the great tribulation (Rev.8:8-9).
- 9. The coming of the Lord for His saints, to deliver them out from the wrath to come (1 Thess.1:10).

THOSE WHO WILL BE RAISED DURING THE GREAT "AIR LIFT"

Christ, being the first fruits of that first resurrection, will make possible the resurrection of all the Old Testament Saints as well as the New Testament saints, whom had died.

A. The Dead In Christ Of All Ages

The great preparations and expectations of the Old Testament saints will be experienced, when Christ comes "In the Clouds" for those who have believed. The Old Testament saints had their sins covered, until the cross, when they were completely removed. Those from Pentecost until the Rapture who have believed, and died shall be raised "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a

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shout, with a voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first" (1 Thess.4:16). This does not mean that the Old Testament saints will help make up the bride of Christ, but rather that they will be the guests of honor at the marriage feast, as the friends of the Bridegroom.

The question has been asked, down through the ages, Will the dead live again? We need not be in question concerning this, for it is clearly stated in the Word of God. Martha understood that her brother Lazarus would live again. "Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day" (Jn.11:23-24). It is of great importance that we understand that because of Christ's resurrection, eternal life has been made possible. "And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them, in shining garments; And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how he spoke unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again" (Lk.24:3-7). Christ himself also declared this unto his disciples. "but as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living" (Matt.22:31-32). Here are a few references of importance for us to consider (Gen.50:24-25; Gen.47:29-31; Gen.49:29-33; Gen.50:1-10; Ezek.37:1-14; Gen.22:5; Job.19:25-27; Isa.26:19).

This very statement, "And the dead in Christ shall rise first", infers that there will also be "The dead outside of Christ". These latter ones shall take part in the second resurrection, condemning them to be cast into the lake of fire, to be tortured forever within a living death (Jn.5:25-29; Rev.20:5-6).

B. Those Glorified Bodies of Eternity

"Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess.4:17). We will not be wearing space suits, when we will be caught up to meet the Lord, and flesh and blood cannot inherit a place in heaven, therefore there must be a change that takes place. Look what the Bible says, "For our citizenship

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is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself" (Phil.3:20-21). "Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see Him as He is" (1 Jn.3:2). "Behold I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (1 Cor.15:51-52). "But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor.3:18).

THE NEXT GREAT EVENT - THE RAPTURE

The next great event that must occur before the great tribulation that can be zeroed in, is the coming of the Lord in the clouds of heaven. Those believers of all ages, who are at present in the heavenly Paradise, will return with the Lord and that corruptible body which has been laying in the grave will come forth changed, but with an individual identification that will be recognizable throughout eternity. "For now we see in a mirror darkly; but then, face to face; now I know in part, but then shall I know even as also I am known" (1 Cor.13:12).

There are several Biblical reasons why the Kingdom of Righteousness upon this earth cannot begin until certain events take place. May we just briefly mention some of these events that precede the thousand year kingdom of righteousness.

- 1. The Rapture of the Believers (1 Thess.4:13-18).
- 2. The Judgement Seat of Christ (2 Cor.5:10).
- 3. The Giving of Rewards and position for the kingdom age (1 Cor.3:9-15).
- 4. The Sealed scroll cannot be opened until the Believers are in heaven (Rev.4 & 5).

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- 5. The Complete Bride of Christ must be in heaven for the marriage (Rev. 19:7-9).
- 6. The Bride of Christ is to spend 7 years in the Heavenly Mansions of God the Father (Jn.14:1-6).
- 7. The marriage supper must take place in heaven. This will no doubt include the Lord's Supper as He promised His disciples (Matt.26:29; Lk.22:15-18).
- 8. Satan must be thrown out of Heaven with all his Fallen Angels to usher in the Abomination of Desolation, spoken of by Daniel (Dan.9:27; Matt.24:15-21).
- 9. The Battle of Armageddon must be fought before the Kingdom of Righteousness can be established (Rev.19:11-21).

As Christ approached the time of his departure from this earth and returned to his heavenly home, he fulfilled the prophetic declaration of entering into the temple in triumph. This was his final presentation of himself as their Messiah. Although he was greatly heralded by great throngs, the evil forces behind the scenes blinded the religious leaders. The Messiah was predicted to walk through the golden gate before it would be shut. "Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outer sanctuary which looketh toward the east; and it was shut. Then said the Lord unto me, This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the Lord, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore, it shall be shut" (Ezek.44:1-2). This was a preview that was given to the prophet Ezekiel, and after the Lord passed through that eastern gate, it was sealed over and never used again. God knows the end from the beginning, and nothing is hidden from him, nor escapes his attention. history reveals this sealing of the golden gate, not because they wanted to fulfill what had been written, but rather because they so desired.

The Messiah's next advent to Planet earth will usher in the final war of Armageddon, which will be fought from the air by Christ alone. The angelic hosts and the saints will look on as the enemies of our souls are destroyed. There will be no need of Christ entering Jerusalem by the way of the gates, but he will take over Jerusalem, by the way of the sky. God has a timing for each event in his sovereignty. God's time for the Rapture to take place is dependant upon the completion of the body of Christ during this church age, or the age of grace. There are but few years until the end of this century, and it is imperative that all

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believers continue to look for the soon return of the Lord, to rapture home his future bride.

The Meeting in The Air

I. Those to be raised from the graves.

"And the dead in Christ shall rise first"

"For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God, Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my heart be consumed within me" (Job.19:25-27). This is a mighty testimony from one who had lived centuries ago! Yes, from the very creation of man, made in the image of God, there has been a hope beyond the grave. From Adam and Eve, down the corridors of time, God has instilled within believers that there is a sure hope beyond what this life offers. The Holy Spirit, through Paul declared, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil.1:21).

The Old Testament saints through their sacrifices, by faith looked forward to the coming of the Redeemer. Their sins were temporarily covered by these animal sacrifices, until Christ, "The Lamb of God" came and took away their sins, removing them as far as the East is from the West! When that trumpet sounds, the dead in Christ of all ages will come forth in the mighty power of God, and be joined together with their soul, receiving their glorified bodies. That "Air Lift" will involve billions of chosen vessels of all ages. As we await that great transformation, and behold the glory of God in the face of the Lord Jesus Christ, there will be a cause for the "Hallelujah Chorus".

Those, "In Christ" denotes a select group, who are classified as believers of all ages. However, there is a sad note, for billions of those in the graves will be classified as "Without Christ". They will be left in the graves until the second resurrection, to stand trial before the great white throne. Their destination will be the eternal lake of fire, to experience a living death forever and ever! "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath

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life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself; and hath given Him authority to execute judgement also, because He is the Son of man. Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (Jn.5:25-29).

As the Lord will appear in the clouds, He will appear for those in the graves, belonging to Him. The Holy Spirit revealed to John on the Isle of Patmos this division. "Blessed and holy is hew that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years" (Rev.20:6). "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished" (Rev.20:5a). This certainly is clearly stated that there will not be a general resurrection, but rather a selected resurrection for those in Christ, and a resurrection of condemnation for those outside of Christ. "The Dead In Christ" are those of the resurrection at the time of the Rapture and are classified as, "The resurrection of the Just", and "The Resurrection of life" (Lk.14:14; Jn.5:29). This then clarifies the destiny of the Old Testament Saints, who were justified by faith, as they had their sins covered by the animal offerings, until God's Supreme Offering was provided, even the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. Those "Caught Up" in the "Air Lift".

