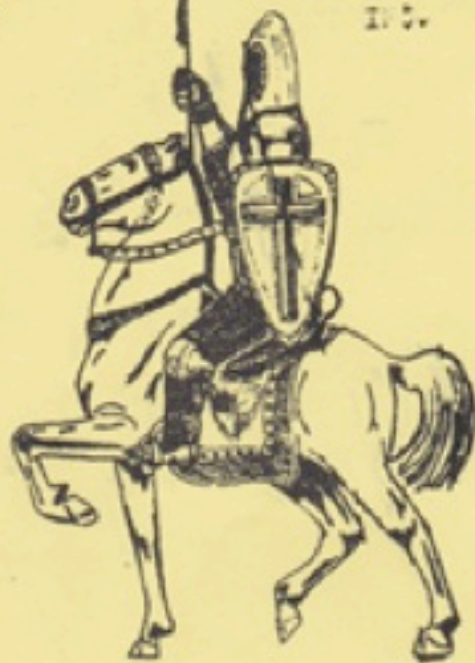


Christian Training Center



**CHRISTIAN TRAINING CENTER, INC.
THE CHARISMATIC BIBLE INSTITUTE**

Principal: Dr. Albert Grimes

Sec. Treas.: Edith R. Grimes

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Lesson 8: The Great Tribulation

Book 11

Matthew 24:21, 22

By Dr. Albert Grimes

The words of Jesus open to us the study of this period of time which is to come upon the earth. It is also called “the hour of temptation” which will try them that dwell on the earth as Revelation 3:10 states, “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth.”

Not only will the earth be tried, but it is also a period of time in which Israel, God’s own people, will be brought under persecution. It is described as a time of Jacob’s trouble referring to Israel in Jeremiah 30:4-7, “And these are the words that the Lord spoke concerning Israel and concerning Judah. 5 For thus saith the Lord. We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. 6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child, wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned to paleness. 7 Alas for that day is great, so that none is like it; it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.”

So God will use this period of time to take the dross out of Israel as it is taken out of brass and tin and iron and lead, as brought out in Ezekiel 22:19-22, “Therefore thus saith the Lord God: Because ye all became dross, behold, therefore, I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. 20 As they gather silver and brass and iron and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it, so will I gather you in mine anger and in my fury, and I will leave you there and melt you. 21 Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath and ye shall melt in the midst thereof. 22 As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof, and ye shall know that I the Lord, have poured out my fury upon you.”

Although Israel will be made to suffer, yet the scripture points out that they will be saved out of it in Daniel 12:1, “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time, and at that time people shall be delivered everyone that shall be found written in the book.”

The Lord also stated that the period of time will be shortened, for the elect’s sake. Matthew 24:22, “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”

This period of time will take place after the church is taken out of the world, and it relates to Daniel’s seventieth week. These seventy weeks of seven years for one week were to be fulfilled upon Israel after their seventy years of captivity. These seventy weeks would be separated into four different events.

The first event would relate to the building of the city and temple, Daniel 9:25,26, which would take seven weeks, or forty-nine years. Then added would be another period of sixty-two more weeks, or 434 years which would bring Israel to the next event, the death of Christ.

Then the next event would be the scattering of Israel amongst the nations which took place in 70 A.D. After these three events sixty-nine of the seventy would be fulfilled. Israel would be amongst the nations out of favour with God, and in blindness, as stated in Romans 11:25, “That blindness in part is happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.”

At the sixty-ninth week when Israel was scattered among the nations, the church Age came in and God left off dealing with Israel, until the Church Age would be completed, and the church taken out of the world. Then the seventieth week will begin.

This last week, which would be the fourth event spoken of in this period of time in which the tribulation will take place, is also spoken of in relation to the Antichrist who will rule during that same period, which is mentioned as one week in Daniel 9:27, “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week; and in the midst of the week...”

This tribulation spoken of is a period of seven years, or one week, and it is divided into two periods of three and a half years.

The division in the seven years is brought out in Daniel 9:27, "...and in the midst of the week..." or the middle of the week.

This same period of three and a half years is mentioned in other scriptures. Revelation 11:2, "And the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months" or "three and a half years." Then in Revelation 11:3, "And I will give power unto my two witnesses and they shall prophecy a thousand two hundred and three score days clothed in sackcloth," same period of time. Then also in Revelation 13:5 "And power was given unto him to continue forty and two months."

The period of tribulation is seven years and these seven years are divided into two shorter periods of three and a half years. The Great Tribulation will take place in the second three and a half years.

This whole period of seven years is described to us in Revelation 6:1 to Revelation 19:21. Chapters 6 to 10 describe the first three and a half years. Chapters 11 to 19 describe the second three and a half years. Chapter 12 describes what takes place in the middle of the week, in relation to Daniel 9:27 "in the midst of the week."

THE FIRST HALF OF THE WEEK

The first three and a half years begin when the Lord, who has received the title deed of the whole earth in Chapter 5, begins to open the deed in order to take possession. As He breaks these seals in heaven, events begin to take place in the earth.

THE FIRST SEAL

In Revelation 6:1-2 we read of the first seal, "And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals and heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. 2 And I saw, and behold a white horse and he that sat on him had a bow and a crown was given unto him: And he went forth conquering and to conquer."

This white horse rider is not to be confused with the white horse rider of Chapter 19:11, "And I saw heaven open and behold a white horse and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." This is Christ coming to earth. The white horse rider of Revelation 6:1-2 is the Antichrist who is to reveal himself after the church is taken out of the earth, and he will ride forth in order to overcome the ten nations, and thus bring forth the revived Roman Empire.

It must be understood that the Raptured Church is represented by the twenty-four elders in Revelation 4:4, "And round about the throne were four and twenty seats, and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting clothed in white raiment and they had on their heads crowns of gold."

That these elders represent the church is brought out in Revelation 5:9-10, "And they sang a new song saying, thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof; for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation. 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests, and we shall reign on the earth."

These Elders then represent all that were redeemed from the nations, and they who are redeemed, will reign in the Kingdom with Christ. Thus the Elders represent the church in heaven.

After the Antichrist rides forth, war begins in the earth as the second seal is broken.

THE SECOND SEAL

In Revelation 6:3-4 we read about the second seal, "And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. 4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword."

It is made clear that as this Antichrist rides forth, war will begin in the regions of the Old Roman Empire. Peace shall be taken from that section of the earth. Many will be killed.

THE THIRD SEAL

In Revelation 6:5-6, is recorded the third seal, "And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts saying, a measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny, and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine."

Famine is always the aftermath of war, and food will be rationed, relating to the ration of a slave for a day. Wheat and barley have to be planted, and sometimes in war this is impossible. But olive trees, and wine trees will grow, and these will be needed for food and drink, and must be saved if possible for that purpose. Thus the warning, "hurt not the oil and wine."

THE FOURTH SEAL

Revelation 6:7-8 states, "And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. 8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse, and his name that sat on him was death, and hell followed with him. And power was given unto them, over the fourth part of the earth to kill with the sword, and with hunger, and with death; and with the beasts of the field."

These conditions will come to pass during the first three and a half years of the seven, when the Antichrist rides forth in the earth to overcome the ten nations that will exist in the region of the Roman Empire. This is the reason for the statement, "And power was given him over the fourth part of the earth."

THE FIFTH SEAL

Revelation 6:9-11 relates "And when he had opened the fifth seal I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God, and the testimony which they held..."

These are possibly those who have accepted Christ after the church has been taken out of the earth. They believe the Word of God and testified to their experience of salvation.

When we understand that the true church will not be in the earth, but with the Lord in heaven, and that the Apostate church with the Roman church as its head, or mother, Revelation 17:5, "The mother of Harlots", will be the accepted world church, even at this period of time, accepted by the Antichrist himself, we can see why anyone in those days that believed the word of God and testified to an experience of salvation will be slain. These then, who are under the altar in heaven, have been slain during the first part of the week.

THE SIXTH SEAL

Revelation 6:12-17 reveals, "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal and lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14 And the heavens departed, as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens, and in the rocks of the mountains, 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. 17 For the great day of his wrath is come and who shall be able to stand?"

These great physical changes take place in the earth as warnings of the coming wrath of God, which will be brought down upon the earth by the seven trumpet judgments, which are to come.

These same events are described to us in Joel 2:30,31, "And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come." These events are warnings of coming judgments.

THE SEALING OF THE 144,000 OF ISRAEL

Before the seventh seal is broken which will bring down the judgment of God upon the earth, God seals for his own purpose 144,000 of the tribes of Israel. In Revelation 7:1-4 it states, “And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God, and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea 3 saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. 4 And I heard the number of them that were sealed; and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

These 144,000 of the tribes of Israel are sealed for a special ministry during the first part of the tribulation period. They will minister and proclaim the gospel of the coming Kingdom for the first three and a half years. During this period of ministry they will not be hurt by any judgments that are to come upon the earth, for they will be protected in order to be able to minister to the world.

The fruit of their ministry is described in Revelation 7:9-14, "After this I beheld and lo, a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations and kindreds and people and tongues stood before the Lamb clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands. 10 These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb..."

These then are the multitudes saved because of the ministry of the 144,000 Israelites.

