

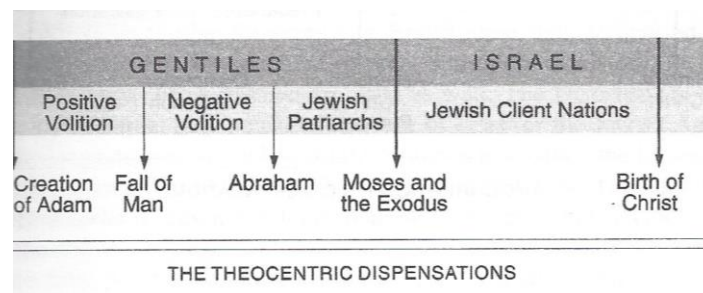
# Doctrine of Dispensations

## Introduction

1. Definition: A dispensation is a period of time in which God expresses a divine viewpoint of human history.

1.1 God has chosen to divide time into segments; He has appointed agents, or an agent, to disseminate His revelations in each of the respective time segments.

1.2 Human history may be classified into six dispensations. These six can be grouped into three categories of two dispensations each: Theocentric, the Christocentric and the Eschatological.



1.3 The Theocentric consists of the Age of the Gentiles and the Age of Israel. Each of which occurred before God spoke to us through His Son ergo they are pre-incarnate.

Heb 1:1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,

Heb 1:2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

1.4 The Christocentric consists of the Kingdom Age and the Church Age.

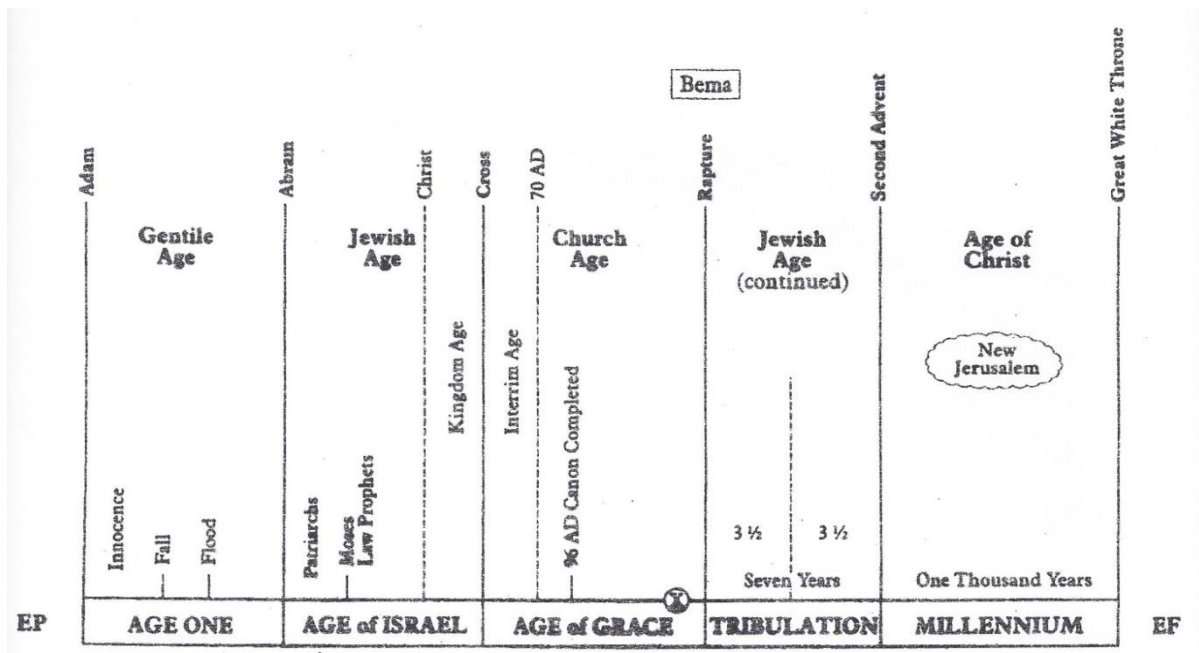
1.5 The Eschatological dispensations consist of the Tribulation and Millennium.

2. It is important to understand that biblical revelation falls into these well-defined periods; the time line is God's clock for His history.