There should be no question in our minds, as to what kind of a body we are going to have, since we will have one like unto the Lord's glorified body. The disciples spent 40 days with the Lord after the resurrection, and had sufficient evidence of Christ's glorified body. He was able to sit down with them, and eat with them and continue to teach them, before He went on to His heavenly home. We also have sufficient evidence in the Bible as to what we can expect in that great day. "For our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself" (Phil.3:20-21). That great day, when we as believers shall be caught up to be with the Lord, will receive that eternal body, where sin will never be the issue, where age will never be the problem, or sickness, aches and pains and death will never occur! For the saints of God, the best is yet to come.

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as we behold our Redeemer, face to face and have a glorified body like unto His! Amen! and Amen!

III. The Purpose of The "Air Lift" to heaven

1. Judgement Seat of Christ (2 Cor.5:10; 1 Cor.3:9-15)

Since eternity is involved in our change of body and the eradication of sin, it is imperative that all of the "wood, hay, and stubble" in our past life, be removed. Sin is not the question at the believers judgement, but rather faithfulness in our good works. All sin was judged at the cross and at that time, all good works, glorifying self will be burned. Our motive for doing good works will decide as to whether they are as "wood, hay, and stubble" or as "gold, silver, and precious stones". If we gave tithes and offerings to get something in return, we have received our reward. If we did our good works to glorify the Lord, then they will remain, and we shall receive a just reward. This is very essential for the determination of our responsibilities during the Millennium. The saints of God shall rule and reign with the Lord, and will be given authority comparable to our faithfulness to the Lord during our earthly life. Many Christian leaders who already have received their glory of position and stardom in this present life, cannot claim that same position in eternity, unless they have glorified the Lord. Salvation is not the issue, but rather faithfulness. "And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Rev.22:12). God's method is separating the bad good works from the good works will be by fire. "For the day shall declare it, of what sort it is. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire" (1 Cor.3:15).

2. The Marriage of the Lamb of God

After the Old Testament saints and the church, or body of Christ have received their rewards for faithfulness, they shall be made ready in Paradise, and the mansions of the Father. The church will be the "Bride to be". There will be great rejoicing with great angelic singing! "And I heard as it were, the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Hallelujah: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth" (Rev. 19:6). This great chorus of voices precedes the marriage of the Lamb of God. "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and

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His wife (the Bride of Rev. 21:9) hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God" (Rev. 19:7-9). The judgement seat of Christ, of necessity had to precede the marriage, and the marriage had to precede the feast.

3. The Lord's Supper

After the marriage of the Lamb, there will be great rejoicing at the prepared banquet of God. If you have ever traveled the seas on one of these great passenger ships, you get an idea of a display of food. However this banquet will be the greatest of great feasts, as only the Creator can produce. Perhaps immediately after this delicious feast of God, the Lord himself will stand before this great throng and perform this "Feast of Reality". We will see the Lord in all of his glory, and as he breaks the bead, we behold the nail prints in His hands. We will be reminded of the price that God paid to bring so great salvation. Those scars in the body of Christ will be the most precious expression of Divine love.

There was another remarkable statement which Christ made during His earthly ministry. "And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God, And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come" (Lk.22:15-18). The Eternal Son of God desires that sharing with His creation in so many ways, even to the refraining from partaking the fruit of the vine, until we are all gathered together.

A SEVEN YEAR HEAVENLY EXPERIENCE

When the rapture takes place of all those "In Christ", and we arrive in heaven in our glorified bodies, there will be a seven year preparation for reigning with Christ during the kingdom age. We do not have all the particulars concerning our heavenly stay in the mansions of God, but we do have some of the activity. The planet earth will feel the total impact of the wrath of God for those seven years. The Bible relates the

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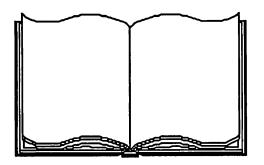
following events:

- 1. Judgement seat of Christ (2 Cor.5:10).
- 2. The opening of the sealed scroll (Rev. 4 & 5).
- 3. The marriage of the Lamb of God (Rev. 19:7-10).
- 4. The marriage feast (Matt.26:29).
- 5. Michael the archangel & his army will battle with Satan and his demons, casting them out of heaven (Rev.9:1-12; Rev.12:7-17).
- 6. Seven wonderful years in the mansions of heaven (Jn.14:1-6).
- 7. Going forth to battle with Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-21).

Lesson 4 - Questions

- 1. What phase must first be accomplished, before the Lord sets up his kingdom?
- 2. Explain 1 Thess.4:13-18; John 14:1-6; & 1 Cor.15:51-57.
- 3. What signs are given to Israel, by Christ, as to him being the Son of God?
- 4. What 2 phases of the coming Messiah are recorded in the Old Testament?
- 5. Name 9 reasons for the need of an "Air Lift" of the believers.
- 6. Who all will be raised from the dead at the time of the Rapture?
- 7. Name 9 signs of the times, in preparation of the coming of the Lord.
- 8. What Old Testament evidence do we have of the hope of a resurrection?
- 9. What would be the alternative as to "The Dead In Christ"?
- 10. How will our glorified bodies be fashioned when the Rapture takes place? Give Scripture.
- 11. Name 9 events that take place before the kingdom is established on earth.
- 12. Give Scripture as to the last war to be fought in heaven.
- 13. Why are the graves to be opened first as the Lord returns in the air to take us to the mansions in heaven?
- 14. What are some of the events that take place in heaven, during our 7 years in the mansions of God the Father?

Lesson Five



The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

LESSON 5

THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

"And I saw Heaven open, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; and His name is called THE WORD OF GOD. And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron; and He treadeth the wine press of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of Him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of His mouth; and all the fowls were filled with their flesh" (Rev.19:11-21).

This portion of Scripture, just quoted, is of great importance as we study the coming of the Lord to set up His kingdom upon planet earth. It is the culmination of total war against sin, in the world, the total depravity of man, and the work of the devil and his demons. May we remember that these wicked elements were completely judged at the cross, and God's Word is all that is necessary to be spoken for their destruction. This preview that John saw on the Isle of Patmos will come to pass in God's own time. May we study this important event with great detail, and thoroughly understand the prophetic declarations concerning "The Coming Of The Lord". This was no after

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thought of God, but a well planned Master strategy by the Triune God, to deal with the sin question once and forever. God alone in His impeccability was the only one who could solve this godless problem. "For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, from your vain manner of life received by tradition from your fathers, But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Pet.1:18-19).

OUTLINE

- I. The Prophecy of His Coming
- II. The Condition of the World at His Coming
- III. The Mighty Power of God at His Coming
- IV. The Reason for the Coming Kingdom
- V. The Conditions and Duration of he Kingdom of Righteousness

I. THE PROPHECY OF HIS COMING

The Master plan of God was thoroughly established before the creation, with all of the details worked out, by the omniscience of God. There was nothing hidden from God or came to pass in an unexpected way. As we search out the Scripture, we have evidence of this, of which we want to share with you. There is much involved in accepting this truth of the Eternal God visiting this planet earth, in person. The Incarnate Son of God had come the first time, presenting Himself as the king, and was rejected and refused. Phase one of Christ's coming was fulfilled as He was heralded as "The Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world". Now we are concerned about what God has revealed in the Bible as to the coming of the Lord as King of kings and Lord of lords.

There is much involved in accepting this truth of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. There have been many great leaders in this world, many godly prophets and

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many wise teachers, but of none can it be said that, "He is like unto the Son of God". Jesus alone is declared as the Eternal Son of God, the Creator of heaven and earth! It is only of Christ alone, that we can say, "He is coming again, this very same Jesus, is coming again"! It is only of Jesus Christ that we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made" (Jn.1:1-3). Christ was sent forth by God the Father. "Which in His times He shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see; to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen" (1 Tim.6:15-16).