THE SEVENTH SEAL

Revelation 8:1 “And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.” This silence is in preparation for the judgments, which are to come down upon the earth. These judgments come down upon the earth as the seven angels sound their trumpets.

THE FIRST TRUMPET

Revelation 8:7 “The first angel sounded, and there followed hail, and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all the green grass was burnt up.”

Although the Antichrist will war in the reign of the Old Roman Empire, it's possible that these judgments are world wide.

THE SECOND TRUMPET

Revelation 8:8,9 “And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain (or a meteor) burning with fire, was cast into the sea: and a third part of the sea became blood. And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.”

THE THIRD TRUMPET

Revelation 8:10,11 “And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers and upon the fountain of waters; 11 and the name of the star is called Wormwood; and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters because they were made bitter.”

THE FOURTH TRUMPET

Revelation 8:12 states, “And the fourth angel sounded; and the third part of the sun was smitten, and a third part of the moon, and a third part of the stars; so that a third part of them was darkened, and the day shone,

not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.”

These judgments have nothing to do with atomic warfare, as some would try and teach us. These are judgments that God, Himself, will bring down upon the world.

THE FLYING ANGEL

After four of these judgments have fallen upon the earth, then God will send an angel, and he will pass through the heaven, in sight of earth's inhabitants, and he will warn them that three more judgments, or woes, are yet to come from God. In Revelation 8:13 we read, “And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpets of the three angels which are yet to sound.”

THE FIFTH TRUMPET AND THE FIRST WOE

This judgment which is the first woe, is the loosing of a host of evil spirits out of the bottomless pit, in order that they may torment men upon the earth, for a period of five months as Revelation 9:1-6 records, “And the fifth angel sounded and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit...”

Now we understand from our study of the Spirit World, that the bottomless pit is the heart of our earth in hell or the underworld, “...3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth; and unto them was given power as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.”

It is to be noticed that all those who were sealed in Chapter 7:4, “of the tribes of Israel,” the 144,000, these spirits were commanded not to hurt them. So during the first part of the tribulation period they are protected in order that they might minister. Revelation 9:5, “And to them was given that they should not kill them; but that they should be tormented five months; and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. 6 And in those days shall man seek death, and shall not find it, and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.”

The peoples of the earth will then be tormented by these evil spirits which no doubt they will not be able to see, and will suffer terrible pains for a period of five months. This then is the judgment, or the first woe of Revelation 9:7-11.

THE SIXTH TRUMPET, AND THE SECOND WOE

Revelation 9:13-21, “And the sixth angel sounded and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. 15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men...”

What is to be understood by these statements, is that these angels which were the leaders of another great host of evil spirits were prepared to be loosed upon the earth on a special year on a certain month, and upon a certain day, and hour.

Revelation 9:16, “And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand, thousand; and I heard a number of them.”

In number then there would be a host of 200,000,000, two hundred million, evil spirits loosed out of the bottomless pit, lead by four of Satan's angels.

Revelation 9:18, “By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. 19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails were like unto serpents, and they had heads, and with them they do hurt.”

These evil spirits have the power to bring plagues upon men in order to destroy them. One would think

that such judgments would cause men to seek God, but the conditions after these plagues are described to us in the next verse, Revelation 9:20, "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils and idols of gold and of silver, and of brass, and stone and of wood, which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk. 21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor their sorceries, nor their fornication, nor of their thefts."

After this judgment we now have an interval between the sounding of the sixth trumpet, and the sounding of the seventh trumpet, and in this interval three events take place in Revelation 10:1-6. The Lord, as the angel of the Lord, takes possession of the earth. And John is given a book to eat which contains the prophecies which he is to give forth after he is set free from the island of Patmos on which he was held as a prisoner. Revelation 1:9 "...was on the isle that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."

He was to be free to prophecy again as Revelation 10:11 states, "And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues and kings."

At this place in the Revelation we have covered the first part of the seven years, covering the rising of the Antichrist and his wars with the ten kingdoms, and the conditions which are to exist during that time, the Sealing of the 144,000 for their ministry in the earth, and then we have revealed the results of their ministry by the great multitudes who are saved. Then the judgments which God brought upon the earth while the six trumpets were sounded.

It must also be understood that during the first three and a half years, the Apostate Church will rule in the earth, with the Antichrist. After Antichrist becomes the ruler over the ten kingdoms, the Apostate Church will become the State Church of the Revived Roman Empire.

This Apostate Church composed of all religions with the Roman Church at its head, as the Mother of Harlots, is described to us in Revelation 17:1-5 "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me saying unto me, Come hither: I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters. 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness; and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast full of names of blasphemy having seven heads and ten horns."

These verses describe the Apostate church, represented as a woman, in her relationship with the ten nation kingdom of the Antichrist. Revelation 17:4, "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication."

This church will demonstrate her wealth and power and doctrine. This cup is full of the doctrines of devils, which the religious systems who will join with her will drink, and become drunk, or overpowered. Revelation 17:5, "And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth."

In this period, in the first part of the tribulation, Rome as a city will still be the center of Apostate religion and no doubt the Antichrist as ruler of the revived Roman Empire will also set up his place of residence in the same city.

This city is built upon seven hills as pointed out in Revelation 17:9, "...The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sitteth."

The Antichrist will use this Apostate church in order to gain political power during the first half of the week.

Although we have suggested that Revelation 12 takes place in the midst of the seven years, a careful reading of Revelation 11 points to the fact that it is also referring to events which take place in the second half of the week. Two events are referred to. The Temple and the Holy City which is Jerusalem will be given into the hands of the Antichrist for a period of three and a half years. In Revelation 11:1-2 we read, "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod; and the angel stood saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar and them that worship therein. 2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not, for it is given unto the Gentiles; and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months."

Now this statement refers to the temple and the city, and we are to understand that the Antichrist makes a

covenant with Israel for seven years, while he is rising to power. Daniel 9:27, "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week..." This refers to the seven years, the same seven years period that we are dealing with in Revelation.

So the treading down of the temple and the city in Revelation 11:1-2 must refer to the time after Antichrist breaks the covenant in the middle of the week as in Daniel 9:27, "...And in the midst of the week, he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease..."

He himself will stop the temple worship; and tread under foot the city and the temple. So as we have already said, Revelation 11 refers to the second half of the tribulation.

THE LAST HALF OF THE WEEK

In the beginning of the last part of the seven years, the seventh angel will sound as in Revelation 11:15, "And the seventh angel sounded, and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The Kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdoms of our Lord, and his Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever."

It is from this point on in the Revelations that the great tribulation will begin and the last woe will take place as Satan and his angels are cast out of the heavens by the Lord in Revelation 12:7-9.

But before this takes place, the Lord will bring forth upon the earth his two witnesses that will witness in great power upon the earth. As Revelation 11:3-12 states, "And I will give power unto my two witnesses and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth..."

It is to be noticed that these two witnesses shall witness for three and a half years. It is possible that these two men, or witnesses will be Moses and Elijah. They will witness for the last three and a half years just before Christ comes in His Revelation.

It is possible that these witnesses, one of them being Elijah, referred to in Malachi 4:5, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." This in no way refers to John the Baptist, but to someone coming just before Christ comes in judgment to this earth, which is the Revelation of Christ.

These two prophets have ministered on the earth together before this event for on the Mount of Transfiguration they are together. In Matthew 17:5 "And behold there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with him."

While these two prophets are ministering upon the earth during this last half of the seven years, no one, not even the Antichrist or the False Prophet will be able to harm them as Revelation 11:5 relates, "And if any man will hurt them he must in this manner be killed."

This tremendous power, which they will have, will be a constant irritation to the Antichrist and his kingdom. Revelation 11:6, "These have power to shut heaven that it rain not in the days of their prophecy; and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will."

After this ministry is finished which will be for three and a half years, the Antichrist will kill them as Revelation 11:7 states, "And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them."

The peoples of the earth who have been tormented by the plagues which these prophets were able to bring down upon them, will be so overjoyed at their death that they will not suffer their bodies to be buried, but just be in the street where they were killed. Revelation 11:8-12, "And their dead bodies shall lie in the streets of the great city. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in the graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth, 11 and after three days and a half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet, and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them. Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies beheld them."

So after they have ministered upon the earth for three and a half years, after which they are slain by the Antichrist, they are resurrected up to heaven.

THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE

This great earthquake takes place in the city of Jerusalem where the two witnesses were slain. Seven thousand are killed in the earthquake and a tenth part of the city of Jerusalem will be destroyed as Revelation 11:13 records, "And the same hour was there a great earthquake and a tenth part of the city fell and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven."

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET

In Revelation 11:15 we read "And the seventh angel sounded, and there was great voices in heaven saying the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

In Chapter 10:1-6 the angel of the Lord takes formal possession of the earth. Now we find that the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of Christ, and now he will shortly dispose Satan which will now take place in a period of three and a half years.

The events of Revelation 11 take place at the beginning of the great tribulation which takes place in the last half of the seven years. But the event which begins this great tribulation, which is also referred to as the third woe, takes place in Revelation 12:7-9, the casting out of Satan out of heaven into the earth.

