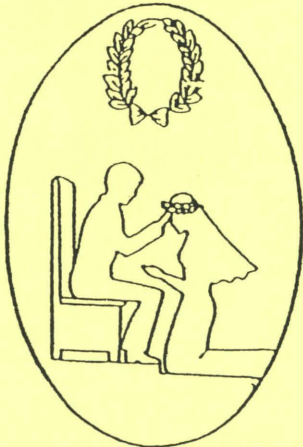
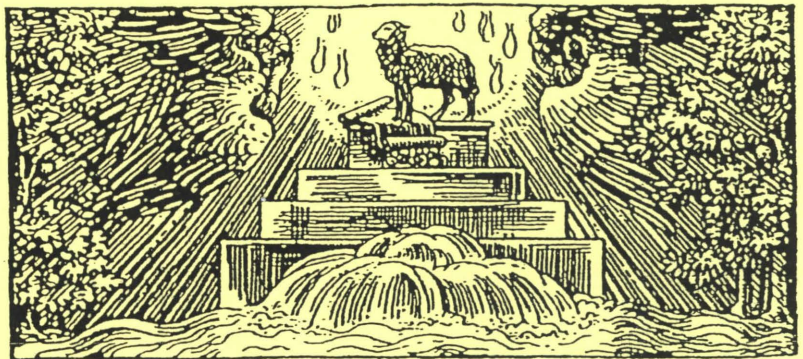
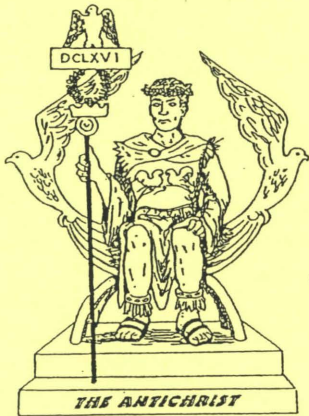


A PANORAMA OF PROPHECY



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.



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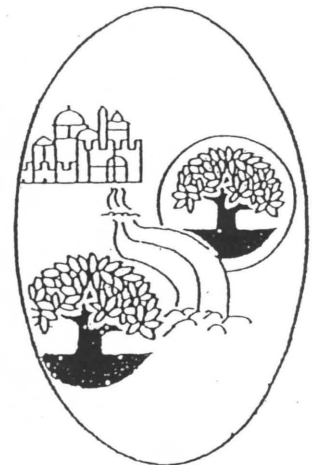
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The Rapture of the Church

The Believer's Fondest Hope



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

The Rapture of the Church:

THE BELIEVER'S FONDEST HOPE



INTRODUCTION

Many people have good reason to fear the events of the future. Believers, however, can rejoice because they will escape the dreadful events predicted for the last days. They know that any moment the rapture may snatch all genuine believers from the earth into the presence of Christ. The rapture is a distinct New Testament truth, taught by Christ in John 14 and, twenty years later, by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4. These two passages are central to our understanding how the present age will end. In John 14 we have **the solemn promise** of the Lord's return, in 1 Thessalonians 4 a **splendid picture** of His return. No prophecies need to be fulfilled before this event can transpire.

1A. THE PROMISE OF THE LORD'S RETURN: John 14:1-3



1b. The Savior's Precious Advice: 14:1

The disciples were perplexed and distressed about the Lord's prediction concerning His death and departure (13:31ff, cf. Luke 9:44f). They neither understood nor believed the Savior's words of comfort which have prompted believers through the ages to eagerly anticipate the return of Christ for them.

1c. Avoid fear: "Let not your heart be troubled"

2c. Acknowledge the Savior:

Trust in God is commendable but trust in Christ is indispensable because He is the only way to the Father (14:6). Personal acceptance of Christ is necessary to secure a place in the Father's house. Martin Luther is correct in observing that, "if he were not true God with the Father, this faith would be false and idolatrous" (Rudolf Stier, *The Words of Jesus*, 1879, V, 185).

2b. The Savior's Present Activity: 14:2

Christ made several promises to His disciples.

1c. Communion in the Father's house:

"In my Father's house are many mansions." While Christ and the disciples would soon be separated, in heaven, the Father's house, they would enjoy unbroken fellowship. The picture is that of an oriental home with courtyard and living quarters for all the family members, suggesting fellowship and intimacy.



2c. Construction of our Future Home:
Christ is presently constructing this abode.

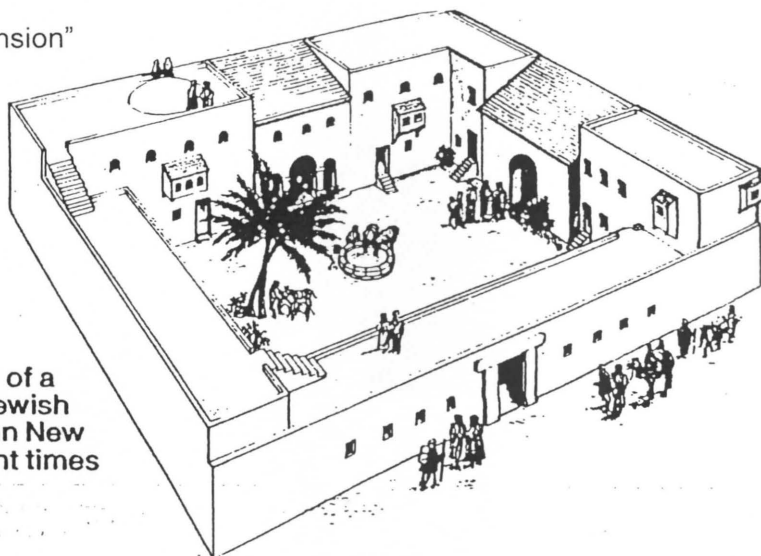
1d. The designation of "mansion"

The word mansion (*mone*), like its old English counterpart "meant a dwelling place rather than a sumptuous large house" (*Dictionary of N.T. Theology*, III, 229). Perhaps the modern term "condominium" best gives the sense of the Greek word. ("I've got a 'condo' just over the hillton?")

A Child of the King



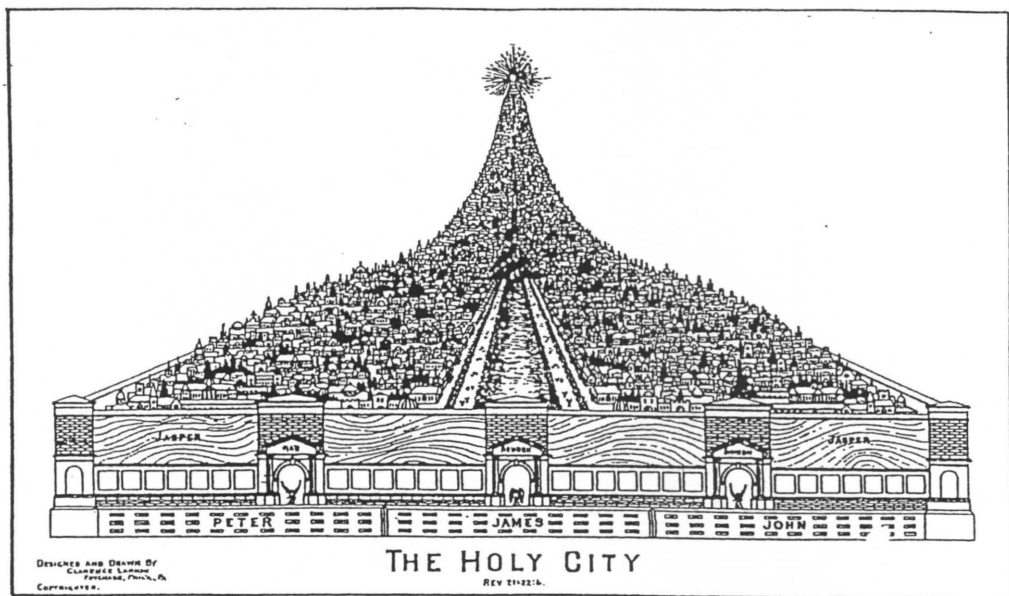
An heir to a man-sion, a robe, and a crown.



Model of a wealthy Jewish house in New Testament times

Eerdmans' Family Encyclopedia of the Bible, 214.

2d. The description of our eternal home:



Larkin, *Dispensational T.*
Page 148.

In Rev. 21:1-22:5 the actual description is given of our eternal home. It is a city, the New Jerusalem, with 12 foundations and 12 gates. Its dimensions, undoubtedly to be taken *literally*, stagger the imagination. "The city is laid out as a square. . .1500 miles, its

length and width and height are equal" (21:16 NASB) For 2000 years Christ has been constructing the city in heaven while completing the Church on earth. When the last building block is added to the city in heaven and the last believer is added to the Church on earth, Christ will return. It only took God six days to create the universe. What a magnificent place our eternal home must be! In glorious fellowship we will share the city with the triune God, the holy angels and all the redeemed (Heb. 12:22-23).

Our Bridegroom has gone to the Father's house to prepare the Bride's eternal home. At any moment He could return for us. No intervening events or special signs need to be anticipated. The promise of the Lord's imminent return constitutes the next event in God's prophetic program.

3b. The Savior's Promised Appearance: 14:3

1c. The Reception of Believers

Christ promised an abundance of abiding places in the Father's house. He must depart for a very good reason, namely to prepare our eternal home. Then the Savior would come and take the Bride into His presence forever.

2c. The Return to the Father's House

It should be noted that the believer eventually would be where Christ is, in the Father's house, that is, the third heaven or paradise (2 Cor. 12:1-4). If the posttribulationists are correct, Christ returns, we meet Him in the air, descend with Him to earth and rule with Him forever. If this scenario is true, then Christ spoke an untruth in John 14. In the posttribulational view the believer never spends a single moment in heaven.

2A. THE PICTURE OF THE RETURN OF THE LORD: 1 Thess. 4:1-18

1b. The Problems:

In 1 Thessalonians 4 the Apostle Paul discusses three major problems:

1c. The problem of immorality vs. 1-9

The Thessalonians had been saved out of a very pagan society and needed to be reminded that Christians should avoid every form of sexual immorality (v. 3).

2c. The problem of indolence vs. 10-12

Some believers at Thessalonica apparently had given up their means of livelihood in eager anticipation of the Lord's return. Having forgotten the Lord's admonition to "occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13), they had become dependent upon other believers.

Martin Luther once said, "If I knew the Lord were coming back tomorrow, I would plant an apple tree today." The believer needs to live as if the Lord were coming back today. He needs to work as if He were not returning for 100 years.

3c. The problem of ignorance v. 13

The Thessalonians were inattentive when Paul taught them about the rapture. They were ignorant but should not have been. They all had hoped to live until the rapture. But the Lord tarried and some of their loved ones had passed away. Would they miss out on future blessings? Would they not be resurrected until after the Millennium?

2b. The Preview: v. 14

The Thessalonians should not be concerned about their departed love ones: "We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep."(NIV) Since every believer has identified with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection, he is safe with Jesus and will accompany Him at the rapture.

1c. The designation of "sleep":

cemetery - -
κοιμητήρια

Contrary to the teaching of the cults, such as the Jehovah's Witnesses, the metaphor "sleep" describes the state not of the spirits and souls of individuals but of their bodies. When believers die, their bodies are placed in the ground. The term sleep is very fitting because they rest from their earthly labors and await the awakening of the resurrection. Interestingly, the English word cemetery is derived from the Greek *koimeterion*, that is, a place of sleep.

2c. The destiny of the saints and sinners:

The moment a believer dies he is present with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8). When the saint departs from this life, he is immediately present with Christ in heaven (Phil. 1:23) conducted there safely by the angels (Lk. 16:22).



When an unbeliever dies, his body is placed in the ground while his soul and spirit go immediately to the place of torment (Heb. 9:27). The Bible knows nothing of an intermediate state called purgatory or of a second chance for salvation after death.

3b. The Promise: v. 15

The doctrine of the rapture, Paul asserts, comes directly from the Lord, possibly revealed during Paul's three-year stay in Arabia (Gal. 1:17-18).

4b. The Picture: vs. 16-18

1c. The Return of the Lord, v. 16

Christ's coming will be heralded by three sounds:

1d. A shout: a cry of command.

2d. The voice of the archangel: Michael (Jude 9), perhaps in triumph.

3d. The trump of God: the last trump, a sound of deliverance, as God concludes His program for the Church. (1 Cor. 15:52; not to be confused with the seventh trump of Revelation 11:15).

2c. The Resurrection of the Dead, v. 16

At the return of the Lord the first event will be the resurrection of "the dead in Christ," that is, the Church age saints (Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:13).

3c. The Rapture of the Living, v. 17

The living believers will be "caught up together with them," or reunited with those who fell asleep in Christ. The changing of our bodies will be instantaneous, "in the twinkling of an eye" (1 Cor. 15:52).

The term "rapture" is not found in the Bible but comes from the Latin *rapiō*—to seize or snatch—accurately conveying the idea of sudden removal from this earth.

4c. The Reunion in the Air, v. 17

At the rapture we will meet our Lord and loved ones in the air. We have missed our believing relatives and friends who preceded us. They revel in God's eternal presence, unperturbed by the succession of time. Withheld from them presently is anything that would detract from the bliss of heaven. On the other hand, their joy in heaven may be increased by knowing of the salvation of loved ones on earth (Luke 15:10).

5c. The Remaining with the Lord, v. 17

Being with the Lord forever includes returning with Him to heaven, rewards at the judgment seat, rejoicing at the marriage of the Lamb and ruling with Him during the Millennium and residing in the New Jerusalem for all eternity (Rev. 21:3; 22:1-5).

6c. The Reassurance from the Lord, v. 18

Their comforting hope was the descent of the Lord and their deliverance from the wrath of the tribulation period (1 Thess. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10; Rom 5:9). Were the believer to face the tribulation, then Paul's concluding words would not be those of comfort but of caution.

CONCLUSION:

The believer's fondest hope is the any-moment return of the Lord. The rapture is:

- (1) *A comforting hope:* 1 Thess. 4:18 "Wherefore comfort one another with these words."
- (2) *A purifying hope:* 1 John 3:3 "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."
- (3) *A blessed hope:* Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing . . ."
- (4) *A sure hope:* 2 Peter 1:19 "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto you do well that you take heed. . ."

JUDGMENT
SEAT
OF CHRIST



MARRIAGE OF
THE LAMB



Eschatology Timeline

CELEBRATION



GREAT WHITE
THRONE
JUDGMENT

RAPTURE
FOR US

RETURN

REVELATION
WITH US



CHURCH

TRIBULATION

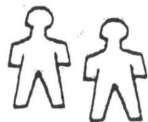
MILLENNIUM

ETERNITY

PREPARATION

PROTECTION

PERSECUTION



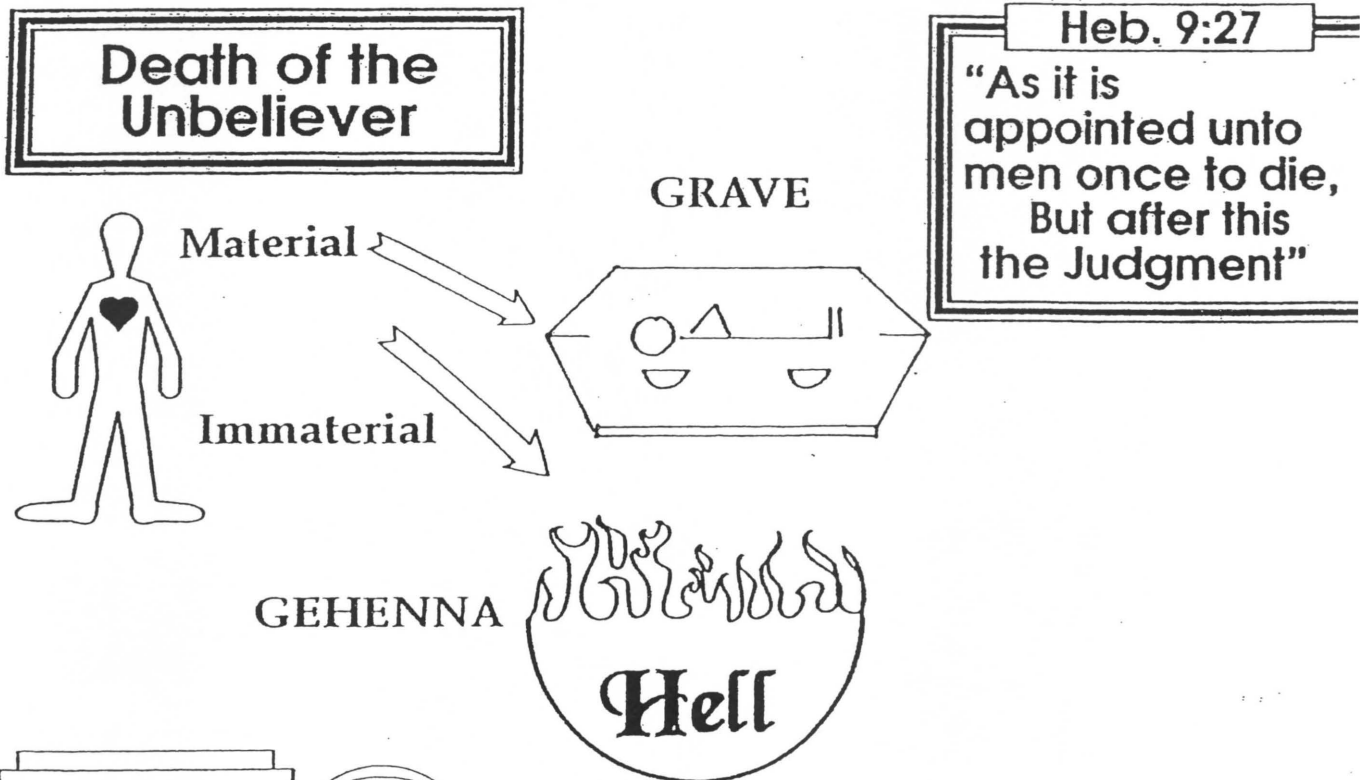
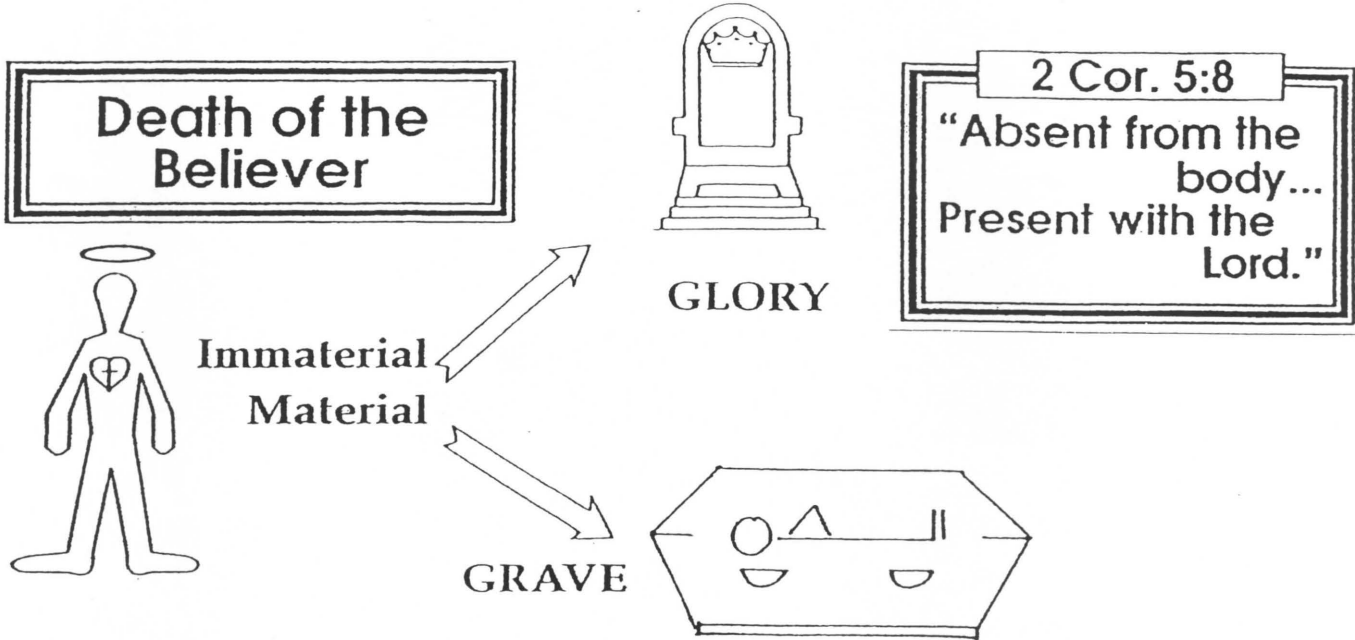
666



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.



