

UNDERSTANDING

APOCALYPTIC

PROPHECY

**Teaching Notes Prepared for
A STUDY OF THE
18 END-TIME PROPHECIES
OF
DANIEL AND THE REVELATION**

This Study makes extensive use of material found in
18 End-Time Bible Prophecies and
The Revelation of Jesus
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FIVE TYPES OF PROPHECY

1. Messianic Prophecies:

- ★ Specifically related to Jesus
- Examples: Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22

2. Judaic Prophecies:

- ★ Related to promises of prosperity or destruction of ancient nation of Israel.
- ★ Have conditional elements.
- ★ Provides important object lessons for all generations.
- ★ Many such prophecies are not fulfilled because the conditions were not met.
- ★ Examples: Ezekiel 37 - 48

3. Day of the Lord Prophecies:

- ★ Related to the vindication of God and/or His people.
- ★ Elements are usually general enough to have parallel applications at different times.
- ★ Sometimes have conditional elements embedded in them.
- ★ Examples: Isaiah 24, Ezekiel 7, and Matthew 24 apply to the end of Israel (or destruction of Jerusalem) and the end of the world.

4. Local Prophecies:

- ★ Apply to specific people, places, and times.
- ★ Can have conditional elements.
- ★ Usually have universal underlying principles that are applicable today.
- ★ Examples: Noah, Jonah and John the Baptist had Local Prophecies.

5. Apocalyptic Prophecies:

- ★ Apocalypse is defined as a divine or glorious revelation.
(All books of the Bible could qualify under this broad definition.)
- ★ In a more limited sense, the apocalyptic prophecies (those of Daniel and The Revelation) have a definite structure that outlines a series (sequence) of events identified by definite beginning and ending points.
- ★ The fulfillment and sequence are unconditional.

RULES OF
APOCALYPTIC PROPHECY
INTERPRETATION
(DANIEL AND THE REVELATION)

RULE 1:

Each apocalyptic story or sequence is identified by the presence of a beginning point and an ending point in time.

Events within each story are given in chronological order.

RULE 2:

A prophecy or prophetic element is not fulfilled until all the specifications of the prophecy are met. This fulfillment includes the order of the sequence.

RULE 3:

If some portion of prophecy is declared symbolic, the Bible must clearly interpret the meaning of the symbol with applicable scripture. (Otherwise, the meaning should be taken literally.)

Observations:

If apocalyptic prophecy is unconditional, then all other prophecies must fit into the chronological placement of apocalyptic prophecy.

[Amos, Ezekiel, Joel, Obadiah, Paul believed that the great and awful day of the Lord was "near" and so stated. John (in The Revelation comments) also indicated the fulfillment of the things he saw (the apocalyptic stories) were soon to happen.]

No one prophet was shown everything that God intends to bring about. "For we know in part and prophesy in part."

Prophetic truth has several dimensions: We can correctly place an event in time and misinterpret that to which it relates. On the other hand, we can correctly interpret the meaning of an event and place it at the wrong point in history. Both produce erroneous conclusions.

Conclusion: The full truth of prophecy can be discovered only by considering the whole of scripture and by relating the sequences and events among the various stories given to us.

THE APPOINTED TIME OF THE END

Does God own a calendar? That is a rather frivolous question for some, but it speaks to the question of whether or not there is a fixed amount of time in which God will allow sin to have influence. In other words, "Is there a specific period of time that is designated as the **end time** and is that time set and not to be altered?" Are we talking about tens, hundreds, or thousands of years when we refer to the span of time called the appointed time of the end?

The following page is a collection of related verses where the phrases "appointed time" and/or "time of the end" appear.

What can we learn from these verses? This first thing that jumps out at us is that the vision in Daniel 8 spans the time from Daniel until the time of the end. This passage is from Prophecy 3 and is concerned with the rise of the "ram" (Media-Persia) and the "goat" (Greece). These two events are well into the past and do not apply to the time of the end. Another horn which rises is in the *distant future* (see also Dan 8:26); i.e., in the time of the end.

In a similar way, Prophecy 5 (Dan 11:2-35) starts in Daniel's time with the Kings of Persia and winds its way through the rise of Greece and Rome. It includes the destruction of Jerusalem (A.D. 70) and the rise of the Christian church up until the time of the end.

The reference in Dan 11:40 is part of Prophecy 6 which is sometime in the future (from now) and involves the physical appearing of the devil.

The two references from Daniel 12 are in the epilogue to Prophecy 6 and indicate that the meaning of the prophecies will not be understood until a time near their fulfillment.

The references from Habakkuk and Zephaniah point to the certainty of an appointed time even though it may seem to never come. The association of the wrath of God with the time of the end is also clear.

The two references from the New Testament show first that those in the spirit world are aware of an appointed time for judgement for them and secondly that people will also be judged in the time of the end.

From the time of Daniel, the **time of the end** was in the "distant future" and it will be associated with the physical appearing of the devil, the final judgement and the wrath of God. It is certain and will not be delayed -- time is fixed.

THE APPOINTED TIME OF THE END

(References from the NIV)

Daniel 8:17 As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns **the time of the end.**"

Daniel 8:19 He said: "I am going to tell you what will happen later in *the time of wrath*, because the vision concerns **the appointed time of the end.**

Daniel 11:35 Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until **the time of the end**, for it will still come at **the appointed time.**

Daniel 11:40 "At **the time of the end** the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood.

Daniel 12:4 But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until **the time of the end.** Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

Daniel 12:9 He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until **the time of the end.**

Habakkuk 2:3 For the revelation awaits an **appointed time**; it speaks of **the end** and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

Zephaniah 2:2 before the **appointed time** arrives and that day sweeps on like chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD comes upon you, before the **day of the Lord's wrath** comes upon you.

Matthew 8:29 "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the **appointed time?**"

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the **appointed time**; wait **till the Lord comes.** He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

THE JUBILEE CALENDAR

When did it start? How does it work? How long will it last? What are the implications relative to prophecy during the time the Jubilee Calendar is in effect?

The Beginning of the Jubilee Calendar:

Exodus 12:1-2 (NIV) The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, {2} “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year.”

The calendar the Israelites were to observe started right before the Exodus from Egypt began. God instituted a new calendar as a reminder to the nation of Israel that her life as the people of God was grounded in God's redemptive act in the Exodus. The Canaanite name for this month was Abib and the Babylonian name (later used) was Nisan. By our calendar this month begins in March and ends in April. The Jews observed this calendar for religious purposes until after the exile. Judaism today uses only the calendar that begins in the fall (so-called agricultural calendar).

In this calendar, the Israelites were to observe certain cycles of sevens. For example, it was after this calendar was started that the first obligatory observance of a seventh day of rest occurred (Ex 16:23). This first observance was in conjunction with the giving of manna. The manna was given six days and a double portion was given on the sixth day and none on the seventh day. The time of six days on and one day off takes away the validity of speculation that manna was a naturally occurring (although unusual) substance. The seven day cycle is not a naturally occurring time cycle.

There are several naturally occurring time cycles. The **day** is one rotation of the earth on its axis. The **month** is approximately one revolution of the moon about the earth. The **year** is one revolution of the earth about the sun. There is nothing in the natural cycle of "things" that equals a seven day week. This was God's plan for man to keep track of time. Not only did He institute a cycle of seven days, He also instituted a cycle of seven years in that every seventh year was to be a year of rest or a "sabbath year" (Ex 23:10-11, Lev 25:1-7). In addition to this, He also instituted a larger cycle of seven "sabbath years" which is referred to as the jubilee cycle (Lev 25:8ff). Although it is not mentioned in connection with the Jubilee Calendar, there is thought to be an even larger cycle of seven that forms the time of the existence of sin and that is seven periods of one thousand years. Based on the chronologies and genealogies, it appears that sin entered the world around 4000 BC. If that is the case, then we are approaching the end of the 6th millennium. Using the pattern of the week of days and the week of years, one could argue that the 7th millennium will be a "sabbath" period. Many see this as the Millennial reign of Jesus.

The purpose of the seventh **day** sabbath was to provide rest for people and animals. The purpose of the seventh **year** sabbath was to provide rest for the land. These cycles also provided a unique way to keep track of time. (See table, next page.)

THE FIRST FOUR JUBILEE CYCLES

W	Day	Yr	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle
			1	2	3	4
	SUN	1	The Exodus 1437 B.C.	1st 50th yr 1388 B.C.	2nd 50th yr 1339 B.C.	3rd 50th yr 1290 B.C.
	MON	2	1436			
	TUE	3	1435			
	WED	4	1434			
	THU	5	1433			
	FRI	6	1432			
1	SAT	7	1431	1382	1333	1284
	SUN	8				
	MON	9				
	TUE	10				
	WED	11				
	THU	12				
	FRI	13				
2	SAT	14	1424	1375	1326	1277
	SUN	15				
	MON	16				
	TUE	17				
	WED	18				
	THU	19				
	FRI	20				
3	SAT	21	1417	1368	1319	1270
	SUN	22				
	MON	23				
	TUE	24				
	WED	25				
	THU	26				
	FRI	27				
4	SAT	28	1410	1361	1312	1263
	SUN	29				
	MON	30				
	TUE	31				
	WED	32				
	THU	33				
	FRI	34				
5	SAT	35	1403	1354	1305	1256
	SUN	36				
	MON	37				
	TUE	38				
	WED	39				
	THU	40	Canaan			
	FRI	41				
6	SAT	42	1396	1347	1298	1249
	SUN	43				
	MON	44				
	TUE	45				
	WED	46				
	THU	47				
	FRI	48				
7	SAT	49	1389	1340	1291	1242

The seventh-year sabbatical not only gave the land a time of rest, but it also provided a test of faith for Israel every seven years. Would they trust God to provide for their needs in the year they did not plant? The 49th year was the last sabbatical of a Jubilee cycle. It was considered a high year because it was the seventh sabbatical. This year was followed by a once-in-a-generation Year of Jubilee. Once again the faith of the people was tested -- **two** consecutive year of not planting crops. This Year of Jubilee was also to provide a reminder to the nation that the land they enjoyed was a gift from God. They did nothing to earn it, nor deserve it. This was demonstrated by the land being returned to the original owners (families) to whom the land was distributed when they entered the Promised land. The Jubilee Year was considered to be a holy year and a year of rest or a sabbatical year.

When the Jubilee calendar was given, God advised them of their responsibility (See Lev 26:14-25). Summarizing: *If you will not carry out all these commands, your land will be laid waste and the land will enjoy its sabbath years all the time that it lies desolate and you are in the country of your enemies. All the time that it lies desolate, the land will have the rest it did not have during the sabbaths you lived in it.*

The nation did not carry out all of God's commands and finally God acted. How long did He keep His patience? Look at Ezekiel 4:1-6.

Ezekiel 4:1-6 (NIV) "Now, son of man, take a clay tablet, put it in front of you and draw the city of Jerusalem on it. {2} Then lay siege to it: Erect siege works against it, build a ramp up to it, set up camps against it and put battering rams around it. {3} Then take an iron pan, place it as an iron wall between you and the city and turn your face toward it. It will be under siege, and you shall besiege it. This will be a sign to the house of Israel. {4} "Then lie on your left side and put the sin of the house of Israel upon yourself. You are to bear their sin for the number of days you lie on your side. {5} I have assigned you the same number of days as the years of their sin. So for 390 days you will bear the sin of the house of Israel. {6} "After you have finished this, lie down again, this time on your right side, and bear the sin of the house of Judah. I have assigned you 40 days, a day for each year.

That is 390 years for Israel and 40 years for Judah or a total of 430 years. If this is converted to Jubilee cycles, then we have 8 full cycles plus 38 years. In each Jubilee cycle there are a total of 8 years of rest (one for each week plus the Jubilee year). In 38 years there are 6 years of rest (one each for the five weeks of years plus the Jubilee year). Doing the math, we see $8 \times 8 = 64$. If we then add the other six years, the total number of sabbaths is found to be 70. Now, how many years did the Jews spend in exile in Babylon?

Notice that the Lord kept His patience for a period of 70 sabbath year violations. Notice, also, the use of the "day for a year" in the dramatization of the prophecy that Ezekiel carried out. During the captivity, God granted Israel (Judah) another chance. This opportunity was also given in 70 units of time. Instead of 70 sabbath years, He gave them 70 weeks (sevens) of years. We see that God has moved up from 70 years (sabbath years) to the next larger time period - 70 weeks (of years). This would be a literal 490 years.

Daniel 9:24 (NIV) "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

THE SEVENTY WEEKS - 10 JUBILEE CYCLES

Wk	Day	Yr	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	
			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	SUN	1	457	408	359	310	261	212	163	114	65	16	
	MON	2	Decree to Rebuild Jerusalem in 457										
	TUE	3											
	WED	4											
	THU	5											
	FRI	6											
1	SAT	7	451									10	
	SUN	8										9	
	MON	9										8	
	TUE	10										7	
	WED	11										6	
	THU	12										5	
	FRI	13								Birth of Jesus ⇒		4	
2	SAT	14	444									3	
	SUN	15										2	
	MON	16										1 BC	
	TUE	17										AD 1	
	WED	18										2	
	THU	19										3	
	FRI	20										4	
3	SAT	21	437									5	
	SUN	22											
	MON	23											
	TUE	24											
	WED	25											
	THU	26											
	FRI	27											
4	SAT	28	430	381	332							12	
	SUN	29			331								
	MON	30			↖ Fall of Medo-Persai								
	TUE	31											
	WED	32											
	THU	33											
	FRI	34											
5	SAT	35	423									19	
	SUN	36											
	MON	37											
	TUE	38											
	WED	39											
	THU	40											
	FRI	41											
6	SAT	42	416	367	318	269	220	171				26	
	SUN	43						170		Jesus Begins Ministry ↗		27	
	MON	44						169		Jesus died at Calvary ↗		28	
	TUE	45				Fall of Grecia ↗		168				29	
	WED	46								Jewish Probation Ends after 33 ↘		30	
	THU	47										31	
	FRI	48										32	
7	SAT	49	409	360	311	362	213	184	115	66	17	33	

The starting time for counting these seventy sevens (seventy weeks) was the decree to rebuild Jerusalem given by Artaxerxes in 457 B.C. Adding 490 years to 457 B.C. gives A.D. 33. This is about 3 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. This marked the end of the Jewish trusteeship of God's Plan of Salvation. Around A.D. 34 finds the call of the Apostle Paul to take the Gospel to the Gentiles and the visit of Peter to Cornelius.

We see a progression of God's patience moving from 70 sabbatical years to 70 weeks of years. The next step in the progression of God's patience is likely to be 70 Jubilee cycles. Going beyond that we have 70 centuries (7000 years) for the limit of the existence of sin.

It appears that the time periods associated with apocalyptic prophecies prior to the start of the Jubilee calendar were literal; that is, a day was a day and a year was a year. So the 120 years given in the prophecy to Noah was a literal 120 years. In Daniel's prophecy regarding the 70 weeks, this was not 490 days but rather 490 years (or a year for a day). Assuming that the Jubilee calendar will come to a close, then we can assume that after that period of time, time periods will be literal rather than a day for a year. So, in order to determine what is or has happened and when, we will need to ascertain (or assume) that the event is occurring during or after the end of the Jubilee calendar. This determination is needed so we can decide if the number of days mentioned refers to literal days or years. As we start going over the various prophecies, this distinction will become clearer.

4002 BC until 1437 BC is the period prior to the Jubilee Calendar. Time is literal	3430 year period of Jubilee Calendar, starting in 1437 BC. Apocalyptic prophecies are on "a day = a year" basis	1994 &ff. Time is literal
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Which of the time periods of Daniel are literal and which are "a day equals a year?" Clearly the 70 weeks of Daniel 9 fall under the day = year scheme.

How should the **seven times** of Daniel 4:23-24 be interpreted? Generally a "time" is said to be a year (360 days). If we applied the day = year scheme to this prophecy, then we would be considering a 2520-year period of time. This prophecy applies to Belteshazzar and he is not likely to live that long. Logic would cause us to conclude that the seven years is a literal time even though we are in the time period of the operation of the Jubilee Calendar. So, does this cause us to invalidate the rule? No, because the prophecy is a "local" prophecy and not an "apocalyptic" prophecy. Therefore, the day = year scheme should not be applied.

On the other hand, if we consider the reign of the "little horn" of Daniel Chapter 7 we find that the saints will be handed over to the little horn for "a time, times, and half a time." (see 7:25) In Jubilee units this would be 1260 "days" with a day = a year making this 1260 years. So, now the question is, "can we find a 1260 year period of time when true Christians (saints) were (or will be) severely restrained or persecuted? A preview of Prophecy 2 background information shows that a coalition of "church and state" was started around AD 533 when Emperor Justinian granted to the Pope

THE SEVENTH DECADE - 10 JUBILEE CYCLES

Wk	Day	Yr	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle	Jubilee Cycle				
			61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
	SUN	1	1504	1553	1602	1651	1700	1749	1798	1847	1896	1945
	MON	2						Protestant ↗ Trusteeship Begins				
	TUE	3										
	WED	4										
	THU	5										
	FRI	6										
1	SAT	7	1510	1559	1608	1657	1706	1755	1804	1853	1902	1951
	SUN	8										
	MON	9										
	TUE	10										
	WED	11										
	THU	12	Luther's 96									
	FRI	13	↘ Theses									
2	SAT	14	1517	1566	1615	1664	1713	1762	1811	1860	1909	1958
	SUN	15										
	MON	16										
	TUE	17										
	WED	18										
	THU	19										
	FRI	20										
3	SAT	21	1524	1573	1622	1671	1720	1769	1818	1867	1916	1965
	SUN	22										
	MON	23										
	TUE	24										
	WED	25										
	THU	26					Declaration of Independence					
	FRI	27					↘					
4	SAT	28	1531	1580	1629	1678	1727	1776	1825	1874	1923	1972
	SUN	29										
	MON	30										
	TUE	31										
	WED	32										
	THU	33										
	FRI	34										
5	SAT	35	1538	1587	1636	1685	1734	1783	1832	1881	1930	1979
	SUN	36										
	MON	37										
	TUE	38										
	WED	39										
	THU	40										
	FRI	41										
6	SAT	42	1545	1594	1643	1692	1741	1790	1839	1888	1937	1986
	SUN	43					French Revolution ↘					
	MON	44					1793					
	TUE	45										
	WED	46										
	THU	47										
	FRI	48										
7	SAT	49	1552	1601	1650	1699	1748	1797	1846	1895	1944	1993

what amounted to absolute power as "Corrector of Heretics." There was a rapid succession of four different Popes (about one a year) until Vigilius took office in 537. The time period of 538 to the beginning of 1798 is 1260 in which the Papacy dominated and persecuted all who would not submit to the authority of the Roman Catholic Papacy. In February, 1798 the Pope was arrested and put in prison by Napoleon's general Berthier. Is this coincidence?

Another time period mentioned in Prophecy 3 is the 2300 "days" of Daniel 8:14. The KJV renders the word "days" while later translations read "evenings and mornings." Arguments can be made that an "evening and morning" is equal to a day as in Genesis Chapter 1 verses 5, 8, 13, 19, 23, and 31. Others will point out that the reference is to daily sacrifices - the evening sacrifice and the morning sacrifice. Therefore, 2300 evenings and mornings are 2300 sacrifices. Those that favor 2300 days, then apply the day = a year principle and come up with 2300 years until the re-consecration of the temple. Using the 457 BC decree to rebuild Jerusalem as a base line, William Miller added 2300 years and came up with the date of Christ's return to be somewhere between March 21, 1883 and March 21, 1884. This was the origin of the present day Adventist movement. There are various doctrinal difference among the Adventist (six different groups, the largest of which the Seventh-Day Adventist). Apparently, 1884 came and went without the Second Coming of Christ happening. Other students of prophecy who favor the 2300 years see that the "event" that occurred was not the return of Christ but a re-consecration or cleansing of the heavenly temple -- more on this when we get to Prophecy 3.

If the reference is really 2300 **sacrifices**, then the day = a year scheme does not necessarily apply and the time involved would/could be a literal 1150 days. Scholars have shown that this time period corresponds to the desecration of the temple in Jerusalem by Antiochus Epiphanes in 168 BC in which the altar was remove and about two months later an altar to Zeus was set up and used for a period of three years. Doing the math shows that this is about 1150 days.

I find the following to be quite interesting:

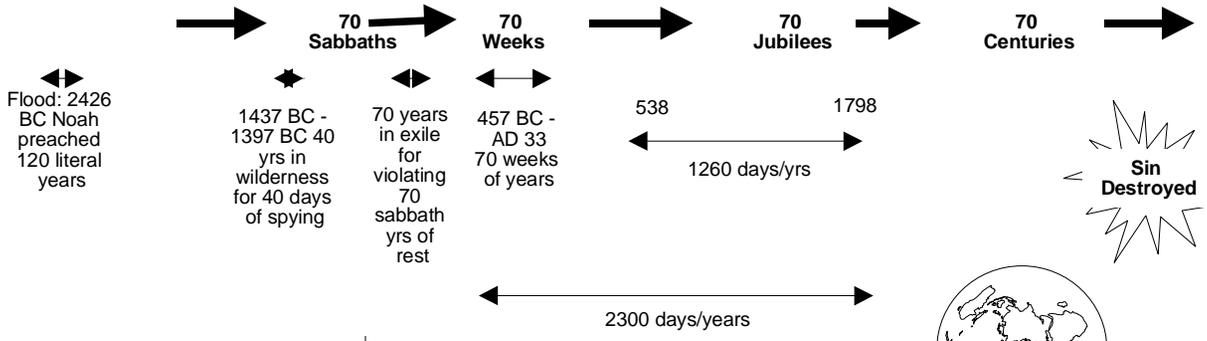
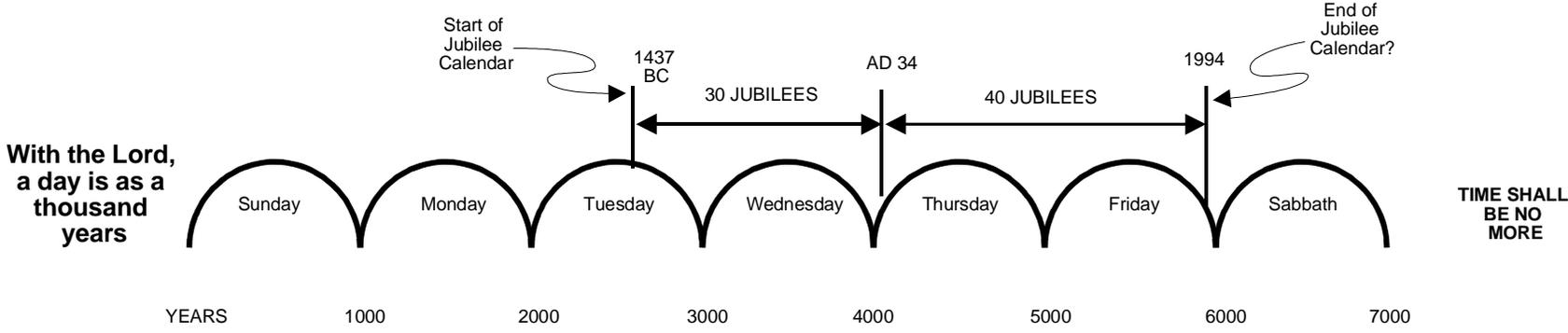
The decree to rebuild Jerusalem (457) was a Jubilee Year.