CHAPTER 12 THE MIDDLE OF THE WEEK THE TWO SIGNS

These two signs which appear in heaven, the sun clothed woman, Revelation 12:1-6, and the dragon, Revelation 12:3,4, from this chapter, and relating to these signs, have come all kinds of erroneous teachings,

But the most dangerous is the teaching that the woman of Relation 12:1-6 represents the church; and the manchild spoken of is the Bride of Christ. This teaching divides the Body of Christ into church and bride, and it is taught that the bride group have to be a special type of overcomer. This whole teaching is based upon a wrong interpretation of Revelation 12:1-6. When we understand that the church is raptured in Revelation 4, and is represented by the twenty-four elders who are proved to be the church in Revelation 5:9,10, for it states that they were redeemed from every tongue, people, and nation, and that they are kings and priests unto God, then we understand the error of this teaching. If the church is taken out in Chapter 4, who then is the woman of Chapter 12?

THE SUN CLOTHED WOMAN

There is no doubt but that this woman is Israel because of the symbols used in the vision. For an interpretation of these symbols we can go to Joseph's dream which related to Israel as a nation in Genesis 37:9, "And he dreamed yet another dream and told it his brethren, and said, Behold I have dreamed a dream more; and behold the sun, and the moon, and the eleven stars made obeisance to me."

The interpretation of this dream was fully understood by Joseph's father and brethren as Genesis 37:10 relates, "And he told it to his father, and to his brethren; and his father rebuked him and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?"

These same symbols are related to the woman making her represent Israel. Then we understand her condition is that of a woman with child as Revelation 12:2 affirms, "And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered."

This has never been a picture of the church for the church is represented as a virgin. 2 Corinthians 11:2, "For I am jealous over you with Godly jealousy; for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you

as a chaste virgin to Christ.” These are Paul’s words regarding the church.

The woman who is Israel is pictured as having brought forth a man child who is without question Christ who came from Israel as Romans 9:4,5 states, “Who are Israelites to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.”

This child who was Christ came from Israel, and was given to Israel as in Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given...”

It is also to be understood that this woman brings forth a man child who is to rule all nations with a rod of iron. This is a reference made to Christ in Revelation 12:5, “And she brought forth a man child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.” And also in Psalm 2:9, “Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” Then again in Revelation 2:27, “And he shall rule then with a rod of iron, as the vessel of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I have received of my Father.”

The fact of the dragon wanting to devour the man child as soon as it was born, can only relate to the time when Herod, inspired by Satan, tried to kill Jesus as Matthew 2:16 records, “Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the Wise men, was exceedingly wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem; and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under.”

These facts of history are only referred to in this Chapter 12 in order to prove further that the woman is Israel; Israel, in the State of Israel, at the time when Satan is cast out of heaven into the earth.

THE DRAGON WITH THE SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS

This vision relates to Satan as the dragon and the fact that he is connected with the revived Roman Empire of the Antichrist, and three important historical events are brought out in describing him as Revelation 12:3-4 describes, “And there appeared another wonder in heaven, and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns...”

The seven heads and ten horns connect the Dragon with the revived Roman Empire. This is the first historical event. “4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven; and did cast them to the earth...”

This second event relates to Satan’s rebellion against God in Isaiah 14:12-15 where one third of the angels rebelled with him and were cast out of heaven with Satan, and they became his angels as Revelation 12:7 states, “And the dragon fought and his angels.” Also Revelation 12:9, “...and his angels were cast out with him.”

Revelation 12:4, “...and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, to devour her child as soon as it was born.” This is the third event in history as Matthew 2:16 shows us how Satan through Herod tries to destroy Christ.

These events prove the dragon to be Satan, the Devil, the Serpent, which is also stated in Revelation 12:9, “And the great dragon was cast out that old serpent called the Devil and Satan...”

ISRAEL TO BE PROTECTED FROM THE DRAGON

The woman, as we have suggested, represents Israel, or the state of Israel, those who are dwelling in the land at the time when Satan is cast out into the earth.

After he is cast out of heaven, the dragon will give his power to the Antichrist who will be the ruler of the revived Roman Empire. It’s at this time when the dragon will use the Roman Empire under the Antichrist to turn upon the State of Israel to persecute and destroy.

It must be understood that in the first part of the seven years, Israel as a nation will have come under all the judgments which have taken place. Only the sealed ones of Israel, the 144,000, were protected. So Israel as a nation will already have suffered in the first three and a half years, although a covenant was made with them in Daniel 9:27.

So in the middle of the week or seven years, Satan and his hosts are cast out of heaven as Revelation 12:7-9 relates, “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon

fought and his angels 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

THE THIRD WOE

The casting out of Satan into the earth is the third woe, or judgment which is to come upon this earth. Satan realizing that his time is short will have great wrath.

It must be understood that from this point on in the last half of the seven years, that the devil, himself, with all his demons and fallen angels will be loosed upon the earth, and will not have access to the heavens, but will have to confine all their activities to this earth.

The first act of Satan, as we have already stated, will be to turn upon the State of Israel, to try and exterminate them as a nation, as in Revelation 12:13, “And when the dragon saw that he was cast out into the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.”

All in the State of Israel, by a miracle of God, will be taken into the wilderness and protected from Satan as Revelation 12:6 states “And the woman fled into the wilderness where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days,” or three and a half years.

God will not only deliver them from the Antichrist, but he will also provide food for them like he did in the wilderness before as Revelation 12:14 relates, “And the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent,” or three and a half years.

We are told that the woman was taken into the wilderness. The fact is brought out in the scriptures, that certain countries will escape from being dominated by the Antichrist, and his ten kingdom empire. These countries are mentioned in Daniel 11:41, “He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape out of his hands, even Edom and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.”

Edom is to escape from the hand of the Antichrist. They were a nation of cliff dwellers as stated in Obadiah 1:3, “The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high...” It is taught that this will be the place where God will protect and provide for Israel.

After Satan realizes that he cannot persecute Israel, he will turn and persecute the remnant or the 144,000 sealed ones of Israel as Revelation 12:17 states, “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

THE REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE IN ANOTHER FORM

After Satan and his hordes are cast out of heaven, he will know that his time is short. So all his authority, and power he will give to the Antichrist, in order that he might set up his Kingdom upon the earth in defiance of God. So he will combine all the power of former kingdoms, and produce the greatest kingdom that has ever been upon this earth.

It will be the revived Roman Empire, in another form. It will be an Empire that will be ruled over by the Satanic Trinity, the Dragon, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet. Its coming forth is described in Revelation 13:1-2, “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and I saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns; and upon his horns ten crowns; and upon his heads the name of blasphemy...”

This description is that of the revived Roman Empire, but that it takes on another form is also very evident. Revelation 13:2, “And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth, as the mouth of a lion, and the dragon gave him his power and his seat, and great authority.”

These three beasts, the leopard, bear, and lion relate to the vision given to Daniel referring to certain kingdoms in Daniel 7:4-6, the first like a lion, second like a bear, another like a leopard. These beasts represent

the Kingdoms of Babylon, Medo Persia, and Grecian. These same kingdoms are also mentioned in Daniel's image of Daniel 2:31-36. And as already stated, the Dragon will put forth his power and authority into this kingdom.

Can we imagine what this kingdom will be like with the combined power of three of the greatest kingdoms that have ever been on this earth, plus all the authority and power that Satan and all his hosts can give it?

THE RESURRECTION OF THE ANTICHRIST

The scripture points out the fact that the Antichrist, at the same period of time that Satan is cast out of heaven, that he will receive a mortal wound by the sword, and will die as Revelation 13:4 relates, "...to the beast which had the wound by a sword...", and also in Revelation 13:3, "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death..." Then in Revelation 13:3, "...whose deadly wound..." And while he actually dies by the sword, he will also be raised from the dead. He will counterfeit the resurrection of Christ before the world, and rise with this new authority and power that the dragon will give him. The scripture indicates his resurrection. In Revelation 13:3 it is stated, "...And his deadly wound was healed.,," And then again in verse 14, "...that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword and did live." Satan will no doubt enter into the Antichrist, at the time of his resurrection, in order to accomplish his work. He will incarnate himself in the Antichrist.

THE ANTICHRIST AFTER HIS RESURRECTION

From this time on the Antichrist will come forth with all Satanic power. His first act will be to set himself up as God in the Jewish Temple in the State of Israel as 2 Thessalonians 2:4 affirms, "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the Temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

This act will take place in the middle of the week, of seven years, for it will be at that time he will break his covenant with Israel as Daniel 9:27 reveals, "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease..."

After the Antichrist becomes the ruler of the Revived Roman Empire in the beginning of the week, he had already made a covenant with Israel. Their temple worship had then been revived. But as we have stated, Antichrist in the middle of the seven years will set himself up as God in this same temple and demand worship as God. This will stop all Jewish worship.

The Temple and the city will be taken over by the Antichrist for three and a half years. This is suggested in Revelation 11:1-2, "And there was given me, a reed, like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar and them that worship therein. 2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the Holy City they shall tread under foot, forty and two months," or three and a half years.

That people will worship him as God is very evident, and no one shall be able to make war with him as Revelation 13:3-4 records, "And all the world wondered after the beast (After his resurrection). 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast; and they worshipped the beast saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?"

In this position as God he shall reign three and a half years as Revelation 15:5 states, "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things, and blasphemies, and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months."

He will have power over the saints of God, and he will kill them, and his power and kingdom shall extend world wide as Revelation 13:7 reveals, "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds and tongues and nations."