Abraham

Let us now consider what has been written concerning the coming of the Messiah, and God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. The Jewish nation through the faithfulness of Abraham was promised a city, "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb.11:10). Abraham was promised, eventually to be saved from all of his enemies, and though his seed would be scattered to the ends of the earth, God would cause them to return and dwell safely in the Promised land. God had separated Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob from all other nations in the world, to make a great nation, through which His Eternal Son would come to rule and reign upon this earth. "I will raise them up a prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth: and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him" (Deut.18:8). The evil forces had to be dealt with according to Gen.3:15., and that was accomplished at the cross. The judgement has been made against these wicked forces but the sentence is yet to be carried out in God's own time.

Israel Scattered

Since the religious leaders of the Jews has rejected Christ as their Messiah, Israel was scattered to the ends of the earth. God had also promised that He would regather them back in their land. "That then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return, and gather thee from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee. If any of thine be driven out unto the utmost parts of heaven, from there will the Lord thy God gather

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thee, and from there will He fetch thee. And the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and He will do good, and multiply thee above thy fathers. And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live" (Deut.30:3-6). This is in preparation of the establishment of the kingdom of God, when the Lord returns with the saints to rule in righteousness.

Israel Regathering

1. The Unconditional Covenant with King David

One of the very important signs of the end of this age is, the regathering of Israel back in a small portion of her land. This is where the Lord will finally chastise Israel for not accepting their Messiah. God has not cast away Israel, as we are reminded in Romans Chapter 9 to 11. There are some very important Scriptures that we need to emphasize in connection with events toward the coming of the Lord to set up the kingdom of righteousness. "There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel" (Num.24:17). "Out of Jacob shall he come who shall have dominion" (Num.24:19a). Moses was assured through the Holy Spirit that," The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken" (Deut.18:15). One of the most outstanding prophecies as to the establishment of the Davidic kingship forever is the following. "And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee; thy throne shall be established forever" (2 Sam.7:16). This is mentioned again in the following: (2 Sam.7:24; 1 Chron.17:11-13; 1 Ki.8:23; 1 Ki.9:5). This throne of David was established forever when Christ through his hypostatic union took upon himself a sonship through the Davidic lineage. "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, who shall stand for an ensign of the peoples; to him shall the nations seek, and his rest shall be glorious" (Isa.11:10). For further references to the prophecy of the Son of God coming to rule upon this earth, read the following: (Isa.35; Isa.40; Isa.54; Isa.60; Jer.31:33-40; Jer.32:36-44; Jer.33:12-26). God has revealed this message of the coming King, generations past and as the first coming of the Lord has been fulfilled, so the second coming of the Lord will come to pass. An everlasting kingdom and a throne demands an everlasting king and that has been provided through the Lord Jesus Christ (Psalm 89:18-37). "Yet have I set my

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king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the nations for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" (Ps.2:6-9).

2. Israel's Title Deed

God has divided to Israel or better known as the Jewish nation, a portion of land in the Middle East. This has been established forever by the unconditional covenant with King David. However, because of Israel's idol worship and rejection of the Messiah, she has been scattered throughout the world. But today there is a great regathering of the Jews from the far corners of the earth. The land of Palestine belongs to Israel with a clear title deed written in the Bible. "When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. For the Lord's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance" (Deut.32:8-9). In other words, God gave his people Israel, that portion of land from the Euphrates river all the way to the river of Egypt in the land of Goshen. "And the Lord said unto Abram, after Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward, For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever" (Gen.13:14-15). "In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land from the river Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates" (Gen. 15:18). Israel has never occupied all of her land, but nevertheless it is hers, having been given to her by Almighty God. Regardless of the opposition to Israel by the Arab States, and world wide opinion, God is regathering Israel back in her own land. Yes, they are going back in unbelief, but they are returning to their land as God said that they would. Though all the nations in the world would turn against Israel, yet God will protect her and establish her in the land of promise.

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II. THE CONDITION OF THE WORLD AT HIS COMING

The Seventieth Week of Daniel

This is a very important sign of the times and an indication that we are coming near to the end of this age. As Israel returns to her land, under terrific pressure, we are reminded of the great and powerful opposition from the satanic powers. The Gentile clock is still ticking, but when the church is raptured, the Jewish time table will once again begin. This will be indicated by the introducing of a One World Government under satan. "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 continue, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people" (Dan.8:23-24). God's holy people will be completely returned to their land, only to have a continual battle against the evil forces. What we see now in the Middle East is but a forerunner as to what will occur during the great tribulation. We are mindful of the deceit and craftiness in world affairs, but all of this will be as child play compared with what is coming. "And through his policy also he shall cause deceit 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." The people of all nations would love to have someone usher in a lasting peace, and would agree at a great cost to obtain it. Satan is deceiving the rulers of the nations today with this new world order.

The conditions of the world are heading in that direction and will be ready to accept anyone who will promise peace. With the trend of the day, perhaps such a world dictator has already been born. May we note what the Holy Spirit revealed to John on the Isle of Patmos. "And they worship the dragon who gave power unto the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war against him?' And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and power was given him over all kindred, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are

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not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev.13:4-8).

A World of Sodom and Gomorrah

With the whole world bound closer together with transport and communication, a multiplicity of sin also becomes prevalent. World courts of law are corrupt, and the truth from the Word of God is ignored. Sin has become legalized, population control has made it legal to murder unborn children. Here is a picture of many of our rulers today. "Because, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections; for even their women did exchange the natural use for that which is against nature; and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another, men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was fitting" (Rom.1:21-27). Today we are reaping this sin on a large scale, bringing a world wide epidemic of "aids"! The TV is loaded with ungodliness, producing damnation world wide! Freedom of speech has been broadened to freedom of action. Some channels of the television are so corrupt with sex, which eventually will be judged severely by Almighty God.

One World Economy Through The Ecumenical Movement

With the desire for peace and a new world order, attention is being diverted from. "In God We Trust" to "In Material We Lust". The world markets are at stake, with a great fear of the Orient, as well as the Common Market of Europe. There is no doubt that the Common Market of Europe, which is becoming the United States of Europe, is gaining in an economical advantage, throughout the world. Strangely enough, religion will be used to bring this One World Government into power. This is certainly a sign of the times. The ecumenical movement, uniting into a powerful

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force will be used by the coming world dictator to gain Universal control. "And there came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come here; I will show unto thee the judgement of the great harlot that sitteth upon many waters; With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet-colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and bedecked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand, full of abominations and filthiness of he fornication; And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus; and when I saw her, I wondered with great wonder" (Rev.17:1-6). The remainder of this portion, explains who this woman is that will be carried by the beast, which is the coming dictator from the revival of the Roman Empire. The powerful ecumenical movements from around the world will be used to establish this coming dictator, and thus fulfilling the revival of the Roman Empire as recorded in the Book of Daniel, and the Book of Revelation. This world dictator will eventually be indwelt by the destroying demon from the bottomless pit (Rev. 17:8; Rev.9:1-12). He will come to his fullness in the middle of the great tribulation. This is called the "Abomination of Desolation", spoken by Daniel and confirmed by Christ. It will last for 42 months or three and one half years.

The Restraining Power of The Holy Spirit

As long as the believers of the body of Christ remain upon this earth, the full evil thrust is restrained under the sovereignty of God, by the Holy Spirit. "Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come the falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped, so that he, as God, showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what restraineth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only He who now hindereth will continue to hinder until He be taken out of the way. And then shall that wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming,

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even whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceit of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thess.2:3-12).