Death for Saints and Sinners



THE PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

I THESSALONIANS 4

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 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:

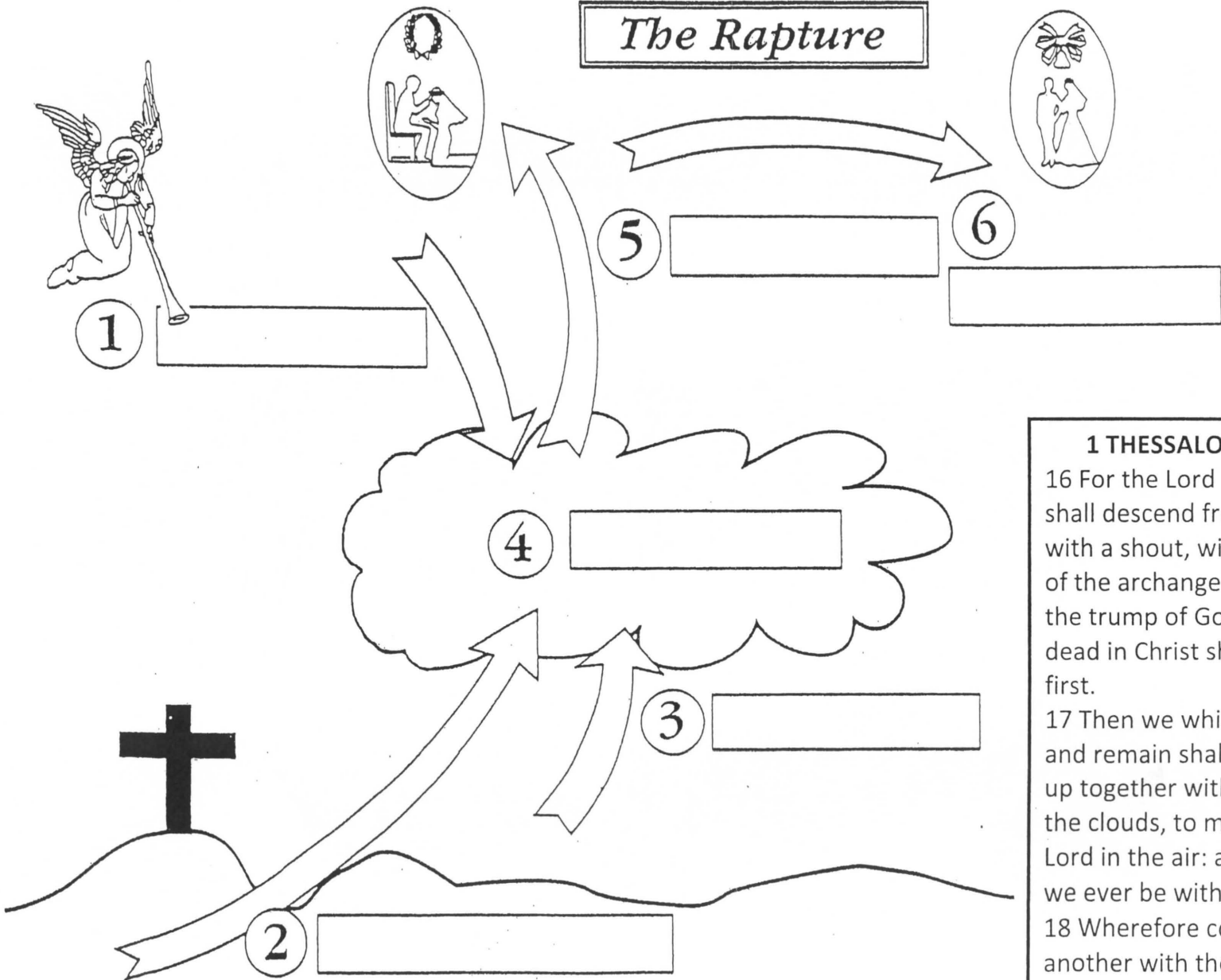
17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

cemetery --

κοιμητήρια

The Rapture



1 THESSALONIANS 4
16 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.
17 Then we which 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.
18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.



THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST:

The Christian's Finest Hour



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

THE JUDGMENT SEAT: THE BELIEVER'S FINEST HOUR

Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

1A. THE SESSION AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT:

1b. The issues at the judgment seat:



1c. Positively: Service and Rewards:

The Scriptures emphasize the work and rewards of the believer:

2 Cor. 5:10 "what he has done"

1 Cor. 3:13 "every man's work"

Eph. 6:8 "whatsoever good thing any man doeth"

Col. 3:23 "whatsoever ye do"

2c. Negatively: Not Sins

Christ's "one sacrifice for sins" (Heb. 10:12) brought "remission of these" (10:18) so complete that God can say, "I will remember them no more" (10:17)

2b. The interpretation of the judgment seat:

Is the Judgment Seat a *Protestant purgatory* or a *Christian's coronation*?

Is the Judgment Seat primarily a time of

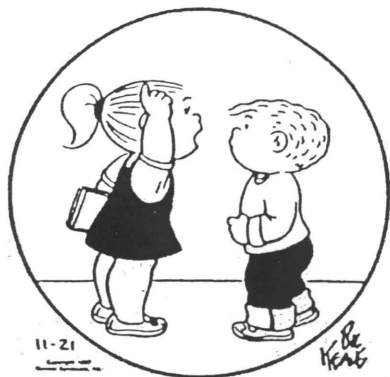
tears or triumph?
gloom or glory?
remorse or rejoicing?
regret or recognition?
recrimination or recompense?

1c. The punitive view:

The judgment seat is a time of chastisement and shame:

1d. George Dollar says about Christ's action toward the believers:

He's going to take the good and faithful servants with Him; they will rule with Him over the earth. But He's going to send all of the wicked, lazy, unprofitable Christians. . .to outer darkness for one thousand years and they shall weep and there shall be gnashing of teeth (cited by Hoyt, *Bib. Sac.*, January-March 1980, 33).



"After you die God plays back all your sins on videotape."

2d. Kenneth Dodson also writes of punishment at the judgment seat:

Justice toward His children demands that God reward them for both good works and bad works at the Judgment Seat of Christ. There will be crowns and rewards for good works. *There will be chastisement and stripes for bad works* (*The Prize of the Up-Calling or Paul's Secret of Victory*, 82 [emphasis added]).

Dodson further writes of God:

He has a videotape of every human life, with all the lines of human influence that have gone from that life into other human lives, and He will play back all of these videotapes of all humanity. This will be "God's Drama of History" (*Ibid.*, 77 [emphasis added]).

2c. The positive view:

Theologians holding this positive position maintain that Scripture teaches that all sins, both confessed sin and unconfessed, have been borne by Christ on the cross and that the Christian will never be faced with either at the Judgment Seat of Christ. (Hoyt, *Bib. Sac.*, January-March 1980, 36)

1d. Chafer and Walvoord support this view:

With reference to sin, Scripture teaches that the child of God under grace shall not come into judgment (John 3:18; 5:24; 6:37; Rom. 5:1; 8:1; 1 Cor. 11:32); in his standing before God, and on the ground that the penalty for all sin—past, present and future (Col. 2:13)—has been borne by Christ as the perfect substitute, the believer is not only placed beyond condemnation, but being in Christ is accepted in the perfection of Christ (1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 1:6; Col. 2:10; Heb. 10:14) and loved of God as Christ is loved (John 17:23) (Chafer, *Major Bible Themes*, 1974 ed., 282).

2d. Those who take a positive approach do not minimize the consequences of the believer's sins. Hoyt has well written on the subject:

The Bible does teach that there are and will be temporal and eternal *consequences* for the believer's sins. First, present unconfessed sin results in a *loss of desire* for service as one is out of experiential fellowship with God. Second, unconfessed sin also results in *loss of power* in the believer's life because sin grieves the Holy Spirit. Third, unconfessed sin results in *loss of opportunity* since the sinning believer is not living according to the will of God. These are three very real present consequences of unconfessed sin in the believer's life (*Bib. Sac.*, January-March 1980, 84, emphasis in the original).

3b. The individuals at the Judgment Seat:

1c. The individuals have experienced the rapture:

Would not the comfort of the blessed hope turn to consternation if the believer were to anticipate public humiliation after the rapture?



2c. The individuals constitute the Bride of Christ:

They are about to be joined eternally to the Bridegroom. What earthly bridegroom criticizes and chastises his bride just prior to the wedding and actually expects her to be at the ceremony? Instead of joining him joyfully at the altar, she will withdraw tearfully to her parents. Who could blame her?

3c. Some of the individuals have been in heaven for hundreds or thousands of years:

Will the saints who have enjoyed the splendors of heaven and the fellowship of the Savior for ages suddenly have that blessedness terminated by an event that will have the carnal ones among them in a state of weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth?

2A. THE SUBLIMITY OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT:

It is safe to say that many believers are anything but anxious for the rapture because they have been taught to dread the *bema* after the rapture. A right understanding of the Judgment Seat puts an aura of anticipation over one's present and future life.

1b. The believer's recognition:

At the Judgment Seat the believer will be recognized by his Lord for his service. Hated by the world and misunderstood by other believers, the true worth of his character and conduct will receive divine recognition.

2b. The believer's rewards:

The New Testament revelation concerning the Church as a special company includes statements about the glorious destiny of the Bride of Christ, a company blessed in this life beyond any other group in human history (Eph. 1:3) and rewarded in glory in ways uniquely wonderful.

1c. Special rewards:

At the *bema* special Rewards are bestowed For faithful service. They are called crowns, or better, victor's garlands.

2c. Individual rewards:

A second category of rewards involves the recognition of every action. The most routine activity of the life of the believer will either

receive a reward or forfeit a reward. Even "eating and drinking," if done for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31), will be rewarded. Paul encourages both bond slaves and free servants (Eph. 6:8c) that every good activity will be rewarded. While recognition and remuneration in this life may be minimal, the Lord will grant every good action "the reward of an inheritance." An action is worthwhile in God's eyes and suitable for reward if it is done from the heart (*kardia*, Col. 3:22) with the whole being (*ek pseuches*, Col. 3:23) and with the proper attitude (*eunoios*, Eph. 6:7).

According to

Col. 3 and Eph 6

work should be done

--ethically

--energetically

--enthusiastically

--expectantly



The Judgment Seat of Christ



1. The Incorruptible Crown, to those who practice self-control (I Corinthians 9:24-27).



2. The Soul-Winner's Crown to those who are faithful in witnessing for Christ (I Thessalonians 2:19, 20).



3. The Crown of Righteousness to those who love and look for Christ's appearing (II Timothy 4:5-8).



4. The Crown of Life to those who endure trial because of their love for Christ (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10. See also John 21:15, 17).



5. The Shepherd's or Pastor's Crown to those who faithfully feed their flocks and live exemplary lives before them (I Peter 5:1-4).

Col. 3:22-24

²² Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of **heart**, fearing God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it **heartily**, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Eph. 6:5-8

⁵ Servants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with **goodwill** doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

The most routine matters of life take on a new meaning for the believer who realizes that every action may be, and if done properly, will be rewarded of God. A bitter spirit and a complaining attitude will forfeit reward. How glorious to know that if we "give it all we have," even housework and homework, not just "holy" work will someday receive "the reward of the inheritance."

3c. Universal rewards:

Some rewards are promised to every believer by virtue of the gracious provision of Christ in the atonement. Even carnal believers are blood-bought and may anticipate certain rewards. These rewards are not as a result of faithfulness in this life, but in response to God's gracious salvation. They belong to every Church Age believer who has been baptized into Christ.

1d. Divine appointment:

1 Cor. 6:2-3

Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? ³Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

Paul reminds carnal believers that they would participate in the millennial rule of Christ (rather than be excluded from the millennium). In addition, they would have the privilege of judging the angels.

2d. Divine affection:

1 Thess. 4:17

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 thus we shall always be with the Lord.

The experience of the eternal presence of Christ and His everlasting love would be sufficient for the Bride of Christ. Every believer will be forever with the Bridegroom. What a comfort!

3d. Divine approval:

1 Cor. 4:5

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Paul concludes the most lengthy discussion of the Judgment Seat with the observation that Christ at that time will reveal the innermost aspects of the human heart, not for the purpose of condemnation—"there is therefore now no condemnation" (Rom. 8:1)—but for the purpose of commendation. He will find something good to say about each one of us: "and then shall every man have praise of God." (1 Cor. 4:5) Will there be regrets at the *bema*? Certainly! But the overall emphasis is that of rejoicing.

How will the believer feel moments after the Judgment Seat? Paul concludes the most lengthy passage on the Judgment Seat with these arresting and comforting words (1 Cor. 4:5):

“And then shall every man have praise of God.”

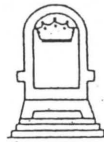
To hear these words of commendation ringing in our ears will make it worth it all. **As the rapture is the believer's FONDEST HOPE, the Judgment Seat is the believer's FINEST HOUR.**

CONCLUSION:

Hoyt has well said:

The Judgment Seat of Christ might be compared to a commencement ceremony. At graduation there is some measure of disappointment and remorse that one did not do better and work harder. However, at such an event the overwhelming emotion is joy, not remorse. The graduates do not leave the auditorium weeping because they did not earn better grades. Rather, they are thankful that they have been graduated, and they are grateful for what they did achieve. To overdo the sorrow aspect of the judgment seat of Christ is to make heaven hell. To underdo the sorrow aspect is to make faithfulness inconsequential (*Bib. Sac.*, April-June 1980, 131).

REWARDS FOR THE BELIEVERS' WORKS



Judgment Seat of Christ (The BEMA)

2 Cor. 5:10 - 1 Cor. 3:11-4:5


Wreath of
Incorruptibility

1 Cor. 9:25
And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

The Victor's Garland


Wreath of Glory

1 Peter 5:2-4
² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
³ Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.
⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Elder's Garland


Wreath of Life

Revelation 2:10
Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

James 1:12
Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Martyr's Garland


Wreath of
Righteousness

2 Timothy 4:8
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

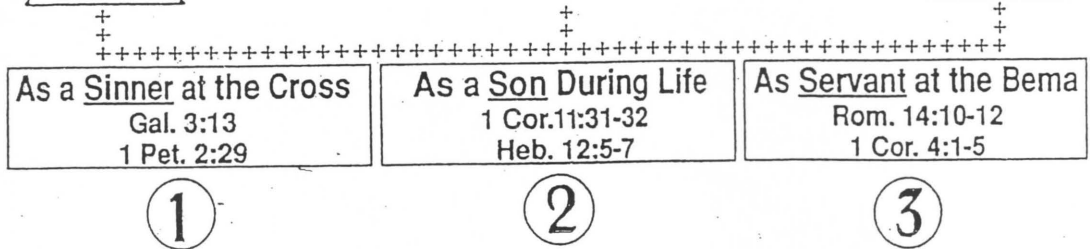
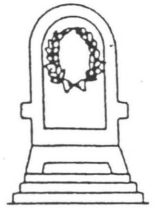
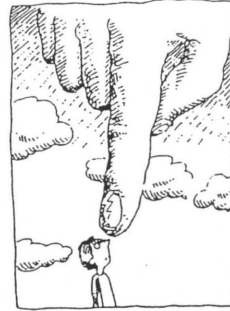
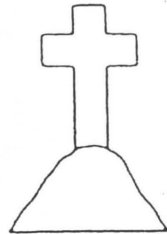
For Those Who Love
His Appearing


Wreath of
Rejoicing




1 Thessalonians 2:19-20
¹⁹ 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?
²⁰ For ye are our glory and joy.

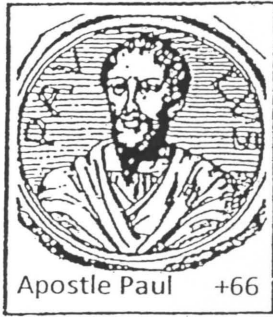
Soul Winner's
Garland

The Believer's 3 Judgments



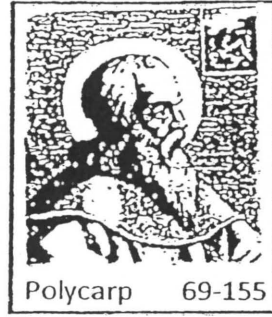
THE PICTURES OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT

The Picture	The Passage	The Purpose	The Prospect
<i>The Believer Is A:</i>		<i>Our Life Is A:</i>	
1. Servant	Romans 14:10-12	LOYAL STEWARDSHIP	PROMOTION
	But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall confess to God. So, then, every one of us shall give account of himself to God.		
2. Builder	1 Corinthians 3:11-13	LASTING STRUCTURE	PRAISE
	For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble - every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.		
3. Athlete	1 Corinthians 9:24-26	LAWFUL STRIVING	PRIZE
	And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body; and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.		