All shall worship him as God whose names are not written in the Book of life. This may refer to those who, during the Dispensation of Grace having heard the gospel, have not received the love of the truth that they

might be saved. For in 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, we read, "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie (or the lie). 12 That they all might be damned who believe not the truth, but have pleasure in unrighteousness."

Then in Revelation 13:8, it says, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him whose names are not written in the book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

THE FALSE PROPHET

This person, for we must believe that is what he is, comes out of the earth or from the underworld, possibly Satanic and human.

His work is the same as the Holy Spirit does in relationship to Christ. He glorifies Christ, and causes us to worship Christ. So this false prophet with his power and signs and lying wonders will cause all to worship the Antichrist.

He is described in Revelation 13:11,12, "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns, like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon..." It is evident that Satan gave him his power also. Revelation 13:12, "And he exercised all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed."

He is able through signs and wonders to deceive them that dwell upon the earth, he will cause them to make an image of the beast, or Antichrist, and he will give this image the power to speak, and all who will not worship this image will be killed as in Revelation 13:13-15, "And he doeth great wonders so that he maketh fire come down from heaven, on the earth in the sight of men..."

It must also be understood that while this false prophet is bringing forth these signs and wonders, that the two witnesses will also bring forth signs and wonders upon the earth as Revelation 11:6 relates. But this false prophet will be able to deceive many, as the scriptures point out in Revelation 13:14,15, "And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth, by means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast: saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by the sword, and did live. 15 And, he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and caused that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."

Not only will he make all worship the beast, but he will also make everyone receive the mark of the beast, before they can buy or sell, as Revelation 13:16,17 states, "And he causeth all both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads. 17 And that no man might buy or sell save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

THE ANTICHRIST THROUGH HIS TEN KINGDOM EMPIRE WILL DESTROY EVERY FORM OF WORSHIP AND SET HIMSELF UP AS GOD

The greatest slaughter of human beings that has ever taken place before upon this earth, will take place after this person sets up himself as God.

All throughout his empire, and no doubt the world, this destruction will take place. The first to be destroyed will be the 144,000 who have witnessed during the first three and a half years. In Chapter 14, they are all seen in heaven, resurrected after their death upon the earth.

In Revelation 14:1-3, we read, "And I looked, and lo a Lamb stood on the mount Sion and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And they sang as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders; and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand which were redeemed from the earth."

The destruction of the Apostate Church will also take place at this time, as stated in Revelation 17:16-17, "And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. 17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his

will..."

The Lord himself predicted this very thing would take place concerning this same church, away early at its beginning in the early church, in the message to the church of Thyatira, as the Roman system began to overcome the early church. He predicted that all who would fellowship with her would suffer in tribulation, as in Revelation 2:20-22, "...because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel which calleth herself a prophetess to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. 21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. 22 Behold I will cast her into a bed and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation except they repent of their deeds."

This will happen to every religious system that joins itself to the Roman Church in these last days.

It is also possible that a great host of saints who have found Christ through the ministry of the 144,000 will also be slain, or resurrected. They are spoken of in Revelation 7:9,14, "After this I beheld and lo, a great multitude which no man could number of all nations and kindreds, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands...14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest and he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the lamb."

Then we have a group of Jewish saints who refuse the mark of the beast and possibly those in the former group will also come under the same problem of having to refuse the mark of the beast. They will all be slain.

In Revelation 15:2,3 we read, "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire. And them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over the image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having harps of God. 3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the lamb..." They sang both the song of Moses and of the Lamb, which makes them possibly Jews.

After we see just who will be slain during the reign of the Antichrist, it's not hard for us to understand the words of Jesus in Matthew 24:21,22, "...22 Except those days be shortened there shall no flesh be saved..."

THE THREE ANGELS FLYING IN THE HEAVENS

After these conditions take place upon the earth, when thousands will be slain by the kingdom of the Antichrist, there will appear three angels flying through the heavens.

It is stated that they have the everlasting gospel to preach unto them who are upon the earth. This is the last attempt that God will make to warn those who are on the earth of the coming judgments.

The first angel with a loud voice seeks to turn men to God before the hour of judgment comes.

The second angel warns of the coming destruction upon the Satanic world system, represented by Babylon their great city.

The third warns of judgment upon those who have already received the mark of the beast.

In Revelation 14:6-11, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation and kindred and tongue, and people. 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of His judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. 8 And there followed another angel saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. 9 And the third angel followed them saying with a loud voice. If any man worship the beast, and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand. 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."

These angels then warn of coming judgment.

THE VISION OF THE RIPE HARVEST

The term, the harvest of the earth is ripe, speaks of the fact that the people of the earth in having accepted

the Antichrist as God, their limit is reached. They are ripe for judgment, just like the grapes are ripe for the winepress.

In worshipping the Antichrist as God, slaying the saints of God, they have filled up the cup of iniquity. Their sins have come to the full measure. There remains nothing but judgment. They are ripe for judgment just like the harvest becomes ripe for reaping.

The vision of the gathering of this harvest is given John. It is a picture of God's judgment, and it relates more in the section we are now dealing with to the result of the battle of Armageddon. And whether it is symbolic or not, it suggests that blood will flow up to the horses bridles for a space of two hundred miles.

Revelation 14:13-20 relates "...20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress even unto the horses bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs."

This scripture can be added to the section of Revelation 19:11-21. This is the battle of Armageddon which will take place at the Revelation of Christ, when he comes to the earth to set up his kingdom. This is mentioned in Daniel 2:34,35,44-45. The stone is referring to Christ who will destroy the Gentile armies of the Antichrist at his coming.

THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

We are now coming towards the end of the tribulation, the end of the seven year period, and the end of the last three and a half years. God is about to bring an end to the great tribulation period.

But before these plagues are poured out upon the earth, we see the great host of those who have gotten the victory over the Antichrist, and they are before the throne of God as Revelation 15:1-3 shows us, "And I saw another sign in heaven great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. 2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast and over the image and over his mark, and over the number of his name stand on the sea of glass having the harps of God. 3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying, great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints."

It is possible that all these saints refer to what are slain in the Great Tribulation or the second half of the week, and now that God has gathered his own out of the earth, judgment then falls.

In our study of the Great Tribulation, we must understand that not only do the peoples of the earth suffer at the hand of the Dragon, the Antichrist and the False prophet, but God is pouring out upon the earth from the heavens judgments also.

Throughout the Book of Revelation from chapter 8 to chapter 18, we have the seven trumpet judgments, the three woes, and the seven vials. All these are judgments from God.

Some teach that the trumpet judgments and these three woes, and the seven vials all take place in the last three and a half years. But to divide the seven years correctly and the teaching of Revelation, we teach that the seven trumpets, and the first two woes, take place in the first part of the seven years while the third woe, and the seven vials take place in the last half of the seven years.

THE LAST PLAGUES DESCRIBED THE FIRST ANGEL

Revelation 16:1-2 states "And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. 2 And the first went and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image."

In receiving the mark of the beast they sold themselves to Satan. This is part of their punishment for having done so.

In Egypt in Exodus 9:9-11, this same kind of plague was brought upon the Egyptians. They were covered with boils. But what comes upon these men were ulcerated sores.

THE SECOND ANGEL

Revelation 16:3, "And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea, and it became as blood of a dead man, and every living soul died in the sea."

THE THIRD ANGEL

Revelation 16:4-7, "And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters: and they became blood..."

THE THIRD ANGEL

Revelation 16:8,9, "And the fourth poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. 9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over the plagues; and they repented not to give him glory."

THE FIFTH ANGEL

Revelation 16:10,11, "And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast, and his kingdom was full of darkness and they gnawed their tongues for pain, 11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores and repented not of their deeds." When they received the mark of the Antichrist, they sold themselves to Satan and became demon possessed. This is the reason why they blaspheme God.

THE SIXTH ANGEL

Revelation 16:12-16, "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared..."

This event prepares the way for the kings of the East, in order that they might come to the battle of Armageddon. These are the nations of India, China, Japan, those nations of the east.

After this event the Great Tribulation will come to an end, and the Satanic trinity gathers together armies from all over the world in order to battle against the Lord when He comes to the earth in the Revelation.

Revelation 16:13-16 describes this, "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of devils working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth, and of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty... 16 And he gathered them together unto a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

This is possibly the greatest army that has ever gathered in any one place, for these armies will no doubt come from every nation in the world.

BABYLON THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS

The two Chapters of 17 and 18 of Revelation speak of two distinct different systems which are in this world.

The first is mentioned in Revelation 17, and is the Apostate Church system of Rome. This system made its appearance very early in church history and it is pointed out in Revelation 2:6, "But this thou has that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate."

The word "Nicolaitans" means "rulers over the people", and their doctrine held to the placing of priests and Bishops and so forth over the saints. They were to be a separate ministry from the saints, a ruling ministry over the saints, a Priesthood.

Thus the individual operation in the spirit, by the saints, would come to an end, and all the ministration would come through the Priests or Bishops. This system was trying to get into the church as early as 70 A.D. and was spoken about in the message to the Church of Ephesus in Revelation 2:6.

In 312 A.D. this priestly order was established in the church, and they became rulers over the people as Revelation 2:12-15, "...the church in Pergamos... 15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans which thing I hate."