The Completion of The Body of Christ

Regardless of the final conditions of the world, which will continue to get worse, when God the Father declares the body of Christ to be complete, that trumpet will blow! The True church has been kept, as God has been calling precious souls, down through almost 2,000 years, in spite of the onslaughts of satan and this evil world. "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth, Unto which he called you by our Gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess.2:13-14). We will all be taken out from the wrath to come upon this wicked world. "For God hath not appointed us to wrath but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess.5:9).

Christ Declares The Conditions of The World.

Mankind has always looked for signs or sought for events of the future. The disciples were puzzled concerning the future and asked Christ three questions.

- 1. When shall these things be?
- 2. What shall be the sign of thy coming?
- 3. When shall the end of this age occur?

Christ spoke of the coming Kingdom, during His 40 days with the disciples, after His resurrection, and they of course wanted to know if the kingdom of Israel would be restored now that He rose from the grave. The Lord answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own

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power" (Acts 1:7). This indicated that the disciples did not understand His teaching as recorded in Matthew 24. This first question was concerning the destruction of the temple (Lk.21:20-24). Christ foretold of the destruction of Jerusalem, which occurred when Titus burned the city in 70 A.D. This was also predicted and declared in Hosea 9:7; and Isaiah 65:12-15. This destruction and conflict over Jerusalem will occur again just before the Lord returns from heaven (Matt.24:27-31; Mk.13:24-27; Rev.19:11-21). The "*Times of the Gentiles*" have been from the captivity of the Jews by the Babylonian armies under the great Nebuchadnezzar and have run parallel with the age of Grace, which began at Pentecost. second and third questions asked by the disciples, "What shall be the sign of thy coming"? and "When shall the end of this age occur?", are answered in Matthew 24:4-33; Luke 21:25-26; Luke 21:34-38; and Matthew 24:37-51. The sum total of what Christ revealed certainly does not give us a picture of a converted world before the Lord returns, but rather a world of turmoil, strife, wars, famines, earthquakes, sin, and pestilences, falling away. These circumstances are very similar to the days of Noah, with hatred and sin running wild. The conditions of the world will be as recorded in Daniel 9:27; Matt.24:4-28; Lk.21:8-11; Mk.13:5-13.

Before the First Beast and the False Prophet are revealed, the Lord Jesus Christ will come on an urgent journey in the clouds to deliver His future Bride, which is the true church from this 70th week spoken of by Daniel the prophet. The end of the age is not a very encouraging outlook for those under the spell of Satan! We as believers need to test the course which we are setting, as to our aims in preparing for the coming of the Lord. Search the Scripture thoroughly, so that your priorities match God's revelation. May we live each day as though it was our last opportunity to serve the Lord. May our outreach and aim in life be focused upon the fields that are white unto harvest! (2 Thess.2:1-12; 2 Tim.3:1-17; 2 Pet.3:1-9)

III. THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD AT HIS COMING

It will take the mighty power of God to defeat the world, the flesh and the devil because of the terrible conditions that will come upon this world. Christ the Creator is urgently needed to set things right, and that will take a rod of iron. "And I saw heaven opened and, behold, a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war" (Rev.19:11). God the Father has put all judgments in the hands of His Eternal Son. "When the

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Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory, and before Him shall be gathered all the nations; and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats" (Matt.25:31-32). As the Lord Jesus Christ descends with great hosts and all of the saints, Satan will try to prevent this, but will fail, only to be cast into the bottomless pit for the duration of the Millennium.

The Mighty Son of God will face principalities and powers and these rulers of darkness alone and by His word, He will destroy all opposition, as He takes over the kingdom in righteousness. Here is a description that the Holy Spirit gives. "His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a Name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; and His Name is called The Word of God. And the armies that were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations, and He shall rule them with a rod of iron; and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, King of kings, and Lord of Lords" (Rev.19:12-16).

With the development of the nuclear and ventures into outer space, Satan will have the unbelievers convinced that they will be able to blast to bits these great armies from heaven. However, we know that whatever weapons are used against Christ at His coming, will be of no avail. "And He shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers, even as I received of My Father" (Rev.2:27).

IV. THE REASON FOR HIS COMING

If we have thoroughly studied the conditions of the world when Christ will return, we ought not to have any question as to the reasons for Christ returning to set up His Kingdom of Righteousness. Conditions will be so bad, that the Lord will have to use force to establish His righteousness, with a "Rod of Iron". This present world system will never have peace because the rulers have rejected the Prince of Peace. Both the Jewish nation and the Gentile nations have rejected the Lord Jesus Christ, and the wrath of God will be poured out upon them during the great tribulation. The multitude of wars have killed tens of thousands, but with the

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United States law makers, they have legalized the butchery of over 30 million unborn children, who have never been given the right to live! There will be a reckoning day for such cruelty, wherever it is found in this world. However, the coming of the Lord has specific reasons as we briefly present them.

- 1. The Master Plan Demands It
- 2. The Prophecies Declare It
- 3. The Supreme Test of Mankind Requires It
- 4. The Character of God will be Exalted Through It

1. The Master Plan Demands It

God cannot deny Himself and in the Epistle of James, God is described as "The Father of Lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (Jas.1:17). We are also told in Mark 13:31; "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." Also in Malachi 3:6; we read, "For I am the Lord, I change not." The Holy Spirit also declares, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb.13:8). God's promises are yea and amen and never need to be altered or changed. God is immutable and omniscient and His promises are always kept. God promised to send a Deliverer when Adam fell in sin (Gen.3:15). The Jews were promised a Messiah (Isa.7:14; Isa.9:6-7). Abraham was promised a land (Gen.15:18). King David was promised a son who would be the King forever (2 Sam.7:16,24).

The Lord Jesus Christ will come to rule this world in God's perfect righteousness, and all of the saints of God will come with Him as a kingdom of priests, teaching the earthly people, God's justice and righteousness. "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so come Lord Jesus" (Rev.22:20). Christ Jesus will come to rule the world, because God has said it, and that is sufficient proof. When we read in the Bible, "Thus saith the Lord", that should confirm it with us.

Christ's earthly ministry was high lighted with kingdom teachings, and these

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statutes will be used during the millennium kingdom. The Old Testament sets forth the conditions which shall exist during the kingdom of righteousness. These are thoroughly dealt with in my textbook, "What Does The Future Hold?" One of the earliest assurances of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ was Enoch's revelation from the Holy Spirit (Jude 14,15). Isaiah deals not only with the prophecy of the coming of the Lord, but the Holy Spirit gave detail as to the conditions that would exist during those thousand years. Nature would be restored (Isa.11:6-9; Isa.35:1-2). There would be no diseases, and there would be plenty for all (Isa.11:1-16). There will be great spirituality (Isa.65:24). There will be no war (Isa.2:4). Universal prosperity (Isa.65). Universal knowledge of God (Isa.11:9). A perfect Government under Christ (Isa.11:1-2). Life will be extended to hundreds of years (Isa.65:20). These are but a few prophetic utterances which should give conclusive proof that Christ's second coming is according to God's Master plan. God is not in the alteration business but rather in the regeneration, making all things new. The Bible records this great event with much detail, and all will be fulfilled. "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matt.5:8). The coming of the thousand year kingdom is a prelude to the eternal and perfect kingdom of God. Sin will be eradicated from God's creation and will never appear again. "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" (Dan.9:24). The great tribulation will be the final filling as well as the outpouring of the cup of iniquity. Christ died for the sins of the whole world, but He also died that sin might be eradicated forever from the final new heavens and new earth.