Apostle Paul +66

1



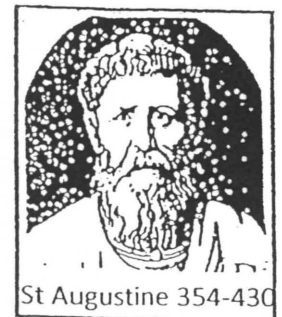
Polycarp 69-155

2



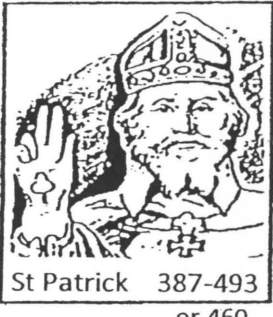
Tertullian 160-220

3



St Augustine 354-430

4



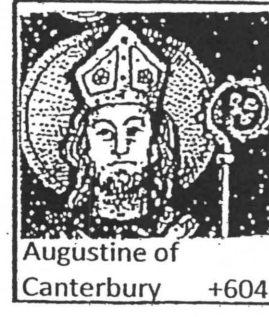
St Patrick 387-493
or 460

5



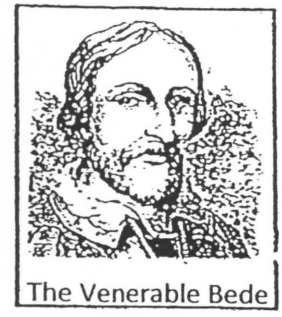
Boethius 480-524

6



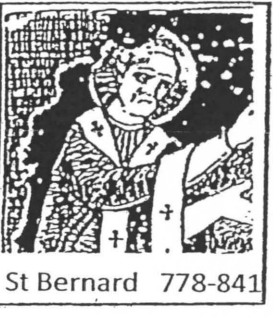
Augustine of
Canterbury +604

7



The Venerable Bede
672-735

8



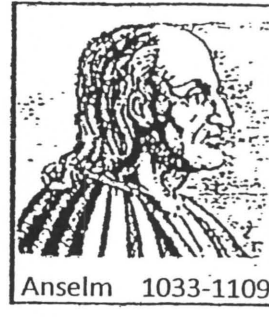
St Bernard 778-841

9



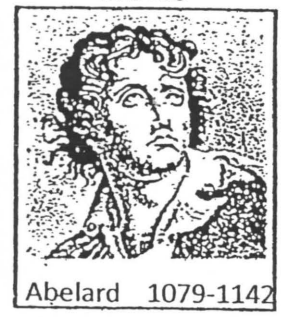
Wenceslaus
907-935

10



Anselm 1033-1109

11



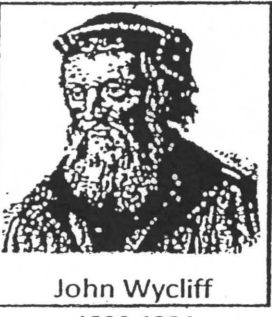
Abelard 1079-1142

12



Elizabeth of Thuringer
1207-1231

13



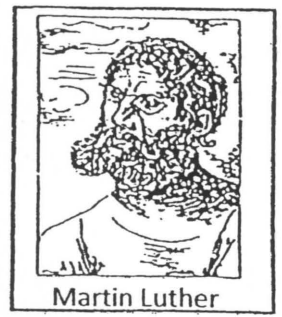
John Wycliff
1330-1384

14



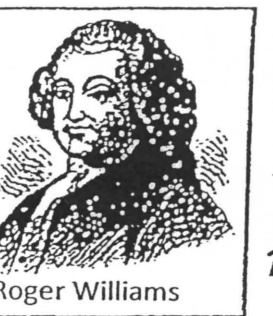
Savanarola
1452-1498

15



Martin Luther
1483-1546

16



Roger Williams
1603 ? - 1683

17



Johann S Bach
1685-1750

18



Charles H Spurgeon
1834-1892

19

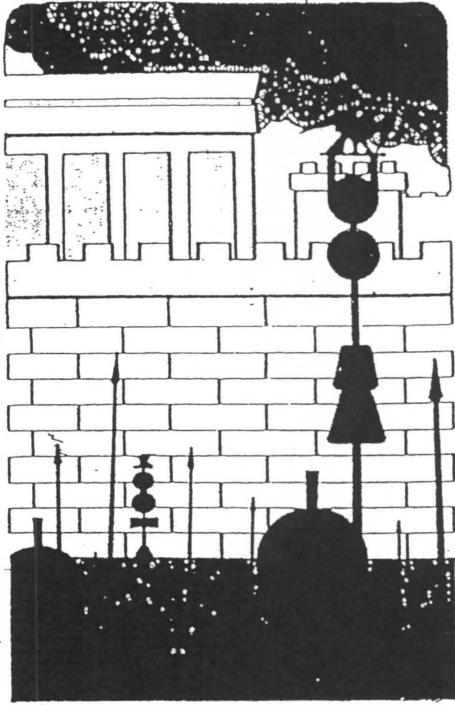


Robert T Ketcham
1889-1978

20

I have attempted to select one representative saint for each century of the Christian Church. These glorified saints revel in the presence of God and the holy angels. Are we to assume that their joy is overshadowed by a gnawing fear as to what awaits them at the yet future judgment seat of Christ? Will those like St. Patrick have their joy abruptly end at the bema, possibly followed by weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth?

THE TRIBULATION: A HUMAN AND HELLISH HOLOCAUST



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

THE TRIBULATION PERIOD: The World's Fierce Holocaust

The Bible reveals hundreds of details concerning the tribulation period. Most significant in light of the current world situation are certain geo-political events in the tribulation period. Many Bible students understand the 70th week of Daniel or seven years of tribulation to begin right after the rapture. However, it seems best to envision a period of preparation between the rapture and the tribulation.

1A. THE CONFUSION AMONG THE NATIONS:

1b. The return of Israel:

The Jewish people who have been scattered around the world will return in unbelief to the land (Is. 43:5-6; Jer. 29:14; Ez. 37:11-22). How long would it take for the return of several million people to the land of Israel? Of the world's 18 million Jews, 6.3 million live in Israel today and 8.3 million in the USA. The return of 12 million Jews may possibly take several weeks or months but the time of preparation need not be a very lengthy period.



2b. The revelation of Antichrist:

1c. The clamor of false Christs and false prophets: Mt. 24:5, 11, 24

Christ predicted many false Christs and many false prophets after the rapture and yet, when the tribulation period opens, there appears just one political and one religious leader. Their ascendancy over the other candidates is due to the fact that Satan given them his personal power (2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:4, 14).

2c. The coming of Antichrist:

Despite efforts to identify the Antichrist with individuals such as Hitler, Kissinger, Rockefeller, and even Saddam Hussein, all such efforts are doomed because Paul clearly states that not until the restrainer (Holy Spirit) has been removed at the rapture that the man of sin will be revealed (2 Thess. 2:6-9). A satanically empowered gentile will emerge in Europe as a powerful political leader sometime after the departure of the Church.



666

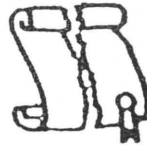
2A. THE COVENANT OF ANTICHRIST: Dan. 9:27

1b. The confirmation of the covenant:

With believers gone from the earth, even the USA will become anti-Semitic ("You shall be hated of all nations," Mt. 24:9). Israel is regathered in the land and looks to Antichrist for military protection. He signs a seven-year treaty with Israel.

*Confusion Among
Nations
Mt. 24:5,11,24*

*Covenant by
Antichrist
Dan. 9:27*



2b. The cessation of the covenant:

As a signatory to the treaty, Antichrist can be trusted no more than the Russians who violated every one of the 56 treaties they signed with the USA since World War II. After 3 ½ years, Antichrist breaks the treaty and subsequently invades Israel (Dan. 11:45).

3A. THE CONQUESTS BY ANTICHRIST:

1b. The confederacy in Western Europe:

1c. The biblical depiction:



Antichrist will attempt to revive the Roman Empire which is predicted as the last world empire prior to the return of Christ. Both Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the image in Daniels 2 and Daniel's vision of the four beasts in Daniel 7 refer to the four world empires between the time of Daniel and the setting up of Christ's kingdom. The world empires are Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. The final phase of the Roman Empire will be a ten-nation confederacy (Dan. 7:23-24). It appears that Antichrist militarily subdues three kings and seven others will then submit to his rule.

2c. The contemporary developments:

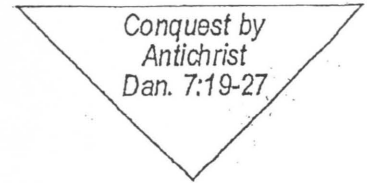


In Western Europe the stage is set for the developments predicted for the tribulation. Since the 1950's the European Common Market or Economic Community has been in effect which evolved into the European Union with presently 28 membership nations. This primarily political United States of Europe has headquarters in Brussels and Strassburg. Only a strong central authority is lacking. The current European scene may have absolutely nothing to do with the predictions of Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 of a Revived Roman Empire in Europe, but it would be surprising if today's developments were not signs of the times. One need only recall the rapid and dramatic developments in Eastern Europe since 1989 and 1990 with the collapse of the Communist regimes to see how quickly a restored Roman Empire could dominate the scene.



2b. The control over Western Europe:

Antichrist is a Roman ruler (Dan. 9:26) who has ambitions to rule the world (Dan. 7:23; Rev. 13:7), but for the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation he is unable to exert world-wide control. To the east lie his major enemies, the Kings of the North and their confederate, preventing the Roman prince from extending his realm.



It is interesting to note that after the rapture the seat of the Western powers will shift from Washington, D.C. to Rome. Further, until the middle of the tribulation there will be two major centers of power: the Western confederacy and the Eastern confederacy. Presently Russia is again displaying alarming imperialist tendencies and comprises a threat to adjacent nations. Putin called the collapse of Communism "the greatest geopolitical disaster of the [20th] century." Russia appears to be a counterforce to the Western world, much like the situation predicted for the first half of the tribulation, when there will be two major power blocks. In fact, the former Iron Curtain in Germany marks pretty much the Eastern limits of the Roman Empire. The world situation between now and the middle of the tribulation appears to change very little.



Neither Russia nor the West with its present alignments will ever be a world power, although Russia has made every effort to conquer the world, whereas the United States never had any such imperialistic aims. China's current efforts to be a world power are also doomed. To have another world power other than those anticipated in Daniel 2 and 7 would mean necessitate an additional appendage to the image in Daniel 2 and an additional beat ion Daniel 7!

4A. THE CONFOUNDING OF COMMUNISM: Ez. 38-39

1b. The invasion by Gog and Magog:



In the middle of the tribulation, after Israel has been regathered from the nations (Ez. 37:21), Gog and Magog will invade the land of Israel. At that time, Israel will live under Antichrist's protection in peace and safety (Ez. 38:11). Russia's move is prompted by irrational hatred for Israel (Ez. 38:10c), a desire to pillage and plunder (Ez. 38:11-14) and to control its strategic location (Ez. 38:12c).

2b. The decimation of Gog and Magog:

God uses eight specific judgments to accomplish the destruction of Russia and her confederates (Ez. 38:18-23). The invasion results in the death of all the invaders. Some corpses will be buried (Ez. 39:11), others will be devoured by the birds and beasts (Ez. 39:17-20).

While Russia presently appears economically weak, it is still a strong military power and is making every effort to regain its imperialistic status. Whatever may happen between now and then, Russia as a major military power will be destroyed at the time of its vicious attack against Israel.

5A. THE CAMPAIGN OF ARMAGEDDON: Rev. 16:16; Dan. 11:40-45

With the removal of Antichrist's major opponent, the Roman ruler can now expand his domain world-wide. Yet he will never be totally successful in his endeavors, because various armies will challenge his rule during the final 3 ½ years of the tribulation.

*Chastisement of
Russia
Ez. 38, 39*

*Campaign of
Armageddon
Dan. 11:40-45*

The campaign of Armageddon is named after a major battle in a valley by that name in Northern Israel (Rev. 16:16). The scene is one of unbelievable bloodshed, resulting in a river of blood running four feet deep for 200 miles (Rev. 14:20), perhaps from Megiddo northwest toward the Mediterranean Sea and southeast toward the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea.

BLOOD

1b. The commander: Dan. 11:36-39

The main character in the second half of Daniel 11 is the Antichrist, the willful king, whose rule is challenged by a series of invasions at the weakest flank of his domain, the Eastern end of the Mediterranean.

2b. The campaign: Dan. 11:40-45

1c. The assault from Egypt: Dan. 11:40a

An attack is directed at Antichrist from the south. The geographical direction is from the vantage point of Israel.

2c. The attack by Russia: Dan. 11:40b

Russia has been decimated as a world power previously but can muster a few more soldiers. Perhaps as a joint maneuver with Egypt, Russia attempts to move into Israel and from there westward to unseat Antichrist in Rome.

3c. The action of Antichrist: Dan. 11:40c-43

The antecedent for the "he" in verse 40c and subsequently apparently is the willful king of Dan. 11:36 who moves against the invading armies. Since Satan gives him supernatural intelligence, he can counter successfully every effort against him.

1d. The conquest of countries: Dan. 11:41a

Antichrist takes advantage of the occasion to invade "many countries."

2d. The invasion of Israel: Dan. 11:41a

The willful king enters "the glorious land" and perhaps at that point in time breaks his treaty with Israel.

3d. The escape to Edom, Moab and Ammon:

Just to the east of Israel lies an area, the biblical Ammon, Moab and Edom, which will not fall into the hands of Antichrist (Dan. 11:41b). Especially Jewish people will find a refuge here (Rev. 12:14) as Antichrist invades Israel, abominates the sacrifice in the temple and desolates the



Temple Mount. Christ admonished the people of the tribulation to “flee into the mountains” (Mt. 24:16).

4d. The destruction of Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia:

The Roman ruler lashes out at the countries that apparently opposed him or pose a threat to him as he sets up his headquarters in Israel.

4c. The approach of the Asiatics: Dan. 11:44

The tidings out of the east and north that come to him are of great concern. Who would not be concerned if he heard that an army numbering 200 million horsemen were after his jugular veins? (Rev. 9:16). But Antichrist is able to counter their attack as well as firmly establishes his military headquarters on “the holy mountain,” that is, mount Zion or Jerusalem, between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.



Some have suggested that the invaders from the east and the north are the Red Chinese. Both China and India, according to CIA fact sheets, could easily muster an army numbering 200 million (incredibly China 618 million and India 615 million). However, the invader could be a confederation of various Asiatic nations who will cross the dried-up Euphrates River (Rev. 16:12) to engage Antichrist in battle. In fury he destroys the invaders.

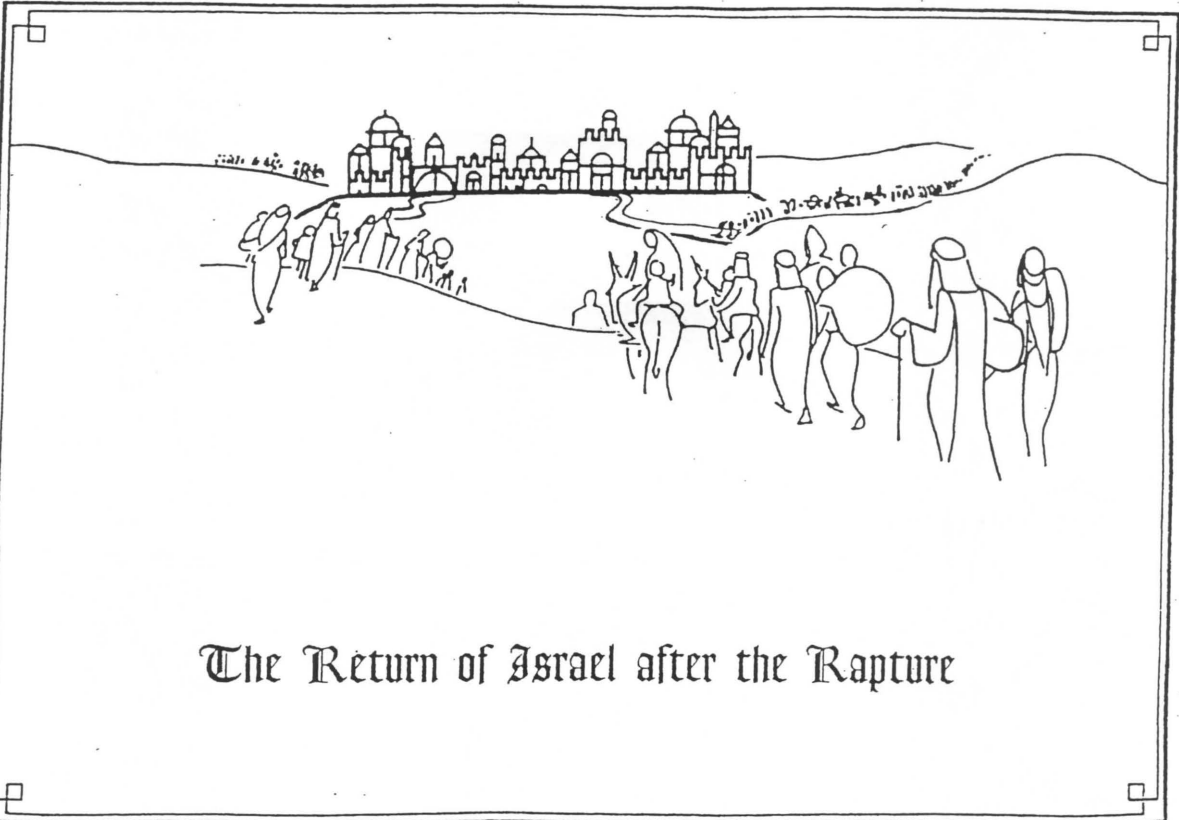
5c. The advent of Christ: Dan. 11:45b; Rev. 19:11ff

Daniel concludes the predictions concerning Armageddon and the fate of Antichrist, the demonic dictator, rather cryptically with the words, “Yet he shall come to his end and none shall help him.” Just when Antichrist seems to have defeated all of his major enemies and triumphantly rules over the world, he himself perishes. To understand the situation at which Daniel merely hints, one needs to read carefully Rev. 19:11-14, describing the advent of Christ. This passage is the N.T. counterpart of Daniel 11:45. Christ descends from heaven, followed by the army of the saints (Rev. 19:14), to establish Himself as rightful ruler over the earth. The counterfeit christ and false prophet are taken by the Lord from heaven and are cast alive into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone (Rev. 19:20). Despite Satan’s efforts to wrest Christ’s reign away from Him, God will place His Son upon His holy hill of Zion (Ps. 2:6)



You and I as believers will have a privileged position as we return with our Savior from heaven and rule with Him in His glorious Kingdom.

Dan. 7:27 **Then the kingdom and dominion,
and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,
shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.**