In 606 A.D. this Roman system had taken hold of the church, and it is represented by a woman in Revelation 2:20-22, "Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. 21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. 22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds."

This Apostate Church system brought the church down into the dark ages where all the doctrine was lost to the church, and this Roman doctrine prevailed.

The Reformation broke the bonds, but did not altogether deliver the church from the bondage of the one man ministry, or headship which we find in churches, but as there is to be a revival of the Roman Empire in the last days, so there will also be a revival of the Roman Church system which will form the Apostate Church.

This great ecumenical movement in our day is the beginning of the formation of this world church which is spoken of as the "Mother of Harlots" in Revelation 17:5, "And upon her forehead was a name written MYSTERY, BABYION THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

The trend now in the Denominational systems, who have departed from the faith, is towards Rome, or back to the mother church. Each one of these Denominations who join with Rome will become a Harlot Church. This is the reason why Rome is to be called the Mother of Harlots.

This great world church will unite and come together before the true church leaves the world, and it will hold much political and religious power.

After the true church is taken out of this world, this Apostate World Church will come into power. It will be the state church of the revived Roman Empire under the Antichrist and it will rule for three and a half years.

In the scripture this uniting of the ten kingdoms under the Beast is given in Revelation 17:3, "...And I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast full of the names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns."

But when the Beast sets himself up as God in the Jewish temple and declares that all are to worship him as 2 Thessalonians 2:4 relates, then his ten kingdom empire shall turn on the Apostate Church, and destroy her as Revelation 17:16 states, "And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire."

Not only is this Apostate Church symbolized by a woman, but also as a city as Revelation 17:18 reveals, "And the woman which thou sawest is that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth."

The church, the Bride of Christ, is symbolized in this same way in Revelation 21:9,10, "...Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God."

The same principal of interpretation then can be used in Revelation 18. This chapter deals with commercial Babylon, and the Satanic system in the world, and this system is symbolized in the same sense, as a woman, and as a city for in Revelation 18:7 we read, "How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit as queen and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow." Then in Revelation 18:10, "Standing afar off for the fear of her torment saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city for in one hour is thy judgment come."

So this commercial system is represented as a woman and a city. The false commercial system that Satan has set up in this world, will be destroyed by the seventh vial of Revelation 16:17-21.

The Kings and merchants were made rich as they exploited the poor of this world as Revelation 18:3 shows us, "For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her

delicacies.”

The merchandise traded and bought in this great commercial system is described to us in Revelation 18:12,13, “The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, 13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.”

Then in Revelation 18:22-24, "And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; 23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee and the voice of the bridegroom shall be heard no more at all in thee; for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints and all that were slain upon the earth.”

The Lord will change the whole commercial system of the world for it is Satanically inspired.

So the Apostate Religious Babylon, and Commercial Babylon will both be destroyed before the Revelation of Christ.

THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

After the destruction of the commercial system of Satan takes place, the next event takes place in heaven. The time of the marriage is come. The church raptured and represented by the twenty-four elders of Revelation 4:4 has already been rewarded and crowned at the Judgment Seat of Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:10. This took part in the first part of the seven years in Revelation 11:18, “And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.”

The time of this marriage is just before the Lord comes in the Revelation to the earth as pointed out in Revelation 19:7-9, “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb...”

Those called are no doubt all those saved outside of the church age, the Old Testament, and Tribulation saints.

It is the church that is the Bride of Christ so this marriage takes place just before the Lord returns to this earth in the Revelation.

THE REVELATION OF CHRIST

This is the event spoken of in Matthew 24:29-30, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days, shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light; and the stars shall fall from heaven; and the powers of the heaven shall be shaken...”

This condition described above takes place immediately at the end of the Tribulation Period, and are signs before the coming of the Lord.

Matthew 24:30, “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

This same event is mentioned in Revelation 19:11-16, “And I saw heaven open, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war...14 The armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses clothed in fine linen white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations, and he shall rule then with a rod

of iron; and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

THE SEVENTH ANGEL

Revelation 16:17-21, "And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven from the throne saying, It is done..."

From this event, we have the complete destruction of the cities of the world which compose the whole commercial system which the devil has set up in this world.

Revelation 16:18, "And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; And there was a great earthquake such as was not since men were upon the earth, and so mighty an earthquake and so great. 19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent, and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague was exceedingly great."

It is possible that with the talent weight about 58 pounds, one can hardly understand just what would happen as these hail stones are being poured down upon the earth.

THE TWO BABYLONS

The teaching regarding these two Babylons must be understood before a full knowledge of the Revelation can be ours.

We have already seen in Revelation 16 that the Antichrist has gathered his armies together from all over the world to fight against the Lord as he comes to this earth. The battle is called in the scriptures the Battle of Armageddon.

THE SUPPER OF THE GREAT GOD

The outcome of this great conflict is seen in the fact, that an angel of God will call every flesh eating fowl in a supernatural way to this battle, and there they will feast upon the slain as Revelation 19:17,18 relates, "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God, 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of captains; and the flesh of mighty men; and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them; and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great."

THE RESULTS OF THIS CONFLICT

The Beast and False Prophet, two of the leaders in this great conflict are taken by the Lord, Himself, and their armies were slain by the armies of the Lord as stated in Revelation 19:19-21, "And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth; and their armies gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse; and against his army. 20 And the beast was taken; and with him the false prophet, that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and of them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceedeth out of his mouth: and all the fowls of the air were filled with their flesh." This will bring an end to one of the most awful periods of earth's history, the Revived Roman Empire under the Antichrist, Satan's Counterfeit Kingdom. Thus the Battle of Armageddon will end this period of tribulation on the earth.

FUTURE EVENTS

Book 11

Lesson 8: Questions

1. What does the scripture say in regard to the Tribulation, and the world, and Israel?
2. What did the Lord say about this period in Matthew 24:22?
3. When will this tribulation begin?
4. In which way does this period of tribulation have to do with Daniel's Seventy Weeks?
5. In what book of the Bible is this tribulation described?
6. In dealing with the first half of this tribulation, explain what happens when the Antichrist rides forth into the earth.
7. Explain why God seals 144,000 of the tribes of Israel.
8. What is described as the fruit of their ministry?
9. What kind of judgments does the seventh seal as it is opened bring down upon this earth?
10. What will the angel flying through the heaven warn the people of the earth of?
11. Explain the two woes that come upon the earth.
12. In the interval between the sounding of the sixth and seventh trumpets, what three events take place?
13. In short form what events took place in the first half of the seven?
14. In the second half of the seven years, the great tribulation begins. Who will witness during that period?
15. What great event takes place in Jerusalem after the two witnesses are caught up into heaven?
16. What happened after the seventh trumpet sounded?
17. Explain what two signs appear in heaven at the beginning of the twelfth chapter.
18. What kind of errors do some teach regarding the woman and the manchild?
19. Explain the meaning of these two personages.
20. What three historical events is the dragon connected with?
21. How will the woman who is Israel be protected from Satan the dragon?
22. What is the third woe?
23. Where will the woman Israel be taken to in the wilderness?

24. What will Satan do to the 144,000 Jews?
25. With what combined power will the Revived Roman Empire come forth, after Satan is cast down to this earth?
26. How will the Antichrist be slain, and resurrected?
27. Describe in short form the Antichrist after his resurrection.
28. Explain who the False Prophet is, and what he does.
29. What will Antichrist do to other religions? Then what will he do himself?
30. Explain what each flying angel will do as they fly through the heavens?
31. Explain the scripture Revelation 14:6-11.
32. Explain in short form the seven last plagues.
33. What does the teaching on the two Babylons relate to?
34. Where does the marriage supper of the lamb take place, and before what great event?
35. Explain the Revelation of Christ.
36. What is meant by the term, “the supper of the Great God”?
37. What is the result of the conflict between Christ and Antichrist?

Lesson 9: Will the Church Go Through the Tribulation

Book 11

Matthew 24:21, 22

By Dr. Albert Grimes

In order to study this subject, we must first learn to understand just what is meant by the term, "Tribulation." The tribulation is a period of time in which trouble or tribulation comes upon the world. Jesus explained it in Matthew 24:21,22, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there shall no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

The Tribulation in relation to Daniel's Seventy Weeks.

Daniel had been studying the prophecy of Jeremiah, and had learned from it that the seventy years of captivity of his people were drawing to a close. He then set himself before God in order to find out what was going to happen to Israel after the seventy years of captivity was over. Gabriel the angel of God, came and gave him further revelation concerning Israel. He stated that after the seventy years of captivity was over for Israel, another period of time, which he called seventy weeks, would have to take place before Israel as a nation would be fully restored. Daniel 9:24-27, "Seventy weeks are determined, upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy..."