2. The Prophecies Declare It

God declared the coming of the Eternal Son of God in the garden of Eden, when Satan caused mankind to sin. It was announced in a strange way, declaring "The Seed of the Woman" would bruise Satan's head. Enoch was given understanding concerning the coming of the saints with the Lord. "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saint, To execute judgement upon all, and to convict all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him" (Jude 14-15).

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God made unconditional covenants with Abraham and David and were assured of a coming kingdom upon this earth. God has proclaimed such promises as Isaiah 7:14; and Isaiah 9:6-7. "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing where he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb.11:8-10). Abraham could have built his own mansion, but he wanted God's very best.

In the Book of Daniel, we are reminded of the four great empires, Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece, and Rome. God's eternal Son would eventually destroy them. "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom; 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 forever" (Dan.2:44). Before the Lord establishes His kingdom on earth, Elijah must come as prophesied (Mal.4:5). We have the prediction of his coming in Rev.11:6. "These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy; and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will." Moses will accompany Elijah and they will have 1,260 days to remain. This will be accomplished during the Abomination of Desolation, or the last 3 and 1/2 years of the tribulation.

The prayer which the Lord taught to his disciples was another confirmation that God's kingdom would come to this earth. "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." This kingdom will be man's final choice to accept or reject God's righteousness. The natural man will not be able to blame anything on the elements, but will find the most favorable and perfect conditions under God's kingdom of righteousness. Although this kingdom will run for the full thousand years, man will rebel, under the influence of Satan and God the Father will send down fire from heaven. However, the kingdom which will begin will then pass into the eternal kingdom with the creation of the new heavens and the new earth. "And the seventh angel sounded, and there were great voices in heaven, saying, the kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever" (Rev.11:15).

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3. The Supreme Test of Mankind Requires It

Since angels and mankind were created with the freedom of choice, both were under a supreme test by God. The angels beholding the great creation of God were without excuse if they chose Lucifer the supreme cherub, rather than God. Lucifer convince one angel out of every three to follow him. The remainder of the angels past their test in being faithful to their Creator. But mankind was deceived in the garden of Eden, and God showed grace in providing an escape route from the penalty of death. God has revealed himself in various ways down through almost 6,000 years and the final test will come when man is placed in the most desirable conditions during the kingdom age. All of the excuses that man has made will come to naught during the kingdom age.

There will be a purge at the beginning of the kingdom, when the sheep are separated from the goats (Matt.25:31-46). Christ describes the kingdom in various ways during His earthly ministry, and each time the wicked are purged, leaving only those worthy to enter the kingdom. But the final test will be when Satan is loosed for a season and goes to and fro upon the face of the earth recruiting foolish souls for his army to fight against God. Man will again prove that apart from God, he is totally weak and depraved.

4. The Character of God Will be Exalted Through It

God is absolute and all sufficient as the Triune God, and being immutable and Omniscient, He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb.13:8). With a marvelous God who has manifested Himself through the creation, His Word, and through His Son, we begin to realize the mighty force that exists in the spiritual realm. Being created in the image of God, we someday will be able understand God's exalted and marvelous character, through the Incarnate Son of God. When that Rapture takes place, we shall behold our Lord and Savior face to face, and during the thousand year reign with Him upon earth, we shall behold the eternal glory of God in great exaltation!

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V. THE CONDITIONS AND THE DURATION OF THE KINGDOM OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Throughout the Bible, we have sufficient information about the conditions that will exist during the Millennium. We also have the duration of this period, clearly stated as one thousand years. We have briefly stated some of these conditions that will exist under the perfect government of the Lord Jesus Christ. There will be a wonderful saintly fellowship with the saints of all ages, even including those that will come out of the great tribulation. Assignments will be given to the saints according to their faithfulness when in the earthly body. These rewards and responsibilities will be given at the Judgement Seat of Christ (2 Cor.5:10).

In our glorified bodies, which shall be like the Lord's resurrected body, we will have energy unlimited, with an understanding beyond the comprehension of the earth dwellers with whom we will work. Our understanding of great details from the Bible will be shared, one with another as we also teach the righteousness of God to the earth dwellers during the kingdom age. There will be no excuses for them not to turn to the Lord for Satan and his demons will be bound in the bottomless pit during those thousand years. There will be perfect conditions during this period and there will be no hunger or sickness during this time. Here are a few of the outstanding conditions during the kingdom age.

- 1. All nature will be restored (Isa.11:6-9; Isa.35:1-2; Isa.65:25; Rom.8:19-22).
- 2. There will be perfect justice for all during the kingdom (Isa.11:3-7; Ps.72:12-14).
- 3. The kingdom will start only with believers, as all unbelievers will be removed (Ezek.20; Matt.15; Matt.3:11; Lk.3:16; Matt.13; Matt.24; Matt.25:31-46).
- 4. The people of the earth will be very fruitful and multiply, having children born during the kingdom age, who will have to choose to accept Christ or reject Him. Many will reject Christ (Rev.20:3b; Rev.20:7-9).
- 5. Life will be extended due to nature being restored and the people of the earth will live hundreds of years in perfect health (Isa.11:3-4; Isa.65:20).

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- 6. All governments will be under the Lord and He maintain perfect justice for all (Zech.14:9; Isa.11:1-2; Ps.72).
- 7. The whole world will be evangelized by the saints of all ages and all the people of the earth will have a perfect understanding of God (Isa.11:9).
- 8. The whole world will greatly prosper under Christ (Ps.72:7,16; Isa.65).
- 9. Christ will maintain perfect peace and war will not exist (Isa.2:4).
- 10. Israel will be fully restored to her land in great prosperity (Isa.35:3-10; Isa.65:19; Zech.8:20-27).
- 11. There will be great spirituality during the reign of Christ (Joel 2:28; Isa.65:24; Zech.14:16-17).
- 12. Religions and cults will not exist during the kingdom. There will be perfect relationship with Christ maintained by the wide spread evangelism by the saints (Rev.20:1-3).
- 13. Satan and the demons will be locked in the bottomless pit for the duration of the kingdom (Rev.20:1-3).
- 14. Jerusalem will be the world capital for the duration of the kingdom (Ezek.13:16; Ezek.21:2; Zeph.3:16; Zech.8:3,22; Zech.12:7; Zech.14:17).

Christ Shall Reign Upon Planet Earth

We are aware at this present time of the hatred and jealousy over Jerusalem, and the Jews, especially by the Arabs. But God is sovereign and will protect His own. Yes, Israel has been disobedient to Jehovah, and were scattered to the ends of the earth. But now the Lord is regathering them, both for their chastisement and for the coming kingdom. "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion; for, Io, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord. And many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the Lord os hosts hath sent me unto thee. And the Lord

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shall inherit Judah as His portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again" (Zech.2:10-12).

How Long Will This Kingdom Last?

This is a very important question, for we read of one thousand years, and then we also read, "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever" (Rev.11:15). Here again, one must thoroughly understand "The Master Plan of God", and realize that there will be certain judgments taking place between the end of the thousand year kingdom of righteousness, and the eternal plans of God. At the end of the Kingdom of righteousness, there will be, what the Bible calls "A Little Season", when Satan is loosed from the bottomless pit and in the sovereignty of God is permitted to recruit human beings from the kingdom age for his final attack against Jerusalem and the Lord Jesus Christ. These recruits will consist of the children born during the kingdom age of the earthly people, who rebel against the righteousness of God. We are told in the Bible that they number "As The Sands Of The Sea"....."And when the thousand years are ended, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle; the number of whom is as the sands of the sea" (Rev.20:7-8).

The Final Battle Against God

"And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved City; (Jerusalem) and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever" (Rev.20:9-10).