The Return of Israel after the Rapture

JUDGMENT
SEAT
OF CHRIST



MARRIAGE OF
THE LAMB



Eschatology Timeline

CELEBRATION

RAPTURE
FOR US

RETURN

REVELATION
WITH US

GREAT WHITE
THRONE
JUDGMENT

Covenant by
Antichrist
Dan. 9:27

Chastisement of
Russia
Ez. 38, 39

THE RETURN OF THE JEWS
THE REVELATION OF ANTICHRIST

3 1/2 Years

3 1/2 Years

CHURCH

TRIBULATION

MILLENNIUM

ETERNITY

PREPARATION

PROTECTION

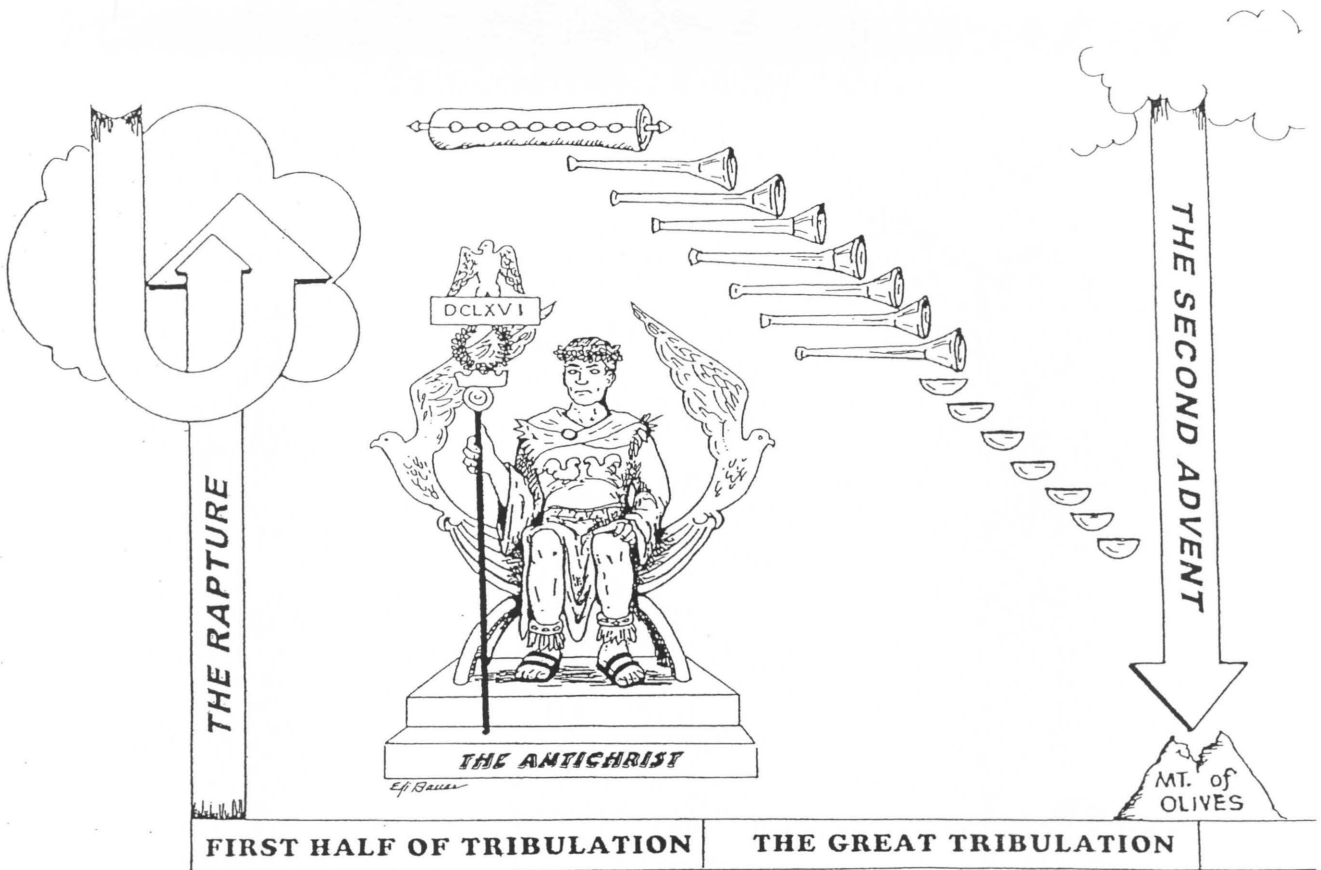
PERSECUTION

Confusion Among
Nations
Mt. 24:5,11,24

Conquest by
Antichrist
Dan. 7:19-27

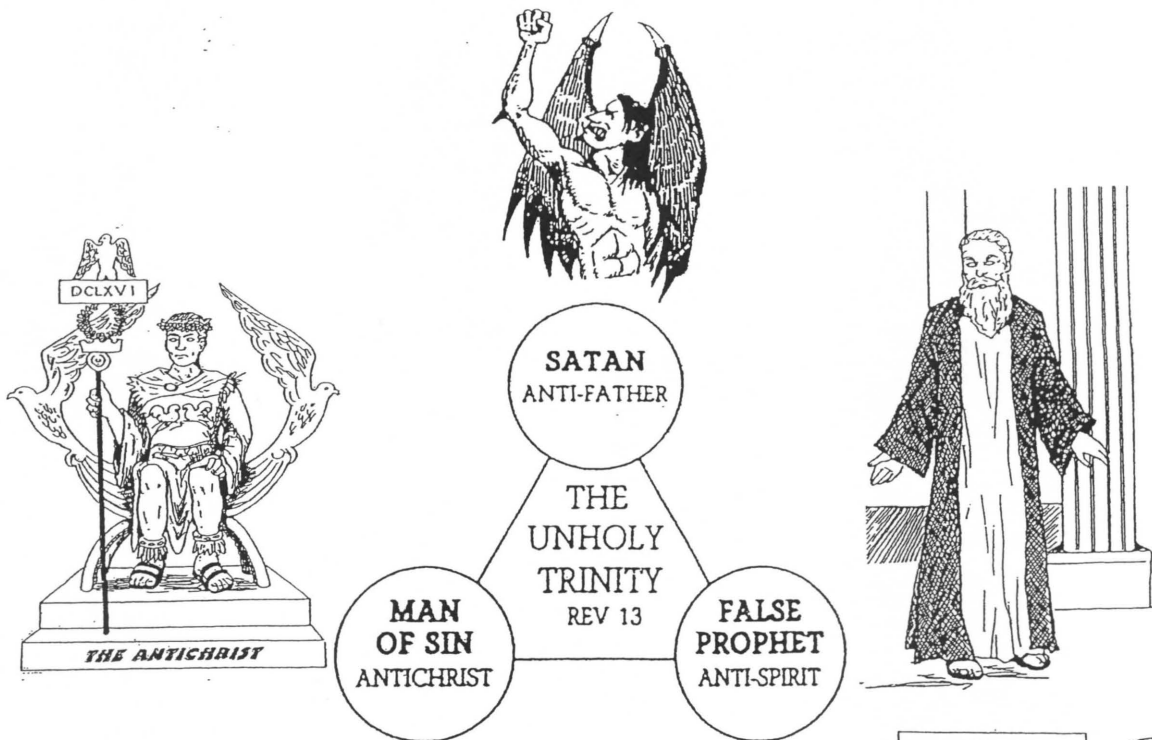
Campaign of
Armageddon
Dan. 11:40-45





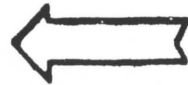
“And it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to over come them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues and nations.” Rev. 13:7

The Counterfeit Trinity of the Tribulation

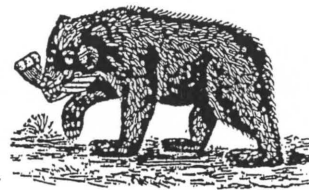
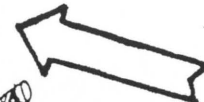




DANIEL 2



605-538 B.C.



538-331 B.C.



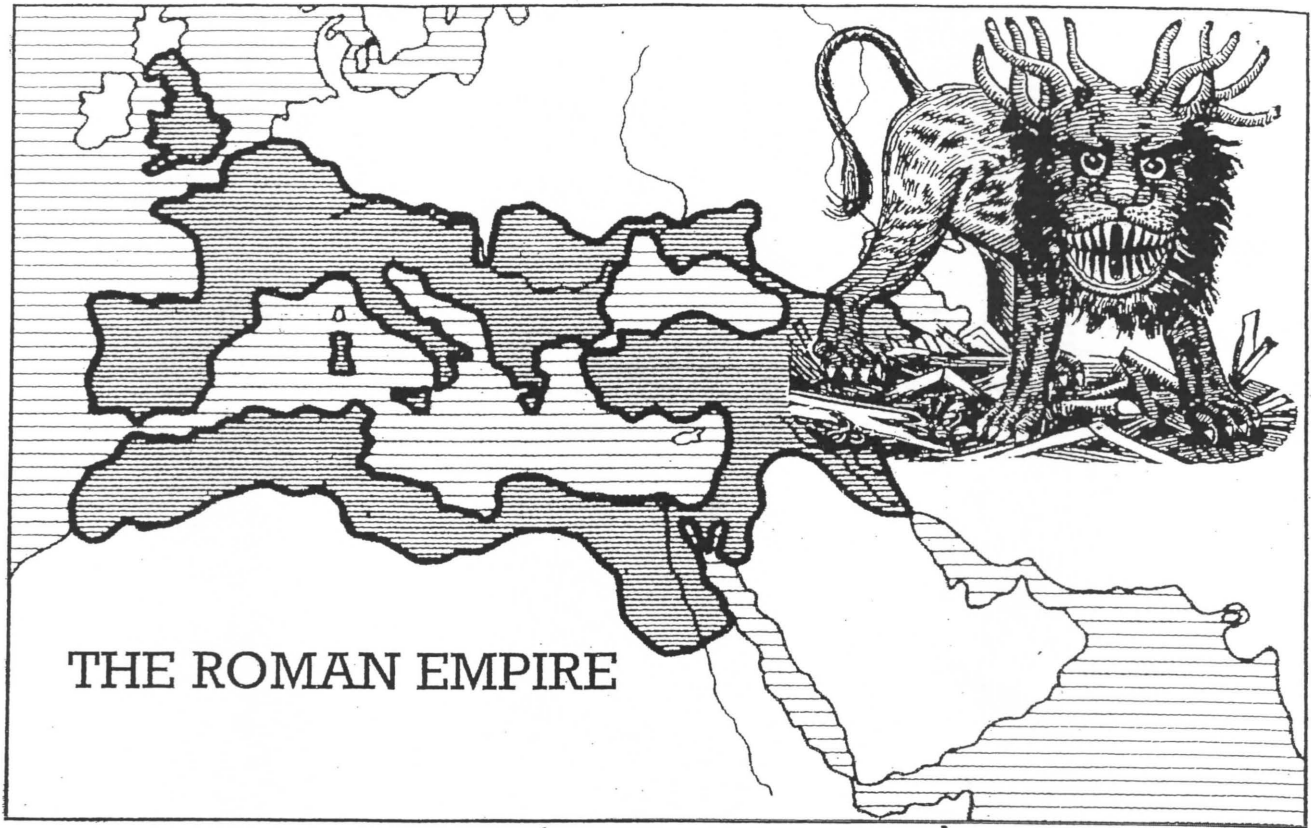
331-146 B.C.



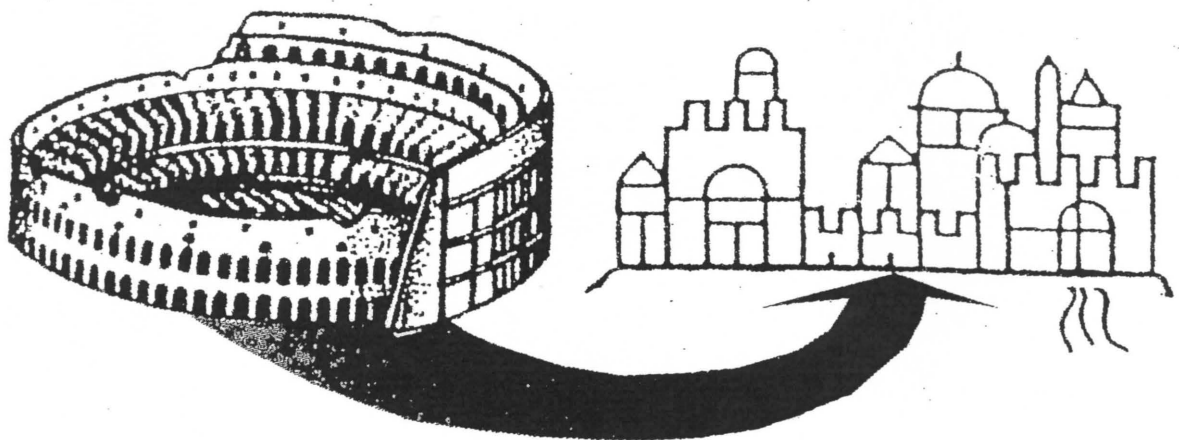
146 B.C. - A.D. 500



DANIEL 7

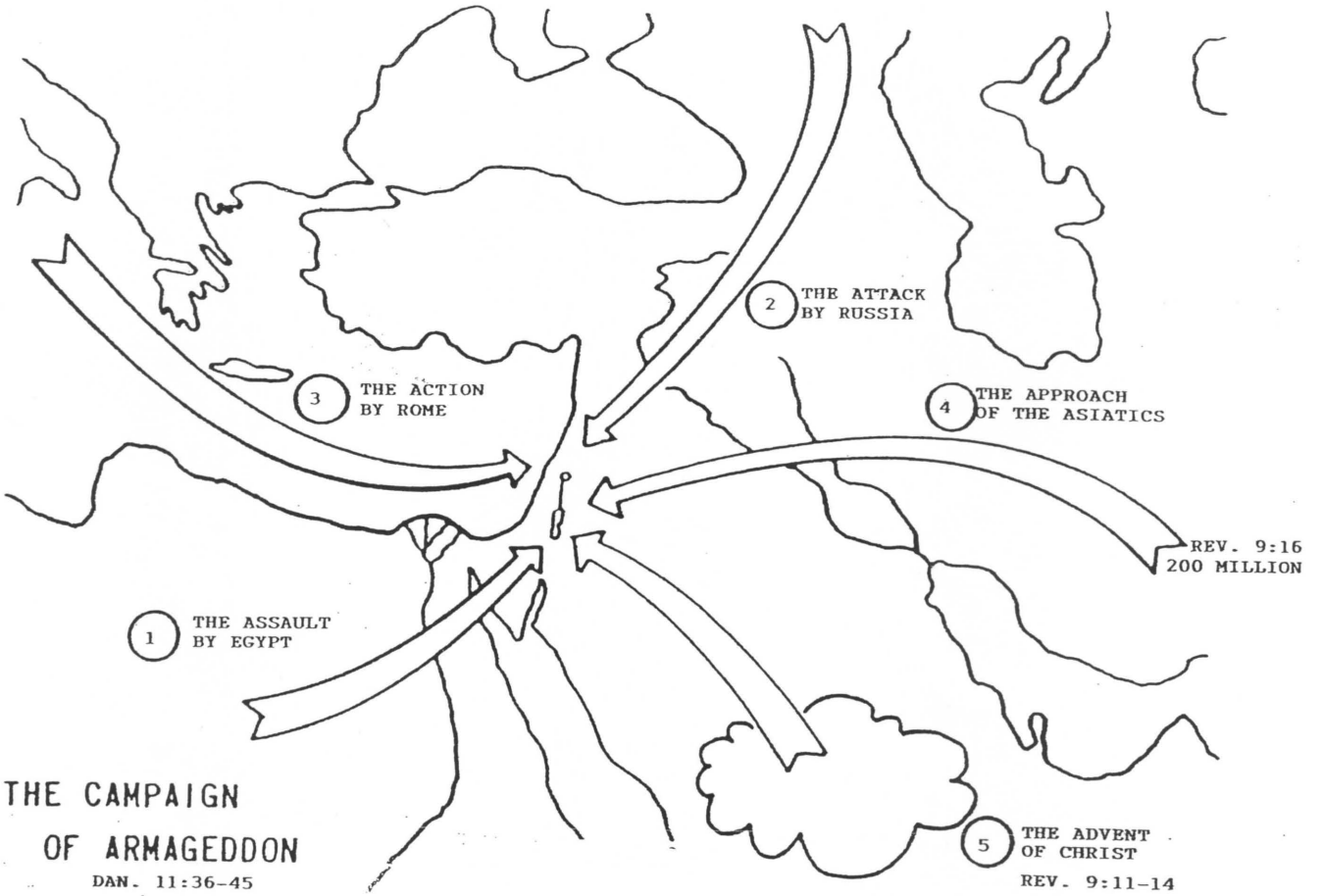


The revived Roman Empire under antichrist's rule is pictured in Daniel 7 as a terrifying beast.

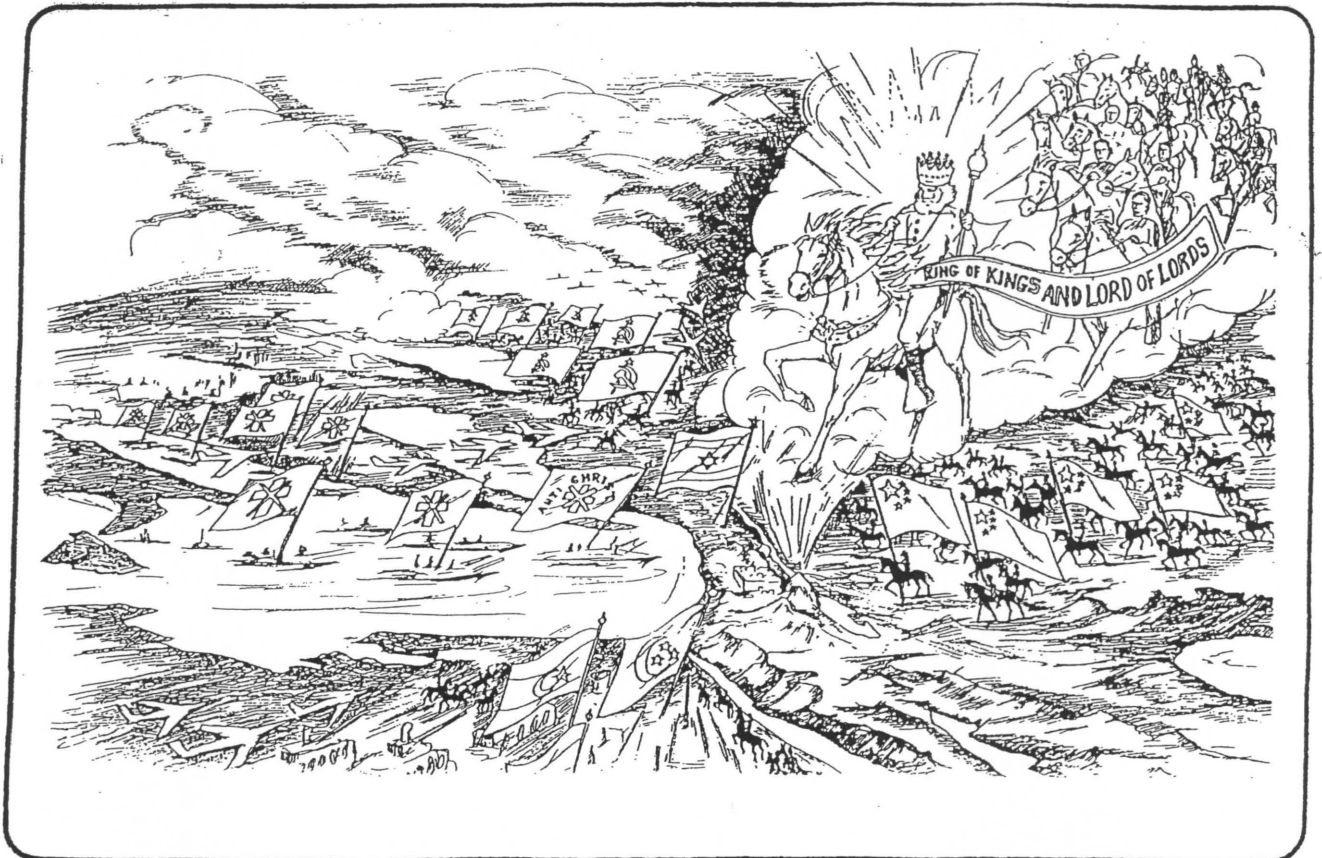


At the mid-point of the tribulation, antichrist moves his headquarters from Rome to Jerusalem. (DAN 11:44-45)





**THE CAMPAIGN
OF ARMAGEDDON**
DAN. 11:36-45



The Battle of Gog and Magog:

RUSSIA'S FINAL DOOM



Moscow on the move: An 1890 view of the Russian threat

The Battle of Gog and Magog: RUSSIA'S FINAL DOOM, Ezekiel 38-39

1A. THE ARMIES: 38:1-3

The prophecy commences with five names. Gog seems to be a title such as Pharaoh, Czar, Kaiser, Ceasar. The term "chief prince" should probably be rendered, "prince of Rosh," chief being a personal name of a people identified historically with the Russians. Thus Gesenius, in his *Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon* (1846), defines **Rosh** as a proper noun (Ez. 38:2, 3; 39:1) "a northern nation mentioned with Tubal and Meshech; undoubtedly the **Russians**" (p. 752, emphasis in the original).

- 1b. The revelation:
- 2b. The ruler:
- 3b. The ruled:
- 4b. The realm: cf. 38:15
- 5b. The regions:
- 6b. The reason:

II. רֹשׁ Ezekiel 38:2, 3; 39:1; pr. n. of a northern nation, mentioned with Tubal and Meshech; undoubtedly the *Russians*, who are mentioned by Byzantine writers of the tenth century, under the name *oi 'Pwσ*, dwelling to the north of Taurus, and (Arab. called *روس*) described by Ibn Fosslan, an Arabic writer of the same age, as dwelling on the river *Rha* (Wolga). (See Ibn Fosslan, *Bericht von den Russen älterer Zeit, übersetzt und erklärt von Frähn. Petersburg, 1823, especially p. 28, seqq.* Compare Jos. de Hammer, *Origines Russes, Peters-*



2A. THE ARMAMENTS: 38:4

This passage on the armaments used has occasioned endless discussion. Many expositors interpreted the weapons in a non-literal way. The passage, in effect, is a litmus test of one's hermeneutical procedure and practice. Will we practice literal interpretation even when the text, though clear in its message, seems to go against reason or common sense?