These weeks spoken of were weeks of seven years. And after these seventy weeks of years were finished, Israel as a nation would be cleansed from sin, and the Messiah would be anointed to be their king. But the angel further pointed out to Daniel that before these things concerning Israel were to be completed certain events relating to the seventy weeks must take place. After the seventy years of captivity were over, certain of the tribes of Israel would be allowed to go back to Palestine and rebuild the city and the temple. This is mentioned by the angel in Daniel 9:25, "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks:"

The King who gave the commandment for the Jews to return to their own land was Artaxerxes, the King under whom the Jews were captives. The giving of this commandment, according to the angel, would begin the seventy weeks spoken of, Nehemiah 2:1, "in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king," (the 14th of March, B.C. 445). After this commandment went forth and part of the tribes returned to their land, two further events are spoken of and two periods of time. Daniel 9:25, "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks." What is spoken of in this verse is the fact that after the Jews returned to their own land, they would be rebuilding for a period of 49 years; and after these 49 years of rebuilding, another 434 years were added, which would bring Israel as a nation up to the death of Christ in 30 A.D. This is mentioned in Daniel 9:26, "And after three score and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for Himself..." This is a direct prophecy concerning the death of Christ.

Now, after the cutting off of the Messiah, or the death of Christ, another third event was to take place, which took place in 70 A.D., when Titus the Roman took the city of Jerusalem. This is mentioned in Daniel 9:26, "...and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary..." The Lord himself spoke of this same event in Luke 21:20, "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh." Then, after the city was destroyed, a further period of time is spoken of in Daniel 9:26, "...and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined." This is describing the desolations that shall come upon the people of Israel, after they were scattered amongst the nations, after the event of 70 A.D. when their city was destroyed as described in Luke 21:24, "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and

Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”

Israel as a nation is scattered amongst the nations, in blindness and God is not dealing with them as a nation. This blindness is spoken of in Romans 11:25, “That blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.” The cutting off of their Messiah, and the destruction of their city, came about at the end of the 69 weeks of the seventy referred to by the angel. During the 69th and 70th week God, having put Israel to one side “until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.” It is during this 69th and 70th week that the Church Age came in, spoken of as a period when “The fullness of the Gentiles be come in”, mentioned also in Acts 15:14, “Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name:”

The “fullness of the Gentiles” is another term relating to the Church, and it is stated that when the “fullness of the Gentiles be come in,” in other words, when the Church is complete, it will be removed, out of the way.

The tribulation period is the last week of Daniel’s seventy weeks, and it’s this period that everlasting righteousness is come in for Israel, and Christ will be set up as the King of Israel. But Israel has to go through those last seven years of tribulation before they can be restored as a nation. So, after Israel came out of the first seventy years of captivity, another seventy weeks of years with all these events mentioned, were still to take place concerning Israel, before they would be finally restored into the Kingdom. This was the message of the angel to Daniel.

So the tribulation period of seven years has only to do with Israel and the world, and not the church. Ezekiel 20:34-38, Israel shall “pass under the rod.” Ezekiel 22:19-22, “...22 As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof”. The Lord will cast them into his melting pot to refine them. Daniel 12:1, “a time of trouble” for Israel. In its relationship to the world, it is stated in Revelation 3:10, “...from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” The Tribulation then is the last week of Daniel’s seventy weeks.

The Church Visible, and the Church Invisible.

When we speak of the Church Visible, we mean the Church as it is seen in the world, composed of all denominations, sects, cults. This is the Church as viewed by the world, and the unregenerated man, Christendom. Then we have the Invisible Church, the true Church, composed of all those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

Now it must be understood that all the true church is not on the earth, for most of the true Church is already in heaven. For since the Church began, until our time, people who belong to the Church have been dying, and going to be with the Lord. About 75% then of the Church is already in heaven, and will not go through the tribulation. All that will be on earth in this age, and even when Jesus comes, will not be the church, but only a small part of it, as spoken of in 1 Thessalonians 4:15, “...that we which are alive and remain...” The only time the whole church will be on the earth will be when the Rapture takes place, and God brings from heaven those who are asleep in Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 4:14, “...even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him,” plus those who are alive and remain.

But we know from scripture that the dead in Christ and those alive will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. 1 Thessalonians 4:17, “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air,” and not be left to go through tribulation. Is the Lord going to allow a small percentage of the church to go through the tribulation, and allow the other 75% to escape it? I think not.

Direct teaching from the word of God teaches that the Church is not going through the Tribulation.

The second coming of Christ is in two stages or in two events in the one coming. The First Event is the Rapture of the Saints. This takes place before the Tribulation, as pointed out in 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8, “And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time...” This verse teaches that there is a restraining power in the world keeping back the revealing of the Antichrist. The next verse tells us who it is, 2

Thessalonians 2:7, “for the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth, (or restraineth) will let, (or restrain) until he be taken out of the way.” The pronoun “he” is the same “he” that we find in John 16:13, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come...” What is taught in verse 7 is that the Holy Spirit is the restraining power. The Holy Spirit in the Church will hold back the revealing of the Antichrist, until he is “taken”. This word can also be translated “arise and be assembled”, speaking of the rapture of the church. One person cannot be spoken of in this sense.

Another fact to consider is that after the restraining power of the Holy Spirit in the Church is taken out of the world, only then can Antichrist be revealed as stated in 2 Thessalonians 2:8, “And then shall that Wicked be revealed...” Then the tribulation will begin. So the Holy Spirit in the Church must first be removed before the Tribulation can begin. Thus the Church will not go through the Tribulation.

By Symbolic Teaching.

The symbolic teaching of the Book of Revelation points out the fact that the Church does not go through the Tribulation. Revelation 1:20, “The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.” These churches are representative churches, predicting the conditions that will exist in the whole Church period. These conditions are pointed out to us in the seven messages to the churches in Chapter 2 through Chapter 3. After the whole church period has been given, then we see the elders, which represent the true Church, in heaven. Revelation 4:4, “And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting.” These, like the candlesticks, are representative elders representing the whole Church in heaven. This is seen by the song which they sing. Revelation 5:9, “And they sang a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;” It is evident that they represent the Church already Raptured in heaven before the Tribulation begins in Revelation 6 through 19.

FUTURE EVENTS 2

Book 11

Lesson 9: Questions

1. What are we to understand about the term "Tribulation"?
2. Explain in short form the tribulation in regard to the "Seventy Weeks."
3. What events were to take place in the period of the "Seventy Weeks."
4. What are we to understand by the term "Fullness of the Gentiles"?
5. While the fullness of the Gentiles is being brought in, what has happened to the Jews?
6. In what way does the tribulation relate to the "Seventy Weeks"?
7. Has the tribulation period anything to do with the Church? Explain.
8. Explain the difference between the church visible and the church invisible.
9. Give in short form the teaching from the Word of God, relating to the fact that the church will not go through the tribulation.

Lesson 10: The Judgment Seat of Christ

Second Coming

Book 11

2 Corinthians 5:10

By Dr. Albert Grimes

In this judgment the believer is judged according to his works. This is brought out in 1 Corinthians 3:13, 15, "Every man's work shall be made manifest:" "If any man's work abide." "If any man's work shall be burned." But it also points out that it is the works that are done while we are in this body, meaning in this life.

2 Corinthians 5:10, "the things done in his body, whether it be good or bad." Sin, then, is not in question. It is a matter of works.

The Bible has much to say regarding rewards for the children of God.

Works according to the Word of God are treasures laid up, a deposit in heaven. Those works have also to do with the position in the Kingdom of God. Matthew 6:19-21, "lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Things we are rewarded for in this life, and in the life to come.

Whatever we have to give up in this life, for the Gospel's sake, we are told that we will receive an hundred fold in this life. Mark 10:29,30, "And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's. 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions, and in the world to come eternal life."

This can only be explained on the grounds that we share in what God has blessed others with, as we fellowship with them. As Jesus himself said in Matthew 12:48-50, "But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? 49 and he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! 50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother and sister and mother." This union of fellowship is a reward in this life. When we pray and fast in secret, we are told that God will reward us openly. Matthew 6:6, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matthew 6:17,18, "But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; 18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."

Not only does God reward us in this sense, but he also will add, or place additionally all we need, in the material sense. Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." God always pays wages, for he will never be in debt to any man. Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

The Word of God also gives another list of works, which, if performed will bring additional rewards. If we, as children of God, suffer the reproach of Christ, we will be rewarded. Hebrews 11:25,26, "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward."

Then there is the fact of our being persecuted. There are some who bring persecution upon themselves, because of the unwise things they do, but when we walk wisely and are persecuted, then we will be rewarded.

Luke 6:22,23, “Blessed are ye, when men hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man’s sake. 23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.”

Then there is this thing of loving your enemies, which thing we question sometimes, which seems to be so hard to do, but we will be rewarded if we do. Luke 6:35, “But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; And your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.”

The receiving of those who minister, receiving their ministry, and even a cup of cold water in the name of the Lord, shall even be rewarded. Matthew 10:40-42, “He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. 41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. 42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”

Even as we are hired to work for someone else, we are not to work just as men pleasers, but as servants of the Lord, doing our job as unto the Lord. Ephesians 6:6-8, “Not with eye service, as men pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service as to the Lord, and not to men: 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.” Colossians 3:23,24, “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the lord, and not unto men. 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” This is one thing that Christians should understand and practice.

We are also rewarded for abounding in the work of the Lord. To abound in the work of the lord means to become better and better in the work of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” That is, the Lord will see that we are rewarded for what we do.