The year that the Gospel was taken to the Gentiles (34) was a Jubilee Year.

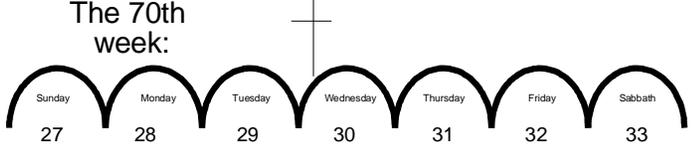
The year that the power of the Papacy was broken (1798) was a Jubilee Year.

1994 is a Jubilee Year, if the Jubilee Calendar is still in effect - or - even more interesting, it could be that 1994 is the first year since the Exodus that the Jubilee Calendar is **not** in effect.

WHAT TIME IS IT?



- SEVEN UNITS OF TIME**
- 1 rotation of earth = 1 day
 - 1 orbit of moon = 1 month
 - 1 orbit around sun = 1 year
 - A week of 7 days
 - A week of 7 years
 - A week of 7 weeks of years
 - A week of millenniums



TRUSTEESHIP FOR THE PLAN OF SALVATION

God's Plan of Salvation for mankind is *unchanging* and *unchanged*: "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith -- and that not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not of works, so that no one can boast." (Eph 2:8-9)

How was Noah and his family saved?

He believed God and proved his faith by obedience.

How was Abraham justified or declared righteous?

Abraham believed God and God accounted it to him as righteousness.

How do we know that Abraham believed God?

By his obedience to God's commands.

How are people saved today?

Ephesians 2:8-9 is still in effect.

Although the Plan of Salvation and the terms and conditions of salvation have not changed, the revelation of that Plan has been **progressive** throughout the time God has been dealing with mankind. The **fullness** of that revelation was climaxed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The Plan of Salvation has been *entrusted* to various groups throughout history. In this trust relationship, the trustees were to be about the business of bringing the knowledge of the Plan to others (the beneficiaries). The first trustee of the Plan was **Adam**. The trusteeship was to pass to succeeding generations through the firstborn. Even the first handoff of the trusteeship was marred by sin and instead of the trust being transfer to Adam's first born (Cain) it was instead transferred to Seth. The trust transfer to the firstborn was carried out for succeeding generations then to Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech and Noah.

Several interesting points can be noted regarding the *Trusteeship of the Patriarchs*:

1. There were only ten trustees from the time sin entered the world until the flood.
2. God used the special consideration given to the firstborn as an object lesson:
Jesus, the firstborn and only begotten Son was the faithful and true Trustee of the Plan of Salvation and would come to earth and redeem mankind.
3. The firstborn inherited everything and then distributed it to others as he saw fit.
Someday, Jesus, the firstborn of God, will receive the kingdom of the earth and then will distribute the wealth of His kingdom among His brothers and sisters.

After Noah died, it would appear that the trusteeship beginning with Adam was handed off to Noah's son Shem. We this is implied in the blessing that Noah gave to his three sons.

Genesis 9:26 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem;

There does not appear to be any clear leadership during the next three and a half centuries coming from the descendants of Shem. Spiritual activity during this time was mainly from the descendants of Ham. The most notable being that of Nimrod who was the driving force for the happenings in the area of Babel.

In the tenth generation after Noah, God reinitiated the trusteeship with **Abraham**. Looking at the generations and the ages given when certain descendants were born, it would appear that Abraham was born about the time when Noah died. When Abraham was 75 years old God called him to leave his home and go to Canaan.

Under the *Abrahamic trusteeship*, the right of the firstborn to receive the trust was time after time contravened by choices that God made. We find that Ishmael was rejected and Isaac was chosen. Even before they were born, God chose Jacob over Esau. Jacob's firstborn was Reuben and Jacob denied him the birthright because of promiscuity. The next two (Simeon and Levi) were denied because of their violence and cruelty. The birthright then went to Judah, the fourth in line. Judah's firstborn Er was killed by God because he was wicked. So, the passing on of the trusteeship disintegrated or fell apart. When the trustee fails to carry out the wishes of the grantor, then the potential beneficiaries cannot receive the gifts of the grantor.

With this failure, there followed a 400 year period in which the descendants of Jacob were slaves in Egypt. God then acted to reinitiate the trusteeship, this time the *entire nation of Israel* was to become the keeper of the trust.

Exodus 19:6 (NIV) “. . . you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

For 1470 years (30 Jubilee cycles) God worked with them to make them into a great nation. During this time the nation was severely chastised with 70 years of captivity in Babylon and then were given 70 “weeks” of years to act responsibly relative to the trust they had been given. In about AD 34 the trusteeship was transferred to the *Church*. Whereas Israel was to be a "kingdom of priests and a holy nation," the Church was to be "a spiritual house and a holy priesthood." (1 Peter 3:5) -- the same basic purpose: trustees of the Plan of Salvation.

In all cases, the duty of the trustee was to carry out the wishes of the grantor of the trust. God wanted the world to know of His salvation by grace, His power to save, and for people to have the happiness, peace, and joy that comes from victory over sin. Well how did the Church do with this trusteeship? By AD 533, Emperor Justinian granted the pope what amounted to absolute power as "Corrector of Heretics." From 533 until 537 there was succession of four different popes (John II, Agapetus, Sylvester and then Vigilius who was in office from 537 until 556. It is thought that after Vigilius consolidated his power (in 538), the "correcting of heretics" practice started and lasted for 1260 years as the "Catholic church" persecuted the saints. This dominance was brought to an end by the arrest of Pope Pius VI by Napoleon's General Berthier who captured and imprisoned him in February, 1798. The result was that the spread of the Gospel flourished and the modern missionary effort came into being so that the gospel was taken to many different lands. It would appear that the trusteeship of the Plan of Salvation is now with the *non-Catholic church*.

New question: So how is the evangelical church doing with the trust given to it? It started out great in the 1800's and the early part of the 1900's. However, percentage-wise church attendance and commitment is now at a low point. People are being born at a faster rate than people are being won to Christ. Many churches have become so worldly that any resemblance to the true Church is coincidental.

Each time a group failed in carrying out the purpose of the trusteeship, it was transferred to others. If the evangelical church is not doing the job, then who is left? Could it be that the 144,000 will be the new trustees?

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to

prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.
Revelation 7:1-4 (NIV)

The 144,000 come from "all of the tribes of Israel." Are these the literal tribes of physical Israel today? Some say "yes" and some say "no." Those who say "no" conclude this from the failure of Israel during the 490 year period of probation (the seventy sevens). At that point the stewardship for the Plan of Salvation was given to the Christian church. The true remnant of Israel remains and they belong to Christ. As Paul states in Galatians 3:29, "If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Also, from Romans 10:12, "For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile -- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him." Finally, from Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." [Having said all of this, we cannot overlook Romans Chapter 11 where Paul states "Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:" Of course, one interpretation is that "all Israel" is the believing remnant of physical of Israel PLUS the Gentiles who are saved.]

Some will try to look at events today in the physical nation of Israel and draw conclusions regarding the end times. People are looking for the temple to be rebuilt in Jerusalem and sacrifices to be re-instituted because they believe that the trusteeship for the Plan of Salvation is still with physical Israel. You may have heard or read something about the ashes of the red heifer or that a red heifer has been found. (For background information on this see Appendix 5, p. 92.) If we understand that this situation is NOT the case, then we can look for fulfillment of Scriptures in other places rather than looking for something to happen in Jerusalem. In Jesus' day, the Pharisees thought that physical ancestry was all that was important. They told Jesus, "'Abraham is our father,' they answered. 'If you were Abraham's children,' said Jesus, 'then you would do the things Abraham did.'"

In Matthew 23:38, Jesus pronounced divine judgment upon the 1400 years of Jewish history when He proclaimed, "Your house is left to you desolate."

When the Israel of God is redeemed at the Second Coming, it will be a numberless multitude (Rev. 7:9) These will be made up of all types of people and the 144,000 will be the first fruits of these types that will represent all the saved of the earth. These 144,000 will proclaim the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people during the time that the seven trumpets are sounding. If the population of the earth is around six billion people and if the 144,000 are uniformly distributed, then there will be one person to proclaim God's salvation for each 40,000 people.

Thus far the following groups have been identified as trustees of the Plan of Salvation:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. The Patriarchs | 4. The Christian Church -Catholic |
| 2. The Lineage of Abraham | 5. The Christian Church -Protestant |
| 3. The nation of Israel | 6. The 144,000 Servants of God |

The final trustees and the Seventh Group should be the Redeemed of all ages who will reign with Christ in the heavenlies.

THE FULL CUP PRINCIPLE

There are several prevailing views regarding God. These views span a broad gamut of ideas starting with "there is no God" and ranging all the way up to God controls everything and even put thoughts into our minds. Because there seemed to be no direct response of God to sin in the world, some had concluded that God is dead. Others believe that the world operates somewhat as a giant clock that God has wound up and that He is really not interested in our day-to-day activities. Because of such erroneous thinking people commit evil as if God does not see them or that He does not care. The Bible teaches us that our accountability will be strict and to the point of detail that we shall give an account for **every idle word**.

Matthew 12:36 (NIV) But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.

Solomon also knew this truth and shared it with us.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NIV) Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. {14} For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

It makes us uncomfortable to talk about judgment and the wrath of God. To put God's wrath into perspective, we need to review parts of Biblical history to see that God is consistent in dealing with people. The principle He has used in the past is the "*full cup principle*." The judgement of God can be either redemptive or destructive. When wickedness increases, God breaks His silence and issues warnings followed by redemptive judgements. If that does not work, then His judgements become destructive.

One of the clearest examples is the world prior to the flood in the days of Noah.

Genesis 6:5-7 (NIV) The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. {6} The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. {7} So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth--men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air--for I am grieved that I have made them."

God destroyed the world with a flood because the cup of iniquity had reached full measure. He broke His silence 120 years prior to the destruction and each day Noah worked on the ark was testimony of what God was going to do. When the appointed time came, God acted. When love and mercy will no longer produced repentance, then destructive action will follow.

Another example involves Abraham and the promise of Canaan to him and his descendants.

Genesis 15:13-16 (NIV) Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. {14} But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. {15} You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. {16} In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its **full measure**."

Notice that God would give the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants only **after** the sins of the people of that region had reach **full measure**. We are not told if the people had warnings, but we do know they had experienced famine. Moses also recognized that the Israelites were able to possess the land only because of the wickedness of those nations. It was **not** because of the righteousness of the Children of Israel. (Deut 9:3-5)

Judgement was brought upon Israel when they had **filled up the cup of iniquity** by provoking God with their worship of what they had made with their hands. In Jeremiah 25: 7-12 we hear God's promised judgement that the country would become a wasteland and that the people would serve the king of Babylon for seventy years. Then God's judgement would come upon the Babylonians. The same principle was to apply to the heathen nations and to those who knew God.

There are New Testament examples of accumulation of iniquity and storing up of wrath. Paul warned the Romans:

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are **storing up wrath against yourself** for the day of God's **wrath**, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God "will give to each person according to what he has done." But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be **wrath and anger**. Romans 2:5,6,8 (NIV)

Paul knew why the wrath of God was coming and told the believers at Colossea:

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the **wrath of God is coming**. Colossians 3:5-6 (NIV)

He encouraged the believers in Thessalonica to remain faithful until the enemies of Jesus had filled up their cup of iniquity:

For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews, {15} who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to all men {16} in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always **heap up their sins to the limit**. The **wrath of God** has come upon them at last. 1 Thess. 2:14-16 (NIV)

Jesus told the Pharisees that they were adding to the sins of those who had gone before them:

Fill up, then, the **measure of the sin of your forefathers!** "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being **condemned to hell?** Matthew 23:32-33 (NIV)

When a nation or individual reaches the limit of divine forbearance, God breaks His silence. His mercy with sin and the sinner has a limit. Jesus concluded His denunciation of the Jews:

Matthew 23:37-38 (NIV) "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, **how often** I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but **you were not willing**. Look, **your house is left to you desolate**.

The desolation to which Jesus referred and the wrath of God to which Paul referred in 1 Thessalonians anticipated the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

We should note in the cases of the people of Canaan, the Children of Israel before the exile, and the Jews after the exile that several generations added to the "cup of iniquity" even though the wrath of God was experienced only by the final generation.

If you were asked to sum up the happenings of the last 200 years relative to the proliferation of evil and iniquity, would you say that it has diminished or grown? If you were pressed to give an opinion as to whether the modern day church is likely to significantly impact the world and there be a genuine repentance and turning to God, what would you say? The probability is less than or greater than 50%? If you say less, then how low do you want to go? Less than 1%? It is not likely to happen! The floods in the midwest and the earthquakes in California have apparently had **no significant impact** on the spiritual condition of America or the rest of the world. The terrible epidemic of AIDS has done little or nothing to cause people to turn to God -- we are just going to look for a cure. So, would we conclude that the cup of iniquity is reaching or has reached the full point? If so, then judgements (redemptive and destructive) could begin in accordance with the way God has dealt with other people. When the Fourth Seal (of Revelation 6:7-8) is opened, then there will follow four traditional ways in which God has brought judgement in the past: sword, famine, plague, and wild beast.

Full Cup Principle References

But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. -- Matthew 12:36 (NIV)

{13} Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. {14} For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. -- Eccles 12:13-14 (NIV)

{5} The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. {6} The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. {7} So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth--men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air--for I am grieved that I have made them." -- Genesis 6:5-7 (NIV)

{13} Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. {14} But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. {15} You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. {16} In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." -- Genesis 15:13-16 (NIV)

{3} But be assured today that the LORD your God is the one who goes across ahead of you like a devouring fire. He will destroy them; he will subdue them before you. And you will drive them out and annihilate them quickly, as the LORD has promised you. {4} After the LORD your God has driven them out before you, do not say to yourself, "The LORD has brought me here to take possession of this land because of my righteousness." No, it is on account of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is going to drive them out before you. {5} It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the LORD your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. -- Deuteronomy 9:3-5 (NIV)

{7} "But you did not listen to me," declares the LORD, "and you have provoked me with what your hands have made, and you have brought harm to yourselves." {8} Therefore the LORD Almighty says this: "Because you have not listened to my words, {9} I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon," declares the LORD, "and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy them and make them an object of horror and scorn, and an everlasting ruin. {10} I will banish from them the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, the sound of millstones and the light of the lamp. {11} This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. {12} "But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the LORD, "and will make it desolate forever. -- Jeremiah 25:7-12 (NIV)

{5} But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. {6} God "will give to each person according to what he has done." {8} But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. -- Romans 2:5,6,8 (NIV)

{5} Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. {6} Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. -- Colossians 3:5-6 (NIV)

{14} For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews, {15} who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to all men {16} in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last. -- 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16 (NIV)

{32} Fill up, then, the measure of the sin of your forefathers! {33} "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? -- Matthew 23:32-33 (NIV)

{37} "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. {38} Look, your house is left to you desolate. -- Matthew 23:37-38 (NIV)

PROPHECY 1: The Awesome Statue

Daniel 2:29-45

Beginning point in time: Around 605 BC

Ending point in time: When Jesus sets up His kingdom.

Synopsis: This prophecy forms the foundation of the other apocalyptic prophecies. The chronology of seven world empires is laid out in very simple but forceful terms. The vision says nothing about the amount of time required for fulfillment. Not all of the events have occurred even to this day.

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
{29} "As you were lying there, O king, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen. {30} As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, ... so that you, O king, may know the interpretation and may understand what went through your mind.	This dream was concerning future events -- things to come. The vision came from "the revealer of mysteries" (God) but the interpretation was not given to the king. Instead the interpretation was given to Daniel. The purpose of the interpretation was that the king (and we) might understand what God is doing.
{31} "You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue--an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance.	This statue represents governments and events that would span the rest of human history.
{32} The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,	The head of the statue is revealed in verse 38 to be the Babylonian kingdom. The chest and arms are revealed in verse 39 to be the kingdom following Babylon which history has shown to be the Medo-Persian kingdom. Belly and thighs are also shown to be the next kingdom which we know to be that of Greece.
{33} its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.	The iron legs are generally accepted to be the Roman Empire (see also verse 40). Feet partly of iron and partly of clay are described in verse 41 as a "divided kingdom." The last great united and cohesive empire was that of Rome. Since that time, there have been many separate and independently acting nations that have come and gone on the scene of history. This is the condition of the world even until now.
{34} While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.	In verse 41 the ten toes are mentioned in addition to the feet. Just as the toes are part of the feet, in the latter time of the "feet" ten distinctive kingdoms (some strong and some weak) will be distinguished. These ten are yet to be identified.
{35} Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.	In verse 34 a rock of a non-natural origin was set apart, struck and broke up the statue (worldly kingdoms), and then became a huge mountain. Verse 45 says the rock was cut out of a mountain and then became a mountain. Mountains were places of worship (high places) and in verse 44 we see that it is God who is setting up His own kingdom in place of the worldly kingdoms. This will happen in the time of the "ten toes."

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
<p>{36} "This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. {37} You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; {38} in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.</p>	<p>Starting with the then present time for Daniel, he identified each part of the statue with earthly kingdoms. Notice that God had raised up the Babylonia Empire to bring judgment on Israel.</p>
<p>{39} "After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. {40} Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron--for iron breaks and smashes everything--and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.</p>	<p>Following the Babylonia Empire, the Persians came and then they were supplanted by Greece. The last great world empire was Rome.</p>
<p>{41} Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay.</p>	<p>There is a distinction made between the feet and the toes. The feet represent the loosely confederated but divided kingdoms that immediately followed the breakup of the Roman Empire.</p>
<p>{42} As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. {43} And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.</p>	<p>The toes will also be a divided group but more distinctive and separate (some weak and some strong). These will be made known in the latter days and are probably the same as the ten horns of the seven-headed beast of John's vision given in Revelation 13.</p>
<p>{44} "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.</p>	<p>We know from this verse that the time of the "toes" will be right before and at the time of the Second Coming of Jesus to set up His Kingdom.</p>
<p>{45} This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands--a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."</p>	<p>The reference to "a mountain" is a signal of the religious significance of the rock. "Not by human hands" should clue us in on the supernatural nature of what is to happen. All the world empires will be defeated when Christ returns.</p>

Babylon	Persia	Greece	Rome	Many Kings	10 Kings	Jesus	Holy
Head	Chest	Thighs	Legs	Feet	Toes	Rock	City
605 BC	538 BC	331 BC	168 BC	AD 476	1994	?	? 1000 ?
							years

PROPHECY 2: Four Great Beasts

Daniel 7:1-14

Beginning point in time: Around 600 BC

Ending point in time: End of the 1000-Year Reign of Jesus.

Synopsis: This prophecy builds on the foundation of the prophecies in Chapter 2. It confirms the progression of kingdoms in Daniel 2 so that historical footing can be found. The prophecy introduces a few new elements which fit into the broad picture established in Prophecy 1.

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
{7:1} In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream. {2} Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. {3} Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.	The first prophecy was given to the Babylonian king. This parallel revelation was given directly to Daniel. We will read about the four winds in the end time events preceding the opening of the 4th Seal (Prophecy 8). The great sea was likely the Mediterranean, but symbolically refers to the multitude of people and nations. The beasts are related to various kingdoms of the ancient world.
{4} "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, the heart of a man was given to it.	The metamorphosis of the lion describes the transformation Babylon from a fast moving, sweeping, dominant beast to a revelation that it too was accountable to the God of the universe.
{5} "And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'	Following Babylon was the Medo-Persian empire. The three ribs likely represented the last three empires that tried to block its domination of that area of the world. These were Lydia, Egypt, and Babylon.
{6} "After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. On its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.	The Grecian Empire was fast moving in its conquest (four wings). There were four empires (four head) that evolved after the death of Alexander the Great.
{7} "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast--terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.	The Roman Empire met all the criteria of being terrifying, frightening and powerful. The ten horns are the ten kings which rise out of the rebellion against Rome. These are leaders of the peoples known as Goths, Ostrogoths, Vandals, Burgundians, Franks, Lombards, Alameni, Suevi, Anglo-Saxons and Heruli.

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
<p>{8} "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.</p>	<p>The "little horn" (verse 8) was different compared to the other ten. It had eyes (could comprehend things the other didn't understand) and a mouth (claiming authority it didn't have -boasting). More on this in later verses.</p>
<p>{9} "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. {10} A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.</p>	<p>Between verse 8 and verse 9, a significant amount of time passes. We move from the time of the break up of the Roman Empire to the start of the "end time" events. This is obviously the throne room of God in heaven and is apparently the same scene that John saw in Chapter 4 of the Revelation. The opening of the books is also described by John.</p>
<p>{11} "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire.</p>	<p>This "horn" is hundreds of years removed from the "little horn" of verse 8. This particular horn (who is also referred to as the beast) makes his appearance after the start of the opening of the books (seals). The beast of the Revelation had seven heads and ten horns. Later we will see that the little horn in Daniel 7 appears as a head in the Revelation account.</p>
<p>{12} (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)</p>	<p>The other beasts are representative of the nations of the world that continue to exist until the end of the time of sin.</p>
<p>{13} "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. {14} He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.</p>	<p>This is apparently at the final Judgement where the authority to judge all the nations is given to Jesus. This is the point where every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Timing wise, this will be at the end of the 1000-year reign of Christ and the saints that will reign with Him. THE REMAINING VERSES IN DANIEL 7 AMPLIFY THE VISION IN 1-14</p>

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
<p>{15} "I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. {16} I approached one of those standing there and asked him the true meaning of all this. "So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things:</p>	<p>The explanation of Daniel's vision is given to him in the following verses.</p>
<p>{17} "The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth.</p>	<p>The four kingdoms have been discussed as Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.</p>
<p>{18} But the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever--yes, for ever and ever.'</p>	<p>The ultimate outcome at the end of it all.</p>
<p>{19} "Then I wanted to know the true meaning of the fourth beast, ...{20} I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell--the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully.</p>	<p>See explanation given for verse 7.</p>
<p>{21} As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, {22} until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.</p>	<p>This prophecy tells of a time when the church would fall into significant oppression but that the time would be limited. The end of the domination of the "little horn" would correspond to events in Heaven associated with what both Daniel and John saw happening.</p>
<p>{23} "He gave me this explanation: "The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom . . .</p>	<p>The Roman Empire</p>
<p>{24} The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.</p>	<p>In the decade of the 530's, the Papacy waged war against the Heruli, Ostrogoths, and Vandals over a religious argument concerning the deity of Christ (the Arian Controversy - Arius taught that Jesus was not equal to the Father). The dominance of the Papacy over the other 7 tribal nations is a matter of history.</p>

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
<p>{25} He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.</p>	<p>The boasting of the "little horn" is shown as "speaking against the Most High^a, oppression of the saints^b and changing of set times and laws^c. The period of power for the "little horn" is time, times, and half a time (3.5 years x 360 days/yr) or 1260 "days." Now since the Jubilee Calendar is in effect and this is an apocalyptic prophecy, a "day" equals a year. The 1260-year reign of the Papacy ended in 1798. In verse 21 this "horn" is described as waging war against the saints and defeating them. ^{a,b,c} See Footnote</p>
<p>{26} "But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. {27} Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'</p>	<p>The scene shifts from earth to heaven and Heaven's court is convened. The timing is coincidental with the end of the 1260-year domination of the Papacy. Verse 22 says that the "little horn" defeated the saints until the Ancient of Days pronounced judgement in favor of the saints and they (the saints) possessed the Kingdom (the Trusteeship was switched from the Catholic Church to the Protestant Church).</p>
<p>{28} "This is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself."</p>	

a. **Speaking against the Most High:** The title of the pope in Latin is "Vicarius Filii Dei," and means "in place of the Son of God." In English, differing forms of this title are used, for example, "Vicar of Jesus Christ" or "Vicar of God." The meaning is still the same: in place of Jesus or in place of God. Taking the place of God is what Lucifer attempted to do in his rebellion.

b. **Oppression of the saints:** In the 1260-year reign of the Catholic Church, it has been estimated that tens of millions of people were sentenced to death for refusing to receive its doctrines.

c. **Changing of set times and laws:** In AD 787 the Second Nicean Council removed the second commandment and divided the tenth into two separate commandments so that 10 would remain. The fourth commandment was reduced to a few words so questions would not be raised regarding the day of worship.