This will no doubt occur when all of the saints of God of all ages will be called to Jerusalem for special feast days with the Lord. The wicked people born during the Kingdom of righteousness will make a secret march upon Jerusalem the capital of the world. In God's Omniscience, He is ready to meet the enemy with consuming fire from heaven, with a single blow worse that any atomic bomb could produce. This will be the final battle of all evil forces and the billions of demons and satan

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will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone forever and ever, never to be released again.

The Final Judgement

The final judgement place of all unregenerate will not be in Sheol or "hell" but they will be cast into the lake of fire. Those who are in sheol, will come forth in the second resurrection, which is the second living death. All the unregenerate dead will come forth from Cain to the unregenerate born during the kingdom age. This will include all of those classified as goats which will be purged by the Lord at the beginning of the thousand year kingdom of righteousness. "And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened and another book was opened, which was the book of life. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and hades delivered up the dead that were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev.20:11-15).

This second resurrection will include all the unregenerate, regardless of their religious life or their good earthly deeds. If they never accepted Christ as their personal savior, they are to be cast into the eternal lake of fire and tormented forever and ever. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him" (Jn.3:36). Where that lake of fire will be, only Almighty God knows. However, it will be a place sealed off and separated from God's coming new heavens and new earth. Will it be the continual burning of this present heaven and earth with all of the planets? That is God's secret.

THAT ETERNAL KINGDOM OF GOD

Those believers who are left from the kingdom, plus all the holy angels, and all of the saints of God, and the Bride of Christ will be forever free from sin and live in the presence of God forever and ever. This will be the eternal kingdom of God which was declared in Revelation Chapter 11 and verse 15. All of the past creation

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will be destroyed and God will make all things new. All of the heavens and the earth will be burned with fervent heat as recorded in the Bible. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; the earth also, and the works that are in it, shall be burned up" (2 Pet.3:10).

This will give way to the creation of the new heavens and the new earth, where sin will never be present according to the key verse in the Bible (Dan.9:24). "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, except the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (1 Cor.2:9-13).

The New Jerusalem

"And there came unto me one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come here, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God; and her light was like a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written on the gates, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb" (Rev.21:9-14).

The wonders of God are beyond our understanding! This past creation will be as nothing, when God makes all things new. What a sight that will be when that City four square descends and is placed in orbit, being some 1300 miles square! It will have much to do with the Bride of Christ and therefore we as members of the Body of Christ should be greatly interested. The glory of God will radiate from this holy

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city, "The New Jerusalem". The marvelous construction of God will have precious gems everywhere and golden streets that will be crystal clear. There will be 12 marvelous foundations to this city, and 12 gates of solid pearl! There will be no need of a temple in this city, for God will dwell among His creation. The brightness of this city will be greater than the sun, and its light shall penetrate around the world. There will be no darkness found, nor will sin ever enter into this New Jerusalem.

Paradise

"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bore twelve kinds of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall serve him; And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no lamp, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light, and they shall reign forever and ever" (Rev.22:1-5).

God's Paradise will contain the throne of God, and the Lamb of God shall dwell within it. Since Christ will never leave us nor forsake us, then we as His Bride to be will enjoy the continual fruitfulness of Paradise. We do not have much information on this coming Paradise, but we do know that there will be continual rejoicing in the presence of our Savior. We will always be satisfied and active in the sustaining power of Almighty God. There will be access to the tree of life for all. As to the various nations, it seems that there will be a continuation of what human beings experience today, yet without sin. This will be another special surprise that our loving God will have for us, when we leave this temporary life.

The New Heaven and Earth

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea. And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be

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his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write; for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is a thirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Rev.21:1-8).

John on the Isle of Patmos had a preview of all things becoming new. The size of this new earth is not known, but we are told that there will be no seas to separate the people. Sin will never be the issue again and God's final conclusion in all of this is, "And they lived happily, ever afterward".

We are also reminded that the unbelieving and all the wicked will have no part in these wonders of wonders which God will create for those who have put their trust in him. It is of the utmost importance that the Lord Jesus Christ returns to this earth as the final plea to all mankind to accept his free gift of eternal life. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom.3:23). "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord (Rom.6:23). "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (Jn.3:16-18). "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (Jn.20:31). "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. By whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Rom.5:1-2). "There is, therefore, now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom.8:1a). "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God - Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph.2:8-10).

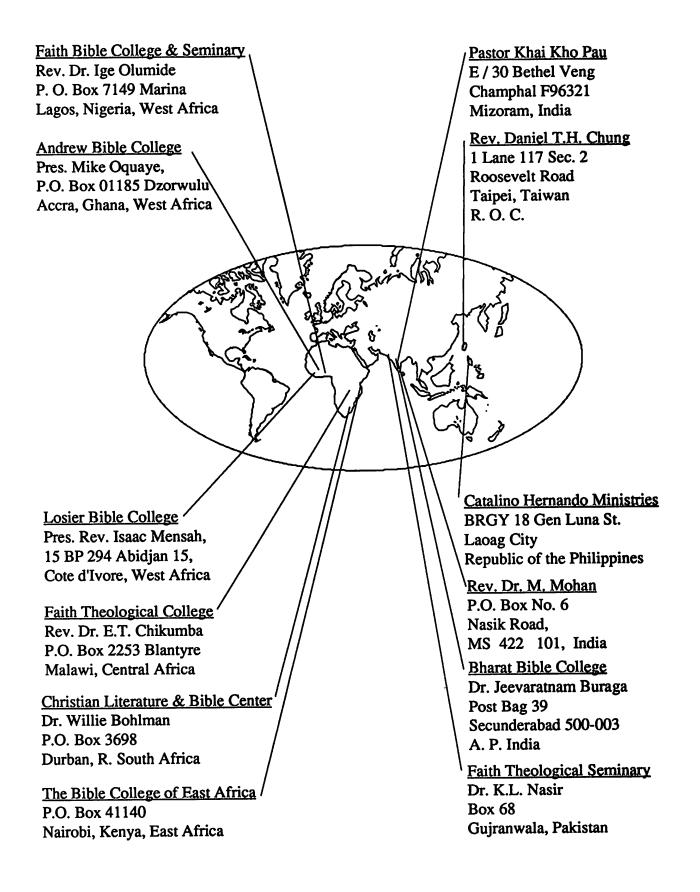
The Second Coming of The Lord Jesus Christ

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen" (Heb.13:20-21).

Lesson 5 - Questions

- 1. Explain Revelation 19:11-21.
- 2. Give some Old Testament references of Christ's second Advent.
- 3. What Old Testament saints are good examples and evidence of Christ's coming again?
- 4. Since Israel was scattered throughout the whole world, do we have in the Bible any references as to God's promise to regather Israel? Give Scripture.
- 5. Explain the unconditional covenants that God made with Abraham and King David.
- 6. How far did Israel's title deed extend? Give Scripture.
- 7. What will be the conditions of the world when Christ returns to set up his kingdom? Give Scripture.
- 8. When does the 70th week of Daniel begin and end? Scripture please.
- 9. Give some evidence of the soon return of Christ to this earth for his kingdom.
- 10. Explain the restraining power of the Holy Spirit at this present time.
- 11. Explain Matthew 24.
- 12. What reasons does Christ have to return to this earth for a kingdom of righteousness?
- 13. Explain conditions during Christ's reign upon earth.
- 14. When does the last war against God occur? Cite Scripture.
- 15. When does the final judgement take place? Give Scripture.
- 16. Give a brief account of the eternal kingdom with the new creation.