Ezekiel's message is plain. Warfare will somehow revert to its ancient methodology. It seems difficult to understand the passage otherwise, especially in light of the subsequent use of the weapons as a substitute for trees as firewood (39:9-10).

- 1b. The Horses:
- 2b. The Armor:
- 3b. The Weapons: cf. 39:9
Shields, Bucklers, Swords, Bows and Arrows, Handspikes, Spears

3A. THE ALLIES: 38:5-6

The armies joining Russia come from every point of the compass. They may all be Moslem nations, but need not be.

The words describing the origin of the main invasion force argues strongly for Russia. Three times the invaders are said to come from "the north parts" (Ez. 38:6, 15; 39:2). The literal rendering is "the uttermost parts of the north." If one draws a line from Jerusalem to the far north, following the curvature of the earth, it will go directly through Moscow!

- 1b. Persia: v. 5
- 2b. Cush: v. 5
- 3b. Put: v. 5
- 4b. Gomer: v. 6
- 5b. Togarmah: v. 6



4A. THE ADVANCE: 38:8-9

Another controversial aspect of the prophecy is the timing of the invasion. In their *Left Behind* series, Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins place the invasion before the rapture (Vol. I, 10-11, 16). The context of Ezekiel 38-39, however, is the return of the Jews to Israel ("the valley of dry bones," Ez. 37) after the rapture. The passage does not anticipate a partial return like today, because it includes every single Jew on earth. This detail is unfortunately ignored by many commentators. God says He "left none of them anymore there" Ez. 39:28).

Ezekiel is told that the invasion would take place "in the latter years" (38:8) and "in the latter days" (38:16). The Blitzkrieg (lightning strike) comes at a time when Israel will dwell safely, not just militarily secure. In fact, it is dwelling in unwalled villages without gates and bars (39:11)—hardly a description of Israel today. The peaceful and prosperous situation is most likely the result of Antichrist's protection, which terminates in the middle of the tribulation period (Mt. 24:15).

- 1b. The chronology of the invasion: cf. v. 16
- 2b. The condition of Israel:
- 3b. The campaign of the invader:
 - 1c. The speedy maneuver:
 - 2c. The superior mob:



5A. THE AMBITION: 38:10-13

- 1b. The reasons for the attack: 10-12
 - 1c. Malevolent spirit: v. 10
 - 2c. Material spoil: vs. 11-12
 - 3c. Military superiority: v. 12
- 2b. The response of the nations: v. 13

6A. THE ATTACK: 38:14-16

- 1b. The intelligence of Gog: v. 14
- 2b. The invincibility of Gog: v. 15
- 2b. The invasion of Gog: v. 16a
- 3b. The instigation of Gog: v. 16b

- 1c. The gathering of Gog by God:
- 2c. The glorifying of God by Gog:

7A. THE ANNIHILATION: 38:17-23

Ezekiel 38-39 is God's answer, in part, to the Communist atrocities of the past. The *Black Book of Communism* estimates the number of civilian victims under Communism to be approaching 100 million (p. 4).

The emotional response to Gog by God is without parallel in the Old Testament "that my fury shall come up in my face. For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken," (Ez. 28:18b-19a). Gog's degeneracy, depravity and godless greed make him ripe for judgment. The "Evil Empire" will receive its long-delayed and well-deserved judgment at last. As the "Mother of all Battles" begins, God opens the arsenal of heaven and sends eight devastating judgments upon the invaders:

- 1b. The prediction: v. 17
- 2b. The prompting: vs. 18-19a
 - 1c. God's affection for Israel:
 - 2c. God's anger upon the invader:
- 3b. The premonition: vs. 19b-20
 - 1c. The convulsion of nature:
 - 1d. In the aquatic realm:
 - 2d. In the atmospheric realm:
 - 2c. The consternation among men:
 - 3c. The crumpling of the mountain:
 - 4c. The collapse of buildings:
- 4b. The progression: vs. 21-22
 - 1c. The arsenal of the Almighty: v. 21a
 - 2c. The activity of the Almighty: vs. 21b-22
 - 1d. The social carnage: v. 21
 - 2d. The personal calamities: v. 22a
 - 1e. Pestilence:
 - 2e. Blood:
 - 3d. The Natural catastrophes: v. 22b
 - 1e. Flood
 - 2e. Hail
 - 3e. Fire:
 - 4e. Brimstone:

*The Arsenal of
the Almighty*

Earthquake
Civil War
Pestilence
Blood
Flash Flood
Hail
Fire
Brimstone



- 4d. The acclamation of the Almighty: v. 23
- 1e. A display of God's glory:
- 2e. A display of God's greatness:
- 3e. A display of God's goodness:

8A. THE AFTERMATH: 39:1-29

The Russian rampage masterminded by divine design and met by divine defense demonstrates God's glory "so will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel" (39:7).

- 1b. The destruction of the invaders: vs. 1-6
(This involves the burning, vs. 1-10; the burials, vs. 11-16; the banquet, vs. 17-20; and the blessings, vs. 21-29; upon the heathen, vs. 21-22; and Israel, vs. 23-24).

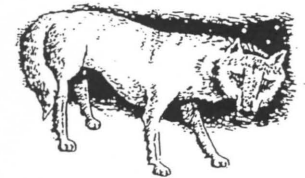
- 1c. The prophecy concerning Gog's destruction: v. 1
- 2c. The prompting of Gog's dilemma: v. 2
- 3c. The picture of Gog's decimation: vs. 3-6

- 1d. The destruction of Gog's weapons:
- 2d. The devouring of Gog's warriors: vs. 4b-6
- 3d. The display of God's workings: v. 7



- 2b. The deliverance of Israel: 39:8-10
- 1c. The salvation from the invaders: v. 8

- 1d. The anticipation of deliverance:
- 2d. The arrival of the day:



- 2c. The spoliation of the invaders: vs. 9-10

- 1d. The acquisition of the material of war: vs. 9-10a
- 2d. The appropriation from the men of war: v. 10b

- 3b. The disposing of the invaders: 39:11-20

With amazing prophetic specificity, God discloses through Ezekiel some 2,600 years ago the location of the burial, the duration of the burial and the three groups employed for this purpose.

- 1c. The burial of the beaten: vs. 11-16
- 1d. The place for burial: v. 11
- 2d. The procedure of burial: vs. 12-16

2c. The banquet for the birds: vs. 17-20

1d. The invitation to the guests: v. 17a

2d. The instruction to the guests: vs. 17b-20

4b. The defense of Israel: 39:21-29

The destruction of the invader results in the deliverance of the nations and of Israel. The slaughter of the invaders will effect the salvation of many people, a vivid example of the Psalmist's words: "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain" (Psalm 76:10).

1c. The explanation of Israel's rejection: vs. 21-24

1d. God's glory in judgment: vs. 21-22

2d. God's graciousness in judgment: vs. 23-24

2c. The effecting of Israel's regathering: vs. 25-29

1d. The restoration of the Jews: vs. 25-27

2d. The regeneration of the Jews: vs. 28-29

(See this writer's chapter "What is Gog and Magog in Relation to Biblical Prophecy?" in *The Gathering Storm*, ed. Mel Couch, 2005, 171-196.)

THE BATTLE OF

G O G AND

M A G O G

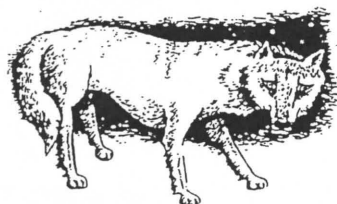


EZEKIEL 39

17 ¶ And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, *even* a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood.

18 Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bā'-shān.

19 And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.



MK

EZEKIEL

CAP. XXXVIII לח

CHAPTER 38

CHAPTER 38

[1] And the word of Jehovah was to me, saying, [2] Son of man, set your face against Gog, the land of Magog the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, [3] And say, Thus says the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I (am) against you, O Gog, the prince of Kosh, Meshech and Tubal, [4] And I will turn you back and put hooks into your jaws; and I will bring out you and all your army, horses and horsemen, clothed most perfectly, all of them, a great assembly (with) buckler and shield, all of them sword-handlers: [5] Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them (with) shield and helmet; [6] Gomer and all her bands; the house of Togarmah (from) the recesses of the north, and all his bands; many peoples with you. [7] Be prepared; yea, prepared for yourself, and all your assembly that are assembled to you; and be a guard to them. [8] After many days you shall be visited. In the after years you shall come into the land turned back from the sword, gathered out of many peoples, on the

1 וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֵלַי לֵאמֹר: בְּדָאֲדָם שִׁים פְּנֶיךָ אֶל־גּוֹג
 2 ,Gog against your set ,man Son ,saying ,me to Jehovah the And
 face of of of word was
 3 אֶרֶץ מַגּוּג נְשִׂיא רֹאשׁ מִשְׁךְ וְתַבַּל וְהַנְּבָא עֲלָיו: וְאָמַרְתָּ
 ,say And against and and Meshech Rosh the Magog the
 ,him prophesy ,Tubal of prince of land
 כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה הִנְנִי אֵלֶיךָ גּוֹג נְשִׂיא רֹאשׁ מִשְׁךְ
 Meshech ,Rosh the O against ,Behold :Jehovah the says Thus
 of prince ,Gog ,you (am) I Lord
 4 וְתַבַּל: וְשׂוֹבְבֵיךָ וְנִתְתִּי חֲחִים בְּלַחְיֶיךָ וְהוֹצֵאתִי אוֹתָךְ
 you will I and your into hooks put and will I And and
 out bring ,jaws back you turn ,Tubal
 וְאֵת־כָּל־חֵילֶיךָ סוֹסִים וּפָרָשִׁים לְבָשִׂי מְכַלּוֹל כָּלָם קָהָל
 a of all most clothed and horses your all and
 assembly ,them perfectly ,horsemen ,army
 5 רַב צִנְהָ וּמִנֵּן תִּפְשִׂי חַרְבוֹת כָּלָם: פָּרַס כּוֹשׁ וּפּוֹשׁ
 and Ethiopia ;Persia of all ,sword handlers and (with) great
 Libya :them of ,shield buckler
 6 אַתָּם כָּלָם מִגּוֹן וְכוּבֵעַ: נֹמֵר וְכָל־אֲנַפְיָהּ בֵּית תּוֹגַרְמָה
 Togarmah the her and Gomer and (with) of all with
 of house ,bands all ;helmet shield them ,them
 7 יִרְבְּתִי צִפּוֹן וְאֵת־כָּל־אֲנַפְיָו עַמִּים רַבִּים אִתָּךְ: הֲבֵן
 Be with many peoples his all and the the (from)
 ,prepared ,you ;bands ,north of recesses
 וְהֲבֵן לְךָ אִתָּהּ וְכָל־קָהָלֶיךָ הַנִּקְהָלִים עֲלֶיךָ וְהָיִיתָ לָהֶם
 to be and ,you to are that your and you for pre-and
 them assembled assembly all ,yourself pared
 8 לְמִשְׁמַר: מִיָּמִים רַבִּים תִּפְקֹד בְּאַחֲרֵית הַשָּׁנִים תָּבוֹא |
 shall you years the In shall you many After a for
 come after ,visited be days ,guard
 אֶל־אֶרֶץ | מְשׂוֹבְבֵת מִחֶרֶב מְקַבְּצָת מֵעַמִּים רַבִּים עַל
 on ,many of out gathered the from turned the into
 peoples ,sword back land

ראש Ez. 38, 2. 3. 39, 1 Name eines scythischen Volkes, neben Tubal und Meschech erwähnt. Byzantiner des 10ten Jahrh. erwähnen um den nördlichen Taurus ein rohes Volk, of 'Pās genannt, und ein arabischer Schriftsteller derselben Zeit, *Ibn Foszlan* (Bericht von den Russen älterer Zeit, übers. von Frähn Petersb. 1823) gibt ausführliche Nachricht über das heidnische Volk *Rūs* (روس), welches er selbst an der Wolga kennen lernte. Kaum kann es wohl zweifelhaft sein, dass in jener Stelle die erste Spur des Namens der Russen erhalten sei. Weiter geht von *Hammer* (*Origines Russes, Pétersbourg* 1827), indem er auch das Volk *Cor. 25, 31. 50, 12*, und das in derselben Verbindung mit Tubal und Meschech vorkommende *תירס* (w. m. n.) damit verbindet, und die Ursitze des Volkes am *Araxes* (*Ar-rās*) annimmt, so dass der Name des Volkes, der Gegend und des Flusses übereinstimmen (s. קיר no. 3).

HANDWÖRTERBUCH

ÜBER DAS

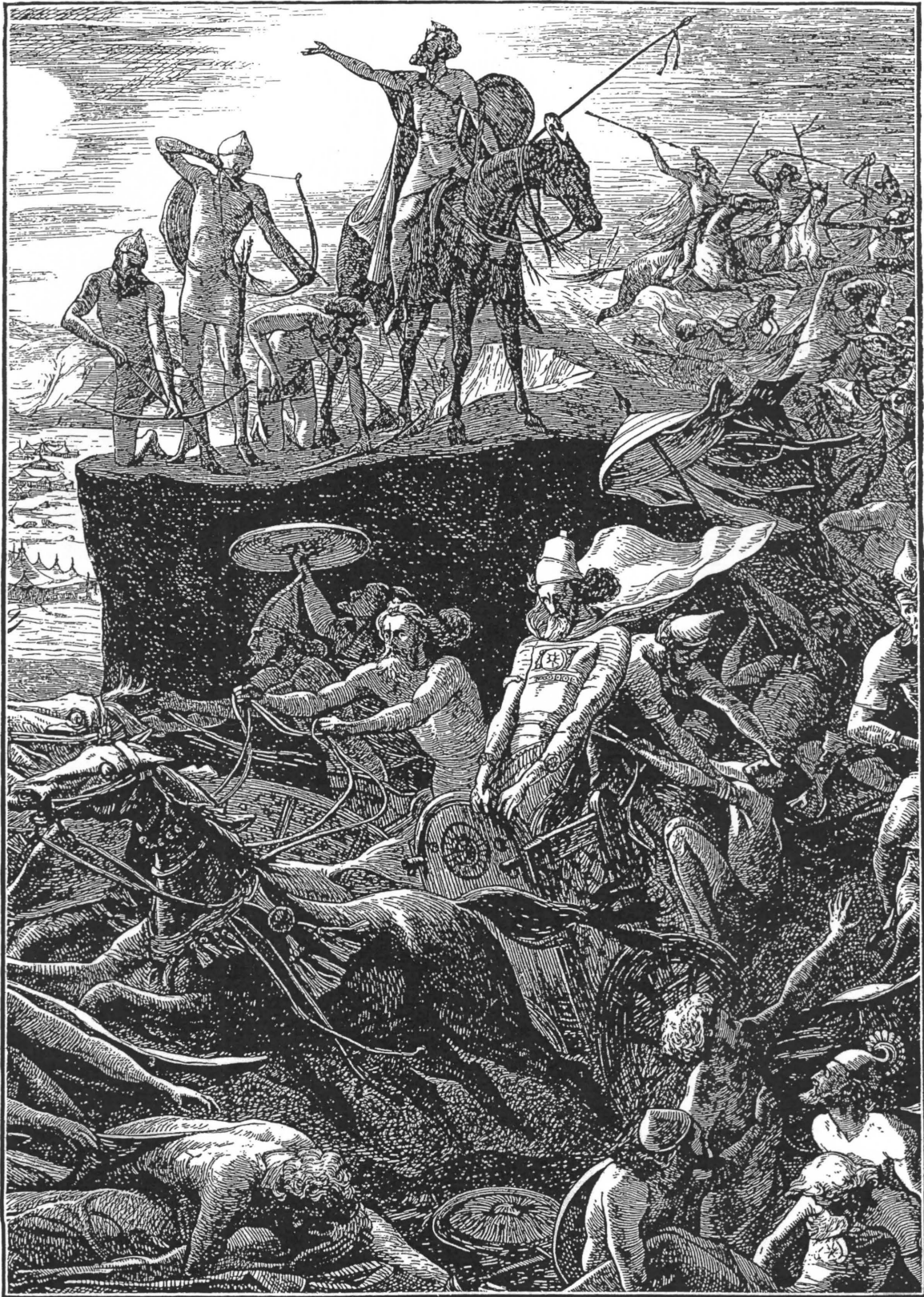
ALTE TESTAMENT

VON

WILHELM GESENIUS,

The Destruction of Gog

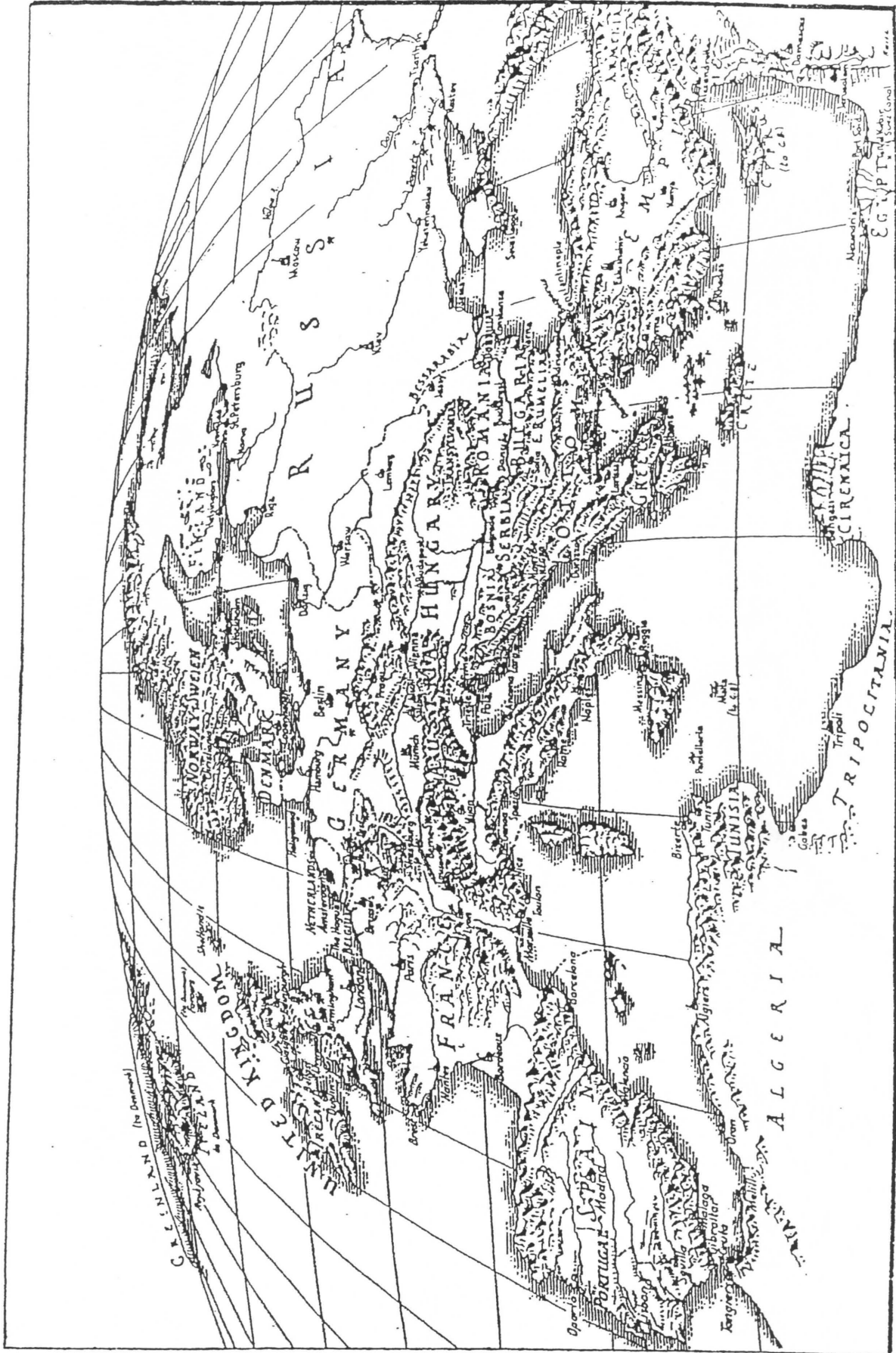
AFTER HENRY H. ARMSTEAD, R. A., AN ENGLISH
ARTIST, DIED 1905.