Babylon Lion	Persia Bear	Greece Leopard	Rome Monster	10 horns	Little Horn	Judgment Day	Close of Probation in fire	Beasts
605 BC	538 BC	331 BC	168 BC	AD 476	AD 538	Time 1798	1000	years
					times	half time		

PROPHECY 3: The Ram and the Goat

Daniel 8:1-27

Beginning point in time: Around 538 BC

Ending point in time: Just before the Second Coming of Jesus.

Synopsis: This prophecy builds directly on Daniel 7. The Ram and the Goat in this prophecy correspond to the Bear and Leopard in the previous vision. This prophecy helps in tying several other prophecies together relative to their timing.

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
{8:1} In the third year of King Belshazzar's reign, I, Daniel, had a vision, after the one that had already appeared to me. {2} In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam; in the vision I was beside the Ulai Canal.	Establishes the time and place of the vision. This vision occurred after the one concerning the Lion, Bear, etc.
{3} I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long. One of the horns was longer than the other but grew up later. {4} I watched the ram as he charged toward the west and the north and the south. No animal could stand against him, and none could rescue from his power. He did as he pleased and became great.	The ram with two horns represents kingdom of the Medes and the Persians. The two horns are two kings: the king of the Medes and the king of the Persians.
{5} As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground. {6} He came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and charged at him in great rage. {7} I saw him attack the ram furiously, striking the ram and shattering his two horns. The ram was powerless to stand against him; the goat knocked him to the ground and trampled on him, and none could rescue the ram from his power.	The goat represents the Grecian world empire. The great horn is Alexander the Great.
{8} The goat became very great, but at the height of his power his large horn was broken off, and in its place four prominent horns grew up toward the four winds of heaven.	The four horns represent the four generals that eventually took Alexander's place when he died. Historically, these are Cassander, Lysimachus, Ptolemy and Seleucus.

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
<p>{9} Out of one of them came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land. {10} It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them.</p>	<p>A "little horn that grows" comes of "one of them." Interpretation varies as to whether this horn came directly out of one of the four horns (i.e., was a product of one of their kingdoms, thus implying the same time frame) or if the horn came out of one of the four winds (i.e., it was an independent occurrence and perhaps divorced in time from the Grecian empire). Some scholars have pointed out that the pronoun "them" used here is feminine and, therefore, its antecedent cannot be "one of the four horns" but "one of the four winds."</p>
<p>{11} It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low. {12} Because of rebellion, the host of the saints and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.</p>	<p>Those who endorse the "same time frame" interpretation can point to the terrible things done in 168 BC by Antiochus Epiphanes IV, a Seleucid king. Others separate this horn in time and believe it is the same as the little horn of Daniel Chapter 7, thus equating it with the Papacy. Both views share a common problem: neither set of events has little or anything to do with the final days of earth's history. Twice Gabriel told Daniel that this vision concerns the <u>appointed time of the end</u>. (Dan 8:17,19) [SEE "TIMING" NOTES AT THE END.]</p>
<p>{13} Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, "How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled--the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?"</p>	<p>It appears that as many a five questions have been asked: "How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled -- the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?" (Dan 8:13) 1) How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled? 2) How long before the daily sacrifice is taken away? 3) How long will be the rebellion that causes desolation? 4) How long will the purpose of the sanctuary be surrendered? 5) How long will the host of saints be trampled underfoot?</p>
<p>{14} He said to me, "It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated." [SEE NOTES ON 2300 DAYS]</p>	<p>There is disagreement as to whether this answers the entire question in verse 13, just a part of it, or maybe an entirely different question.</p>

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
<p>{15} While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there before me stood one who looked like a man. {16} And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision." {17} . . . "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the <u>time of the end.</u>"</p>	<p>Some think that the "one who looked like a man" was a vision of Jesus. The significant point for us to learn is that the vision concerns the time of the end. (See previous material on the appointed time of the end.)</p>
<p>{18} While he was speaking to me, . . . {19} He said: "I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end.</p>	<p>Notice that the time of wrath and the appointed time of the end appear to be connected.</p>
<p>{20} The two-horned ram . . .{21} The shaggy goat . . . {22} The four horns . . .</p>	<p>See comment on earlier verses of the vision.</p>
<p>23} "In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise.</p>	<p>The later part is perhaps the key to understanding this passage. Stern-faced king is thought to be the anti-Christ or the physical appearing of the devil.</p>
<p>{24} He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people. {25} He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes.</p>	<p>He will appear in conjunction with a seven-headed, ten horned beast which is thought to represent a coalition of the world's religions and major governments which he will control. He will claim to be God (see verse 11) and will lead the world to reject the work of Jesus in His intercessory ministry for the saints in heaven (truth thrown to the ground).</p>
<p>Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power. {26} "The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distiant future."</p>	<p>In verse 25 the "destruction, but not by human power" is thought to refer to the defeat of the devil by the "sword that comes out of the mouth of Jesus" at the Second Coming.</p>

PROPHECY 3
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TIMING NOTES

1a. Those who argue that this "horn" will appear in the distant future (see verse 26) claim that this is the physical appearing of the devil during the time of the end. This will be in the latter days of the reign of earthly kings. Verse 23 tells us that rebels will have become completely wicked. The destruction of the mighty men and the holy people would then refer to the persecution of the saints who refuse to receive the mark of the Beast as described in the Revelation.

2a. If this "horn" is the physical appearing of the devil, then the growth mentioned in verse 10 would refer to the large following he will have. He will appear in conjunction with a seven-headed, ten horned beast which is thought to represent a coalition of the world's religions and major governments which he will control. He will claim to be God (see verse 11) and will lead the world to reject the work of Jesus in His intercessory ministry for the saints in heaven (truth thrown to the ground).

3a. In verse 25 the "destruction, but not by human power" is thought to refer to the defeat of the devil by the "sword that comes out of the mouth of Jesus" at the Second Coming.

1b. Those who claim this "little horn" is Antiochus Epiphanes sees him as a "type" of the even more ruthless beast of the last days. The "latter part of their" reign would then refer to the latter part of the Grecian empire. The complete wickedness of rebels may refer to the condition of Judah at that time and the destruction of the mighty men and the holy people would refer to those who died for their faith during this time.

2b. If this "horn" is Antiochus, then the growth would refer to his starting out small and then extending his influence. His claim to be God (Prince of the host) and the taking away of the daily sacrifice would relate to the three year period when an altar to Zeus was set up in the temple in Jerusalem.

3b. In 164 BC, Antiochus died at Tabae in Persia through illness or an accident.

NOTES ON 2300 DAYS The 2300 evenings and mornings have been variously interpreted as

a. 2300 evenings and morning are 2300 **days**. If this is apocalyptic and if it is in the time the Jubilee calendar is in effect then, this really means 2300 years. The starting point is argued to be the same as the starting point for the 70 weeks of Daniel 9 (457 BC). This would put the completion of the re-consecration of the temple in the year 1844. The temple in Jerusalem was not around at that time, so this must refer to a happening in the heavenlies.

b. 2300 **sacrifices** (one each morning and one each evening) for a period of 1150 actual days. This would place the fulfillment of the prophecy about AD 165 when Judas Maccabeus cleansed and re-consecrated the temple in Jerusalem after Antiochus IV had removed the Lord's altar and set up a pagan altar. The total time that the Lord's altar was removed was about three years and nearly two months. This is about 1150 actual days.

ASIDE: It is an interesting argument regarding the cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven:

The sanctuary that was built by the Children of Israel when they were in the wilderness was a representation of the sanctuary in heaven. The ceremonies and rites conducted there were but a shadow of the process or services actually taking place in heaven.

"They serve at a sanctuary that is copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: 'See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.'" (Heb 8:5)

The re-consecration (or cleansing) of the temple on earth was a yearly happening. It occurred on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This day marked the end of a 10- day period of penitence of sins. When the trumpets sounded on the first day of the seventh (religious) month, the people were being warned that probation or mercy (for that year) was about to end. Each person was to search his heart and make all wrongs right before the 10th day. All sins had to be transferred from the individual to the sanctuary before the 10th day. Failure to have sins transferred to the sanctuary meant the sinner must bear the penalty for his own sins.

How was the transfer of sins from the person to the sanctuary accomplished? By the blood of the sacrifice. On the morning of the 10th day, the sanctuary was cleansed of all accumulated sins by the high priest. So, we might ask, "Why did the heavenly sanctuary need cleansing and what defiled it?" Just as the sins of the people were recorded on the horns of the altar each day and had to be cleansed each year, the sins of people on earth who are trusting in the shed blood of Jesus are accurately and fully recorded in heaven's sanctuary and will be erased when the sanctuary is cleansed. Those who have not put their trust in the shed blood of Jesus will have to bear their own sins.

Comparison of Prophecies 2 and 3

Babylon	Persia	Greece	Rome	10 horns	Little Horn	Judgment Day	Close of Probation	Beasts in fire
Lion	Bear	Leopard	Monster	AD 476	AD 538 times	Time	1798	1000 years
(Babylon)	Persia	Greece	"Horn"	AD 476	AD 538	Time	1798	1000 years
(Lion)	Ram	Goat	Power??			2300 days?	1844	1994
(605 BC)	538 BC	331 BC	168 BC	AD 476	AD 538	Time	1798	1844
						times		
						half time		

PROPHECY 4: The Seventy Sevens

DANIEL 9:24-27

Beginning point in time: 457 BC

Ending point in time: Destruction of Jerusalem

Synopsis: This prophecy adds detail to the matrix. Historical reference is found to identify the beginning of the 70 weeks of this prophecy. Many teach that the 70th week of this prophecy has been deferred until the time of the end. However, if it immediately follows the 69th week, then the events described in the latter part of this prophecy have already occurred. Arguments can be made that the ministry and death of Jesus confirm the harmony of the decree in 457 BC to re-build Jerusalem with the 70 weeks or 490 years of this prophecy. The set of events and their timing confirm the operation of the Jubilee Calendar.

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
{24} "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.	490 years were given to the nation of Israel as a "last chance" to repent and turn to God. If they had demonstrated obedience to God, then the Messiah would have been recognized and welcomed and a "kingdom of everlasting righteousness" would have been established and all the prophecies regarding tribulation, the wrath of God, and the destruction of the world would have been sealed up and never needed.
{25} "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.	The 70 time periods were divided into periods of 7, 62, and 1. No specific reference is given to the first period of seven "weeks." The wall of the city was completed in 445 BC. Some have thought that it took the 49 years to complete the restoration of the city. The sum of the 7 and 62 weeks (or 483 years) takes us to the start of the ministry of Jesus. Most students of prophecy agree up to this point. From this point forward is a multitude of different of ideas of <i>when</i> the next "week" occurs and <i>who</i> the participants are.
{26} After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.(NIV)	The Anointed One (NIV) or the Messiah (KJV) is generally agreed to be Jesus. Being cut off (but not for Himself) is thought to be a reference to the crucifixion. The reference to the "ruler who will come" is claimed by various groups to apply to the devil who influenced Rome to destroy Jerusalem and the temple, the Roman rulers themselves, or the devil in the latter days of his physical appearance.

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
<p><i>An alternate reading of verse 26 regarding the end coming, war, etc. is from the KJV: "the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined."</i></p>	<p><i>The flood may simply refer to the mass of Roman soldiers who swarmed over the area. The implication I see is that the desolation had already been set to happen or "determined" -- see Deut 28 for the curse that was to come upon the nation for disobedience.</i></p>
<p>{27} He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. "</p>	<p>The interpretation of the "confirmation of the covenant for one week" is controversial. Some think this refers to the devil making a deal with physical Israel in the last days and then disrupting the sacrifices. This interpretation would require that the 70th week has been put off until some time in the future. This interpretation would require that the sacrificial system be restarted and the temple in Jerusalem be rebuilt. (This is the commonly held belief among many evangelical Christians.)</p> <p>Others believe that physical Israel is out of the picture in the endtime and they are not a factor. If the "one" confirming the covenant for one week is Jesus, then that week occurred immediately following the 69 weeks and the many would refer to those who put their faith in His completed work. If we assume Jesus is the One confirming the covenant, then the reference to putting an end to sacrifice and offering in the middle of the "seven" is related to His death on the cross and the ending of the sacrificial system, the rending of the veil in the temple, etc. Referring to the Jubilee Calendar, we can see that the middle of that 70th week (the Wednesday year) is the year Jesus died on the cross.</p>
<p><i>An alternate reading for verse 27 (footnote of the NIV Study Bible) is as follows: "And one who causes desolation will come upon the pinnacle of the temple until the end that is decreed is poured out on the desolated city."</i></p>	<p>Who causes desolations (Ps 46:8)? Is it not the Lord? Who decreed that "your house is left unto you desolate?" (Matt 23:38)</p>

PROPHECY 5: The Rise of the Roman Empire

DANIEL 11:2-35

Beginning point in time: 538 BC

Ending point in time: The appointed time of the end.

Synopsis: This prophecy provides fascinating details which can be related to historical happenings. By assigning names to the various pronouns given in this prophecy we can see the flow of historical events.

The events described in Daniel Chapter 10 are introductory to this prophecy. Chapter 10 is the familiar story of the angel who brought this prophecy to Daniel. It tells of spiritual warfare and of time delays in the angel being able to bring the answer to Daniel's prayer.

Points of Interest:

1. The extent of the divergence of ideas as to the participants is demonstrated by considering verse 31. The NIV Study Bible favors a "before Christ" timing and relates this event to Antiochus Epiphanes' desecration of the Temple by setting up an altar to Zeus. This reference does acknowledge this to be a "prefiguring" of a similar abomination that Jesus predicted would happen in the last days. Other writers see this event to be the same as that referred to by Jesus and relate it to Titus the Roman general who put Jerusalem under siege and eventually plundered the city and completely destroyed the temple so that daily religious services could not (and still cannot) be conducted there.
2. The various "schools of thought" are also evident in the interpretation given to verse 33. Those favoring a "before Christ" timing see "those who are wise" as the godly leaders of the Jewish resistance movement called the Hasidim. Those preferring a later timing see "those who are wise" as the faithful, spirit-filled Christians that kept the true faith alive during the 1260 years of domination by the Roman Catholic Papacy.
3. The "before Christ" group would interpret the reference to "receiving a little help" as applying to the guerrilla uprising led by Mattathias and his son Judas Maccabeus which lead to the restoration of the temple. The "later timing" group see this verse as referring to the fact that a remnant survived the persecution of the Catholics. In verse 34 "many joining" is thought to refer to the popularization of Christianity and the acceptance into the church many who are not sincere during the age in which we live.
4. Both groups see verse 35 as referring to the *time of the end*.

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
{11:2} "Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will appear in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.	Historically, these were Cambyses, Smerdis (the pretender), and Darius I. The fourth (richer) king was Xerxes.
3 Then a mighty king will appear, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases. 4 After he has appeared, his empire will be broken up and parcelled out towards the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others.	Alexander the Great fulfilled this prophecy. His empire did not go to his descendants but was divided up among four of his generals: Ptolemy (South/Egypt), Cassander (West/Macedonia), Lysimachus (North/Asia), and Seleucus (East/Syria). These did not have the same power as Alexander and eventually Rome took control of the empire.
5 ¶ "The king of the South will become strong, but one of his commanders will become even stronger than he and will rule his own kingdom with great power.	Ptolemy (king of the South) did increase in strength. However, another of Alexander's commanders, Seleucus became more powerful ruling all except Egypt. From this point the ruler of the combined empire is referred to as the king of the North.

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
<p>6 After some years, they will become allies. The daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to make an alliance, but she will not retain her power, and he and his power {Or offspring} will not last. In those days she will be handed over, together with her royal escort and her father {Or child (see Vulgate and Syriac)} and the one who supported her.</p>	<p>About 70 years after the death of Alexander the descendants of these two generals (Ptolemy Philadelphus and Seleucus Antiochus) formed an alliance. This was sealed by the marriage of Bernice (daughter of the king of Egypt to Antiochus the king of Syria. Antiochus had divorced his wife Laodice to marry Bernice. After her father died, Antiochus took Laodice back and spurned Bernice who had already had a child by Antiochus. Fearful that he might change his mind again and that the son of Bernice would ascend to the throne, Laodice arranged the murders of Antiochus, Bernice and her son. Laodice's son became king.</p>
<p>7 "One from her family line will arise to take her place. He will attack the forces of the king of the North and enter his fortress; he will fight against them and be victorious. 8 He will also seize their gods, their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt. For some years he will leave the king of the North alone.</p>	<p>Bernice's brother (Ptolemy III) sought to rescue his sister and her son but was too late. In revenge for their deaths, he invaded Syria and kept an occupation force there for 27 years. He also took much of the Syrian wealth to Egypt.</p>
<p>9 Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country. 10 His sons will prepare for war and assemble a great army, which will sweep on like an irresistible flood and carry the battle as far as his fortress.</p>	<p>After several years Seleucus II invaded Egypt to recover the gold and silver but he was defeated and returned home empty handed. His two sons Seleucus III and Antiochus III launched an attack against the next king of the South (Ptolemy IV).</p>
<p>11 "Then the king of the South will march out in a rage and fight against the king of the North, who will raise a large army, but it will be defeated. 12 When the army is carried off, the king of the South will be filled with pride and will slaughter many thousands, yet he will not remain triumphant.</p>	<p>The Egyptian king was victorious and carried the battle far to the north and the east (some say as far as the borders of India). As you can imagine, many were killed. Ptolemy IV and his wife died mysteriously and their five-year-old son Ptolemy V ascended to the throne.</p>
<p>13 For the king of the North will muster another army, larger than the first; and after several years, he will advance with a huge army fully equipped 14 "In those times many will rise against the king of the South. The violent men among your own people will rebel in fulfilment of the vision, but without success. 15 Then the king of the North will come and build up siege ramps and will capture a fortified city. The forces of the South will be powerless to resist; even their best troops will not have the strength to stand.</p>	<p>Antiochus III sought to take advantage of the vulnerable position of Egypt and formed an alliance with Philip (king of Macedonia) to divide the kingdom of Egypt between themselves. He had to put down a rebellion among his own people in the meantime. The large army invaded the territory controlled by the Egyptians and captured Sidon.</p>

Various commentators differ in the historical participants to which the pronouns refer. In what follows Part A will address this prophecy assuming that all part are fulfilled before Jesus is born and the participants are descendants of the empire of Greece. This is the generally accepted interpretation by many Bible Scholars. Part B will address this prophecy in such a time frame and corresponding events as to allow the “abomination that causes desolation” to occur after the time of Christ and will put the “appointed time of the end” at a time in the future from when we live. The participants in this view involve the Romans. It is interesting that the Scripture references are general enough to apply to both sets of characters.