World Distribution Centers



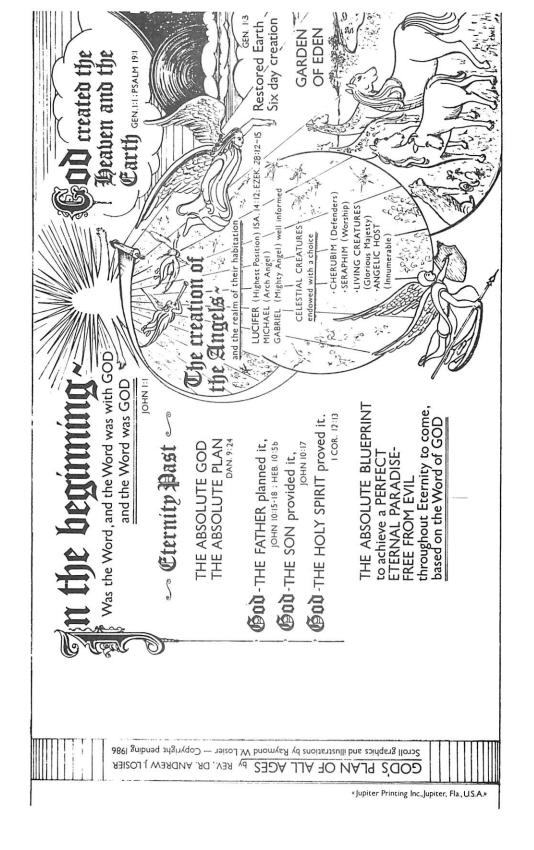
In Memory of Dorothy L. Losier

Dorothy L. Losier, the wife of Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier, born December 5, 1911, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Lehman of Berne, Indiana, went to be with the Lord on May 16, 1992 at 1:00 p.m.

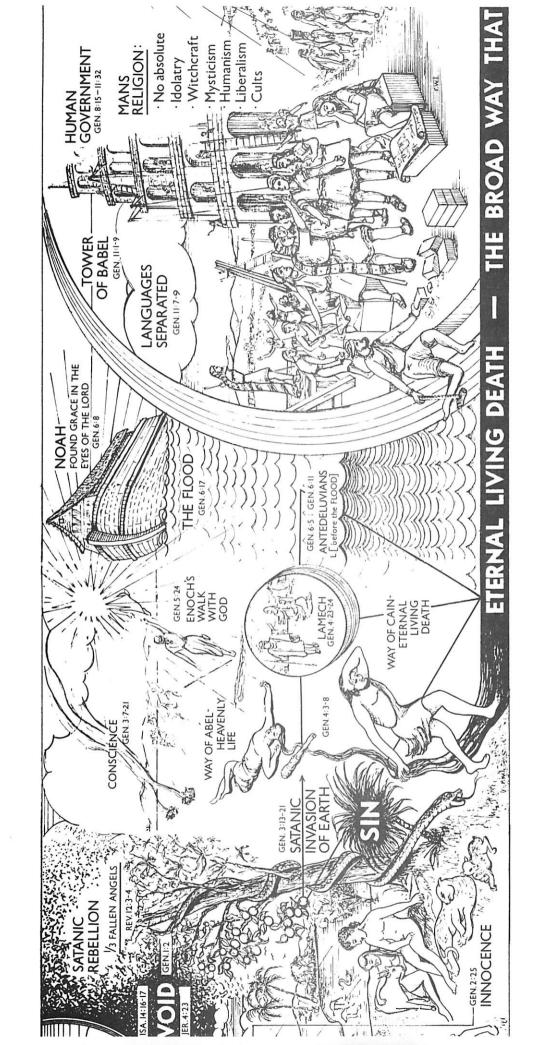
Dorothy attended Wheaton College, where she met her husband, Andy. She later attended Moody Bible Institute, while Andy attended Dallas Theological Seminary in preparation for going to Africa as a missionary. The two were married by Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, the Founder and President of Dallas Seminary on May 21, 1937. In 1938, God opened the door for them to go to Kenya, East Africa under the Africa Inland Mission. They began their mission work among the Kipsigis and later an evangelical work among the Masai, who are nomads in East Africa.

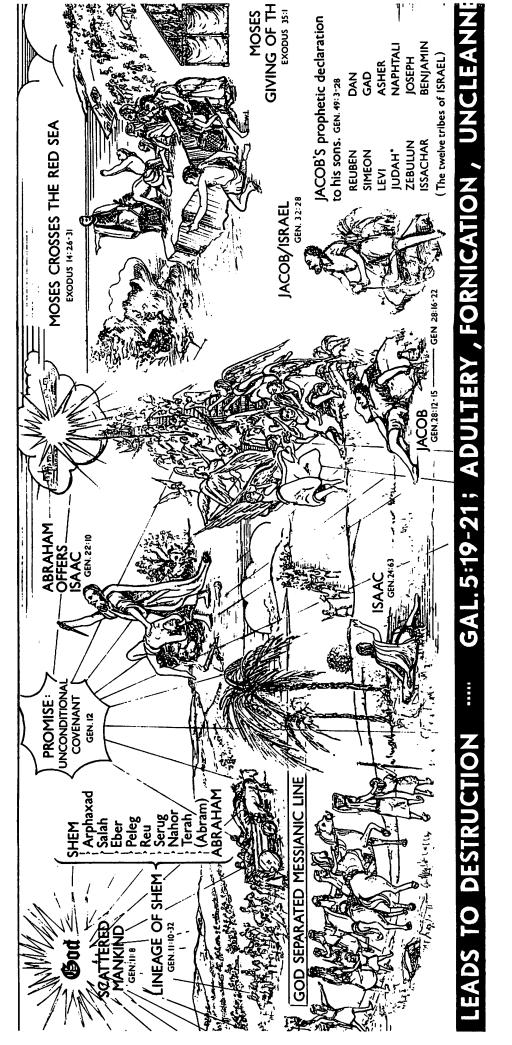
In 1952, the Lord directed Andy and Dorothy to establish a brand new work, known as Christian Literature & Bible Center, Inc. This tremendous outreach of the printed page which began in East Africa with the Gospel message in 35 languages has grown to include South Africa and the entire west coast of Africa in some 50 languages as well as many other places around the world. Dorothy was talented in music and produced a seven year Gospel Radio Broadcast in Nairobi, Kenya.

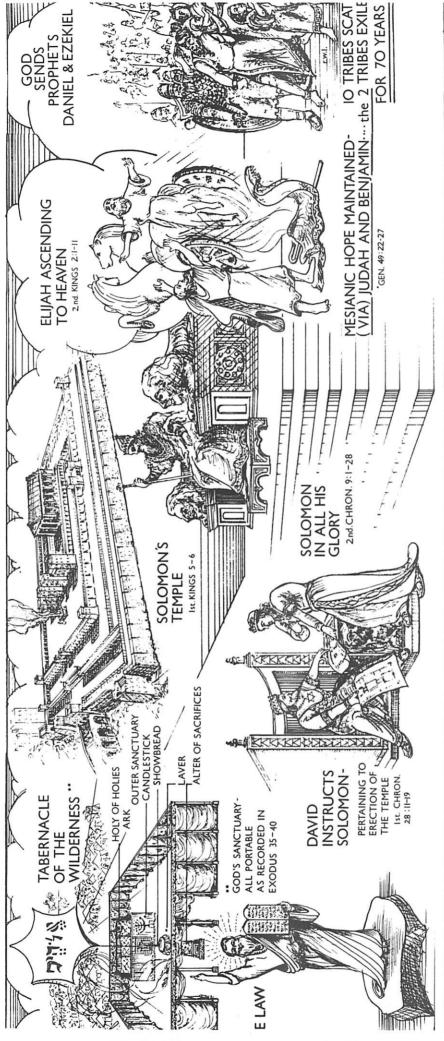
Her service to the Lord included children's work, music broadcasts, editing of manuscripts, and raising a family of five great sons and two wonderful daughters. Two other daughters were taken to be with the Lord many years ago and are now reunited with their mother.