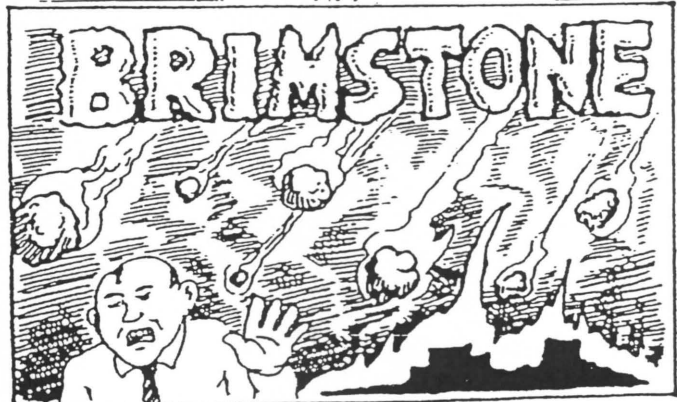
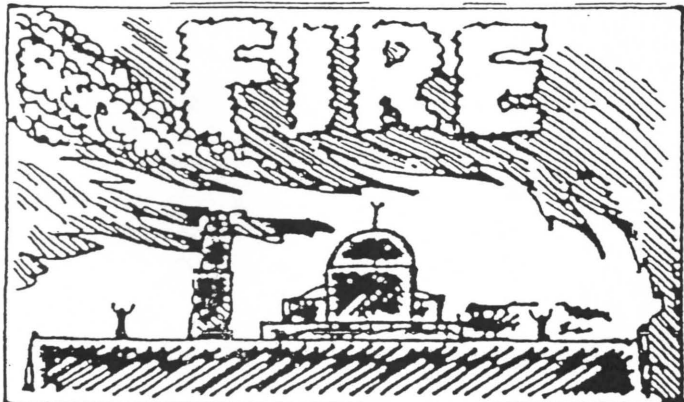
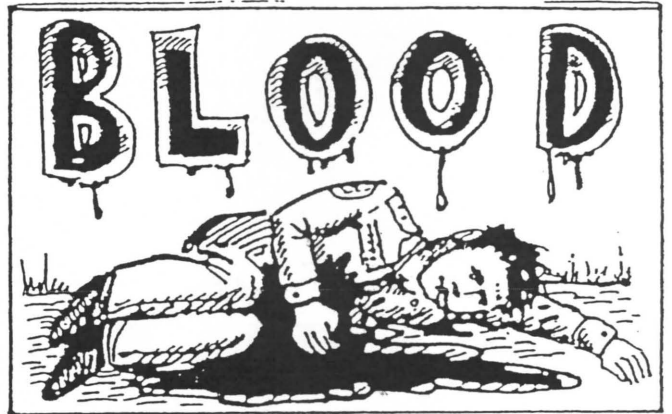
VIII-21

Charles F. Horne and Julius A. Bewer, eds., *The Bible and Its Story*, VIII, (1910), 1382.

The artist accurately pictures the hordes of Gog and Magog as horsemen, employing weapons of ancient warfare, such as bows and arrows, shields and spears, thus reflecting Ezekiel's clear prophetic details in 38:4 and 39:9-10.



THE ARSENAL OF THE ALMIGHTY: EZEKIEL 38:18-23

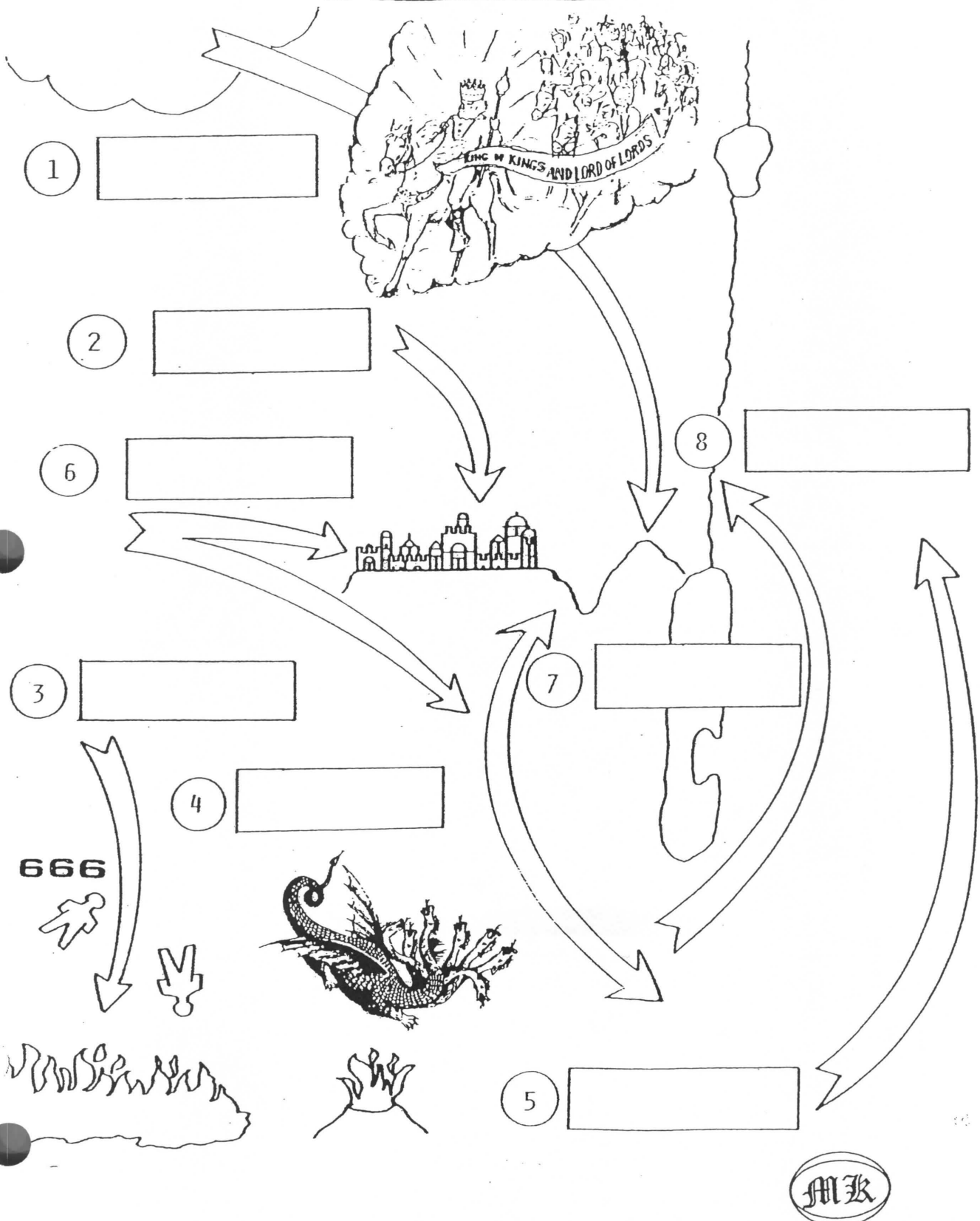


THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST:

Prophecy's Foremost Event



THE REVELATION OF CHRIST



The terms for the eight blanks are found in the main points of the outline (The Return of the Lord, The Rescue of Jerusalem etc.).



THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST



1A. THE RETURN TO EARTH:

The Second Advent of Christ is the most important prophetic event for the world, as the Rapture of the believer some seven years previously is the fondest hope for the Church.

The Second Advent is mentioned over 1,000 times in the Scriptures. The Lord's return to earth with His saints was prophesied by Enoch at least 7,000 years ago!

Matthew 24:27-30

²⁷ For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

²⁸ For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ 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.

Jude 14

And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.

Revelation 19:11-16

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

⁶ Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

⁷ And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

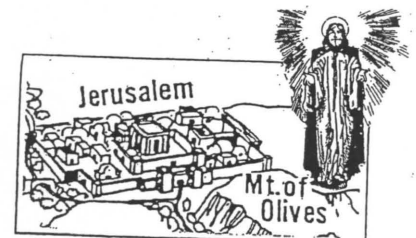
⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

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.

2A. THE RESCUE OF JERUSALEM:

The final stage of the campaign of Armageddon will involve the capture of Jerusalem. At the very time of Christ's return to the Mt. of Olives, Gentile armies will have once again conquered the holy city, rifled its possessions and removed half of its inhabitants.



Zechariah 12:2

Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

Zechariah 14:1-4

¹Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

²For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

³Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

⁴And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

3A. THE REMOVAL OF ANTICHRIST AND THE FALSE PROPHET:

Revelation 19 reveals the sequence of events at the Second Advent. As Christ descends with the saints and angels, earthly armies will wage war against the heavenly host (Rev. 19:19) but a sword of judgment proceeding from the mouth of the Messianic Monarch will destroy every single soldier (Rev. 19:15-21), except Antichrist and the false prophet. They will be cast alive into the Lake of Fire as the first inhabitants of the eternal place of torment.

Daniel 11:45

And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

Revelation 19:19-21

¹⁹And 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.

²⁰And 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 alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

²¹And 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.

4A. THE RESTRAINING OF SATAN:

Satan, who empowered the Antichrist and False Prophet (Rev. 13:4, 12-15) and whose demons orchestrated Armageddon (Rev. 16:12-14), will be restrained for 1,000 years in a deep pit. Apparently the demonic host will suffer the same fate (Zech. 13:2).

Revelation 20:1-3

¹And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

²And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,



³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

5A. THE RESURRECTION OF TRIBULATION MARTYRS AND O.T. SAINTS:

With the removal of Satan and his angelic accomplices, the earth is being prepared for the millennial rule of Christ. Two distinct groups will be given their permanent resurrection bodies. Those faithful saints who were beheaded for their testimony in the tribulation will be resurrected. Likewise, the O.T. saints, who have enjoyed the presence of God for centuries, will also receive their glorified bodies. Daniel pinpoints the time as being after a period of unprecedented trouble, i.e. the tribulation.

Tribulation Martyrs: Revelation 20:4

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

O.T. Saints: Daniel 12:1,2

¹ And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

² And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

6A. THE REGATHERING OF THE SAVED AND UNSAVED:

As Christ returns to Jerusalem He will dispatch His angels to gather the living saints from around the world who escaped the Antichrist. They are possibly given a private audience with their Savior. Soon thereafter, all the unbelieving Gentiles are also gathered to Jerusalem, where the Just Judge, seated at last on the throne of David, will separate the believers (sheep) from the unbelievers (goats).

The Elect: Matthew 24:31

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.

All Gentiles: Matthew 25:31-32

³¹ When the 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:

³² And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:



7A. THE RECKONING OF JEWS AND GENTILES:

The Judgments following the Second Advent will include every living person on earth.

1b. The judgment of the Jews:

For the previous three and a half years, the Jews have found safety in an area east of the Dead Sea, encompassing Ammon, Moab and Edom (Dan. 11:41; cf. Rev. 12:14-16; Mt. 24:16). The Judge will purge out the rebels or unbelievers (Ez. 30:38). This awesome scene will most likely occur in Wadi Araba, approximately 10 miles wide and extending 120 miles from the Dead Sea south to the Red Sea.

Isaiah 34:6

The sword of the Lord is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the Lord hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea.

Ezekiel 20:34-38

³⁴ And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.

³⁵ And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.

³⁶ Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord God.

³⁷ And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:

³⁸ And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

Isaiah 63:1

Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.

Zechariah 13:8

And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

2b. The Judgment of the Gentiles:

The Gentiles will be judged in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, near Jerusalem. The identity of this valley is unknown. It may be the Kidron Valley, anciently called the Valley of Jehoshaphat, separating Jerusalem and the Mt. of Olives, or it may be some new valley occasioned by the earthquake in conjunction with the return of Christ (Zech. 14:4).

Joel 3:1-2, 12

¹For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,

²I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

¹²Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

Matthew 25:31-33

³¹When the 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:

³²And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

³³And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.



8A. THE REJOICING IN THE KINGDOM:

It is likely that the function of the kingdom begins some 75 days after the return of Christ (1,335 days from the mid-point of the tribulation, Daniel 12:12). The world will rejoice in the righteous rule of Christ (Isa. 51:3-4). The curse will be lifted from nature (Rom. 8:22). The saints will inherit the kingdom, involving unimaginable physical and spiritual blessings.

Matthew 25:34

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Daniel 7:27

And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Luke 12:32

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Luke 22:29-30

²⁹And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;

³⁰That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Isaiah 51:3-4

³For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

⁴Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.

Zechariah 14:1-4

1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. (KJV)

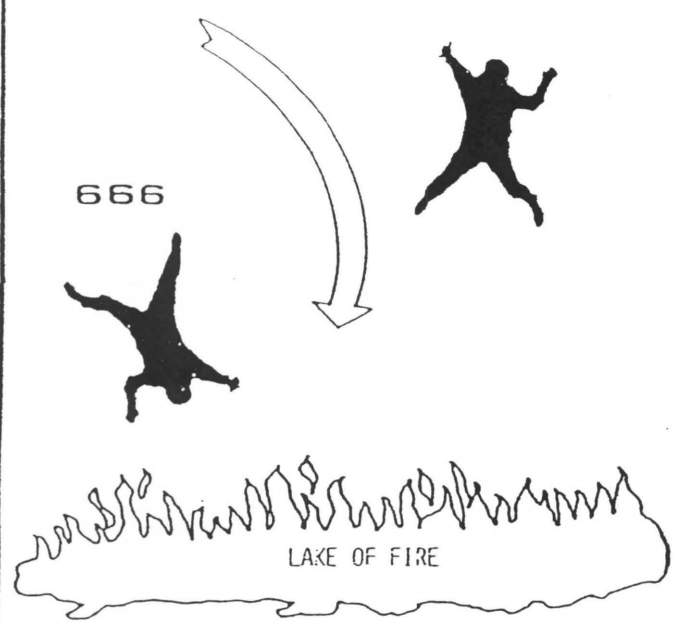


REVELATION 19

19 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.

20 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 alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 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.



REVELATION

CHAPTER 20

AND I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.





Holzschnitt um 1480.

DANIEL 12

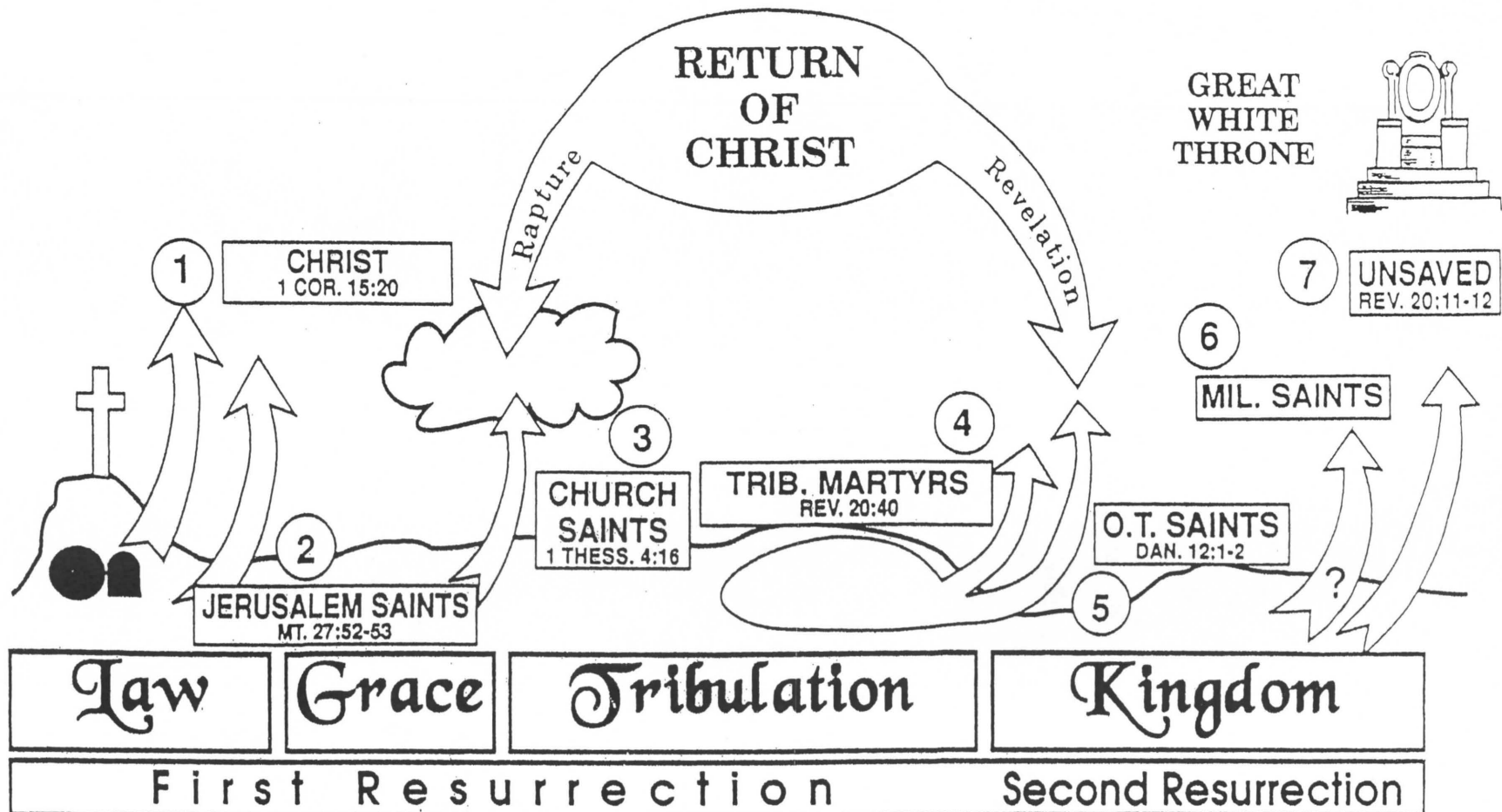
AND at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

REVELATION 20

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

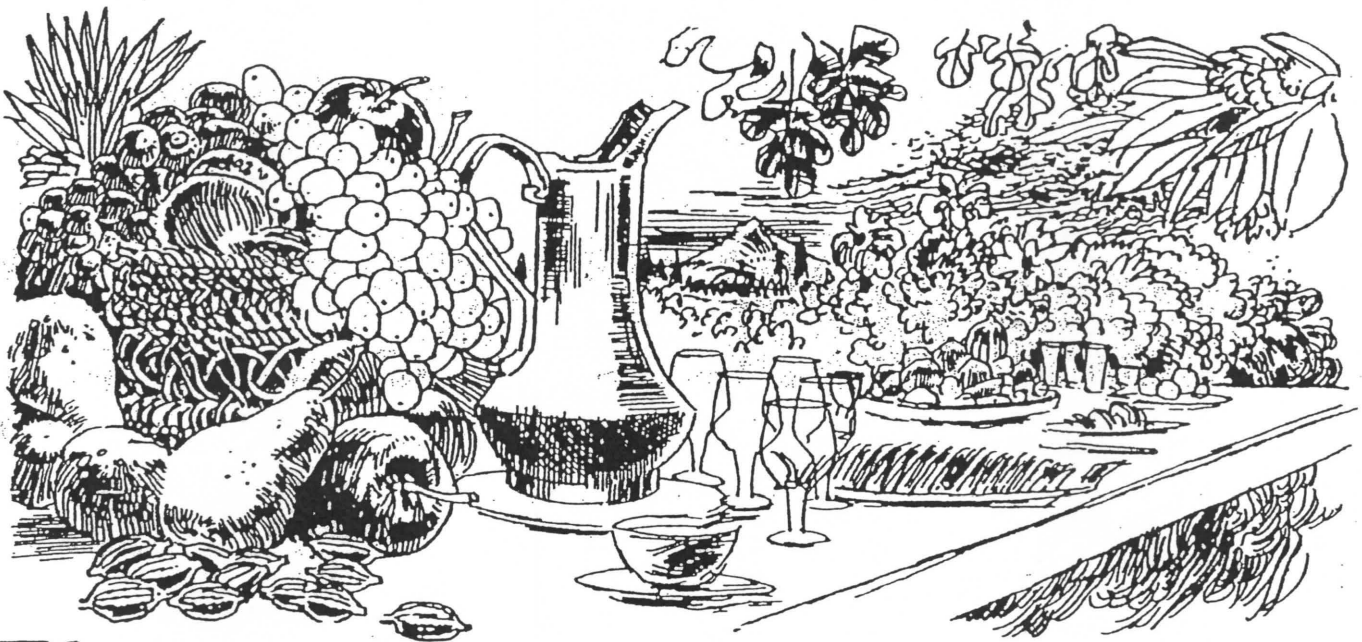
The Resurrection unto LIFE and DAMNATION





ST. MATTHEW 26

29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.