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS - PART A	COMMENTS - PART B
<p>16 The invader will do as he pleases; no-one will be able to stand against him. He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land and will have the power to destroy it.</p>	<p>Antiochus was able to act with impunity throughout the region since Egypt was not powerless to stop him and he move into Judea.</p>	<p>Many years later the Roman Empire held sway over the entire known world and ruled with destructive power. Their presence was also in Judea.</p>
<p>17 He will determine to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will make an alliance with the king of the South. And he will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plans {Or but she} will not succeed or help him.</p>	<p>Antiochus gave his daughter Cleopatra I to Ptolemy V in 194 BC. Since Rome was a protector of Egypt, he could not take it by force so he sought to infiltrate the empire via this marriage. However, Cleopatra I aligned herself with the Egyptians rather than her father's cause.</p>	<p>The invaders from the north are now the Romans. Julius Caesar made an alliance with Ptolemy XII whose two children Ptolemy XIII and Cleopatra VII (this is the famous Cleopatra) were put under the guardianship of Rome. [Cleopatra VII had illicit love affairs with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony. She was eventually proclaimed queen of Egypt but following the death of Mark Antony Cleopatra committed suicide.]</p>
<p>18 Then he will turn his attention to the coastlands and will take many of them, but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back upon him. 19 After this, he will turn back towards the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more.</p>	<p>Antiochus then took a large fleet into the Aegean sea; and took Rhodes, Samos, Colophon, and Phocaea, and many other islands; and also several cities of Greece and Asia, which lay on the sea coasts. Rome responded, defeated him, and require him to pay restitution. He was killed in an attempt to steal the money to pay the fine.</p>	<p>Julius Caesar then turned his attention to the coast of Africa and subdued much of it. In doing this he put an end to the rebellion of Scipio. He returned to Rome and received many honors but eventually died at the hands of assassins.</p>
<p>20 "His successor will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendour. In a few years, however, he will be destroyed, yet not in anger or in battle.</p>	<p>Seleucus Philopator, the eldest son of Antiochus the great who reigned for 12 years. He laid heavy taxes on his subjects, to gratify his greed and to raise the thousand talents yearly to pay the Romans. He died through the treachery of Heliodorus his treasurer.</p>	<p>Octavius (later named Augustus) sent out tax collectors over all the empire so he could maintain royal splendor. He reigned forty years. He died of natural causes.</p>
<p>21 ¶ "He will be succeeded by a contemptible person who has not been given the honour of royalty. He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue. 22 Then an overwhelming army will be swept away before him; both it and a prince of the covenant will be destroyed.</p>	<p>Antiochus Epiphanes was called "vile", being a very immoral man, given to drunkenness, lasciviousness, uncleanness, and unnatural lusts. He apparently used trickery to gain support when he succeeded his brother as king. He disposed of his opposition and did as he wished. The prince of the covenant is thought by some to Ptolemy Philometor king of Egypt.</p>	<p>Tiberius was adopted by Augustus. He was a contemptible person but a brilliant general. His ascent to emperor was achieved via the help of his manipulating mother, Livia. He achieved victories against armies that opposed him in Germany, Armenia and Parthia. During his reign, Jesus (the Prince of the Covenant) grew up, initiated His ministry and was crucified.</p>

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS - PART A	COMMENTS - PART B
23 After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power.	Ptolemy Philometor made an alliance with Antiochus Epiphanes in the lifetime of Cleopatra I, the sister of Antiochus. Antiochus tried to gain the kingdom for himself, pretending great friendship to the Egyptian.	This was the pattern Rome used to dominate many nations. Mutual assistance pacts were made and then with their superior army would dominate the other nation.
24 When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses-- but only for a time.	These provinces could refer to additional conquests by Antiochus in Syria, Phoenicia or Memphis in Egypt. This domination continued until Rome intervened.	Rome would concentrate on the richest area and distribute the wealth they took to the mercenaries who made up their ever-increasing army. As will all who exploit others, Rome's rule would come to an end.
25 "With a large army he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South. The king of the South will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him. 26 Those who eat from the king's provisions will try to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle.	Prior to this Antiochus had tried to gain control of Egypt by deception. This time he attacked with a large army. Egypt raised up a large army also but was not able to withstand the onslaught of the invaders. Apparently Ptolemy received bad advice from those closest to him and was a major reason he was defeated.	In the battle of Actium, Augustus brought his army against Antony (who was in control of Egypt - the South). Antony was not able to defend his positions because of internal plots devised against him. Though Antony's army was routed, he still remained influential in the area.
27 The two kings, with their hearts bent on evil, will sit at the same table and lie to each other, but to no avail, because an end will still come at the appointed time.	The Alexandrians had set up Euergetes to be king in place of Ptolemy and Antiochus offered to provide protection for him in this civil strife. They met together to work out a pact of supposedly mutual benefit.	Both Antony and Augustus wanted control of the area and they held a summit meeting in which both attempted to gain advantage.
28 The king of the North will return to his own country with great wealth, but his heart will be set against the holy covenant. He will take action against it and then return to his own country.	Antiochus, with the spoils of Egypt, and the gifts and presents he had received there returned home. "After that he went up against Israel and looted the sanctuary, taking away the golden altar, the candlestick, and the vessels thereof." (1 Maccabees 1)	Augustus returned to Rome with much wealth after his victory at Actium. Many years later Vespasian (then ruler of Rome, A.D. 66) angered by the action of the Jews attacked Jerusalem and other cities in Israel. Upon hearing of the death of Tiberius he returned to Rome without defeating Jerusalem.

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS - PART A	COMMENTS - PART B
<p>29 "At the appointed time he will invade the South again, but this time the outcome will be different from what it was before. 30 Ships of the western coastlands will oppose him, and he will lose heart. Then he will turn back and vent his fury against the holy covenant. He will return and show favour to those who forsake the holy covenant.</p>	<p>Antiochus again invaded Egypt in a pretense to put down the Alexandrians effort to establish Euergetes as king. His real purpose was to seize control for himself. He was not successful since Ptolemy and Euergetes had agreed to ally themselves against Antiochus and had called for help from the Romans who sent ship from Macedonia to help.</p>	<p>Titus, the son of Vespasian, led an expedition in the area. He was not successful in the battles in the western provinces so he turn toward Jerusalem to complete the job that was started some four years earlier by Vespasian. He showed favor to those who showed allegiance to Rome.</p>
<p>31 "His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation. .</p>	<p>Antiochus' forces attacked Jerusalem and polluted it. Harlots were brought into the holy place and they built a high place upon the altar, and sacrificed swine upon it. Josephus says, that he forbad the daily sacrifices to be offered, which were used to be offered to God. The abomination that causes desolation was likely an edict: ``And whosoever was found with any the book of the testament, or if any committed to the law, the king's commandment was, that they should put him to death." (1 Maccabees 1:57)</p>	<p>Titus's forces completely destroyed the temple complex so that daily religious services could not be carried out. Then they carried out the decree that Jerusalem was to be destroyed and left desolate since it had violated the grace of the 70 Jubilee weeks that had been granted to the Jews more than 500 years earlier.</p>
<p>32 With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him</p>	<p>Jewish religious practices were outlawed under penalty of death and for fear of death many abandoned the covenant. Others died.</p>	<p>Much later, under Constantine, the Pope was given power to do as he pleased and corruption filled the Catholic church.</p>
<p>33 "Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered.</p>	<p>Some tried to encourage the Jews to remain faithful and many people were tortured and killed by the forces of Antiochus.</p>	<p>During the 1260 years of papal rule, a remnant kept the true faith and taught others. The forces of the pope killed many believers during this time.</p>
<p>34 When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them.</p>	<p>Mattathias and his sons had success in resisting the forces of Antiochus. Some of those who had been apostates from their religion pretended to be on their side, and commended their bravery and courage.</p>	<p>Many of the early reformer died without much help. Eventually, the reign of holy terror of the papal system was brought to an end and true Christianity grew. As it became popular, it has attracted those who are just cultural Christians.</p>

35 Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.	Distresses and calamities will come upon people which will try their faith so that the chaff will be separated from the wheat.	The "stumbling" probably refers to the end-time tribulation which will be used to sort out those with true faith from those who are not sincere.
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PROPHECY 6: The Physical Appearance of the devil

Beginning point in time: Physical appearing of the devil.

Ending point in time: The Second Coming

Synopsis: This prophecy expands upon the Third Prophecy (Daniel 8) . The "horn" of Daniel 8 is referred to as the "king of the North" in this prophecy. This second picture allows us to learn more about the physical appearing of the devil which happens during the "fifth trumpet" (Revelation 9:1-11). In Prophecy 3, the horn is identified as a mighty king. In Prophecy 6, he is the undisputed king of the North (the usual direction from which destruction comes). This king will make war against and persecute the saints as did the "little horn" of Daniel 7.

(For your convenience the Reference mentioned in the Comments are printed on Page 39 - the fourth page of this Prophecy.)

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
{36} "The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place.	Some think this refers to the devil physically appearing when he will claim to be God. This is the "man of lawlessness" referred to by Paul in 2 Thes 2:3-12 . He is also referred to as the "eighth king" in Rev 17:11 .
{37} He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.	Showing no respect for the gods which religious people of the world have worshiped. That includes the Messiah (the one desired by women --the Holy One of Israel to which many Israelite women had hoped to give birth). He will unite all religions into one and those whose names are not found in the Book of Life will worship him.

<p>{38} Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his fathers he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. {39} He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price. {40} "At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood. {41} He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand. {42} He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. {43} He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Nubians in submission.</p>	<p>"Honor to the god of fortresses" is a reference to the use of force to unite the world into a new world order which will be a combination of religious and political systems. The reference to the mightiest fortresses may be related to "true believer" who do not acknowledge him as God. Any nation that does not submit to his demands will be attacked militarily. Those who support him will be rewarded.</p>
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PROPHECY 6
PAGE 2

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
<p>{44} But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many.</p>	<p>The reports from the East and the North probably refer to the event noted in Daniel 12:1. The signaling of the Second Coming of Jesus that will appear in the Eastern sky (Matt 24:27). This will be the coming of He Who rules upon the throne located on the sides of the north (Ps 48:2, Is 14:13). This report will greatly alarm the devil and he will set out to destroy and annihilate all of God's people.</p>
<p>{45} He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.</p>	<p>The location "between the seas" is thought to be either Jerusalem or Babylon. Looking at a picture of a map of the Middle East we can see that the entire region could qualify. Those who favor Jerusalem do so on the basis of the "beautiful holy mountain" being Mount Zion in Jerusalem. Those who favor Babylon do so on the basis of other references to that being the name of the city that epitomizes wickedness.</p>

<p>{ 12:1 } "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered.</p>	<p>At the end of verse 45, we see the end of the terrible reign of the devil with no one to help him. The reason no one can help him is that God is going to intervene. In Daniel 12:1 the intervention is described as the Archangel Michael "arising." The KJV says that he "stands up." There will be <u>tremendous distress</u> BUT those whose names are written in "the book" will be delivered. (See comments at end of the Table on "distress" -- page 40.)</p>
<p>{ 2 } Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. { 3 } Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.</p>	<p>A resurrection of (some of) the dead will take place. A cross reference on this event is 1 Th 4:16-17: (See References at end of the Table.)</p>
<p>{ 4 } But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."</p>	<p>He is told to seal up the words until the time of the end. Some believe that as the time of the end nears that the meaning of these prophecies will become better known.</p>
<p>{ 5 } Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank.</p>	

VERSES FROM DANIEL	COMMENTS
<p>{6} One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?" {7} The man clothed in linen, . . . saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed." {8} I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?" {9} He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end."</p>	<p>Daniel 12:6 asks the question of "how long before these are fulfilled?" The length of time given is 1260 days. If these events are taking place after the end of the Jubilee Calendar, then this would be a literal 1260 days. The starting point for counting these days is probably the "end of the daily sacrifice" (see Dan 12:11). Therefore, from "this time" until the devil has overcome the saints will be 1260 days. This is apparently coincident with the prophecy of the "two witnesses" of Rev 11:3.</p>
<p>{10} Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.</p>	<p>In verse 10 the "many being purified" appears to be a reference to the saints during the tribulation. The time of the tribulation will sort out the true Christians from those who only pretend.</p>
<p>{11} "From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days."</p>	<p>The "daily sacrifice" mentioned in verse 11 is thought by some to be proof that in the end time the temple will be rebuilt and sacrifices will be made on the altar. Therefore, many are looking forward to events happening in Israel regarding the accumulation of materials to rebuild the temple. Others see this "daily sacrifice" as the corporate intercession of Jesus in interposing Himself between the wrath of God and a guilty world. The end of this ministry will mark the beginning of the tribulation -- the opening of the fourth seal and the sounding of the trumpets as described in Revelation. (See Also 2 Th 2:7)</p> <p>The event that occurs 1290 days from the end of the daily sacrifice has been speculated to be anything from the devil coming into the temple (yet to be built) in Jerusalem and declaring himself to be God to the universal death decree for "all who refuse to worship the image to be killed." (See Rev 13:15)</p>
<p>{12} Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days. {13} "As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance."</p>	<p>Those who wait for and reach the end of 1335 days may refer to those who come through the time of tribulation (are not killed) but are "raptured" from the earth.</p>

REFERENCES FOR PROPHECY 6

{3} Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. {4} He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. {5} Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? {6} And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. {7} For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. {8} And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. {9} The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, {10} and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. {11} For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie {12} and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness. -- 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12 (NIV)

The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction. -- Revelation 17:11 (NIV)

For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. -- Matthew 24:27 (NIV)

Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great king. -- Psalms 48:2 (KJV)

For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north. -- Isaiah 14:13 (KJV)

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. {17} After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. -- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NIV)

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." -- Revelation 11:15 (NIV)

And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." -- Revelation 11:3 (NIV)

He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. -- Revelation 13:15 (NIV)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NIV) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the **archangel** and with the **trumpet** call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. {17} After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the **air**. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Note the trumpet being sounded. Where do we learn about the trumpets sounding? In The Revelation seven trumpets are sounded. The present passage appears to relate to the 7th trumpet described in Rev. 11:15:

Revelation 11:15 (NIV) The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

The great distress of Daniel 12:1 is apparently referring to the "wrath of God." The "deliverance" of His people in Daniel 12:1 and the being "caught up together .. to meet the Lord in the air.":

(I Thes 4:17) is the so-called "rapture." If this is the rapture of the church, then note that it takes place **after** the physical appearing of the devil and **after** he has persecuted and killed many of the saints. However, it is **before** the wrath of God comes upon the earth.

There could be some significance to the word "air" as used by Paul in the passage from 1 Thessalonians. The spiritual world is described as "the heavens." The First heaven is "coplanar" with the earth. The Second heaven is in the air above the earth and the Third heaven (the highest heaven) is "out of sight" and is the dwelling place of God. So when Paul said that we would meet the Lord in the "air," he may have been referring to the Second heaven (this would mean that we will be translated from the physical realm to the spiritual realm). Also, the "clouds" could be interpreted as the "multitude" rather than being literal clouds. If this is the case, then the rapture is a transformation from physical to spiritual rather than the popularized picture of people rising upward into the sky.

PROPHECY 7: Opening the Seals

Revelation 4:1-6:17

Beginning point in time: At the end of the 1260 day/year domination of the little horn

Ending point in time: Second coming

Synopsis: This prophecy complements events described in Daniel 7, 8, and 9. The story begins with John being taken up into heaven to observe things happening in the heavenly realm. As we go through these scenes we will attempt to relate what was going on the heavenlies with events on earth.

Key verses from Daniel that relate to what John saw are found in 7:9-10, 21-22, and 25-26.

(9) As I looked, **thrones** were set in place, and the **Ancient of Days** took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. (21) As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, (22) until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom. (25) He (this horn) will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time. (26) But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. Daniel 7:9,10,21,22,25,26 (NIV) (See Also Prophecy 2)

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION [NIV]	COMMENTS
{4:1} After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."	Many see this as the rapture of the church. Others find no connection to the rapture.
{2} At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. {3} And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. {4} Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. {5} From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder.	See Dan 7:9: Thrones were set in place in heaven. The timing of this coincides with the end of the "little horn" rule of 1260 days/years. (Dan 7:25-26)
Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. {6} Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, . . . {11} "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."	See Isaiah 11:2-9 for a description of the seven-fold spirit of God.

Prophecy 7

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VERSES FROM THE REVELATION [NIV]	COMMENTS
<p>{5:1} Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. {2} And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?"</p>	<p>In Daniel 7:10 the court was set and the books were opened. Question: Is the scroll one of the books?</p>
<p>{3} But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. {4} I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.</p>	<p>"No one" probably refers to any created being -- man or angel.</p>
<p>{5} Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."</p>	<p>Recognition of the worthiness of Jesus to reveal the truth of God.</p>
<p>{6} Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. {7} He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. {8} And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. {9} And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. {10} You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." {11} Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. {12} In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" {13} Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" {14} The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.</p> <p>Comment: <i>If verse 13 is in fulfillment of "every knee shall bow, etc." then the sequence of events as interpreted here are not consistent.</i></p>	<p>Daniel 7:13-14: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was lead into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."</p> <p>Comment: <i>If this scene describes events immediately after the rapture and happened at the end of the domination of the "little horn" and if that end came in 1798, then the rapture has already happened and we missed it.</i></p>

Prophecy 7

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VERSES FROM THE REVELATION [NIV]	COMMENTS
<p>{6:1} I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!" {2} I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.</p>	<p>If we view the events as "redemptive" rather than "punitive," then this can be interpreted as the spread of the gospel in the 1800s and early 1900s. The conquest would be spiritual warfare.</p>
<p>{3} When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" {4} Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make men slay each other. To him was given a large sword.</p>	<p>Matt 10:34 - "Think not that I have come to bring peace to the earth, I did not come to bring peace but a sword. See also Heb 4:12 and Eph 6:17. Could this be the great availability and demand of Bibles following the spiritual revivals??"</p>
<p>{5} When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. {6} Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!" (The Greek Interlinear says: "and heard voice in midst of the four creatures saying quart wheat denarius and three quarts barley denarius and the oil and the wine undamaged")</p>	<p>Scales usually indicate judgment. Some see this as the start of judgment after the cleansing of the heavenly temple. This could also refer to the growth of true Christian devotion that judges the world system. Verse 6 - wages for those who worked on Solomon's Temple. (2 Chr 2:15) Possible reference to reward/salary for those who labor to build up the living church.</p>
<p>{7} When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" {8} I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.</p>	<p>Apparently this is yet to occur. No historical happening has been recorded in which a fourth of the inhabitants of the earth are killed. This seal marks global devastation. The death and destruction of the 4th seal are explained in the seven trumpets and last plagues. We will see more of this in Prophecies 9 and 14. If judgment started with the 3rd seal, then the 4th seal completes the redemptive judgment of the world. Any other judgments will be destructive.</p>

Prophecy 7

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VERSES FROM THE REVELATION [NIV]	COMMENTS
<p>{9} When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. {10} They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" {11} Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.</p>	<p>Period of martyrdom for believers. Refining and making pure (See Dan 12:10.) Thought to occur during the time the devil is physically on the earth. Believers will recognize the deception and warn others. As a result they will be killed. The world will be so convinced that the devil is God, those who kill the saints will think they are doing God a service. This marks the end of the work of the 2nd seal.</p>
<p>{12} I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, {13} and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. {14} The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. {15} Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. {16} They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! {17} For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"</p>	<p>This appears to be the start of the wrath of God. Associated with these events are the 7th trumpet, and the 7 last plagues. This also appears to be connected to Daniel 12:1 in which Michael stands up, time of great stress, those whose names are written in the book will be delivered (the Rapture ?) These events are the end of the mission started with the opening of the first seal. At this point Jesus reveals Himself as King of kings and Lord of lords.</p>

This Prophetic story ends without the Seventh Seal being opened. When the Seventh Seal is opened, then the "book" can finally be opened (the opening of the Seventh Seal will enable all the scroll to be unrolled). This event is mentioned in Rev 8:1. Apparently, the book will not be opened until after the 1000 year period of the 7th Millennium and will be associated with the Final Judgment.

The first three seals prepares the world for the development of the next three seals. The relationships within the seals become clearer if we compare each seal to its corresponding partner. The first seal reveals the salvation of Jesus (in contrast to the controlled salvation offered by the Catholic Church) and the sixth seal shows the sovereignty of Jesus as Kings of kings. The second seal reveals the supremacy of the Word of Jesus and the fifth seal reveals the faith of Jesus in His followers. The third seal reveals the ministry of Jesus in heaven's court and in the church and the fourth seal reveals the authority of Jesus over the world.

PROPHECY 8: 144,000 Servants

Revelation 7:1 - 8:1

Beginning point in time: Selection of 144,000

Ending point in time: End of the Seventh Millennium

Synopsis: This prophecy begins with Jesus selecting 144,000 servants from among the spiritual heirs of Abraham (some assert these will be physical descendants of Abraham). These servants will faithfully tell the world about the terms of salvation during the tribulation that God is going to send upon the world. A large, numberless multitude will receive salvation during the great tribulation as a result of the testimony of the 144,000. The prophecy ends with the opening of the seventh seal (the other six seals were described in Prophecy 7).

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{7:1} After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. {2} Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: {3} "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."</p>	<p>Apparently, this prophecy is linked to the fourth seal of Rev 6:7,8. The four winds are thought to be sword, famine, plague, and wild beasts. However, these are held back until God has in place messengers who can tell the people of the earth what is happening and to provide a last chance for salvation. These servant/messengers will be sealed or marked (designated) for the job.</p>
<p>{4} Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. {5} From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, {6} from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, {7} from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, {8} from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.</p>	<p>Some Bible scholars strongly believe these people will be physical descendants of Israel and others just as strongly believe they will be of "spiritual" Israel -- those who have the faith of Abraham. Many who believe these are of physical Israel also believe the timetable of this event to be after the "Rapture" of the church. While we might speculate about the ancestry of the 144,000, the time of the Rapture is most likely during the sixth seal rather than before the opening of the fourth seal (see Prophecy 7).</p>
<p>{9} After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. {10} And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." {11} All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, {12} saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"</p>	<p>The scene shifts in time and realm from the beginning of the tribulation on earth to some time in the future in heaven. The "great multitude" are connected with the 144,000 in that they are the fruit of the labor of the witness of the 144,000 throughout the earth. The present-day population of the earth is about 6 billion people and if the 144,000 are uniformly distributed, then there will be about one for every 40,000 people.</p> <p>The occasion is certainly one of great rejoicing in heaven.</p>

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{13} Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?" {14} I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.</p>	<p>These in white robes are apparently those who endured the great persecution of the devil against the saints. During the time of the Tribulation, many believed because of the work and witness of the 144,000 servants.</p>
<p>{15} Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. {16} Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. {17} For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."</p>	<p>In Daniel 12:12 the angel told him, "Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days." Those who come out of the tribulation will have gone through the fires of purification and will have proven their faithfulness. Their reward will be to be in the presence of God whom they loved more than the approval of men.</p>
<p>{8:1} When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.</p>	<p>The scene again shifts, this time to the end of the Seventh Millennium. The dating of this event assumes the book the Lamb has is the "Book of Life." It cannot be opened until the 7th seal is opened. Rev 20:12 says, "And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened which is the book of life.</p>

The four winds which the angels are holding back correspond to the four judgments God has used in past dealings with people: Sword, Famine, Plague, and Wild Beasts. God warned Israel in Leviticus 26:14-33 He would bring *sudden* terror upon them with these four judgment. In 16 different references three of the four judgments are mentioned together as a consequence of continuing to disobey God. The 16th time is associated with the opening of the 4th seal. The "sudden terror" indicates that people will not be expecting such judgments to happen. However, the Scriptures warn us that God's wrath will *suddenly* break out upon the world in the last days. Paul wrote, "While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come upon them *suddenly* ... " (1 Thes 5:3)

The timing for these judgments is associated with the designation of 144,000 people who will evangelize the world and tell people of the consequences of rejecting God. Once these have been designated and are in place around the world the four winds will be released and the four judgments will begin. The combination of the destruction and these proclaiming the destruction to be God's judgments will anger the people of the earth and they will seek to "kill the messengers" in much the same way the leaders of Judah sought to silence Jeremiah. The powerful proclamation of the gospel will stir up people against God and these messenger. Yet, at the same time, people will begin to realize that the severity of the judgments is such that perhaps God is trying to get people's attention. However, they will seek to appease God in their own way and by their own methods. It is thought that the major world religions will unite in a effort to determine what should be done to appease God. This unification of religions will be supported and endorsed by the major world governments. This coalition will be described in more detail later in Prophecy 12 (Rev 13).

PROPHECY 9: Judgements of the 4th Seal (6 Trumpets)

Revelation 8:2 - 9:21

Beginning point in time: Sometime after Spring, 1994 (after the end of the Jubilee Calendar). This timing assumes that the Heavenly court scene that John saw was the same as Daniel saw. Thus it has to be after the end of the persecution of the saints by the "little horn" of Daniel 7.

Ending point in time: About the time of the close of probation

Synopsis: This prophecy tells how the judgments of the fourth seal will be implemented upon the world. Each act of judgment will be a warning call to the earth to repent. Preceding the Day of Atonement was the Feasts of Trumpets which called the nation of Israel to repentance. Just as the trumpets' warnings were redemptive in the Old Testament, the implementation of these final warnings is intended to be redemptive. Terrible destruction will come upon the earth in an attempt to get mankind's attention.