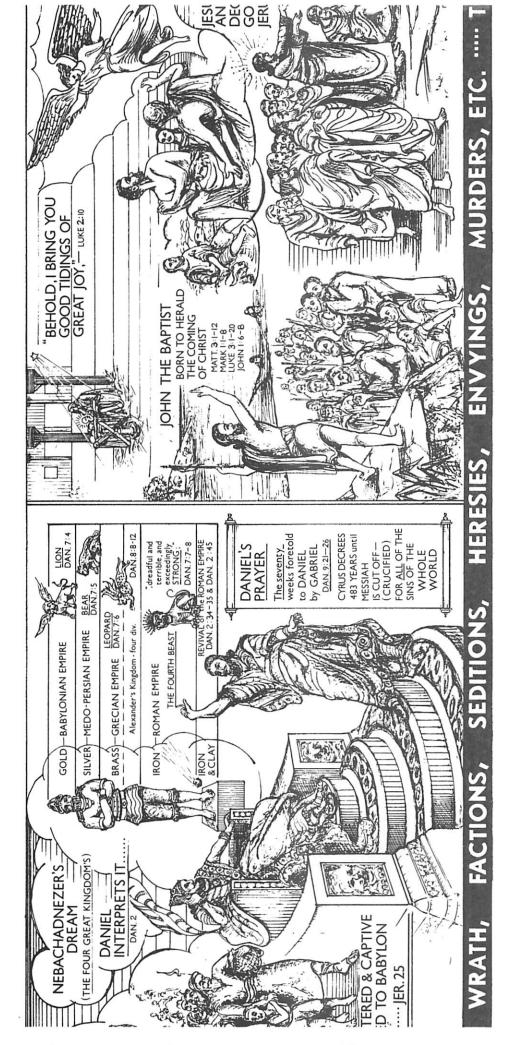
The following pages have been perforated and printed on one side only for those who wish to remove the God's Plan of All Ages Chart and assemble it on a wall or into a scroll.

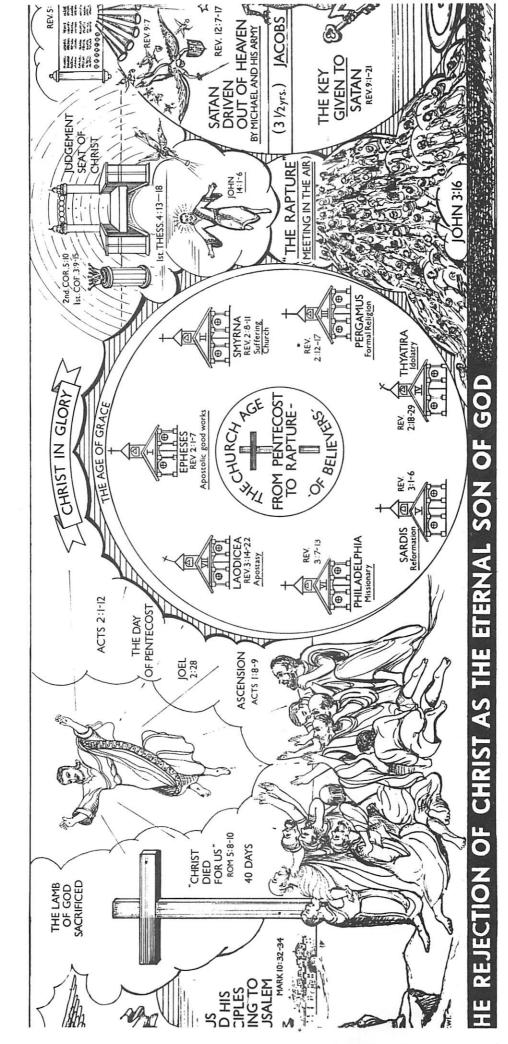


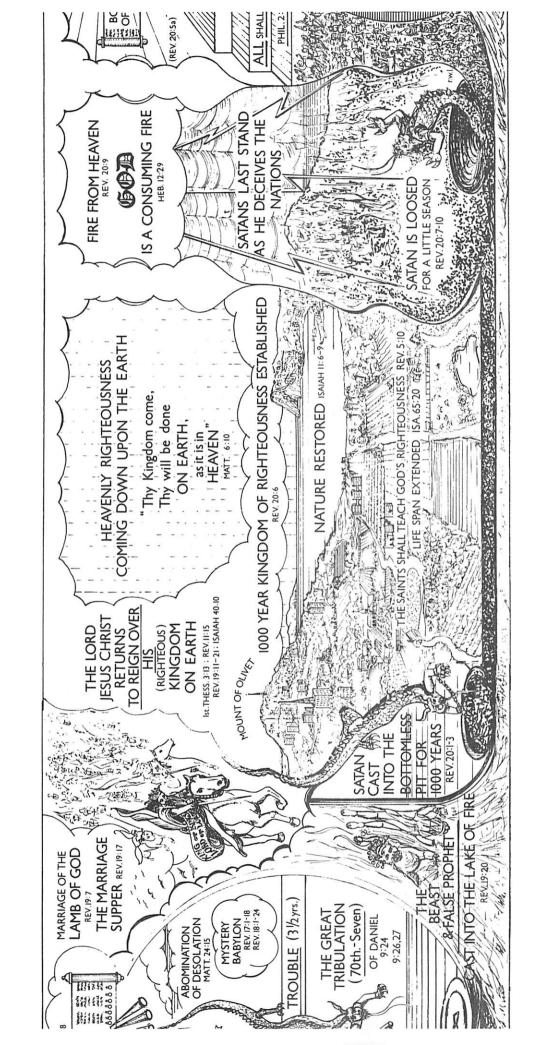


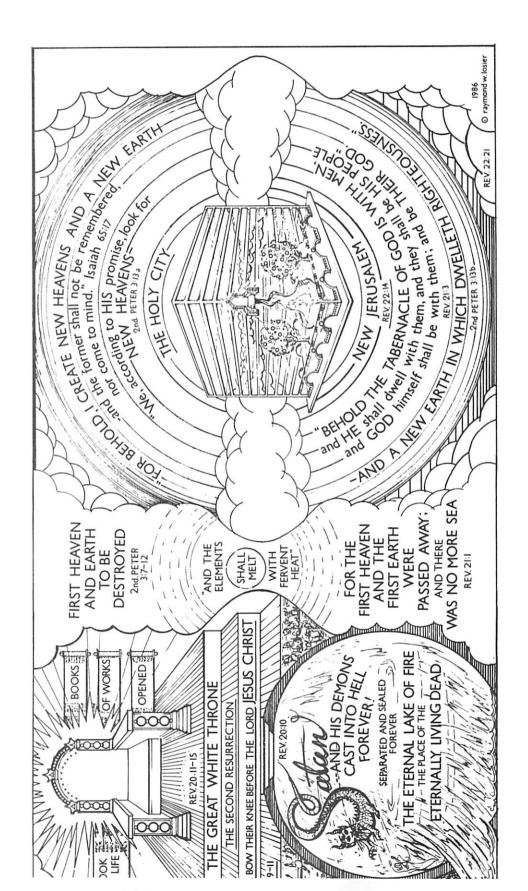


JEALOUSY, STRIFE, HATRED, SORCERY, LASCIVIOUSNESS, IDOLATRY,









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The Glory of God

Treasure Chest of Eternal Gems

What Does the Future Hold?