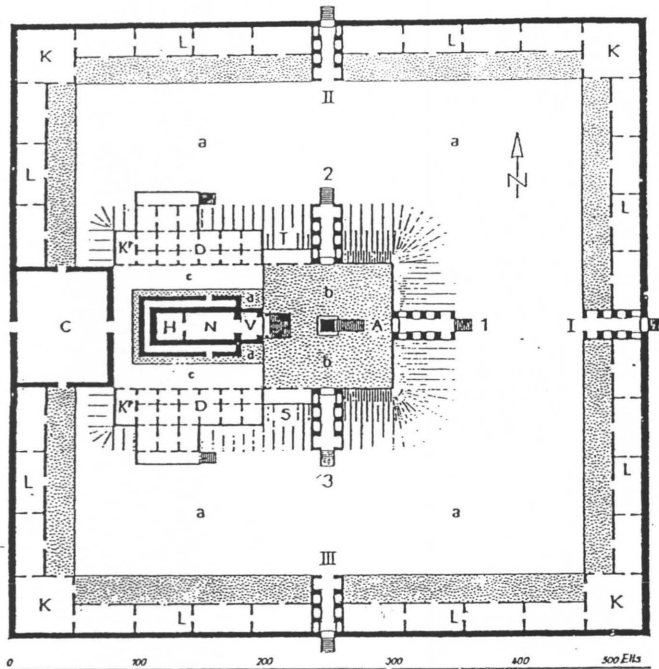
The Celebration

ST. LUKE 22

29 And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me;

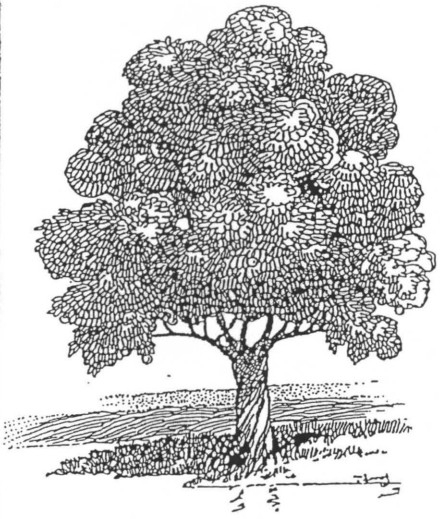
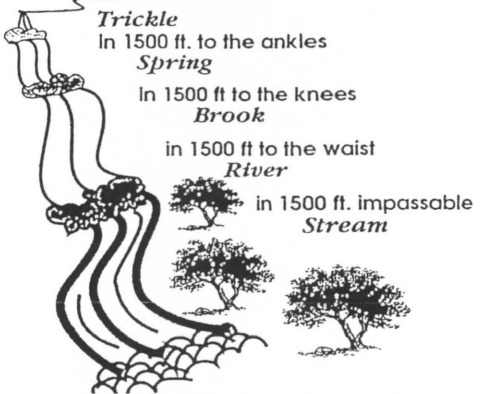
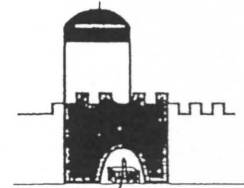
30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

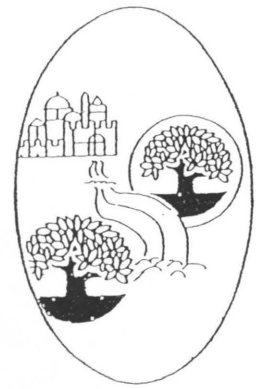
THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM: The Earth's Future Beauty



174. Ezekiel's temple plan (Ezek 40:1—42:20; 43:13—17; 46:19—24).

The River of Life





THE EARTH'S FUTURE BEAUTY

Two major passages reveal details about the marvelous changes on earth at the return of Christ. Both Zechariah 14 and Ezekiel 47 make reference to a new river in Israel with supernatural properties. The passages afford us a glimpse of the changes world-wide as the curse is lifted from nature and the whole world will become like Eden. The delightful predictions by Zechariah and Ezekiel serve as a microcosm, as the whole world is freed from the curse of sin and will enjoy rejuvenation and fruition.

Isa. 35:6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Isaiah 51:3-18 ³ For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

⁴ Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.

1A. The Return of the Lord: Zech. 14

At the Second Advent, Christ and the heavenly host (Rev. 19:11-14) will descend to the Mt. of Olives to rescue Jerusalem from the Gentile armies who have conquered the city (cf. Zech. 12:2-3).

1b. The conquest of Jerusalem: Zech. 14:1-2

¹ Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

² For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

2b. The coming of the Lord: Zech. 14:3-4a

³ Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

⁴ And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east,

3b. The cleavage of Olivet: Zech. 14:4b-7

and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

⁵ And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

⁶ And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:

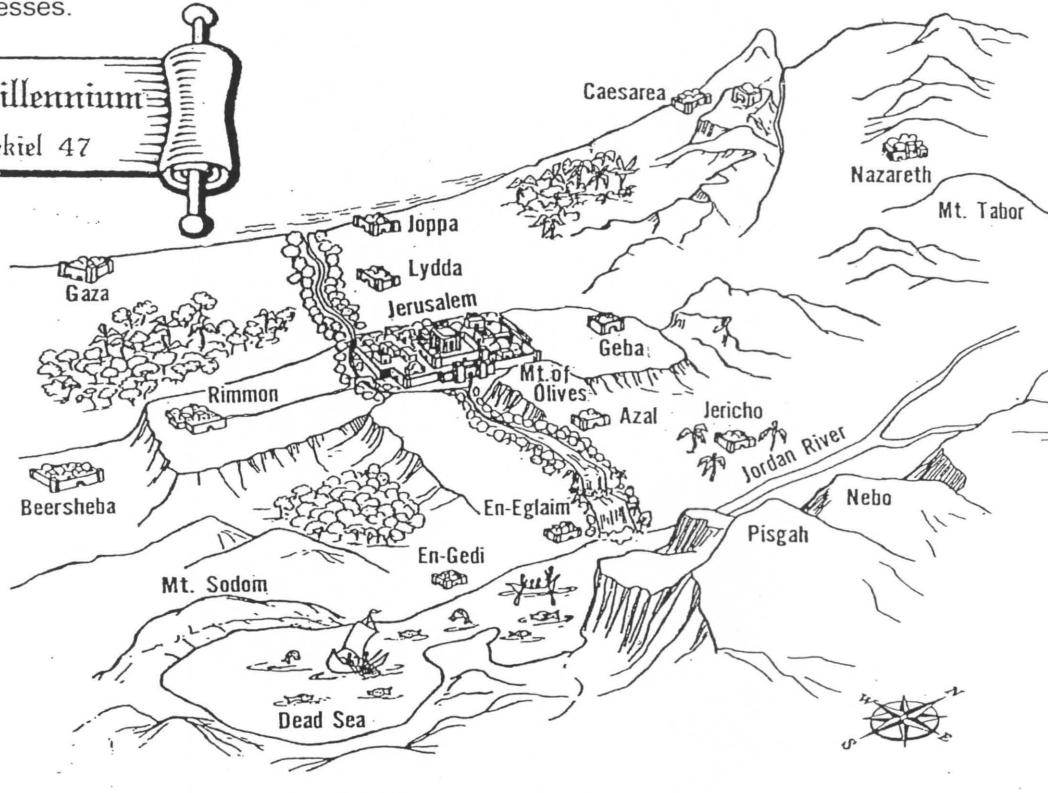
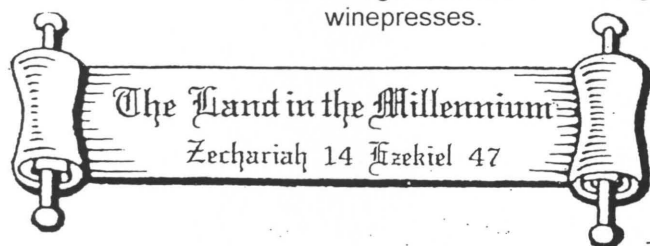
⁷ But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.

- 1c. A valley: 4b
 2c. An earthquake: 5
 3c. Twilight: 6-7

4b. The changes in Israel: Zech. 14: 8-10

Dramatic changes follow the descent of the Messianic Monarch. Central Israel, today a mountainous region, will be elevated and turned into a plain. The holy city as seat of the government of the king (Is. 2:3; Mic. 4:1-2) will be rebuilt and enlarged. It is already possible for the discerning Bible student to draw a topographical map of Israel based on the information of Zechariah 14:8-10.

¹⁰ All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses.



2A. The River of Life: Zech. 14, Ez. 47

1b. The source:

While Zechariah looks at the origin of a supernatural river in Jerusalem and its division into two branches, one flowing into the Dead Sea the other into the Mediterranean, Ezekiel reveals with amazing precision the point of origin, on the south-east corner of the altar in the new temple. Could it be that nearby is the location of the royal throne, since the river of life in the heavenly Jerusalem emerges from under the throne of the Lamb?

Rev. 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Zech 14:8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

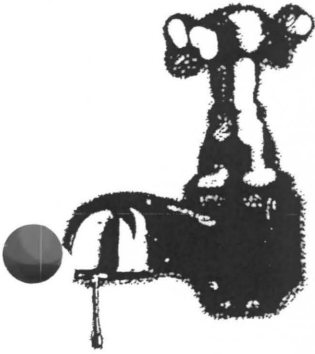
Ezek. 47:1 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.

- 1c. Jerusalem: Zech 14:8
- 2c. Temple: Ez. 47:1a
- 3c. Altar: Ez. 47:1b



2b. The supernaturalness:

The angelic guide takes Ezekiel into the Kidron Valley and shows him how there emerged a trickle of water ("ran out waters," literally, "trickled out," Ez. 47:2d) which miraculously, without any tributaries, becomes ankle-deep, then knee-deep, waist-deep, and after 6,000 feet, becomes a raging river. The river cascades from the eastern slope of the Mt. of Olives to the wilderness of Judea into the Dead Sea.



- 1c. The rapid increase: Ezek. 47:2-5
- 2c. The healing qualities: Ezek. 47:6-12

⁷ Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

⁸ Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

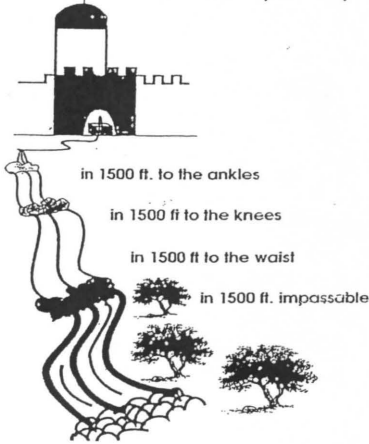
⁹ And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

¹⁰ And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

¹¹ But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

¹² And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

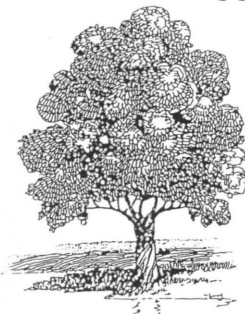
The River of Life



This remarkable river has supernatural healing qualities and heals the barren wilderness of Judea (v. 7) producing multitudes of trees. It sweetens the waters of the dreadful Dead Sea, permitting abundant marine life (v. 10). It waters "very many trees on the one side and on the other" (v. 7). Each tree bears a different fruit each month and the leaves are remarkable for their healing qualities.

EZEKIEL 47

12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.



- 1d. The desert: 47:7
 - 2d. The Dead Sea: 47:8-11
 - 3d. The diseases: 47:12
- 3c. The spiritualization:
- 1d. Denials of its literalness:

Sadly, it is very difficult to find commentators on Zechariah 14 and Ezekiel 47 to take the prophecy concerning the new river literally.

- 1e. "The stream of church history":
The river is a picture of the progress of Christianity, beginning with Christ, the three disciples, then the twelve, 70, 500, and so on.
 - 2e. A picture of spiritual life: (ankle-deep Christians)
Very commonly the river is regarded as a picture of the spiritual life of believers. Some saints are only "ankle-deep" Christians, whereas others are totally immersed in the things of the Lord.
 - 3e. A picture of redemption:
The desert is a symbolic picture of sin, the Dead Sea an emblem of spiritual death.
 - 4e. A symbol of baptism:
The early church fathers wanted to prove the ritual of baptism was part of Old Testament revelation. Any reference to water in the OT activated their allegorical practice.
 - 5e. "Vitality flowing forth from holy ground":
Derek Kidner, in his *Commentary of Genesis* (note on Genesis 2:10) refers to the river as "vitality flowing forth from holy ground." The term is totally meaningless and simply indicates that the otherwise fine commentator does not believe in the future appearance of such a literal river.
- 2d. The defense of its literalness:

It seems that there is abundant proof demonstrating that this prophecy of Ezekiel should be taken literally.

1e. The angelic exhortation:

Ezekiel 47:6 And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.

2e. The parallel passages:

Zech. 14:8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

Ps. 46:4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

Joel 3:18 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth out of the house of the Lord, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

3e. The connected events:

- Jerusalem is ravaged
- The Lord returns
- The mountains are removed
- The river is revealed
- The Lord reigns

If the river is allegorized, which of these events must also be spiritualized?

4e. The revealed size:

There are amazing details given concerning the river's rapid increase in size, details which would be meaningless if it were a symbolic river.

5e. The geographic localities:

The numerous geographical references become meaningless if this is a non-literal river.

- 1f. Jerusalem
- 2f. Arabah, 47:8 (wilderness)
- 3f. Dead Sea
- 4f. En Gedi
- 5f. En-Eglaim
- 6f. Mediterranean ("great sea" v. 10)



A typical case of allegorizing



This beautiful allegory was doubtless not thrown into the Bible merely to amuse us. What is your explanation ?

There are good men, and learned in the Scriptures, who interpret it literally, and maintain that a mighty physical miracle is here predicted. But we find in it only a spiritual allegory, which foreshadows miracles of mercy in store for the whole world far more stupendous. That God will cause such a river of actual water to flow down from Mount Moriah, to gladden the Desert of Judea and heal the Sea of Sodom, I do not believe. There is another desert, however, which he will surely heal—the desert of sin, the sea of spiritual death.

Explanation of the allegory

I discover in this richest of allegories a most comprehensive and delightful exhibition of the scheme of redemption, from its beginning to its final and glorious consummation. There is good gospel, and much sound and even profound theology in it. Every incident is suggestive, every allusion instructs. The waters flowed out from under the altar—intimating, not darkly, that the stream of divine mercy, the river of life, has its source in sacrifice and death. Until justice is satisfied by the atoning sacrifice of the Lamb of God upon the altar, the waters of life cannot flow forth from beneath it.

The altar.

There can be little doubt but that the prophet borrowed the drapery of his allegory from the physical features of the Temple area, and that of the country east and south-east of it.

THE

BY

LAND AND THE BOOK

W. M. THOMSON

THIRTY YEARS' MISSIONARY IN SYRIA AND PALESTINE.

The River of Life

Four of the numerous references to a future millennial river, healing the desert of Israel.

ZECHARIAH 14

8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

EZEKIEL 47

7 Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.
8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.



PSALM 46

4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

JOEL 3

18 ¶ And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

6e. The nature of prophecy:

One-fourth of the Bible at the time it was written was prophecy. About one-half of all prophecies have been fulfilled, and that literally. Consistency in interpretation necessitates that unfulfilled prophecies will also be fulfilled literally.

3A. The Regeneration of the Land:

Adamic sin ruined the original earth, Christ's salvation will reverse the curse on nature in the millennial kingdom. Those who deny a future reign of Christ must ignore or explain away numerous references to a future rule of Christ, including a redemption of nature:

Rom. 8:21-22 ²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

1b. The reclamation of the Dead Sea: Ezek. 47:7-12

1c. A fresh-water lake:

Ezek. 47:8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

2c. A fisherman's delight:

Ezek. 47:9-10 ⁹ And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

¹⁰ And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

2b. The remaining of the salt flats: Ezek. 47:11

But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

Commentators have puzzled over the reference to the salt flats at the southern end of the Dead Sea which will not be healed in the kingdom. A number of explanations are possible why the salt flats should remain.

1c. Salt for home supply:

The preparation of food will necessitate the use of salt.

2c. Salt for the temple service:

Certain memorial sacrifices in the millennial temple (Ez. 4-46) call for the use of salt (Ez. 43:24), as did the O.T. Levitical system (Lev.

2:13). The remaining marshes make it easy for the Levites to secure salt from just a short distance away from Jerusalem.

- 3c. An object lesson:
The remainder of a small portion of the Dead Sea would indicate how a dreadful condition has been remedied by the healing stream emanating from the presence of the Lord of life.

- 3b. The recovery of the desert areas:

As mentioned earlier, the miraculous changes in the Holy Land are only a microcosm of the changes world-wide, as the curse is lifted from nature. Not just the Judean desert, but the Sahara, the Gobi Desert, the Mojave Desert, will all be healed. The world will become as the former pristine paradise which Adamic sin ruined and in the millennium the Savior will redeem.

- 1c. The land of Israel:

Joel 3:18 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth out of the house of the Lord, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

- 2c. The entire earth:

Isa. 32:15 Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.

Isa. 43:19-20 ¹⁹ Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.

Isa. 35:6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

- 3c. The realm of nature:

Hos. 2:18 And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.



4A. The Ramifications of the Passages:

- 1b. When Christ returns He brings both spiritual blessings and physical beauty:

The song "Joy to the World" by Isaac Watts (which he entitled "The Glories of the Kingdom") accents these marvelous changes.

Isa. 44:3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

Isa. 42:10, 11 Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth. . .let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains.

- 2b. From Christ alone flow forth blessings for the whole world: (He is the Way, the Truth and the **Life**)

Isa. 25:9 And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isa. 66:12 For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. Cf. Isa.48:18

- 3b. The whole world will become like paradise one day:

Isa. 41:18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. . . (v. 19) that they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together that the hand of the Lord hath done this.

- 4b. What Adam lost, Christ regained. The curse of the first Adam is lifted by the last Adam.

Isa. 12:2-3 ² Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

³ Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Isa. 25:8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it.