"On the first day of the seventh month hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. It is a day for you to sound the trumpets. -- Numbers 29:1 (NIV)

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
{8:2} And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.	The events described in this prophecy began in the same manner as the Feast of Trumpets and Day of Atonement.
{3} Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. {4} The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. {5} Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake. {6} Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.	In Lev 16:12, in connection with the Day of Atonement, it is prescribed for the high priest to take a censer full of burning coals from the altar before the Lord and two handfuls of ... incense and take them behind the curtain. This ceremony is thought to be a type of the daily intercession of Jesus on behalf of mankind. The significance of the censer being hurled to the earth is thought to mark the end of this intercession. With the intercession thus ended, the tribulation judgments begin. [See also Comments, page 49.]
{7} The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.	Various ideas as to the possible manifestation of this event: Some think this may be a nuclear holocaust. A more probable explanation would be events associated with many sizeable asteroids failing to burn up before striking the earth.
{8} The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, {9} a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.	A large asteroid would fit this description well. Not only would such an object cause tidal waves, but increases in ocean temperatures might trigger a "red tide" in the areas affected. "Red tide" is an algae that grows in oxygen-depleted sea water.
{10} The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water-- {11} the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.	This description sounds like an asteroid that hits a land mass and really shakes up the earth. The shifts in the plates of the earth would cause aquifers to be disrupted and pollutants and toxic chemicals previously pumped into underground storage domes would contaminate water supplies.

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{12} The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.</p>	<p>Another result of the jolt of the great "star" hitting the earth could be increased volcanic activity. The dust thrown into the atmosphere could be carried around the world by the jet streams. This would block sunlight and starlight.</p>
<p>{13} As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"</p>	<p>The first four trumpets were warning blasts affecting the physical world which are intended to capture the attention of mankind. What follows will be far more sinister in that it involves the spiritual world.</p>
<p>{9:1} The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a <i>star that had fallen</i> from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. {2} When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.</p>	<p>The star associated with the 3rd trumpet was a physical object, whereas the star of the 5th trumpet is a spiritual being. The "star that had fallen" could be Satan - compare to Luke 10:18. The Abyss (or bottomless pit) was thought to be the habitation of demons. (See additional comments at end of table - p. 50)</p>
<p>{3} And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. {4} They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. {5} They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man. {6} During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them. {7} The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. {8} Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. {9} They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. {10} They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. {11} They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.</p>	<p>Among the various interpretation of what these "locusts" might be is speculation this refers to the rise of Mohammedanism in the Seventh Century which swept across the Eastern world like a tidal wave and blotted out Christianity in southwest Asia and north Africa. The description of the locust is thought to fit the Mohammedan armies, composed of fierce horsemen, famous for their beards and long hair, with yellow turbans on their heads that look like gold and they had iron coats of armor. It is argued that the smoke was the false teachings of the church that had clouded and corrupted the church. The five month time period (150 days) is thought by some to 150 years (630 - 786) which was the period of Mohammedanism conquests. (Halley's Bible Handbook) <i>IF the rules of interpretation of such prophecy apply, then relating this vision to the conquests of Mohammedanism does NOT fit the time period associated with the fourth seal. Assuming that the "trumpets" are how the judgments of the fourth seal are enacted, then these events must take place after the seals are opened. But the seals are open after the "Ancient of Days" comes into heaven's throne room at the end of the persecution of the saints by the little horn of Daniel 7. (See also "Rules of Interpretation" at end of Table - p.50.)</i></p>

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{12} The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come. {13} The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God. {14} It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." {15} And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. {16} The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.</p>	<p>Some commentaries also see the sixth trumpet related to the spread of Mohammedanism, this time by the Turks rather than the Arabs. The reference to a third of mankind is thought to refer to the last third of the Roman empire which fell in 1453 when Constantinople fell to the Turks.</p> <p><i>Once again the rules of interpretation would cause us to look for other events as fulfillment of this prophecy -- events yet to happen. Also, if numbers are literal, then the number of troops is far too many for what the Turks actually had.</i></p>
<p>{17} The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. {18} A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. {19} The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.</p>	<p>In support of this prophecy being in reference to the Turkish conquests, reference to the use of gunpowder in the defeat of Constantinople is cited.</p> <p><i>See Prophecy 6 in which "the king of the north" will use force to unite the people of the world under one system of government and religion. Many will oppose the devil's advances but he will "storm out against them with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships" (Dan 11:40).</i></p>
<p>{20} The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood--idols that cannot see or hear or walk. {21} Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.</p>	<p>With reference to the "smoke" being false teaching of the church, this failure to repent may fit in with the continued error of the Catholic church.</p> <p><i>If this prophecy is really at the end time, then it points to the hardened condition of people who continually reject God and His claims on their lives. Even with all of these troubles, people will still be rebellious against the authority of God.</i></p> <p>It is also important to note that the first four trumpets were related to the physical realm and the last three trumpets are thought to be related to the spiritual realm. Consequently, the events of trumpets five and six may need to be related to spiritual battles rather than physical battles.</p>

COMMENTS: In reference to the cessation of the daily intercession, we need to note this does not mean people can no longer be saved. Salvation does not result from the "daily intercession" of Jesus between the wrath of God and a sinful world. Salvation is a result of His completed work on the Cross and our trust in that work.

Additional Comments Related to Revelation 9:1

Lucifer was a high ranking angel in heaven. His pride and jealousy of the position of God the Son (Jesus) caused him to contaminate heaven with sin. Lucifer and his followers (a third of the angels) were then driven out of heaven. However, he still had access to heaven's court (Job 1). Some teach that in conjunction with the Resurrection, Jesus ascended into the spiritual realm and had the devil barred from heaven's courts. A related argument is that in the death of Jesus, the devil (through his agents) took the life of One without sin over which he had no authority since Jesus was born of woman but not of the seed of Adam. This act resulted in the devil losing any legitimate claim over the earth and sealed his doom.

There was war in heaven and the dragon and his angel were cast into the earth (into the Abyss?).
{7} And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. {8} But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. {9} The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. {10} Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. -- Revelation 12:7-10 (NIV)

RULES OF APOCALYPTIC PROPHECY INTERPRETATION

RULE 1: Each apocalyptic story or sequence is identified by the presence of a beginning point and an ending point in time. Events within each story are given in chronological order.

RULE 2: A prophecy or prophetic element is not fulfilled until all the specifications of the prophecy are met. This fulfillment includes the order of the sequence.

RULE 3: If some portion of prophecy is declared symbolic, the Bible must clearly interpret the meaning of the symbol with applicable scripture. (Otherwise, the meaning should be taken literally.)

Observations: If apocalyptic prophecy is unconditional, then all other prophecies must fit into the chronological placement of apocalyptic prophecy. [Amos, Ezekiel, Joel, Obadiah, Paul believe that the great and awful day of the Lord was "near" and so stated. John (in The Revelation comments) also indicated the fulfillment of the things he saw (the apocalyptic stories) were soon to happen.]

PROPHECY 10: Ministry and Work of the 144,000

REVELATION 10:1 - 11:13

Beginning point in time: About three and a half year before the Second Coming

Ending point in time: Just before the Second Coming

Synopsis: This prophecy explains the work and ministry of the 144,000. It would also appear to show that the 144,000 will be taken to heaven about 45 days before the Second Coming and they will return with Jesus at His Second Coming.

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{10:1} Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. {2} He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, {3} and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. {4} And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down."</p>	<p>In Prophecy 9 (Rev 8:5) before the trumpets began to sound, the censer was hurled to the earth and there were peals of thunder. If this relates to the voices of the seven thunders, then we can date the beginning of this prophecy to be the same as the start of the sounding of the trumpets. Some think that the "thunders" will be a call to the 144,000 who have been chosen and prepared to be the prophet-servants during the end time.</p>
<p>{5} Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. {6} And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay! {7} But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets."</p>	<p>The "Cup of Iniquity" will have reached its full point and there would be no more delay in judgment.</p> <p>During the time of the Fourth Seal in which the trumpets will sound, the 144,000 will be revealing the "mystery of God" and by the time the 7th trumpet is sounded the fact that "God will save Jews and Gentiles who put their trust in Jesus" will be fully revealed.</p> <p>His "servants the prophets" may refer to both the O.T. prophets and to the 144,000 who carry the message in the end time.</p>

PROPHECY 10

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VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{8} Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." {9} So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey." {10} I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour.</p>	<p>The "sweet 'n sour" message of the little book may be simply that Jesus is coming with victory over evil (the sweet part) but that the implementation of that victory will result in martyrdom for many of the saints as well as the deaths of many who resist and rebel against Him (the sour part).</p>
<p>{11} Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."</p>	<p>The "prophesy again . . ." is likely a reference to the fact that during the time of the third seal, the judgment-hour message had been preached around the world. However, few will have understood the full impact and seriousness of the ministry of Jesus on behalf of the world and the folly of rejecting His salvation. With the coming of the judgments associated with the trumpets of the fourth seal, many people will take the message seriously.</p>
<p>{11:1} I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. {2} But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.</p>	<p>The differentiation between those worshipers around the altar and those in the outer court is likely referring to the true believer and those of the apostate religious system that will be in place during the final days. Here the term "Gentiles" is likely a reference to the follower of the false religious coalition set up by the devil.</p> <p>During this time, true Christianity will be ridiculed and its followers persecuted and killed. The gospel message will be rejected by the religious system of the day.</p>

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{3} And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." {4} These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. {5} If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. {6} These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.</p>	<p>The "two witnesses" are generally thought to be the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. Halley's Bible Handbook suggests these two might be the true Church and the Word of God. Although some references state that these two will be two physical people: Elijah and Moses. The NIV says that their ministry is modeled after that of Elijah and Moses (power to stop the rain and to strike the earth with plagues).</p> <p>Assuming that the two are NOT people, the delivery of the "witness of the Spirit, the Word" is likely to be via the ministry of the 144,000. If this is the case, then it is they who will prophesy and shut up the heavens and do miraculous things. The time period of this ministry is 1260 days and then the miraculous power confirming the word will be removed for a period of time. The best guess is that between the end of the 1260 and the 1290 days is when the events of verse 7 occur.</p>
<p>{7} Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. {8} Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. {9} For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. {10} The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.</p>	<p>If "they" are the 144,000 who deliver the witnesses of the Word and the Spirit, then this event could be the death decree to kill all who will not bow down before the image of the beast. Their testimony will be complete and all choices will have been made either for God or against God. The devil will blame the misery of mankind on the messengers of God. The miracles that the 144,000 once carried out will no longer be needed to validate the word of their testimony and the devil will move to eliminate all of the 144,000 who are still alive. Some speculate that the death decree will not be carried out in its entirety, but the issuing of the decree will be a great delight to those in the world system.</p>

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{11} But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. {12} Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.</p>	<p>Before the death decree (the abomination that causes desolation of Dan 12:11) can be carried out, the miraculous power will return to the people of God and just as Peter was release from prison by the power of God, the saints will break out of captivity. The voice from heaven calls the 144,000 up into heaven. This is not the Second Coming - there is no mention of the appearance of Jesus. The other saints waited for the return of Christ (45 days later?? - difference in 1335 days and 1290 days). In Dan 12:12 we find "Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days."</p> <p>The conclusion that the "Come up here" call is issued only to the 144,000 is by implication and not explicitly stated. In Rev 14:1-4 the 144,000 are with Jesus on Mount Zion and in the presence of the throne, the four living creatures, and the 24 elders. (This would seem to be "spiritual Mt. Zion" because of the throne, etc.) These 144,000 are described as "the firstfruits to God and to the Lamb." Regarding the remaining saints, we find in addition to the passage in Daniel 12:1 referencing the deliverance of those whose names are written in the book, Paul wrote of those who are alive and are left will be "raptured" together with the dead in Christ who are raised.</p>
<p>{13} At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.</p>	<p>While they waited, the remaining saints witnessed the fall of the devil's empire and gave glory to God for what He was doing. The reference to a "tenth of the city" could be the dominion of one of the 10 horns that will be struck by the earthquake. The "city" may be a reference to the world system (Babylon, the great whore who sits upon the waters) rather than to an actual physical city.</p>

PROPHECY 11: The Beginning of the Third Woe

REVELATION 11:14 - 19

Beginning point in time: Close of mercy (7th trumpet)

Ending point in time: Close of mercy.

Synopsis: This prophecy covers the developments in heaven and on earth that mark the beginning of the third woe. The first and second woes were in Prophecy 9. The third and greatest woe is the seven last plagues. These plagues are poured out on those who receive the mark of the beast. In this prophecy we see Jesus move from the position of Savior and High Priest to Avenger of the saints and King of earth.

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
{ 11:14 } The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.	The first woe (trumpet 5) will be the release of the devil from the Abyss. The second woe (trumpet 6) will be the great war that forcibly imposes the rule of the devil on the earth.
{ 15 } The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."	The third woe (to the inhabitants of the earth) is associated with the seventh trumpet. Before this trumpet sounds, the gospel message will have been taken to everyone on earth. (See Rev 11:7) The ministry of the 144,000 will have been completed. Every person will have made a decision either for or against Jesus. This marks the end of mercy with the earth and those who had been in charge will be removed from power as the King of kings and Lord of lords comes to reign. (See Rev 19:16)
{ 16 } And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, { 17 } saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.	For centuries, people have been asking the question, "Why doesn't God do something about all the evil in the world?" This is when that "something" happens. The 24 elders give their consent and respond in worship because God has begun to reign.

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{18} The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great-- and <i>(the time)</i>* for destroying those who destroy the earth."</p> <p>*added for clarity</p>	<p>See Psalm 2:1 (Why do the heathen rage...) It appears that two times are referenced here: the first is the time for judgment of the "dead in Christ" which were resurrected and "caught up" to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thes 4:17). This judgment of those who are in Christ is clearly stated to reward God's servants the prophets and His saints - those who reverence His name. The rest of the dead will not be judged until the end of the 1000 years. See also, Rev 20: 5,6,12.</p> <p>The second time is related to the wrath of God in which those who destroy the earth will be destroyed.</p>
<p>{19} Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant.</p>	<p>Some believe that at this time, people on earth will be able to see into the temple in heaven and will be given a look at the ark of His covenant. The purpose of this is related to the fact that the ten commandment are housed in the ark and people will be confronted by the demands of the commandments.</p>
<p>And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.</p>	<p>Associated with this event in heaven will be another earthquake on earth and the beginning of the wrath of God.</p>

PROPHECY 12: The Two Beasts - Rise of Babylon

REVELATION 12:1 - 14:5

Beginning point in time: Birth of Jesus

Ending point in time: Just before the Second Coming

Synopsis: This prophecy reveals the activities of the devil as he first attempted to destroy Jesus. John traces the efforts of the devil right down to the endtimes -- concluding with the victory celebration of the 144,000 around the throne. John concludes chapter 12 with the devil preparing for war on the remnant of God's people. When this prophecy is chronologically aligned with Prophecy 9, the rise of the dragon-like beast (called Babylon) and appearing of the lamb-like beast (the devil) are more clearly understood.

VERSES	COMMENTS
<p>{12:1} A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. {2} She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.</p>	<p>Sign: Identified as symbolic -- not literal. Heaven: This prophecy has spiritual/cosmic significance. Woman: Symbolically represents <u>God's people</u> in various place in Scripture. Israel is referred to a God's wife, the Church as the Bride of Christ. Clothed with the sun: A garment of light which represents the righteousness of Jesus. In Ps 104:2 God clothes Himself with light as with a garment. Standing on the moon: Probably symbolic of the Davidic covenant -- a descendant of David on the throne of Israel which is fulfilled in Jesus for spiritual Israel. (see Ps 89:34, 37). Crown: This is a <i>stephanos</i> rather than a <i>diadem</i> and thus symbolizes <u>victory</u> rather <u>authority</u>. Twelve stars: Probably related to the 12 tribes of Israel (biological and/or spiritual Israel). Pregnant: Symbolizes expectation of One to come.</p>
<p>{3} Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads.</p>	<p>Enormous red dragon: Identified later (v.9) as the devil. Heads and horns: Represents the means by which the devil's authority is exercised: false religion (heads) and civil government (horns). The crowns (diadems) are on the heads symbolizing that the authority by which the devil first attempted to destroy Jesus and Christianity was through religious systems.</p>
<p>{4} His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.</p>	<p>Tail/stars: Reference to the evil angels who aligned themselves with Satan in the war against Jesus.</p>
<p>{v. 4 cont'd) The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.</p>	<p>This verse describes the attempt by the devil to destroy Jesus after the incarnation. Satan acted through his agent Herod.</p>

VERSES	COMMENTS
<p>{5} She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.</p>	<p>Verse 5 defined the role of the child and is a messianic reference found in Psalm Chapter 2. These events are not in chronological order here. The rule of the male child with an iron scepter is yet to come and is mentioned here as descriptive--as in "Which male child?" The one who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter." The event of the child being <u>snatched up to God and His throne</u> is likely a reference to the ascension of Jesus.</p>
<p>{6} The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.</p>	<p>This is thought by some to represent a future event/place of refuge (Petra) for the people of God during the time of persecution by the devil during the time of the 5th seal. Others see this as the true Church going "underground" during the 1260 year reign of the "little horn" (Papacy) of Daniel 7.</p>
<p>{7} And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. {8} But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. {9} The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.</p>	<p><i>Starting with v 7 and continuing through v 16, John fills in the details of the overall picture he has just related.</i> Before mankind, Satan rebelled against God and was cast out. However, he still had access to heaven's courts (see Job 1). He set out to thwart God's plans with mankind by getting Adam and Eve to obey him rather than God. In obeying the devil, Adam became the slave of the devil (you are the slave of the one you serve) and the control of the earth that God had delegated to Adam then came under the devil's control. Satan exercised life and death control over Adam's descendants with impunity. However in the death of Jesus over Whom he had no authority (not born of the seed of Adam) he lost his impunity. It is thought by some that on the morning of the resurrection, Jesus returned to His Father and cast out and barred the devil from the courts of heaven. If this is the case, then v 7 would be a reference to the ensuing battle. What follows in this "backgrounder" passage seems to support this idea from a <i>timing</i> standpoint.</p>
<p>{10} Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.</p>	<p>Apparently great joy in heaven in that the devil is barred from access. The words of Jesus in Matt 28:18 "All authority in heaven and earth has been given unto Me" announced the same message to His followers as the voice heard in heaven. "Accuser of our brothers" is either an indication that the devil accused the angels or that the angels regard the saints as their brothers (or the voice was that of an elder). [See more on this subject in next verse.]</p>

<p>{11} They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.</p>	<p>Here it is clear that the "brothers" are the victorious saints. This is still part of the "backgrounder" and appears to refer to the saints down through the ages who had remained and those who still remain faithful.</p>
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PROPHECY 12

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VERSES	COMMENTS
<p>{12} Therefore rejoice, you heavens . . ! But woe to the earth . . . ! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."</p>	<p>It sounds as if this marks the time of increased satanic activity in the affairs of men. A historical study might show evidence of this.</p>
<p>{13} When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who <i>had given birth</i> to the male child. {14} The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.</p>	<p>The persecution of the true church began early in its history and continues to this day. The timing of <u>this</u> event that the dragon was hurled to the earth was after the woman had already given birth to the male child. Therefore, this can not refer to the original rebellion of Lucifer.</p> <p>It is not clear to what the two wings refer. Chronologically, the timing of the wilderness or desert existence could fit the 1260 year dominance of the Papacy. This would point to the true church that did not submit to the authority of the Pope but remained faithful to the word of God.</p> <p>[Some teach that this 1260 "days" is coincident with the 1260 days of the Two Witnesses, the 1260 days the Holy City was trodden down and the time the "beast" reigned after the death stroke was healed. (All future events)]</p>
<p>{15} Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. {16} But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.</p>	<p>Toward the end of the Papal reign in Europe, there were numerous religious wars and stepped up persecution. Many people who refused to acknowledge the Roman Catholic authority fled to the New World or America -- thus the earth helped the woman by given a place of refuge from the torrent of the flood (wars and persecutions).</p>
<p>{17} Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring--those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.</p>	<p>With the coming of the great revivals of the early 1800s, the spread of the gospel produced many "offspring" against whom the dragon would fight.</p>

<p>{13:1} And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.</p> <p>Note: Some translations say "And I stood on the shore.."</p>	<p>The "sea" could be the same as the reference to the waters upon which the prostitute of Rev 17:15 sits: people, multitudes, nations, and languages.</p> <p>This beast looks like the dragon described in 12:3. In Rev. 17 we also can see that it is red -- like the dragon. Notice, now the crowns are on the horns and not on the heads. Heads represent religious authority and horns civil authority. When the dragon-like beast comes into power the authority to persecute the saints will be civil government based rather than religiously based. (Consider what is happening even now regarding the rights of Christians to express their faith.)</p> <p>Blasphemous name on each head: Each head is anti-Christ and claims to represent God.</p>
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VERSES	COMMENTS
<p>{2} The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.</p>	<p>The beast will have elements of the ancient fallen empires (See Prophecy 2). The beast is really a "puppet" and the hand inside the puppet is the dragon or the devil.</p>
<p>{3} One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed.</p>	<p>If the heads represent the seven religious systems of the world, then the "fatal wound" could refer to the breaking of the power of the Papacy in 1798. Even now the Papacy is rising to greater influence in the world. The present Pope travels throughout the world establishing influence in high places.</p>
<p>The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. {4} Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" {5} The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. {6} He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. {7} He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.</p>	<p>If this seven headed/ten horned coalition arises from the total havoc and confusion caused around the world by the results of the first four trumpets, then people will be looking for direction and leadership and will be amazed at the rapidity at which the world religious and political leaders come together in agreement to form this coalition. It will be such a powerful coalition of a new world order that no single nation or group will be able to resist. Yet the saints will see through the "puppet's cloth" and recognize that Satan is behind this movement. The mouth (like the little horn power of Daniel 7 who also had a mouth) will speak blasphemes against God -- probably because of the judgments that have come upon the earth.</p> <p>The saints who interpret these judgment will incur the fury of the beast.</p> <p>The authority over every tribe, etc will likely be enforced by the great war the devil wages (see the 6th trumpet in Prophecy 9).</p>
<p>{8} All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.</p>	<p>Most of the world will be taken in by the beast; however, the saints will not obey the rules of the coalition -- they will not worship the image of the beast.</p>
<p>{9} He who has an ear, let him hear. {10} If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints.</p>	<p>Because of this refusal to worship the beast, some of the saints will be arrested and put in prison and others will be killed. This will be a time that will require endurance and faithfulness. It will be a time of purifying.</p> <p>(Note: If believing a pre-tribulation rapture would make it happen, then I would believe it, but the Scriptures do not support this hope.)</p>