Then I am to be rewarded for preaching the gospel. There are different ways of preaching the gospel: To preach the gospel as the Evangelist; To talk the gospel in conversation; To teach it as the teacher. Although the preaching of the gospel is a debt I owe everyone, yet I am rewarded if I do it. 1 Corinthians 9:16,17, “For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! 17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.” I am rewarded for using my talent. Every person has a ministry and spiritual gift, which we must operate, in order that the church may receive benefit. 1 Peter 4:10,11, “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God...” But in doing so, we will be rewarded for that which we do.

The parable of the talents brings out this fact. Matthew 25:14,15, “For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.” The “ability” spoken of is mentioned in 1 Peter 4:11, “...the ability which God giveth...” Speaking of a ministry, not just a natural talent. Rewards and loss is spoken of, Matthew 25, Verse 21. “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” Matthew 25, Verse 25, “And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth.” The law of operation is brought out in this scripture. Use what we have and more shall be given unto us. Do not use it, and we will lose what we have. Matthew 25, Verse 29, “For unto everyone that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that, which he hath.”

The possibility of losing our rewards.

We are not to be rewarded while living in the flesh or while living in the world. But we are rewarded, as we walk in the Spirit, and do the things that God wants us to do. But the point brought out in this verse is that it

is possible even after we have received rewards, for work done, that we can lose those rewards afterward. 2 John 8, "look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

We shall be rewarded as our work shall be.

These are the words of our Lord, and should be taken to heart. Revelation 22:12, "And, behold I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Let us remember, what we do in this life determines what we shall be for all eternity. 2 Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." There is no such thing as leaving the bad works behind us. We take them with us, and we are rewarded accordingly.

The time of this judgment.

The time of this judgment is after the church is taken out of this world. 2 Corinthians 5:1,10. In the first part of this section of scripture the future state is spoken about, such as, "we have a house from heaven," and "absent from the body, is present with the Lord." Then Verse 10 speaks of the judgment seat of Christ, pointing out the fact that the judgment is after the glorified state. This is also suggested in Luke 14:13,14, "But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: 14 and thou shalt be blessed; For they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just (speaking of the judgment seat)."

1 Corinthians 4:5, "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God." Also the same thought is brought out in Revelation 22:12, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." This judgment then is after the coming of the Lord.

This judgment is not for sin.

The sin question was taken care of by Christ on the cross. The sin question is taken care of by self-judgment in the believer's life, or the chastening of God.

God then takes care of the sin question, and the sin's question in this life.

All shall give an account.

Every child of God will stand in the judgment. This is made clear by the words of 2 Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body;" 1 Corinthians 3:13, "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

What shall take place at this judgment?

Our work shall be revealed as to what sort it is, because God will test it by fire. Now, what that means is not clear, but if it is suggesting the refining of gold, it would mean that all that represents dross would be burned, and only the real works would remain. But it is also very clear in God's word that God keeps books, and that he has ways and means that will prove just what we have done in this life. 1 Corinthians 3:15, "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

We will be rewarded, or suffer loss.

1 Corinthians 3:14,15, "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward." But if not, we will suffer loss, 1 Corinthians 3:15, "If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." In other words, we will receive no rewards at all. The only thing we will have after we stand before the judgment seat will be our blood-bought salvation as stated in 1 Corinthians 3:15, "If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." But we will be without rewards, or position in the Kingdom of God.

There are two kinds of works that the believer can perform.

1 Corinthians 3:12, "Now if any man build upon this foundation, gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble." Each one of these materials spoken of mean, or represent something. Gold in scripture speaks of Deity, God. Silver speaks of redemption. Precious stones represent souls. To build these kinds of works, we must put God first and His Redemption, and the saving of souls first before everything else in our lives. All these materials stand fire, and are to be found underneath the surface of the earth, works which come from the inner man, controlled by the Holy Spirit.

But if we do not put God first, His redemption and the saving of souls, but perform works of our own choosing, we will only produce wood, hay, and stubble, which are all dead things found on the surface of the earth. Not one of them will stand fire. They are works of the outer man, the flesh.

Which way do we want to go into God's Kingdom? Saved, just because of Christ's salvation, with no rewards, no position, for all eternity? Or do we want a full reward, and a prominent position in the Kingdom of God? Remember that what we do now in this life determines just what we shall be with God, for all eternity.

Then there are crowns that we will receive.

That these crowns are real crowns is without question. Revelation 4:4, "I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold." The Greek word is "Stepho", meaning to twine, or wreath, won as a prize in the public games. But in this sense, it is more than just a wreath. It is given as a badge of royalty, a symbol of honour. It is more than just a crown. These rewards represent the positions which we hold in the kingdom, much in the same way as stripes, and badges do in the Army. Our positions will be known by the crowns we wear.

A Crown of Life, for faithfulness.

To those who live the martyr's life, those who for the gospel's sake live a life of self-denial, and stand faithful through temptation and trial. James 1:12, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

To those who died the martyr's death.

Those who lay down their lives for the gospel's sake. Revelation 2:10, "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer; behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

The Crown of Glory.

This is a crown given to faithful, under shepherds, Pastor's of God's flock. 1 Peter 5:4, "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, Ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

The Crown of Righteousness.

This is a crown given to all those that love the appearing of the Lord, also for faithfulness while awaiting his coming. 2 Timothy 4:7,8, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

The Crown of Rejoicing.

This is a crown given to the soul winner as suggested, 1 Thessalonians 2:19,20, “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His Coming? 20 For ye are our glory and joy.”

The Incorruptible Crown.

This crown is given to those who overcome the flesh, and bring the body under control. 1 Corinthians 9:25,27, “And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

The Lord's Warning To Us.

Revelation 3:11, “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” It is true that the coming of the Lord is near, even at the door. Once again let us as children of God remember that what we are doing in this life determines what we shall be for all eternity.

Let us put God first, His redemption and the saving of souls. Then and only then, are we building Gold, Silver and Precious Stones, which will stand the fire, for which we will be rewarded.

FUTURE EVENTS 2

Book 11

Lesson 10: Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Judgment Seat of Christ?
2. What are the works spoken of according to the Word of God?
3. What kind of works are we rewarded for?
4. Is there a possibility of a believer losing his rewards? Give scripture.
5. These works relate to what we have done in the body. What would that mean?
6. When would this judgment take place?
7. Are our sins dealt with at this Judgment Seat?
8. Explain the term "every man's work shall be tried by fire."
9. What two possible things could happen at this Judgment Seat?
10. Explain the two kinds of works that believers can produce.
11. In what way does the Lord warn us about our crowns?

Lesson 11: The Marriage Supper of the Lamb
Second Coming
Book 11
Revelation 19:7
By Dr. Albert Grimes

The scripture that points out the truth of this marriage supper is to be found in Revelation 19:7, “let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.”

This wedding of the Lamb and the Church takes place just before the Lord comes to the earth in the Revelation, for Revelation 19:11 of the same chapter begins the descent of the Lord down to this earth. The statement, “hath made herself ready”, speaks of the fact that the Church has already gone before the Judgment Seat of Christ, and received the rewards due her. Her position in the Kingdom has been established. Her place of rulership and of service has been settled. She is now ready for the marriage. Revelation 19:8, “And to her was granted that, she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”

The scripture points out the fact that there are those who will be called to the Marriage Supper. The Bride who is the Church, will be married to Christ, and the scripture makes it clear that the whole Church is the Bride, not just part of the Church, as some would have us believe.

Some teach the fact that only the overcomers compose the Bride of Christ, and they also try to point out that these overcomers are saints with a certain kind of spiritual experience. The Word of God tells us just who these overcomers are, when it does speak of overcomers. 1 John 5:4,5, “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”

Overcomers are those who have accepted Christ as Saviour, and it’s these who compose the Church, The Bride of Christ.

Others teach that only those who have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit are the Bride, and that only those who have the Baptism will go in the Rapture, a mistaken application of the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. “Oil” in this parable is spoken of in the sense of light, speaking in terms of our profession. Only those with the real oil which comes through regeneration, have a profession that will enable them to meet Christ when He comes. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit does not regenerate us, but empowers us for service. Therefore it’s our experience of regeneration that makes us part of the Bride of Christ. The whole Church is the Bride of Christ according to the scriptures in Ephesians 5:23,24, “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”

The teaching is clear. The Church, the Whole Church, as a wife, is subject to Christ. Those who are called to the marriage supper are not the Bride, for the Bride is not called. So those called ones are composed of all those Old Testament saints, and those who come out of the Great Tribulation period who are saints of God.

The Church or saints are married in a spiritual sense now, to Christ.

In regard to our identification with Christ, we are planted together in the likeness of his death, and also in the likeness of his resurrection Romans 6:5, “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.”

Now, in the same spiritual sense we have become dead to the law, and the old nature. But before regeneration, we were married to the law, as a wife is to a husband. But through the body of Christ, or the death of Christ, that marriage has been dissolved, and now we are married to Christ. And we bring forth fruit unto God. Romans 7:4, “Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye

should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God (the bringing forth of children unto God).”

But actually in our present state, we are espoused to Christ.

We as believers have been set apart or espoused to Christ, just as Mary was to Joseph. Matthew 1:18, “When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph.” This relationship is real in the life of the child of God. We are engaged to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:2, “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” This is a sacred engagement, and, like the virgin who is engaged to a husband wants to be pure when she becomes married to her husband, so we, as being engaged to Christ, should want to be the same.

The Parable of the Marriage Supper.