CONCLUSION:

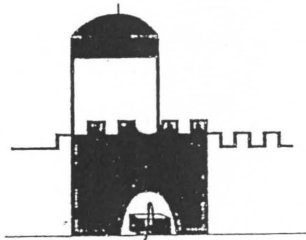
We have --a **Great Revelation**
 --a **Great God**
 --a **Great Future**





Jerusalem

The River of Life

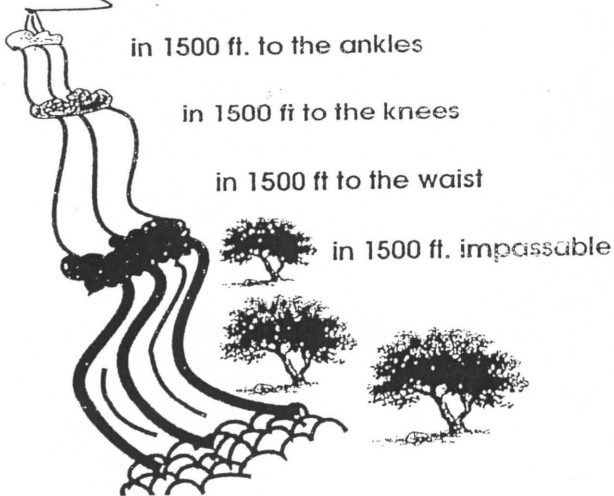


in 1500 ft. to the ankles

in 1500 ft to the knees

in 1500 ft to the waist

in 1500 ft. impassable



What is the River of Ezekiel 47?

1

2

3

4

5

See page 56

HOW TO INTERPRET PROPHECY

PREDICTION

ZECH. 9: 9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.



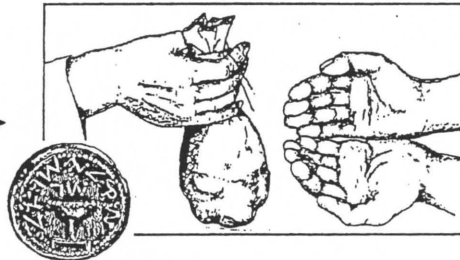
FULFILLMENT

MT. 21: 5

Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

ZECH. 11: 12

And I said unto them, If ye think good, give *me* my price: and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty *pieces* of silver.



MT. 26: 14-15

Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said *unto them*, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they convenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

ZECH. 12: 10

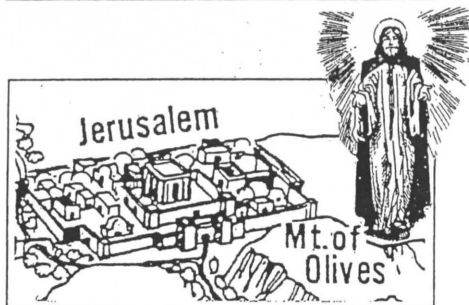
And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son. . .



One-fourth of the Bible was predictive at the time of its writing.

ZECH. 14: 4

And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west. . .



About one half of the biblical prophecies have been fulfilled, and that literally.

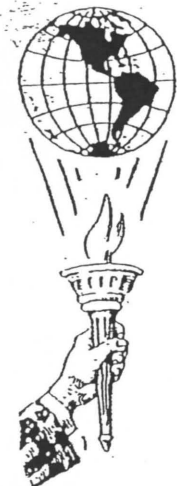
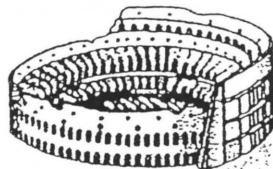
As a result, to be consistent, one should anticipate a literal fulfillment of unfulfilled prophecies.

No Tricentennial for America?

A Balanced Biblical Discussion of the Future of America



★USA!



No Tricentennial for America?

America in Prophecy



INTRODUCTION:

The United States is the number one world power. With the events predicted for the tribulation and second advent drawing nearer, is it possible that our country is exempt from these major world events? Several clues as to the future of the United States may be gleaned from the Scriptures.

1A. THE REVIVAL OF ROME:

- 1b. The confederation of the ten kingdoms:

The final stage of the world's kingdoms will be a revival of the Roman Empire in the form of a ten-nation confederacy.



- 1c. The remarkable image of Daniel 2:

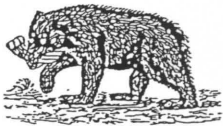
- 1d. King Nebuchadnezzar dreams of a great image, portraying the four major world kingdoms between Nebuchadnezzar's time and the establishment of the millennial kingdom.

- 2d. The final kingdom is Rome.

Rome's last stage, symbolized by the feet comprised of iron and clay, will be annihilated by Christ's kingdom (Dan. 2:35, 44).



DANIEL 2



- 2c. The ravaging beasts of Daniel 7:

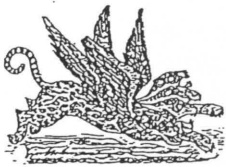
- 1d. Daniel's vision involved four beasts, each representing a world kingdom from Daniel's day until Christ would replace the false Christ.

- 2d. The fourth beast with no counterpart in nature combines the worst features of the preceding three.

- 3d. The ten horns out of its head are ten kings (Dan. 7:20, 24).

- 4d. Another dictator arises who will subdue three kings and seven will voluntarily subject themselves to his rule.

- 5d. The ten horns correspond to the ten toes on the image and involve a ten-nation confederacy emerging out of the former Roman Empire.

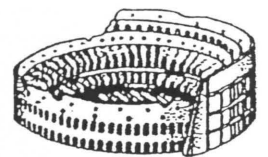


DANIEL 7

- 2b. The coming of the world ruler:

- 1c. His designations:

- 1d. The Roman prince, apparently ruling from Rome: Dan. 9:26





666

- 2d. Antichrist: 1 Jn. 2:18
- 3d. The little horn: Dan 7:8, 24, 26-27
- 4d. The willful king: Dan. 11:36
- 5d. The beast out of the sea: Rev. 13:1; cf. Isa. 17:12-13

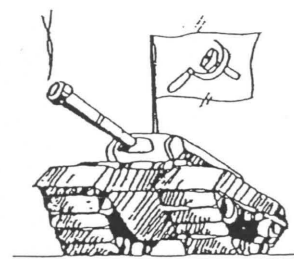
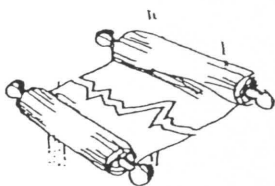
2c. His dominion:

1d. For three and one half years he rules over ten nations.

1e. A strong power from the East prevents him from extending his rule worldwide.

2e. The former Iron Curtain was located virtually at the eastern limit of the ancient Roman Empire.

2d. For the last half of the tribulation Antichrist "shall devour the whole earth" (Dan. 7:23, 25).



2A. THE REVOLTS IN THE TRIBULATION:

1b. The chastisement of Russia: Ez. 38-39

1c. In the middle of the tribulation period Russia and his satellites invade Israel: Ez. 38-39

1d. Until the middle of the tribulation there will be Western and Eastern powers, much like the situation in recent years.

2d. The invaders will be totally destroyed by eight distinct divine judgments: Ez. 38:17-23

2c. The power vacuum caused by the demise of the Kings of the North prompts Antichrist to extend his rule.

2b. The campaign of Armageddon: Dan. 11:40-45

Even though Antichrist is world ruler, there will be challenges to his rule. A series of battles will erupt and this campaign is named after Armageddon (Rev. 16:16), the place where the most bloody battle will be fought. The blood will be up to the horse's bridle (approximately four feet) for two hundred miles (Rev. 14:20).

1c. Daniel gives the sequence of the attacks against Israel:

1d. The action by Egypt: Dan. 11:40a

2d. The attack by Russia: Dan. 11:40b

3d. The advance of Rome: Dan. 11:41-43



- 4d. The approach of the Asiatics: Dan. 11:44
- 5d. The advent of Christ: Dan. 11:45, cf. Rev. 19:14-20

3A. THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE USA TO END-TIME EVENTS:

- 1b. The attempts to discover America in prophecy:

Some expositors are more, some less dogmatic that America is mentioned in prophecy.

- 1c. Some identify Babylon with the USA.
Logsdon suggests that "the wealthy, powerful, wicked, God-forsaking endtime nation, spiritually called Babylon in prophecy" is the USA.
(*Is the USA in Prophecy?*, p. 55)

Isaiah 18:1

- 2c. Some identify the nation of Isaiah 18 as the USA.

Woe to the land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the river of Ethiopia:

- 1d. The land in question is the land overshadowed with wings (Is. 18:1). Since our nation's emblem is the eagle, the USA must be in view.
- 2d. Only gross spiritualizing can lead to that conclusion.
- 1e. The land is said to be beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, something hardly true of the USA.
- 2e. The eagle was the symbol of Rome and is presently a symbol of Germany, Austria, Spain, Poland, and other nations.



- 3c. Some see a reference to the United States in Ezekiel 38:13. "The merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof" protest against the invasion of Israel by a northern power. It is suggested that Tarshish is England and America is one of the young lions, or "colonies" of England. To find England or the United States in this passage involves blatant eisegesis, first reading these nations into the text.

Coder has well said, "many attempts have been made to find America in the prophetic Scriptures. All of them have been rejected by conservatives as violating sound rules of exegesis" (*The Final Chapter*, p. 84).

- 2b. The absence of references to America in prophecy:

Why is America not mentioned in prophecy, when other nations such as Edom, Moab, Ammon, Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia—just to name a few (Dan. 11:41-43)—are prominently and repeatedly mentioned?

The USA is absent in prophecy, it is said by some, because:

- 1c. By the time of the rapture, America has passed out of existence. Does this mean Australia, Japan or South Africa which are also not mentioned have passed out of existence?
- 2c. America has been conquered by Russia.

This scenario, while suggested by many, is demonstrably false. If the USA were conquered by a nation today, that victorious nation would be a world power tomorrow. But according to Daniel 2 and 7, there can be four and only four world empires between Nebuchadnezzar's time (606 B.C.) and Christ's kingdom. These four kingdoms are identified as Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. Also, until the middle of the tribulation period there are two major centers of power on earth: the Western Confederacy and Russia with his confederates. Russia which wants to be a world empire won't succeed. The USA, which could have been a world empire, refused to exercise its absolute power in the days following World War II.

- 3c. America is not mentioned because prophecy is primarily concerned with Israel and its immediate neighbors. Because of this, says Dr. Walvoord, "it is not surprising that geographical areas remote from this center of Biblical interest should not figure largely in prophecy" (*The Nations of Prophecy*, p. 172).

3b. The association of the USA with prophetic developments:

While specific references to the USA in the prophetic Scriptures are lacking, it is possible to suggest in a general way what will happen to America as part of the world's nations.



- 1c. After the rapture the seat of the Western powers shifts from Washington, D.C. to Rome.
- 2c. The USA will probably become a territorial extension of the Roman Empire under Antichrist's control.

The United States has its cultural, religious and linguistic roots in Western Europe. The revived Roman Empire need not necessarily be precisely within the borders of the territory controlled by the Romans in antiquity.

- 3c. With the disappearance of believers through the rapture, the USA will become anti-semitic. Every last Jew will return to the land (Ez. 37:21; 39:28c). Looking for a strong military protector, Israel will sign a treaty with Antichrist (Dan. 9:27).
- 4c. The United States will experience a time of unprecedented trouble, turmoil, and tribulation, a "time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to the same time" (Dan. 12:1). Since this "indignation of the Lord will come upon all nations" (Is. 34:2), this dreadful time would include the United States.
- 5c. A time of unparalleled salvation will characterize the world as God's 144,000 witnesses from among the twelve tribes of Israel will minister, so

that vast numbers of people will be saved, "a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues" (Rev. 7:9). Even in the United States where the Gospel has been preached for centuries, a host of individuals will be redeemed.

- 6c. During the last three and one half years of the tribulation period, American troops will invade Israel under the banner of Antichrist. All nations will be gathered against Jerusalem (Zech. 14:2). The kings of the whole earth will do battle in the land of Israel during the campaign of Armageddon (Rev. 16:14).
- 7c. America will be ruled by Jesus Christ who rules over the earth from Jerusalem (Psa. 2:6-8; Is. 2:3).

4A. THE RECOGNITION OF AMERICA'S DESTINY:



Paul, speaking to the Athenians on Mars Hill, told them a profound truth about God and His relationship to nations:

Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;



God has appointed concerning each nation its times and bounds or its chronological and geographical boundaries. This passage argues forcefully for the fact that God has a purpose for each nation. God brings a nation about at a specific point in time and at a particular location on earth because of a divine design for that nation.

While our nation is not mentioned specifically in prophecy, we can nevertheless infer God's destiny for the USA by contemplating the course of our country. There appear to be four discernible reasons why God has raised our country.



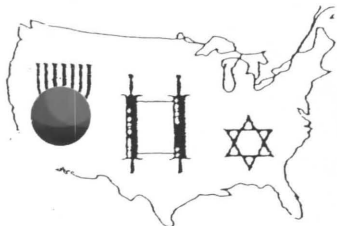
- 1b. The United States promotes missionary activity.

The very first settlers testified that they came here as the Mayflower Compact states, "for the glory of God, and the advancement of the Christian faith." In the New England confederation of 1780, the uniform testimony is "whereas we all came into these parts of America with one and the same end, namely, to advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and enjoy the liberties of the gospel in purity with peace."

God has honored America for its missionary efforts. Of the world's 50,000 evangelical missionaries, 45,000 come from the USA. God needs a lighthouse for the world's unsaved right until the rapture, after which the 144,000 witnesses will be ministering.

- 2b. America protects the chosen people.

Ever since Roger Williams encouraged the persecuted Jews of Europe to settle in his colony, America has been a refuge for Jews. Of the world's 17 million Jewish people, 7 million live in the USA. With our national efforts the modern state of Israel was established.



Its continuation has been assured by the consistent support by the USA. God promises to bless those who would bless Israel (Gen. 12:3). God is blessing us and will bless us because of our special relationship to His special people. After the rapture, when our country becomes antisemitic, Antichrist will sign a treaty of protection with Israel. Until then it seems to be God's design for America to help Israel.

- 3b. America provides a home for the politically and religiously persecuted all around the world.



The Statue of Liberty best represents one aspect of America which appears to point toward our destiny as a house for the world's oppressed. It may well be that God has raised the USA in part to be a "Mother of Exiles." Such a refugee nation appears to be needed until the rapture.

God will not let America's sins go unpunished. But the well-deserved and long-delayed judgment will not come until the righteous have been removed. As He removed Noah and his family before He brought the flood and as He removed righteous Lot before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, so God will remove the believers through the rapture before He sends His judgment upon the earth, including our beloved nation.

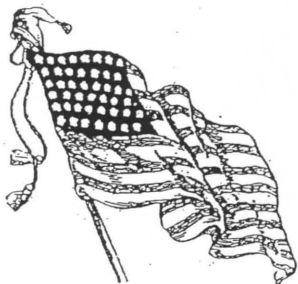
- 4b. America projects global stability.

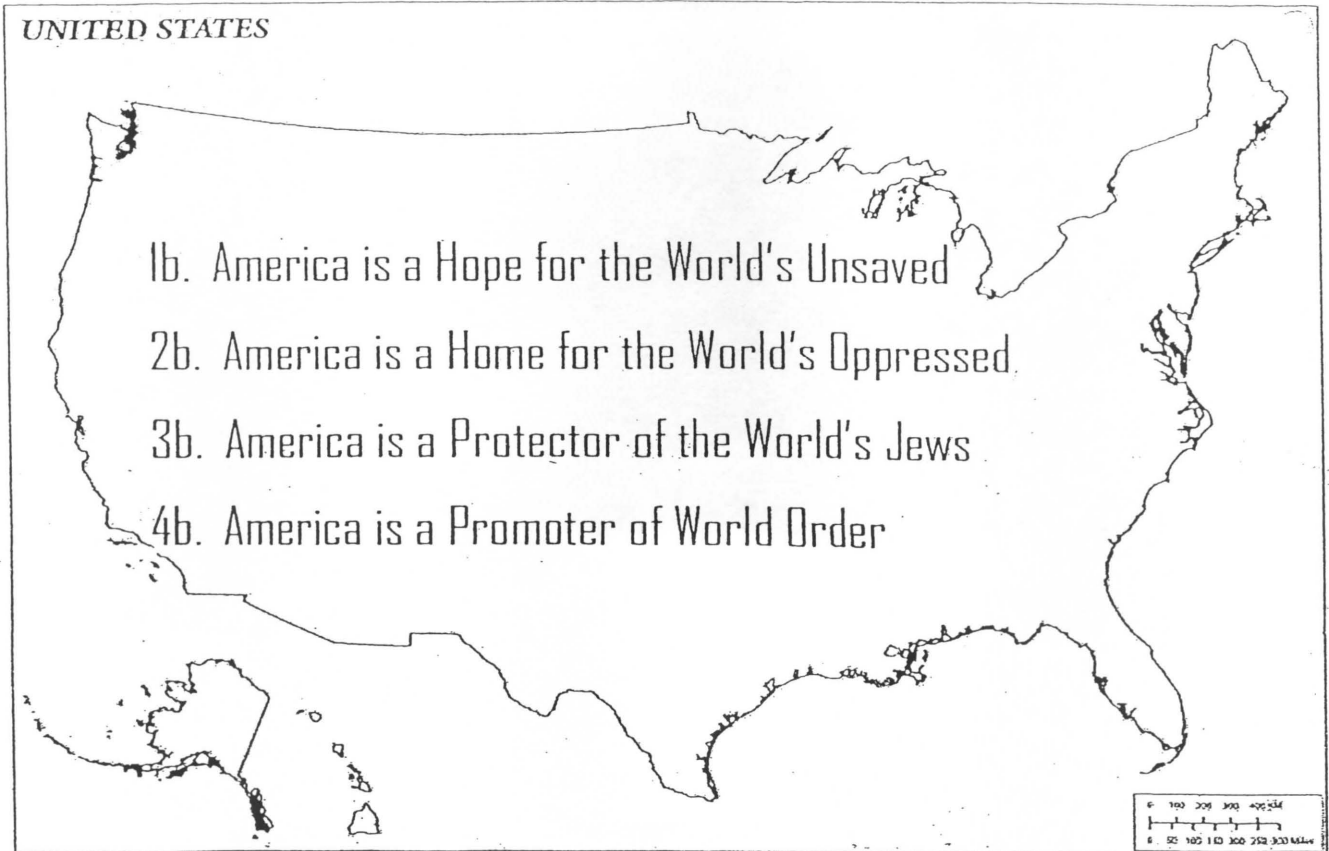
It seems to be God's providential design for America to serve as a steadying force in the world, both economically and militarily. Even the *New York Times* admits that "the American economy is acting as a steadying force in volatile world" (1/7/16). While our Founding Fathers argued for an isolationism, the two world wars imposed on the USA a role of intervention which it did not seek, to save Europe from a calamitous, indeed catastrophic condition. America's unique role in the world can be easily demonstrated.

As Dennis Prager observes in *National Review* (9/17/13), in an article entitled "Yes, We are the World's Policeman" "U.S. troops around the world are the greatest preserver of liberty and peace . . . America's strength and willingness to use it has been the greatest force in history to liberty and world stability."

Prager correctly stresses that the world needs a policeman to curtail economic disruption, social chaos and the violent death of innocent people. If the USA were not functioning in this role the only possible alternative at the present moment would be a) No one b) Russia c) China d) Iran e) the United Nations. Dinesh D'Souza, in his superb volume, *America – Imagine the World Without Her*, comes to a similar conclusion.

In God's providence the USA plays that role, however imperfectly. We have the most vibrant economy and the most formidable military. It is impossible to imagine what the world situation would be like without America's protective presence. And one can only surmise that after the rapture, with the sudden disappearance of all believers, chaos and consternation will reign until Antichrist consolidates his empire. He, in turn, will be replaced by the Davidic Messiah whose world-wide kingdom of peace and righteousness has no end.





Not the pages of Scripture but the pen of our Founding Fathers and the passage of time strongly indicate the divine design for the United States of America.

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