VERSES	COMMENTS
<p>{11} Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon.</p>	<p>This is the description of the physical appearing of the devil when he comes up out of the Abyss. He has a lamb-like appearance: one of the favorite tricks of the devil is to try to imitate what God does in order to deceive people. Jesus appears in heaven as a Lamb but with seven horns. This is the devil's imitation but appearances cannot hide his true identity from those who can discern the spirits -- he spoke like a dragon.</p>
<p>{12} He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.</p>	<p>Once the power base of the coalition has been established, the devil appears on the scene and takes over the operation (exercised all the authority of the first beast). He will enforce the rules established by the first beast -- will make people worship (obey) the authority of the coalition.</p>
<p>{13} And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. {14} Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.</p>	<p>The lamb-like beast (the devil) will perform miracles to convince people that he is God. The first beast (7-headed, 10-horned coalition) will support this new leader and he will unite the various factions that make up this coalition.</p> <p>This "image" could be the united one world government and religious system with allegiance to the lamb-like beast. The prominence of the beast who was wounded may speak of the major role of the Papacy in this new system.</p>
<p>{15} He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.</p>	<p>With the physical appearing of the devil (lamb-like beast) the diversity of the first beast will no long be needed as a rallying point -- people will be fooled into following whatever he tells them to do. The new representative of the devil will be like the old one in appearance only -- it will really be only a tool of the devil. Laws will be passed regarding worshiping the devil and those who refuse will be killed.</p>
<p>{16} He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, {17} so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.</p>	<p>Just as economic blockades have been used to bring nations into line, the same tactics will be used to force people to come into line and follow the rules of the devil. No one will be exempted: No mark, no purchase.</p>

VERSES	COMMENTS
<p>{18} This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.</p>	<p>The call for wisdom may be related more to survival than to figuring out the name of the lamb-like beast. The wisdom of God would tell us "The just shall live by faith and faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."</p> <p>The number (or character) of the beast will be "fallen man's" number or character that considers itself to be perfect without God. The lamb-like beast will be accepted by so many because he will be the personification of humanism which so many embrace.</p>
<p>{14:1} Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.</p>	<p>In stark contrast to the lamb-like beast, John is shown the true Lamb. In contrast to the wicked of the world who accept the mark of the beast, John sees the 144,000 saints who have the name of God on their foreheads.</p>
<p>{2} And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. {3} And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.</p>	<p>Even though the beast makes war against the saint and kills many of them, they will celebrate the victory of being faithful in the very presence of God. They endured an ordeal that no one else had experienced and their song will be their testimony of that ordeal. Since only they will have experienced it, only they can sing of it.</p>
<p>{4} These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure.</p>	<p>The faithfulness of the 144,000 is epitomized in terms of their resistance to/of the sexual revolution and abandonment of morality that characterizes the last days.</p>
<p>They follow the Lamb wherever he goes.</p>	<p>These will have a special place of service in the heavenlies. They will follow the Lamb in heaven because they will have followed the Lamb while they were on the earth. {If we can't follow Jesus here, what ever makes us think we can follow Him anywhere?}</p>
<p>They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. {5} No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.</p>	<p>Just as the firstfruits were offered to God as the best of the crop, these Christians are representative of the total harvest of saints who are followers of the Lamb. A distinguishing characteristic of these is their integrity: they will not lie. The power of the testimony of a person of integrity is awesome.</p>

PROPHECY 13: Three Angels

REVELATION 14:6 - 15:4

Beginning point in time: The first trumpet

Ending point in time: Shortly after the Second Coming

Synopsis: This prophecy covers the mission and message of the 144,000. The three messages are best understood in the context of what they oppose. The messages stand in direct opposition to the legislation of Babylon (the dragon-like beast) and ultimately, the laws which the devil himself (lamb-like beast) will implement. Again, we see the need for great patience and endurance on the part of the saints. Many will become martyrs in their bold stand for Christ.

REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{6} Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people.</p>	<p>This is the first of three messages that the 144,000 will proclaim to the people of the earth at the time of and following the opening of the 4th seal. Notice that the message is the "eternal gospel" indicating that the requirements for salvation have been the same since before the beginning of time. (Rev 18:1-8 is thought to be a fourth message; however, it may be just an enlargement of the second message.)</p>
<p>{7} He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the <i>heavens</i>, the <i>earth</i>, the <i>sea</i> and the springs of <i>water</i>."</p>	<p>There are three elements within this first message.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fear God: A call for recognition and respect for the Creator. As in ancient Egypt, Pharaoh asked, "Who is God that I should obey Him?" People today do not recognize God's authority. 2. Give Him glory . . . We give glory to God by honoring His word and recognizing His authority. The time (hour) of His judgment is a time of decision making by each person. Each person will hear the full truth of the gospel in terms he can understand and each person will have to decide either for or against the message. The desperate circumstances brought upon the earth will require a definite decision, there will be no middle ground. 3. Worship Him . . . The call to worship God should cause us to look for what is acceptable worship. Obedience and trust are essential prerequisites. Also, the need to have experienced the new birth is essential and integrity of heart is a requirement. Jesus said, "God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit (new birth) and in truth (integrity). Notice also the reference to the events associated with the first four trumpets: The burning hail, large mountain, and burning star will fall from <i>heaven</i> and set fire to the <i>earth</i>, turn the <i>sea</i> into blood, embitter the <i>water</i>, and block out light from the sun and stars.

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{8} A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."</p>	<p>The second message will warn the world of the truth about the dragon-like beast or the 7-headed, 10-horned beast and will declare the demise of this coalition. The confusion and terror initiated by the disasters of the first four trumpets will cause religious and civil authorities to come together to address what to do about the obvious anger of God demonstrated by these disasters. The end result will be a new world organization made up of the seven major religious groups and the ten major world powers. This coalition is the dragon-like beast in Rev. 13:1-8.</p> <p>When the coalition has served its usefulness, it will be supplanted by the "image of the beast" which will look like the beast but will simply be a front for the devil.</p>
<p>{9} A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, {10} he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. {11} And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."</p>	<p>The timing of the third announcement is in conjunction with the fifth trumpet. The fifth trumpet is the physical appearing of the devil. He will take the world captive through deception and by force if necessary. Billions will accept him as God, Allah, the promised Messiah, Jesus, a superior being or the god of the new age.</p> <p>The third of the three-part message of the 144,000 will warn all people of the consequences of refusing God's salvation in favor of the way of the devil. Specific warning is given regarding receiving the mark required to buy and sell.</p> <p>The results for those who choose the devil rather than God will be the same fate as that reserved for the devil himself who will be thrown into the burning fire ("he too will drink, etc"). This fate appears to be both continuous and continual. It never lets up and lasts forever.</p> <p>The reference to "no rest" is in contrast to the "rest" promised to those who remain faithful to Jesus.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">VERSES FROM THE REVELATION</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMENTS</p>
<p>{ 12 } This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.</p>	<p><i>This</i> apparently refers to the fate of those who do NOT obey God's commandments nor remain faithful. Knowing what is in store will call for faithfulness to God during the tribulation and persecution that will befall those who refuse to submit to the authority of the devil or his agent the "image of the beast."</p>
<p>{ 13 } Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."</p>	<p>Notice especially "from now on." This perhaps refers to a special blessing for those who faithfully go through the persecution (even to the point of death) compared to those who were not so challenged in their lives. Other passages indicate that these will be in the presence of Jesus and will follow Him where ever He goes.</p>
<p>{ 14 } I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one "like a son of man" with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.</p>	<p>The picture John saw indicates the readiness of Jesus to harvest the earth. The crown shows His authority to lead the harvest.</p>
<p>{ 15 } Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."</p>	<p>At a certain point in time (after the proclamation of the three messages to everyone on the earth) every person will have made a decision for God or for the devil. Their destinies having been set, leaves no further reason for delay. Apparently, God the Father will make an assessment of when this has happened and will send a messenger to God the Son to start the harvest. Remember Jesus told us that "only the Father know the time when this will happen."</p>
<p>{ 16 } So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. { 17 } Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.</p>	<p>In swinging His sickle over the earth, Jesus signaled that the harvest is to begin. The actual harvest will be carried out by the angels. In Matt 13:39 Jesus said, "The harvest is the end of the age and the harvesters are the angels." Apparently, the angel who came out of the temple will do the actual harvest -- the death angel??</p>

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{18} Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe."</p>	<p>It is not clear why still another angel had to come from the altar area to tell the "death angel" to start the harvest. The significance of this angel being in charge of the fire is not readily apparent. It almost seems as if there were several steps in place to confirm that the time had really come for the harvest.</p>
<p>{19} The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. {20} They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.</p>	<p>In highly symbolic language, the wicked are pictured as grapes trampled in the outpouring of God's wrath. The enormity of it all is captured in the description of the height and length of the flood issuing from the press.</p>
<p>{15:1} I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues--last, because with them God's wrath is completed.</p>	<p>The seven last plagues are apparently the means by which the "winepress of God's wrath" is implemented on the wicked of the earth. (See also Prophecy 14)</p>
<p>{2} And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God {3} and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. {4} Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."</p>	<p>This group would appear to be those who were raptured from the earth as the wrath of God begins. These had been victorious over the beast and his image and did not accept the mark of the beast in order to buy or sell.</p> <p>Notice that these have a song that is different from the song of the 144,000. The song of the 144,000 is one only they can learn, yet we are told the song of these true believer who will be faithful throughout the persecution of the tribulation.</p> <p>They give testimony to the justice of God in the execution of His wrath on the wicked of the earth.</p>

PROPHECY 14: Seven Plagues

Revelation 15:5 -16:21

Beginning point in time: Close of mercy

Ending point in time: The Second Coming

Synopsis: This prophecy reveals the seven last plagues associated with the wrath of God that will be poured out on those who have refused to believe His truth. The full malignity of sin will have been seen before these events occur. These events will both *avenge* the undeserved suffering of God's people and will also *vindicate* those who have been faithful to God. All the world will know that God is Sovereign and His authority is above all others.

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
{5} After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened.	<p>This prophecy appears to pick up where Prophecy 11 left off. The Temple in heaven will be opened follow the sounding of the seventh trumpet. As explained in Rev 11:18, the time has come to destroy those who destroyed the earth.</p> <p>Referring to the temple as the tabernacle of Testimony is perhaps a reminder that all on the earth will have heard the Testimony of the Plan of Salvation from the servant/ prophets sealed for that purpose.</p>
{6} Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. {7} Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever.	We see the means by which the wrath of God will be delivered. Each angel will have a plague to deliver or pour out. They will also be given a golden bowl filled with the wrath of God. It appears that each plague will be poured out along with the wrath of God.
{8} And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.	The manifestation of the glory and power of God is such that it has to be hidden. When God came down on Mt. Sinai, the mountain was covered with clouds and smoke and when God came into the temple that Solomon built, smoke filled the temple. Perhaps this was such a splendid revelation of God's glory that even the angels could not behold it.

<p style="text-align: center;">VERSES FROM THE REVELATION</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMENTS</p>
<p>{16:1} Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth."</p>	<p>If no one could enter the Temple and the loud voice came from the Temple, then this order must have been given by God Himself.</p>
<p>{2} The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.</p>	<p>In a sequence surprisingly like that of the devastation announced by the <i>trumpets</i> the first <i>plague</i> was poured out on the land. The resulting curse on the land selectively produced sores on those who had received the mark of the beast. A possible explanation is that only those who had the mark of the beast could buy and sell and the food supply available in world-wide commerce became contaminated. Those who could not buy and sell (those faithful to God) were not affected.</p>
<p>{3} The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea died.</p>	<p>Just as the second <i>trumpet</i> will signal trouble at sea, the second <i>plague</i> will cause everything in the sea to die. The source of food will become more limited. Once again, the true believers will not be affected since they will have to live by faith.</p>
<p>{4} The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.</p>	<p>The third <i>plague</i> will affect the drinking water supply and in addition to food shortage, there will be water shortages.</p>
<p>{5} Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; {6} for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve." {7} And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments."</p>	<p>Now we see the reasoning behind the type of plague on the sea and the drinking water. These plagues will be just retribution for the wicked of the earth for demanding and shedding the blood of God's people.</p> <p>Apparently, the lamb-like beast who controls the image of the dragon-like beast will convince people everywhere that the plagues and problems are the result of a spell caused by those who refuse to worship the image of the beast. Consequently, many will turn against the saints and demand their death.</p>

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{8} The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. {9} They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.</p>	<p>The 4th <i>trumpet</i> will signal the blotting out of a third of the sun and stars. The fourth <i>plague</i> will come as overexposure to the intensity of the sun's rays. All the cataclysmic happenings with volcanic gases, etc. could eliminate all the ozone layer in a short time period. Ultraviolet radiation would cause sunburn with just a little exposure to the sun.</p>
<p>{10} The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony {11} and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.</p>	<p>The fifth <i>trumpet</i> will herald the physical appearing of the devil, but the fifth <i>plague</i> will show the "darkness" that is behind the work that the devil did to get people to follow him. Even though the devil will have been exposed, people will still refuse to turn away from evil and to turn to God.</p>
<p>{12} The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East.</p>	<p>The sixth <i>trumpet</i> will announce the war in which the devil will unleash a flood of troops used to bring all nations into submission. The sixth <i>plague</i> will signal the loss of the power base of the devil as the world senses the collapse of the coalition and the possibility of the reality of the Second Coming.</p>
<p>{13} Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.</p>	<p>The appearance of the evil spirits being like that of frogs may simply imply they are unclean. The dragon was introduced in Rev 12 and identified as the devil, the beast was introduced in Rev 13 and is dragon like. This is the first appearance of the false prophet who is later identified as the one who will do great miracles on behalf of the beast and cause people to worship the image of the beast in Rev 19:20. This character was introduced earlier as the lamb-like beast that will come up out of the earth (abyss ?). We had concluded earlier this will be the physical appearing of the devil. The false prophet would then have to be the human being through the devil will be manifested.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">VERSES FROM THE REVELATION</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMENTS</p>
<p>{14} They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.</p>	<p>The devil will see his power base slip away and the "reports from the east and the north will alarm him" (Dan 11:44). He will be convinced of his soon downfall and will send out the evil/unclean spirits to delude the rulers of the coalition to join forces against the people of God ("he will set out in great rage to destroy and annihilate many") and to be ready to fight against the Messiah Himself should He return.</p>
<p>{15} "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."</p>	<p>These are the words of Jesus to reassure His followers that He is coming again. The devil and the world system can get ready to oppose it but they will not know when it will occur. In the promise we also see an exhortation to be ready for the return of Jesus. Our clothing is the garments of praise and light which is the righteousness of Jesus.</p>
<p>{16} Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.</p>	<p>Armageddon (the mountain of Megiddo) is not a KNOWN geographical place. Many see this to be a symbol of the final overthrow of evil by God. The kings are the world leaders who were deceived by the devil. These will align themselves once more to stand against what God is doing. This will be the final defiant rebellious act against the authority of God.</p>
<p>{17} The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!"</p>	<p>Again the voice of God sounds out from the Temple (no one could enter during the time of the 7 plagues) to announce the finish of the judgment (in time) upon the wicked. What followed is shown below without comment.</p>

{18} Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. {19} The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. {20} Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. {21} From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

COMMENTARY - LINKING THE CHARACTERS

Revelation 17:1-18

Synopsis: The information in Chapter 17 is presented to help the readers determine the identity of the various characters and beasts. Because of the symbolic nature of the information that John gives us in The Revelation, the commentary in Chapter 17 is needed to make sense of the stories.

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
{17:1} One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. {2} With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."	<p>The prostitute is a new representation of one of the characters. As the information develops, we should be able to show that the prostitute is the same as the "image of the beast."</p> <p>Sitting on many waters is likely an indication of her influence over many nations, languages and people (see v 15).</p> <p>Kings ... committed adultery is a possible reference to those who supported the decree to worship the image of the beast.</p>
{3} Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.	<p>The scarlet beast is the same beast that John saw come up out of the sea in Rev 13.</p> <p>Here we find that the beast is the same color as the dragon and is like the dragon having 7 heads and 10 horns. It is <u>like</u> the dragon, but is <u>not</u> the dragon. It is controlled by the dragon.</p>
{4} The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls	The significance of the color of the clothing is that purple is associated with royalty (kings) and the scarlet is the color of clergy.
She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.	The cup full of iniquity shows the patience of God. It also portend the coming wrath of God since the cup is full.
{5} This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.	The title the harlot wears tells us that she is clothed in mysticism (the New Age movement is getting the world ready for this deception), she is highly regarded by the world, and is the greatest embodiment of evil ever seen on the earth.
{6} I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.	The woman (the image of the beast) had put many Christians to death and used the threat of death to control the multitudes.
When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. {7} Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns.	We tend to be amazed by that which we do not understand. Consequently, God wants us to understand what is going to happen so that we will not be astonished by it all. The angel is going to tell John about the woman, the beast she is riding on and the other beast he saw before.

VERSES	COMMENTS
<p>{8} The [other] beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.</p>	<p>A clue as to who is the subject of this symbolism is found in that he comes up out of the Abyss. In saying that he was and is not does <u>not</u> refer to the existence and non-existence of the character. Read it, "once was <i>seen</i>, now is not <i>seen</i>, and will ..." We can then relate this to the devil having access to the court of heaven and freedom to appear (he is found on earth tempting Jesus in the wilderness) prior to the events on Resurrection morning [was seen]. Then he was cast down into the earth (the Abyss) and was not able to physically appear [is not seen]. Note that the time John was given this vision was after the events of Resurrection morning. He will come up out of the Abyss during the fifth trumpet, and at the Second Coming will be cast back into the Abyss to be held until he is cast into the lake of fire 1000 years later.</p> <p>All the world will be taken in by this "lamb-like" beast except those whose names are written in the book of life.</p>
<p>{9} "This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.</p>	<p>The reason wisdom is called for is that the hills are not literal hills. Hills (or high places) are associated with worship and religion. Consequently, we are led to look for some religious meaning in the seven hills. The heads have blasphemous names written on them, another hint that something religious is involved. Blasphemy is usually associated with claiming the prerogatives of God or speaking evil of God. In Rev 13 we find that one of the heads was wounded -- more on that later.</p>
<p>{10} They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.</p>	<p>The heads are not only religious in nature and anti-God (blasphemous) they are more specifically the leaders of seven religions. At the time of John's vision, five religions had been discredited. The major religions of the world at the time of the incarnation were Heathenism, Atheism, Judaism, Eastern Mysticism, and Islam (Mohammed came from the ancient religion of the Arabic world established by Ishmael). The one religion (at the time of John's vision) was Christianity (evolved in Catholicism) and the one yet to come and that would remain only a short time is Protestantism. Remember that one of the heads had received what appeared to be a fatal wound? That would have been Catholicism which lost most of its dominance when the power of the Papacy was broken in 1798.</p>
<p>{11} The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.</p>	<p>The lamb-like beast which comes up out of the Abyss is referred to as an eighth king. We saw an eighth king earlier in the rise of the papacy to power following the downfall of the Roman Empire. Ten kings (horns) rose to power and a little horn that had a mouth came up and eliminated three of them and then he became the dominant "eighth" king. (See Daniel 7, Prophecy 2)</p>

VERSES	COMMENTS
<p>{12} "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. {13} They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.</p>	<p>In Prophecy 1, the great statue had ten toes. Here, these kings are pictured as ten horns. They will come to power for a short period of time to govern ten sectors of the world.</p> <p>Speculation: It may be that groups of nations will send a representative to the new world order coalition that will be established.</p>
<p>{14} They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."</p>	<p>During the sixth plague of the time of the wrath of God, the kings will be deluded into thinking that they can fight against Jesus and His followers and will gather together for battle. The battle will take place at the time of the Second Coming of Jesus who will have a group of followers (the 144,000 or all the redeemed ?) with Him when He returns. (More on this in Prophecy 16.)</p>
<p>{15} Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.</p>	<p>The following verses are descriptive and do not appear to be in the same sequence to the prior verses regarding the return of Christ. This verse tell us the meaning of the waters where the prostitute sits.</p>
<p>{16} The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.</p>	<p>The beast mentioned here must be the lamb-like beast (since the ten horns are part of the dragon-like beast). He and the civil authorities (ten horns) will turn on "the prostitute" -- apparently the "image of the beast". The kings of the earth will realize they have been duped and will speak against the devil's "replacement" government. The devil will also turn on this facade he has set up, because it is no longer useful to him.</p>
<p>{17} For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled.</p>	<p>Through all of these organizations and coalitions and trials and tribulations, people will show their true allegiance, whether it be to God to Satan.</p>
<p>{18} The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."</p>	<p>The headquarters for the coalition where the image of the beast was set up for all the world to worship was referred to as Babylon. Once the devil has gained control he will clearly show all the world leaders that he is in charge -- this will be a reason the kings of the earth will resent the image of the beast (also represented as the prostitute).</p>

PROPHECY 15: Last Call

Revelation 18:1-8

Beginning point in time: Shortly before the sixth trumpet

Ending point in time: Shortly before the seventh trumpet

Synopsis: This prophecy describes the final invitation to salvation. The evil and immortality of Babylon is clearly shown. The utter treachery of the devil is also revealed. Once the coalition has served its usefulness, it is discarded by the devil.

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
{18:1} After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.	This passage appears to be very similar to the message of Prophecy 13.
{2} With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. {3} For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."	Rev 14:8 records the message of the second angel of Prophecy 13 which is nearly identical to the message given here. We see additional information regarding the spiritual and moral corruptness of the religious and political coalition that will be controlled by the devil. Most governments will be seduced by this tool of Satan and those who cooperate will enjoy great financial success for a period of time.
{4} Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;	The message of this voice is like that of the third angel of Prophecy 13 who warns of the consequences of receiving the mark of the beast.
{5} for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. {6} Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup.	The words here support the "Full Cup Principle" in that the accumulated iniquity will have reached the point where God will have to act. The mention of "a portion from her own cup" may be manifested in the last plagues where the oceans and the other waters will be turn into blood because the wicked people of the earth will shed the blood of God's saints and He will "give them blood to drink as they deserve."

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{7} Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.'</p>	<p>In the early days of the coalition, the rulers will take advantage of their positions to make themselves rich and bask in luxury. They will be deluded into thinking that the great power of their new world order could never be challenged or overthrown.</p>
<p>{8} Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine.</p>	<p>The suddenness of the collapse of the world empire will catch the world leaders by surprise. In a very short time, the economic and social order will fall apart.</p>
<p>She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.</p>	<p>This passage may refer to the judgment in time that will come with the last plagues (although no fires are mentioned) or, more likely, to the fate of the beast and the false prophet who will be thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur (Rev 19:20) when Christ returns.</p> <p>Note: In the present passage Babylon is referred to in the feminine gender while (in earlier passages) the image of the beast is referred to in the masculine. This mixing of genders is not without precedence -- Christians are referred to as "sons of God" as well as "the bride of Christ."</p>

The remainder of Chapter 18 describes the destruction of Babylon and the lament of many regarding the loss.