The call to the marriage feast has gone forth, down through the ages. It was first extended to Israel. Matthew 22:1-7, “And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, 2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. 4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. 5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise. 6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. 7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.”

The Church began its history as a world movement on the Day of Pentecost, in the late Spring of the year 30 A.D., and the servants of the Lord went forth and began to bid men to the feast. But Jewish persecution scattered the Church. This persecution continued. Peter died in the year 67, and Paul in the year 68. Then the King of the parable sent His armies and in 70 A.D. destroyed their city, the city of Jerusalem. Israel as a nation had rejected the invitation to the marriage feast. Then the gospel call was extended to the Gentiles. Matthew 22:8-10, “Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.”

While this parable is dealing with the guests who are invited to the supper, yet it must be understood that the Church, the Bride of Christ, will be formed during the same period, from Pentecost to the Second Coming of Christ. And it will be formed by both Jews and Gentiles, as stated in Ephesians 2:15,16, “for to make in himself of twain one new man.” The word “twain” is speaking of Jews and Gentiles. 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God, in one body, by the cross.” The word “both” suggests the same, Jews and Gentiles. The word “body” speaks of the Church that will be formed of both Jew and Gentile.

So, it must be understood that this calling or inviting to the marriage supper has a twofold application, those who are called to the feast, and those who will form the Bride, the Bride of the King’s Son, Christ.

The Actual Event as it takes place.

As it has already been pointed out, the event takes place after the Judgment Seat of Christ, just before the Lord returns to this earth, in the Revelation. It takes place in heaven, as stated in the scriptures. Revelation 19:7-9, “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”

Thus, in heaven, before the throne of God, the marriage will take place, then the Revelation, or revealing

of Christ, as He comes to this earth, to set up His Kingdom in which the Church, the Bride, will rule with Christ.

FUTURE EVENTS 2

Book 11

Lesson 11: Questions

1. When does this marriage take place? Who is the bride of the Lord?
2. Who are called to this marriage supper?
3. What are some of the teachings relating to those who will go into the marriage, which are not scriptural?
4. What is a relationship to Christ now in a spiritual sense, but actually, what is our relationship now?
5. Explain the parable of the marriage supper.
6. When does the marriage actually take place?

Lesson 12: The Revelation of Christ
Second Coming
Book 11
Revelation 19:7
By Dr. Albert Grimes

What is meant by the Revelation of Christ is the revealing of Christ. In the Rapture of the Saints, Christ will only come down to the air, or the atmosphere, the first heaven, not to the earth, and He will only be seen by those who are caught up to meet Him in the air. The world will not see the Rapture, but they will be left with the results of it. The world will be left in a state of confusion, but Christ will not have been revealed. However, in the Revelation, He will be revealed to the world. Revelation 1:7, "...and every eye shall see him..."

The Revelation of Christ will take place Seven Years after the Rapture.

As we have already brought out, the Church is taken out of the world, before the Tribulation begins. It is then taken before the Judgment Seat of Christ, then to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. While these events are taking place in heaven, the Tribulation is taking place upon the earth. What takes place then upon the earth, and in the heaven, covers a period of Seven Years, after which the Revelation of Christ will take place.

In the Rapture we meet Christ in the air.

The Lord will descend from heaven with a shout. 1 Thessalonians 4:16, "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout." But He will not come down to this earth. He will stay in the first heaven with those spirits that He brings with Him from heaven. 1 Thessalonians 4:14, "them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him (Will continue down to this earth, to receive their glorified bodies)." The living will be changed and glorified, and both will be caught up to meet Christ in the air, and return to heaven with Him. The inhabitants of the earth will not witness this event.

In the Revelation, Christ will return to this earth, and the whole world will see Him.

Now we have the meaning of the word "Revelation". It means "revealing". He will be revealed in aspects: First, as the Judge of all the earth. Second, as the Messiah of Israel. Matthew 24:30, "then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Revelation 1:7, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him: and they also which pierced him, and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him (Coming to judge the world)." Then to Israel, as their Messiah, it is stated in Zechariah 12:10, "and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced," (referring to the cross) "and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son (speaking of Israel when they see Christ coming in the clouds of heaven)." It will be revealed to them that this Christ was their Messiah, whom they slew.

He will return to this earth with His angels, and saints, to make war with the armies of the Antichrist.

Before Christ can set up his kingdom upon the earth, he must deal with the Antichrist, who has already set up a false, counterfeit kingdom and has deceived the world into believing that he was Christ. The Antichrist has his armies already gathered to meet the coming Christ from heaven. 2 Thessalonians 1:7,8, "when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." The coming of the armies of heaven is further described in Revelation 19:14, "And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean."

As Christ's feet touch the Mount of Olives, great changes will take place to the earth.

As the Lord left from the Mount of Olives, so He will return to the same place. Zechariah 14:4, "And his feet will stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south." This is further described in Zechariah 14:10,11, "All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses. 11 And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited."

These great changes will probably be brought about by earthquakes. This is no doubt what the Prophet Micah was describing when he spoke in Micah 1:3,4, "For behold, the Lord cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth. And the mountains shall be molten under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire, and as the waters that are poured down a steep place." These great physical changes will level the land surface of Palestine, and will make room for the New City and Temple, and raise the Dead Sea 1200 feet, so its waters can flow into both the Red and the Mediterranean Seas.

The Antichrist armies gather around Jerusalem.

As the Tribulation upon the earth comes to its close, the sixth angel from heaven will pour out his vial upon the great River Euphrates to dry up the waters in order that the Kings of the East may cross over in their march towards Palestine. Satan will send his demon spirits to gather those nations from all over the world, and they shall gather outside of the city of Jerusalem. Gathered by Satan, but in their blind delusion it is God Himself that has gathered them, that He might destroy them. This is referred to in Revelation 16:16, "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon." This is further described in Joel 3:2,12-14, "I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land... 12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. 13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. 14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."

They gather in their own hate against Christ, but only for their own destruction. Revelation 19:19, "And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army."

The Lord with his armies of heaven will meet them in battle and will overcome them.

There is never any doubt as to the outcome of this great battle. Christ IS the victor. The armies of the Antichrist are destroyed, and both the beast, the leader of this great host, and the false prophet are taken captive. Revelation 19:20, "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." The battle will be so dreadful that blood will flow for two hundred miles. Revelation 14:20, "And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse's bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs." (By angel from heaven the birds will be invited to come and feast upon the bodies of the slain). Revelation 19:17,18, "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great."

After this great battle, Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit, and the beast and false prophet in the Lake of

fire.

The three great leaders of this rebellion against God, after their armies have been overcome by the armies of the heavens, are taken, and Satan as the leader is taken, and is bound in the bottomless pit. This bottomless pit is the prison house of demon spirits, according to Revelation 9:1-11. Revelation 20:1-3, “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years; 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled.” The Beast and False Prophet are also cast into the lake of Fire forever. Revelation 19:20, “And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet.” “These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

The nations of the earth will be judged by Christ.

The nations of the earth will be gathered to Palestine, to the valley of Jehoshaphat, and there they will be judged, according to their treatment of Christ’s brethren, the Jews, during the tribulation period. Those who have helped and protected them against the Antichrist will receive blessing and be allowed to enter into the thousand year kingdom. This is brought out in the scripture. Matthew 25:31-46, “When the Son of Man shall come in His glory; 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left...”

Notice why the nations on the right hand go into the kingdom. Matthew 25:34, “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me...”

The Lord gave the answer, as to who these were who were being ministered to in verse 40, “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Christ is here referring to his brethren of Israel. The goat nations did not do the things spoken of, but perhaps turned Christ’s brethren over to the Antichrist. For this they are cursed, and not allowed into the Kingdom.

Israel will be regathered, converted, restored to their position as the Head of the nations.

It is possible that after the great battle has taken place, and Christ has been revealed, that Israel as a nation will then for the first time in their history, really look upon Christ, and see Him as He really is, their own Messiah. Revelation 1:7, “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him:” This doubtless refers to Israel. This same event is further described in Zechariah 12:10, “...and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced...” The result of this revelation coming to Israel, that as a nation they killed and rejected their own Messiah, is pointed out. Zechariah 12:10-12, “...and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. 11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem... 12 And the land shall mourn, every family apart...” It will be a national repentance, and Israel as a nation will be saved and turned to the Lord, as in Isaiah 66:8, “Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth on one day? or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.”

This same thought of Israel being saved is brought out in Romans 11:25,26, “For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. 26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”

Israel will be restored as head of the nations in the kingdom, and all nations shall serve them. Isaiah 60:12, “For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.”

These two events, the Rapture and the Revelation, and all that have been discussed in this study make up what is known as “The Second Coming of Christ.”

The Rising of the Antichrist and the Tribulation, which takes place upon the earth, have not been dealt with in this study, for in a sense we feel that they will happen after the Church is taken out of the world, and we have only been dealing with the Second Coming of Christ as it relates to the Christian.

However, we will discuss the subject in another study.

FUTURE EVENTS 2

Book 11

Lesson 12: Questions

1. Explain the difference between the Revelation and the Rapture.
2. Who will Christ return with when he comes in the Revelation?
3. What will happen to the Mount of Olives when Christ's feet touch it?
4. What will the Antichrist and evil spirits gather from all over the world?
5. What will happen when the Lord and his armies come down to this earth?
6. What three events will take place after this battle?