PROPHECY 16: Multitude Taken to Heaven

Revelation 19:1-20:6

Beginning point in time: Just before the Second Coming

Ending point in time: During the Millennium

Synopsis: This prophecy reveals additional parts of the picture. First, the multitude of God's faithful will be received into heaven after the Second Coming. Second, the physical body the devil will inhabit (the "false prophet") and Babylon will be cast into the lake of fire at the Second Coming. Third, the devil and the evil angels will be re-confined to the Abyss for 1000 years. Finally, we see there is work to do during the 1000 years involved with judging and reigning.

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
{19:1} After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,	This group appears to be the redeemed of the earth. In other cases in which only the 144,000 were in heaven, it was so stated (see Rev 14:1). The great rejoicing is a result of the great victory that Jesus has just accomplished.
{2} for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." {3} And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever." {4} The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!"	The image of the beast or Babylon has been judged and cast into the lake of fire. Since this event occurs during the Second Coming, the opening scene would be at a time right after the Second Coming and the rapture of the saints. The approval of God's actions on the part of His people is echoed by the 24 elders and the angelic beings that attend the throne of God.
{5} Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!"	Worship leaders in our churches instruct us to lift our voices in praise to God. In heaven, instruction will be given for corporate worship and praise.
{6} Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.	A mighty chorus responds with shouts of acclamation of the evident reign of God.
{7} Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. {8} Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)	Weddings are usually times of great happiness and rejoicing. The center of attention is the bride who is typically adorned with fine clothing to bring out and enhance her attractiveness. So it will be when the wedding of the Lamb to His bride takes place. Notice that the fine linen (the righteous acts) were given to her to wear. As Paul said, "The life I now live, I live by the faith of the Son of God." Our righteous acts are really the acts of Jesus being manifested in our lives.

VERSES	COMMENTS
<p>{9} Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."</p>	<p>The ultimate blessing for every Christian is to be in the very presence of Jesus and to be at one with Him.</p>
<p>{10} At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."</p>	<p>A caution to not worship anything (or anyone) other than God.</p> <p>It is interesting to see that the angels consider us to be fellow servant.</p>
<p>{11} I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.</p>	<p>It appears that verse 11 begins another story or it may answer the question of how did the great multitude of verse 1 come to be in heaven. The first time we saw a white horse was in the opening of the first seal in which the rider went forth conquering and to conquer. This is apparently the final conquest. See also comments related to Rev 19:14.</p>
<p>{12} His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.</p>	<p>The eyes like blazing fire symbolize the omniscience of God the Son - He sees all, for nothing is hidden from His sight. The many crowns symbolize the victories and authority He has obtained -- all authority in heaven and earth . . .</p>
<p>{13} He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.</p>	<p>It is not clear the significance of the "robe dipped in blood." This could be Jesus' blood shed to atone for the sins of the world or it could be the blood of the martyrs who will die for their testimony. If it is the latter, then He will be identifying Himself with their suffering as He sets out to avenge their deaths.</p>
<p>{14} The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.</p>	<p>Normally, the armies of heaven are references to angelic hosts. However, because of the way these are dressed, this army is apparently made up of the saints. See Rev 19:8 where the bride is dressed in fine linen. See also Rev 17:14 in which Jesus will be accompanied by "His called, chosen and faithful followers."</p>
<p>{15} Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.</p>	<p>In Prophecy 14, the 6th plague made ready the great battle in which the kings of the earth will gather together to fight against the returning Christ. This verse describes the outcome of the ensuing battle.</p> <p>The reference to the winepress relates to the harvest of grapes in Prophecy 13 as recorded in Rev 14:19,20.</p>

VERSES	COMMENTS
<p>{16} On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.</p>	<p>The lamb-like beast passed himself off as God and fooled many people. When Jesus comes back, He will defeat this imposter and everyone will know Who is the real power and authority in all the universe. His title of King of kings and Lord of lords will be evident to all that it is rightly deserved.</p>
<p>{17} And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, {18} so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."</p>	<p>Even before the battle is fought, the outcome is known. A call will be sent out to the scavengers to prepare. This grim "supper" is in contrast to the marriage supper of the Lamb mentioned earlier in this chapter.</p> <p>Some commentaries note that end-time watchers look for signs of any increase in the scavenger bird population as a "tip off" to the beginning of the end.</p>
<p>{19} Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.</p>	<p>These gather together in response to the delusion created by the three demon spirits that came out from the mouth of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet as described in the sixth plague.</p>
<p>{20} But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.</p>	<p>In Rev 19:3 we read that the smoke from her goes up forever and ever. Consequently, the events described here apparently had already taken place at the time of the great multitude shouting praises to God (see Rev 19:1). Therefore the great multitude in 19:1-10 are all the redeemed and the event is after the Second Coming. Those accompanying Jesus at the Second Coming are the 144,000 (who follow Jesus wherever He goes).</p>
<p>{21} The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.</p>	<p>It would appear that only the kings and their armies were killed. The "nations" were not destroyed. Rev 20:3 indicates that the devil will be kept from deceiving the nations for 1000 years.</p>
<p>{20:1} And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain.</p>	<p>If John saw the angel <i>coming down out of</i> heaven rather than <i>going down from</i> heaven, then he was viewing this event from a perspective of being on the earth.</p>
<p>{2} He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. {3} He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.</p>	<p>Apparently, the devil (the spiritual being) was not destroyed by the wrath of Jesus at the Second Coming, but only the physical body (the person who was inhabited by the spirit of the devil) was cast into the lake of fire. The spirit being called Satan was bound and locked in the Abyss from which he had been released during the fifth trumpet. This is not the end of his influence because he will be release at the end of the millennium.</p>

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{4} I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.</p>	<p>There are many unanswered questions: Where are these thrones located? Some think that this will be in heaven while others think this will be on the earth. If the earth has been devastated by the events heralded by the trumpets and the wars that follow, then what kind of place will this be to live? Where do the saints reign with Christ for this thousand years? What are they judging in heaven since the rest of the dead will not come to life until the thousand years were ended. (See next verse.)</p>
<p>{5} (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.</p>	<p>What happens to the nations during the 1000 years? What happens on earth during this time? People will be born and will die. Do they live by any moral law? Is there sin? Is there possibility of forgiveness and salvation?</p>
<p>{6} Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.</p>	<p>The blessedness is understood; however, being priests of God and of Christ for a thousand years may find these resurrected ones at work on the earth ministering to the nations to help rebuild their lives. With the devil out of the way and the evident power of God fully demonstrated, these who reign with Christ will find good acceptance in their roles as priests and judges.</p>

Questions Related to Verse 19:14:

If this verse describes the conquest in which Jesus returns to earth, conquers the forces of the devil and raptures the saints, then those who are with Him must be the 144,000 who were called up into heaven at the end of the 1290 days.

If this is all the redeemed (i.e., occurs after the rapture), then following the rapture, Jesus returns with His followers to defeat the devil's forces.

If verse 11 is in chronological order, then the group in verse 1 is the 144,000 and not all the redeemed of the earth. This could be interpreted that only the 144,000 will attend the marriage supper of the Lamb.

PROPHECY 17: End of Sin

REVELATION 20:7-21:1

Beginning point in time: End of the Millennium

Ending point in time: Earth made new

Synopsis: This prophecy tells how God will deal with the wicked at the end of the Millennium. It shows the Book of Life finally being opened.

VERSES	COMMENTS
{7} When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison	One possibility is that at the same time as the saints return to earth in the Holy City (assumes they were in heaven for the 1000 years) the devil will be released from the Abyss. [The descent of the Holy City is not mentioned until Rev 22:2. See also Prophecy 18.] A more likely scenario is that the saints have been on the earth with Jesus.
{8} and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth--Gog and Magog--to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.	If the nations are the wicked dead who will be raised at the end of the 1000 years, then this <u>could be</u> those the devil deceives. This possibility is very suspect since the devil was sealed in the Abyss <u>so that he could not deceive the nations</u> (who were apparently on the earth during the millennium).
{9} They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves.	If the nations who will be deceived have been on the earth for 1000 years since the destruction of <i>the Tribulation and wrath of God</i> , then there could be many, many people and the infrastructure of the world could be rebuilt -- consider what has been done in the past 1000 years. Is the "camp of God's people" the Holy City that comes down out of heaven at the end of the millennium OR is it where the saints have been located as they reigned with Christ for 1000 years (assuming this was on earth)??
But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (See also references to the world being destroyed by fire at the end of this table.)	Is this all the people in the nations or just the "bad" ones? Does this suggest that all these are "unsaved" perhaps because there was no possibility of salvation during the 1000 years for those "nations" that remained on the earth? Does the fact that they are "devoured" indicate that they are completely destroyed and there is no "eternity" considerations for them? The other possibility is that they will also be among the dead mentioned in verse 12. If there was no possibility of salvation during this time, then how can they be judged?
{10} And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.	From the wording of this verse, it would appear that, at this point in the unfolding of the story, only the beast, false prophet and the devil will be in the lake of fire. (This does not seem to include the "nations" who had just been devoured with fire in verse 9.)

VERSES	COMMENTS
<p>{11} Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.</p>	<p>The final Judgement at the Great White Throne. "Earth and sky" probably refers to the inhabitants (men and angels) of earth and sky. The scene is so awesome that everyone will want to hide, but there is no place to hide.</p>
<p>{12} And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.</p>	<p>Assuming that the book (sealed with seven seals) that had been given to the Lamb is the Book of Life, then this represents the opening of the 7th Seal. The implication is that other books will be opened which will have records of everything ever done for every individual who has ever lived. Some speculate that the Book of Life will contain a record of God's foreknowledge of how each individual was going to respond and that the records of what actually happened will be found to match what God foreknew.</p>
<p>{13} The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. {See also Comment with verse 12 regarding what is in the "books." The record will be such that each will agree that God is just in His judgements.}</p>	<p>This apparently tells us from whence the dead came. Three "places" are mentioned: the sea, death, and Hades. Notice that this does not say the "seas." This could be the same "sea" from which the beast of Rev 13 came -- i.e., the multitude of peoples, languages, and nations. <i>Hades</i> is thought of to be the abode of the dead and a place of great anguish and punishment. There may be more than one aspect of "Hades" in that it is sometimes used to refer to "the grave" as opposed to a place of punishment. If it were only a place of punishment, then it would appear that people would have already been consigned there before being judged and there would be no reason to hold a judgement at the end of the millennium. The reason for a particular distinction implied to a separate reference to "death" is not clear.</p>
<p>{14} Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.</p>	<p>Up to this point, we have the image of the beast, the beast, the false prophet, the devil and "death" and Hades in the lake of fire.</p>
<p>The lake of fire is the second death.</p>	<p>Remember we said earlier that if something is symbolic, then the meaning of the symbol will be defined. There are at least two "schools of thought" regarding the nature of hell. One group would say that the "lake of fire" is merely symbolic and it is symbolic of "the second death." This group is referred to by some as the "no hellers." That is, they do not believe that hell (the lake of fire) is a literal place. Some of this group teach that if this is a "death" then it is simply <i>annihilation</i> and those entering into the second death just cease to be -- that is, there is no <u>eternal</u> component to this second death.</p>

VERSES	COMMENTS
<i>The second death is the lake of fire.</i>	<p>Since the <i>annihilation</i> position does not seem to be supported by other Scriptures which speak of the smoke from their torment rising day and night <u>for ever</u> we will look at the other school.</p> <p>The other school of thought is that the "second death" is the lake of fire. (All I've done is to reverse the order.) In others words the <i>second death</i> is symbolic and the "lake of fire" is the literal interpretation of it. This is closer to what many mainline Christians believe.</p>
{15} If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.	<p>Now all the rest (whose names are not in the book of life) join the others in the lake. This whole picture really shows how ridiculous is the conventional ideas that hell is a place where the devil and his demons are in charge of making eternity miserable for all lost people. The devil will be undergoing "the second death" as will all who are there. (The evil angels are mentioned in Jude 1:6 as being held in chains for judgement on the great Day.)</p>
{21:1} Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.	<p>At the end of the judgement all things are made new -- new heaven and earth. The end of the world is often pictured as everything burning up -- the world was destroyed the first time with water, the second time by fire. (See verses below from 2 Peter as references to this scenario.)</p>

References to the World being Destroyed by Fire:

By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for **fire**, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.
-- 2 Peter 3:7 (NIV)

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by **fire**, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. -- 2 Peter 3:10 (NIV)

as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by **fire**, and the elements will melt in the **heat**. -- 2 Peter 3:12 (NIV)

PROPHECY 18: New Earth

Revelation 21:2-22:5

Beginning point in time: Descent of the Holy City

Ending point in time: Forever and ever

Synopsis: This prophecy describes the Holy City or the new Jerusalem. This is the kingdom of God and His people who along with Jesus will reign over the affairs of the universe. The kingdom of evil and darkness is pictured as the city of Babylon while the city of righteousness and light is pictured as the new Jerusalem. This prophecy tells the requirement for taking part in this kingdom and it also describes those who will be excluded.

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
{2} I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.	Apparently the timing is after the Millennium reign of Jesus. The Judgement has been completed and the new heaven and new earth have come into being. The description of the Holy City will be given later in this passage.
{3} And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.	Notice that the dwelling place of God is with men (implying on the earth?) rather than the dwelling place of man being with God (implying in heaven?).
{4} He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."	This description of care from a loving Father is what most of us have associated with "being in heaven." Usually we think of this as being the state or situation of the saved immediately following physical death. However, we see that this occurs after the 1000 years and following the Holy City coming down out of heaven.
{5} He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"	It is possible and it seem probable that this statement was meant for the " now " of John's time. It probably is in a present perfect or continuative voice and would then mean, "I am (in the process of) making everything new!" In other words, this is not likely to apply to just after the time that the Holy City came down.
Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."	This appears to be a message to John's generation and to saints since John's time.

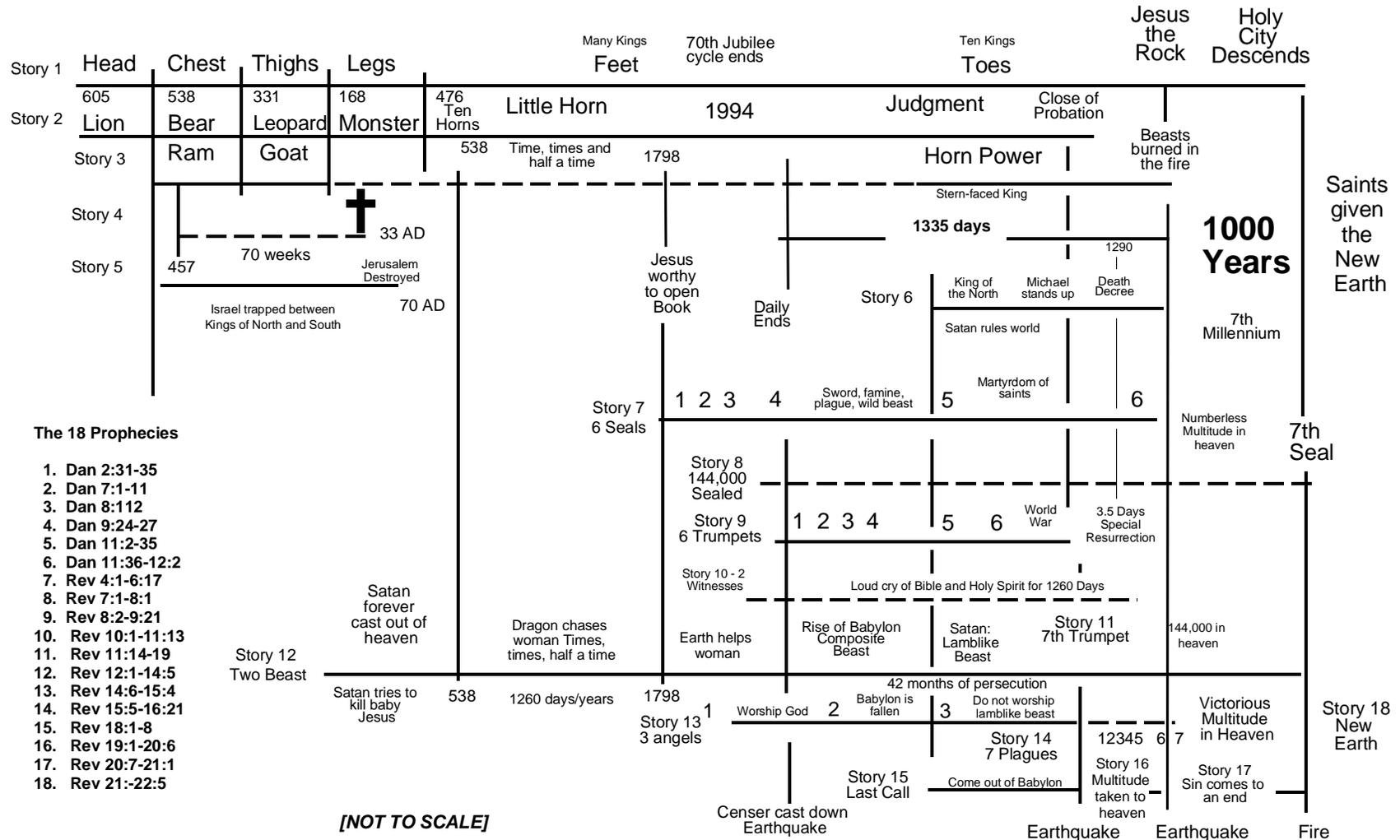
VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{6} He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.</p>	<p>Again, this is the Gospel message that Jesus brought to us and is a reaffirmation of what Jesus told John at the beginning of the vision -- I am Alpha and Omega.</p>
<p>{7} He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.</p>	<p>This appears to be a message for John's time and our time. If the message applies to the time after the Holy City comes down, then what is there left to overcome?</p>
<p>{8} But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."</p>	<p>This message should have no meaning for the time after the Judgement has been completed and the devil and all the wicked have been thrown into the lake of fire. So it is also is for our time.</p>
<p>{9} One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." {10} And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.</p>	<p>We appear to be back to the events regarding the Holy City which we see is the bride (the wife) of the Lamb. This is the first time the bride of Christ has been referred to as the wife of the lamb. This Holy City appears to be the kingdom of God on earth and it is made up of the company of the redeemed.</p>
<p>{11} It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like . . . {23} The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.</p>	<p>Verses 11 - 23 give a detailed description of the City. The various elements and dimensions are likely symbolic and I do not have a clue as to what it means.</p>
<p>{24} The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.</p>	<p>The use of the term "nations" is interesting. Prior uses of this term was in reference to the world system. Since there is no world system, then this reference is likely to the redeemed of the various nations. The "kings" are likely then the leaders of the redeemed -- perhaps those who were faithful until death during the Tribulation.</p>

VERSES FROM THE REVELATION	COMMENTS
<p>{25} On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. {26} The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.</p>	<p>Notice the absence of time in the new heaven and earth. Again we see reference to the nations. Is this saying that the glory and honor of the nations are the redeemed?</p>
<p>{27} Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.</p>	<p>If our interpretation is correct, then there will not be any impure people around. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book will be there.</p>
<p>{22:1} Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb {2} down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.</p>	<p>The reference to the healing of the nations is somewhat puzzling; unless this is the means by which "He shall wipe away every tear and there will be no more crying." Perhaps, the grief of loved ones who were lost will be the main need for healing.</p>
<p>{3} No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. {4} They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. {5} There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.</p>	<p>The curse may refer to the proclamation "The soul that sins, it shall die." With the saints being in the presence of God and the Lamb and having been sealed with His name plus being freed from our carnality, then there will be no more sin, neither death nor dying. With this we will be able to enjoy eternal life.</p>

APPENDICES

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18 End-Time Prophecies



Aug, 1998

THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD

How can we reconcile the prediction of Elijah returning, the coming of John the Baptist and the "two witnesses" of the Revelation? In Malachi 4:5,6 we see

"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

The first century Jews anticipated that Elijah would personally come down from heaven and introduce the Messiah when He arrived. Both the Jews, Samaritans, and some Babylonians anticipated the coming of the Messiah at the time He came because of Daniel's prophecy that the Messiah would appear at the beginning of the 70th week. Along side that anticipation, came a powerful figure that many recognized as a prophet -- John the Baptist. As his popularity grew so did the jealousy of the religious leaders in Jerusalem.

They came to him asking four questions:

1. Are you Messiah?
2. Are you Elijah?
3. Are you the prophet Moses predicted?

The answer to the first three was "No!" The fourth question was, "Who are you?" John answered from Isaiah's prophecy (40:3), "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" Since John was not a personal appearance of Elijah (by his own testimony), then the Jews concluded that Jesus was NOT the Messiah -- Elijah had not appeared. The Jews had failed to properly interpret the meaning of the prophecy and had not placed it appropriately in time -- i.e., in association with the "great and terrible day of the Lord."

After the transfiguration in which Elijah and Moses appears to talk with Jesus, the disciples asked Him "Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?" To which Jesus replied, "Elijah has already come and they did not recognize him. . . They understood that He was talking to them about John the Baptist." An obvious question is "Was John the Baptist the promised Elijah?" The answer is "Yes and No." John was NOT the physical appearing of Elijah, but he did come as a type of Elijah in the spirit and power of Elijah. This was what the angel told Zachariah.

In another verse, Jesus said "And if you are willing to accept it, he (John the Baptist) is the Elijah who was to come. He who has ears, let him hear." In saying "If you are willing to accept it" [as we might state it, "If you want to believe it"] Jesus was telling us even though John came **according to** the prophecy it was not in **fulfillment of** the prophecy. The thing that is missing to cause John **not** to be fulfillment is the proximity to the *great and terrible day of the Lord*. That DAY is yet to come. Before that awesome time, the 144,000 will go forth in the spirit and power of Elijah (See Rev 11:5,6) and will tell the world about the coming of the Lord from heaven. They will bear the witness of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to present the truth to every person on earth so that all will be without excuse.

MYSTERY

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the **mystery** hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him -- Romans 16:25-26 (NIV)

in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, *at the last trumpet*. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. -- 1 Corinthians 15:52 (NIV)(See also reference to Rev 10:7)

And he made known to us the **mystery** of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment -- to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory. -- Ephesians 1:9-14 (NIV)

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the **mystery** made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the **mystery** of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This **mystery** is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. -- Ephesians 3:2-,6 (NIV)

and to make plain to everyone the administration of this **mystery**, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. -- Ephesians 3:9 (NIV)

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, -- Ephesians 3:10 (NIV)

according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. --Ephesians 3:11 (NIV)

the **mystery** that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. -- Colossians 1:26 (NIV)

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this **mystery**, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. -- Colossians 1:27 (NIV)

My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the **mystery** of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. -- Colossians 2:2-3 (NIV)

Beyond all question, the **mystery** of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. -- 1 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

But in the days when the *seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet*, the **mystery** of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets." -- Revelation 10:7 (NIV)

THE RESURRECTION

The word "resurrection" occurs 40 times in the NIV -- all in the New Testament. Several of these reference verses are reproduced below. They tell something about what will be occurring (or not occurring) for those who participate in the resurrection. Those who participate in the "first resurrection" will reign with Christ for a thousand years. They will live in "the camp of God's people, the city He loves." (Rev 20:9) In Prophecies 16 and 17 we find there are also "the nations" on the earth. Who are these referred to as the nations? There are various speculations including:

- A. The "unsaved" who were not killed at the battle associated with the Second Coming -- all the rest of them (armies of the kings of the earth??) were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the One on the white horse (Rev 19:21).
- B. Offspring of the redeemed of the Lord who will reign with Christ for a thousand years. These are they who have participated in the first resurrection over which the second death has no power but they will be priest of God.
- C. The unrighteous who will be raised prior to the final judgement and will be deceived by the devil when he is released from the Abyss.

☞ Now then, at the **resurrection**, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?" -- Matthew 22:28 (NIV)

☞ At the **resurrection** people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. -- Matthew 22:30 (NIV)

☞ But about the **resurrection** of the dead--have you not read what God said to you, -- Matthew 22:31 (NIV)

☞ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the **resurrection** of the righteous." -- Luke 14:14 (NIV)

☞ Now then, at the **resurrection** whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?" -- Luke 20:33 (NIV)

☞ But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the **resurrection** from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, -- Luke 20:35 (NIV)

☞ and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the **resurrection**. -- Luke 20:36 (NIV)

☞ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the **resurrection** at the last day." -- John 11:24 (NIV)

☞ Jesus said to her, "I am the **resurrection** and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; -- John 11:25 (NIV)

☞ If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his **resurrection**. -- Romans 6:5 (NIV)

☞ But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no **resurrection** of the dead? -- 1 Corinthians 15:12 (NIV)

☞ If there is no **resurrection** of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. -- 1 Corinthians 15:13 (NIV)

☞ Now if there is no **resurrection**, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them? -- 1 Corinthians 15:29 (NIV)

☞ So will it be with the **resurrection** of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; -- 1 Corinthians 15:42 (NIV)

☞ I want to know Christ and the power of his **resurrection** and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, -- Philippians 3:10 (NIV)

☞ and so, somehow, to attain to the **resurrection** from the dead. -- Philippians 3:11 (NIV)

☞ who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the **resurrection** has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. -- 2 Timothy 2:18 (NIV)

☞ Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better **resurrection**. -- Hebrews 11:35 (NIV)

☞ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, -- 1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

☞ (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first **resurrection**. -- Revelation 20:5 (NIV)

☞ Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first **resurrection**. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. -- Revelation 20:6 (NIV)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON ASHES OF THE RED HEIFER

Numbers 19

1 ¶ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron:

2 "This is a requirement of the law that the LORD has commanded: Tell the Israelites to bring you a red heifer without defect or blemish and that has never been under a yoke.

3 Give it to Eleazar the priest; it is to be taken outside the camp and slaughtered in his presence.

4 Then Eleazar the priest is to take some of its blood on his finger and sprinkle it seven times towards the front of the Tent of Meeting.

5 While he watches, the heifer is to be burned--its hide, flesh, blood and offal.

6 The priest is to take some cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet wool and throw them onto the burning heifer.

7 After that, the priest must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water. He may then come into the camp, but he will be ceremonially unclean till evening.

8 The man who burns it must also wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he too will be unclean till evening.

9 "A man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and put them in a ceremonially clean place outside the camp. They shall be kept by the Israelite community for use in the water of cleansing; it is for purification from sin.

10 The man who gathers up the ashes of the heifer must also wash his clothes, and he too will be unclean till evening. This will be a lasting ordinance both for the Israelites and for the aliens living among them.

Matthew Henry's Commentary

#1-10 The heifer was to be wholly burned. This typified the painful sufferings of our Lord Jesus, both in soul and body, as a sacrifice made by fire, to satisfy God's justice for man's sin. These ashes are said to be laid up as a purification for sin, because, though they were only to purify from ceremonial uncleanness, yet they were a type of that purification for sin which our Lord Jesus made by his death. The blood of Christ is laid up for us in the word and sacraments, as a fountain of merit, to which by faith we may have constant recourse, for cleansing our consciences.

Gill's Commentary

INTRODUCTION TO NUMBERS 19

This chapter contains a law for making a water for purification for sin, the ingredients of which are the ashes of a red heifer burnt, about which many things are observed, #Nu 19:1-10; the use of the water made of them, to purify such as were unclean by the touch of a dead body, #Nu 19:11-13; some rules are given, by which it might be known who were unclean on account of a dead body, #Nu 19:14-16; the manner of purifying such persons, #Nu 19:17-19; and the punishment of those that should neglect purification, #Nu 19:20-22.

Ver. 1. And the Lord spake unto Moses, and unto Aaron, etc.] Not at this time, after the business of the spies, and the affair of Korah, but before the children of Israel departed from Sinai; and so Aben Ezra observes, that this was spoken in the wilderness of Sinai, when the Lord commanded to put unclean persons out of the camp, and when some were defiled with a dead body, and unfit

for the Passover, #Nu 5:2 9:6; and mention is made of the "water of purifying", #Nu 8:7; saying; as follows.

Ver. 2. This is the ordinance of the law which the Lord hath commanded, etc.] By which it appears, that this law was not of the moral, but of the ceremonial kind, being called an ordinance, a statute, a decree of God, the King of kings; and which was founded not on any clear plain reason in the thing itself, but in the will of God, who intended it as a type and shadow of the blood and sacrifice of Christ, and of the efficacy of that to cleanse from sin; and it also appears by this, that it was not a new law now made, but which had been made already: "which the Lord hath commanded": as is plain from what has been observed; and the Jews say, that the red heifer was slain by Eleazar the day after the tabernacle was erected, even on the second day of the first month of Israel's coming out of Egypt; and it was now repeated both on account of the priests and people, because of the priest to whom it belonged, as Aben Ezra observes, Aaron being now established in the priesthood; and because of the people, who were afraid they should die if they came near the tabernacle; now hereby they are put in mind of a provision made for the purification of them, when under any uncleanness, which made them unfit for coming to it:

saying, speak unto the children of Israel; whom this law concerned, and for whose purification it was designed; and it was at the expense not of a private person, but of the whole congregation, that the water of purifying was made; and that, as the Jews say {r}, that the priests might have no personal profit from it:

that they bring thee a red heifer; or "young cow", for so the word properly signifies; one of two years old, as the Targum of Jonathan, and so says the Misnah {s}; though some of the Rabbins say one of three years, or of four years, or even one of five years old, would do. This instance, with others, where females are ordered to be slain, see #Le 3:1; confutes the notion of such, who think the laws of Moses were made in conformity to the customs of the Egyptians, this being directly contrary to them.

without spot, wherein is no blemish; the first of these, without spot, the Jews understand of color, that it should have no spots in it of any other color, black or white, nor indeed so much as an hair, at least not two of another color; and so the Targum of Jonathan, in which there is no spot or mark of a white hair; and Jarchi more particularly,

``which is perfect in redness; for if there were in it (he says) two black hairs, it was unfit;"

and so Ben Gersom, with which agrees the Misnah {x}; if there were in it two hairs, black or white, in one part, it was rejected; if there was one in the head, and another in the tail, it was rejected; if there were two hairs in it, the root or bottom of which were black, and the head or top red, and so on the contrary; all depended on the sight: and it must be owned, the same exactness was observed in the red oxen sacrificed by the Egyptians, as Plutarch relates; for if the ox had but one hair black or white, they reckoned it was not fit to be sacrificed; in which perhaps they imitated the Jews: it being without blemish was what was common to all sacrifices, such as are described in Le 22:22-24;

and upon which never came yoke; and so among the Heathens in later times, very probably in imitation of this, they used to offer to their deities oxen that never had bore any yoke; as appears from Homer, Horace, Virgil, Ovid, and Seneca, out of whom instances are produced by Bochart {z}. Now, though this red cow was not properly a sacrifice for sin, yet it was analogous to one, and was a type of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom all these characters meet, and are significant. It being a female may denote the infirmities of Christ's human nature, to which it was subject, though sinless ones; he was encompassed with, and took on him, our infirmities; and may have some respect to the woman, by whom the transgression came, which brought impurity on all human nature, which made a purification for sin necessary; and the red color of it may point at the flesh and blood of Christ he partook of, and the sins of his people, which were laid upon him, and were as crimson and as scarlet, and the bloody sufferings he endured to make satisfaction for them; and its being without spot and blemish may denote the perfection of Christ in his person, obedience, and sufferings, and the purity and holiness of his nature; and having never had any yoke upon it may signify, that though he was made under the law, and had commands enjoined him by his father as man, yet was free from the yoke of human traditions, and from the servitude of sin, and most willingly engaged, and not by force and compulsion, in the business of our redemption and salvation.

WORKSHEET 1

1. What are the NAMES of the Five Types of Prophecies?

<u>Name</u>	<u>Example Reference</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. In the above list, put a check mark ✓ next to the name of those Prophecies that can have conditional elements.

3. Which Prophecy type would you classify the account given in Acts 11:28 and Acts 21:10-11? _____

4. Give a simple definition of the word *Apocalypse*.

5. Briefly state the three basic rules of interpretation of Apocalyptic Prophecy.

Rule 1: Each sequence has a _____ and an _____ . Within each story events are given in _____ order.

Rule 2: A prophecy is NOT fulfilled until _____ of the prophecy are met. Fulfillment includes the proper _____ .

Rule 3: (Hint: Symbolic/literal) _____

6. Review the Scriptures on the Time of the End and name two "happenings" that are associated with this time.

7. What event in the Bible is associated with a formal observance of a Day of Rest every seven days? _____

8. The seventh-day Sabbath was to let what two groups rest? _____

9. Names two reasons for the seventh-year Sabbath:

10. In relationship to the concept of the Sabbath, what was one specific objective for the Babylonia exile period? _____

11. How many years are in one Jubilee cycle? _____

WORKSHEET 2

1. People have speculated that "manna" was a naturally occurring phenomenon and that it really had no divine element to it. What is one fact about the giving of manna that refutes such claims? _____ (Hint: Timing)

2. Not counting the First Jubilee Cycle, how many years of rest are in each Jubilee Cycle?
 49 years 7 years 50 years 8 years

3. How many years did the Jews spend in "exile" in Babylon? _____ years.

4. While the Jews were in Babylon, God granted them another chance. How much time was in this "last chance?" 10 Jubilee cycles 70 weeks of yrs 490 yrs

5. Based on Daniel 9:25, what event was associated with the "clock" starting for this time period? _____

6. God's unchanging Plan for Salvation can be summarized in two words. These are _____ and _____
 (Hint: see hymn *When We Walk with the Lord.*)

7. Tracing the events from Adam through Jacob and his descendants, what can we concluded about the assignment of the Trusteeship for the Plan of Salvation if the trustees are not trustworthy? _____
 (Hint: See Matt 21:33-45)

8. Even though God had promised the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants, they had to wait to receive the promise. Why was it necessary to wait? (Gen. 15:16)

9. Pick three examples from the New Testament that point to the "accumulation of wrath" when people continually refuse to turn away from iniquity. Give the expected outcome of continued rebellion.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

10. Based on historical evidence, can you expect people to turn from iniquity because of natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, great fires, etc.? Yes No
 Give examples to back up your choice: _____

WORKSHEET 3

1. Match up the "parts of the statue," the "beast," and the "kingdoms" or nations they represent. Draw a line to connect the associated elements.

STATUE PARTS	NATIONS	BEASTS
LEGS	BABYLON	LEOPARD
CHEST	MEDO-PERSIA	MONSTER
TOES	GREECE	GOAT
FEET	ROME	RAM
THIGHS	EUROPE	BEAR
HEAD	END TIME NATIONS	LION

2. What (who) is the rock that strikes the statue? _____
3. Which of the statue parts have yet to appear on the scene of history? _____
4. What is the significance of the reference to the "rock" being cut out a mountain?

5. What is the significance of the leopard having four heads? _____

6. The "terrible beast" of Prophecy 2, had ten horns. What do they represent?

7. What was different about the "little horn?" _____
8. How long did the "little horn" power dominate the saints? _____ years.
9. What happened in Heaven that was coincident with the end of the power of the "little horn?" _____
10. In the account of the "shaggy goat" there was a great horn, four horn and then a small that grew in power. What phrase (See Daniel 8:17,19) allows us to place this last horn at the right time in history? _____
11. What is the most surprising or meaningful verse or statement in this weeks lesson material? _____

WORKSHEET 4

1. What are the SEVEN items Daniel's people were supposed to accomplish in the 70 "weeks" of years that were granted to them at the time they were in Babylonia?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. In the above list, put a check mark ✓ next to those items the Jews failed to do.

3. What great event was predicted would occur at the end of 7 plus 62 weeks of years?

4. What are two possible interpretations of the statement in Daniel 9:27, "In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering." A.

B. _____

5. In Daniel 11:35, reference is made to "some of the wise will stumble ..." What is the probable meaning of this verse and when did it (will it) happen?

6. In reference to the king of the north of Daniel 11, what will be the result of any nation that will not submit to his authority? _____

What will happen to those who support him? _____

7. What event is signalled when Michael, the great prince of God's people, stands up?

8. What New Testament event is most likely associated with the events described in Daniel 12:1 and 2? (Hint: See I Thes 4:16-17)

9. Three significant time periods are mentioned in Daniel 12: 7, 11, and 12. What are these times? _____

10. What are two possible interpretations of "the end of the daily sacrifice?"

(On earth) _____

(In Heaven) _____

11. What must happen in Jerusalem for the first one to happen? _____

WORKSHEET 5

1. Name three key similarities that link the events recorded in Daniel 7 (vs 9, 10, 21, 22, 25, 26) with what John saw and recorded in Revelation 4:1-4 and 5:1,2.

2. What "earthly happening" appears to be coincident with the "heavenly event" that John witnessed. (Note that John was told the events would take place later -- "after this.")

3. According to NIV Study Notes, the ride of the White Horse has been variously interpreted as (a) Christ, (b) the Antichrist, and (c) the spirit of conquest. Suggest a plausible earthly event that has or will happen that corresponds to
(a) _____ (b) _____
(c) _____
4. The Red Horse has been associated with war since the rider was given a sword. While many have associated this with physical warfare, what picture from Eph 6:17 might suggest this is warfare is not conventional? _____
5. What is the greatest evidence that the Fourth Seal has not yet been opened?

6. Associated with the opening of the Fifth Seal, we see that many believer were killed and others would be killed. Why were they killed?

7. Before the events of the Fourth Seal take place (sword, famine, plague, and wild beasts) which will "harm the land, the sea and the trees" a special event must occur. Name that event _____
8. Many have argued that the 144,000 must be from physical Israel since the church will already have been raptured out of this world. What event, thus far in our studies, have we seen that represents the rapture of the church?

9. What will be the primary work of the 144,000 witnesses that will be sealed during this time? _____
10. What is the connection of the "great multitude" of Revelation 7:9 and the 144,000 of Revelation 7:4?

WORKSHEET 6

1. A. Events in the Old Testament foreshadow things that will happen in the time in which we live. What was the purpose of the Feast of Trumpets associated with the Day of Atonement? _____
B. If the Feast of Trumpets foreshadows the "seven trumpets" of the Revelation, what then is the purpose of the events described by John? _____

2. What event occurs in heaven that precedes the start of the sounding of the trumpets?

3. Describe the 1st trumpet event and the results. _____

4. Suggest possible (feasible, reasonable) explanations of events that describe the first four trumpets using something **other than** the meteorite/asteroid assumption.

5. What are differences in the third event (blazing star) and the fifth event that is described as a "star that had fallen."

6. How do the "Rules of Interpretation of Apocalyptic Prophecy" help in determining that the locusts that came out of the smoke does NOT apply to Mohammedanism?

7. Read John 12:28,29. Compare to Revelations 10:4 and 8:5. How might these verses be related? _____

8. Though we cannot know for certain, what is a plausible reason for there being no more delay (Rev 10:6)? _____
9. A. In the writings of Paul, where (or what) is the temple of God (I Cor 6:19)? B. What is an acceptable sacrifice on the altar (Rom 12:1)? Compare to Rev 11:1
A. _____ B. _____
10. What are three generally accepted possibilities of the "two witnesses?"
_____ and _____
_____ and _____
_____ and _____

WORKSHEET 7

1. Give a brief description of the events known as "three woes."

Woe No.	Trumpet No.	Significant Events
1	[]	
2	[]	
3	[]	

2. What event must occur on earth preceding the sounding of the 7th trumpet?

3. According to Rev 11:18 what events are initiated at the sounding of the 7th trumpet?

4. What are the two "signs" John saw in Prophecy 12 and what do they represent?

5. The devil was "hurled to the earth" [before () / after ()] the "birth of the male child."
(Check One) What does your answer imply about the timing of this event relative to the original rebellion of Lucifer? [same as () / after ()] Why?

6. Who are the "offspring" of the woman that John saw? _____

7. What does the "dragon" and the "beast" of Rev 13:1 have in common? Both have _____ and _____. Both are _____ (color).
8. The "crowns" of the dragon are on his _____. The crowns of the dragon-like beast are on his _____. What is the possible significance of this difference?

9. Who will worship the beast? _____
Who will not worship the beast? _____
10. The devil tries to imitate what God does in order to deceive people. List two of the ways in which the devil imitates God's methods.

WORKSHEET 8

1. What are the three elements of the first message of Prophecy 13?

2. What is the purpose of the second message of Prophecy 13?

3. What is the common element that would put the timing of the third message with the 5th trumpet? _____

4. What are the consequences of worshiping the beast and receiving his mark?

5. What is the key that links the "grapes" that are to be harvested with the "wicked?"

6. In Revelations 15:2-4 we find a group in heaven. What are some clues that these are **not** the 144,000 prophets? _____
If these were raptured (caught up) from the earth, did it happen before or after the time of tribulation and why? _____

7. By what means will the "wrath of God" be delivered to the earth and its inhabitants?

8. There is a remarkable parallel of the events associated with the trumpets and the last plagues. List the items in common with the trumpets and the plagues.
First LAND Second _____ Third _____
Fourth _____ Fifth _____ Sixth _____
9. The woman of Revelation 17 is sitting on a beast with seven heads? What do these head represent? _____ and also _____
10. If hills or high places represent religions, then what are the seven religions which these hills represent? _____

WORKSHEET 9

1. Name two similarities between Prophecy 15 and Prophecy 13.

2. What are the words from the Scripture that reflect the "full cup principle" will be in operation? _____
3. What statement would cause you to think that God keeps a record of unconfessed sins.

4. In Revelations 19, we find a great multitude in heaven. What has God recently accomplished on their behalf that motivates them to praise Him?

5. What other event was about to happen that was cause for celebration in heaven?

6. What are two possible explanations for the significance of the "robe dipped in blood" mentioned with regard to the what Jesus was wearing?

7. At the time that Jesus comes back and defeats the beast and false prophet and their armies, what will be the outcome of the event? What happens to each of these?
Beast _____ False Prophet _____
Their Army _____ The Nations _____
The devil _____
8. In preparation for discussion, please review the Appendix titled "Questions Regarding Heaven, The Second Coming, and the Millennium." Based on the study and your understanding of the Scriptures, see if you can determine Who? Where? and When? for each of the references listed in the questions. The challenge will be to have consistency in your choices. (Use the space below for your notes and questions.)

WORKSHEET 10

1. When the devil comes out of the Abyss at the 5th Trumpet, he will be on the earth. Where will he be when he is released at the end of the Millennium? _____
2. When does the deception of Gog and Magog take place? Before the Second Coming or at the End of the Millennium? _____
3. Where will God's people be during the Millennial Reign of Christ?

How did you reach this conclusion?

4. When does the devil wind up in the "lake of fire?" Is this before/after the Judgment?

5. Name the three places from which the dead come to be judged.

6. When (in the sequence of events) do the "unsaved" get thrown into the "lake of fire?"

7. When (in the sequence of events) does the Holy City come down out of heaven?

When it comes down, where will it be? _____
8. In earlier verses, the great prostitute was described as the *city of Babylon* and yet we recognized it as *a group of people* that had banded together to do the work and will of the devil. It was not a city at all. Now we have the Bride of Christ described as the New Jerusalem and the Holy City. Do we see this as being an actual city or a group of people united in Christ?

G An actual city **G** Those in Christ
9. If the nations of the earth attacked the city of God's people and they (the nations) were destroyed then to whom does the "glory and honor of the nations" refer? (Rev 21:25)

10. In the space remaining, indicate where you think the redeemed will spend eternity. If the Holy City comes down "out of heaven" and then we dwell there with God, where will this be? What do YOU think it means?

QUESTIONS REGARDING HEAVEN, THE SECOND COMING, AND THE MILLENNIUM

REV. REFERENCES	WHO?	WHERE?	WHEN?
19:1 Great Multitude	144,000 Servant/Prophets All the Redeemed	Heaven	Before Second Coming After Second Coming
19:9 These invited ... wedding supper	144,000 Servant/Prophets All the Redeemed	Heaven	Before Second Coming After Second Coming
19:11 Rider on white horse	Jesus	Heaven	Before Second Coming After Second Coming
19:14 Armies of heaven	Angels 144,000 Servant/Prophets All the Redeemed	Heaven	Before Second Coming After Second Coming
19:18 Kings ... all people	"In crowd" of the devil Everyone on earth except Sts. Everyone on earth (assuming the saints have been rapt'd)	Earth	Before Second Coming After Second Coming
19:20 Beast and False Prophet	Beast - Coalition organization a. Leaders b. Leaders and followers c. All who received mark False Proph - Lamb-like beast The person who allowed Satan to take over his body and soul.	Lake of Fire (Physical) (Spiritual)	Before Second Coming After Second Coming
19:21 Rest of them	The kings and their armies The armies All mankind except the saints	Earth	Before Second Coming After Second Coming

REV. REFERENCES	WHO?	WHERE?	WHEN?
20:3 Nations	Those not killed in the battle against Jesus and His armies	Earth	After Second Coming
20:4 Those given authority to judge	a. 24 elders b. The 144,000 c. All the Redeemed d. Only those martyred during tribulation	Heaven Earth	During Millennium
20:4 Souls of those beheaded	Those martyred during physical appearance of devil	Heaven Earth	During Millennium
20:6 Those who have part in 1st resurrection ... reign with Christ	Only those beheaded 144,000 Servant/Prophets All the Redeemed	Heaven Earth	During Millennium
20:7 Nations in the four corners ...	All the nations on earth Only those deceived by Satan	Earth	At end of Millennium
20:9 The camp of God's people	The saints	Earth (but where)	Before Holy City Descends After Holy City Descends
20:10 The devil, who deceives . . .	The spiritual being (angel) who rebelled against God	Lake of burning sulfur	Before Holy City Descends After Holy City Descends