2.1 Be reminded it is Jesus Christ who controls history and though we are responsible for our choices, all choices were anticipated and our very own spiritual life developed.

3. Recognition and understanding of the dispensations of God will facilitate an understanding of God's word. God has chosen in His omniscience to reveal Himself differently in His designated segments of time called dispensations or ages.

4. What might be true for one dispensation may not be appropriate for another dispensation.



4.1 In every age there are differences but there are also inexorable axioms which are "sacrosanct." For example in every age the salvation mechanics are the same - faith alone in Christ alone.

Gen 15:6 And he (Abraham) believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Rom 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Rom 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Rom 3:26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Rom 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

Rom 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Rom 3:29 Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:

4.2 In every age there is only one Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ. The believer may be looking toward the coming of the Messiah, at the Messiah or back at the crucified Lord.

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Joh 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Acts 14:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

4.3 God reveals Christ in many ways throughout the ages, but faith in Him is the only way of eternal salvation.

5. The English words Age or Ages are often found in the New Testament. More often than not Ages in Scripture refer to a dispensation and often **Aion** the Greek word for Ages is mistranslated "world."

Eph 2:7 That in the **ages** to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Eph 3:5 Which in other **ages** was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

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

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the **ages**;

5.1 In the Bible ages are often distinguished by their differing protocols. For example:

Joh 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Luk 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: but since John the Baptist the kingdom of God is preached, and every man pressed into it.

Mat 5:21 Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

Mat 5:22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell.

Mat 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 5:4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Mat 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Mat 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Mat 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Mat 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

5.2 Compare the protocols described in the above passages to the protocols described in such Scriptures as:

Acts 16:31 Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved ...

Gal 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Gal 3:12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

Gal 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

Rom 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Rom 4:4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

Rom 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Rom 4:6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

Rom 4:7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Rom 4:8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Rom 4:9 Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

6. An understanding of dispensations is a must if we are to make sense of the Bible.

7. Dispensations when understood can spark an interest in Bible study; this because suddenly the Bible doesn't seem like a hodge-podge of contradictions.

7.1 The wrath of God so vividly displayed in the Old Testament (these Scriptures clearly relate to the Age of the Gentiles and the Age of Israel proper) morphs into mercy and grace in the Kingdom Age and Church Age.

8. The protocol of God may not be the same for every age. For example Isaiah and Micah speak about a protocol appropriate for when the Lord returns at His Second Advent as the protector of His people and Joel speaks of attitude and futile action on the part of the unbelievers who arrive for the last battle of Armageddon.

Isa 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Mic 4:3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Joe 3:10 Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

Joe 3:11 Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD.

8.1 Scripture must, therefore be studied in Categories, i.e., by subject. We must look and see if the protocol changed as the Scripture evolved. An acronym has been developed to help us understand this concept. It is called ICED.

### **ICED**

**I** The I stands for Introduction, meaning those facts which introduce historical nuances and background information about the book, the author and the historical setting.

**C** The C stands for Categories meaning that study of a subject found throughout the Bible as opposed to an eclectic approach.

**E** The E stands for Exegesis, meaning a critical analysis of the Bible performed from a study of the original language using the best manuscripts available.

**D** The D stands for Dispensation, meaning that analysis of the biblical passage or passages given the epoch to which the Scripture relates.

9. While God Himself does not change, He has in His Omniscience elected to give varying instructions and responsibilities which are, as to their primary application, limited to a given period.

10. Only those portions of Scriptures that are directly addressed to the child of God under grace in what we call the Church Age are to be given primary application.

10.1 All such primary instruction the believer is to perform in detail.

11. It should be observed there are spiritual lessons to be drawn from every portion of the Bible; it does not follow, however, that every Christian is appointed to conform to the governing principles which were or will in the future be the will of God for people of other dispensations.

11.1 We will see numerous such examples later but just to whet our appetites.

12. In the Millennium there are some obvious protocols which if embraced, apart from a dispensational understanding, could prove very dangerous for the present Saint.

Isa 11:6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

Isa 11:7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

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

12.1 Since we depend entirely upon the Word of God for our instructions and since the principles imposed in the various dispensations are so diverse and even at times seemingly contradictory, it is important that we recognize those portions which directly apply to us.

13. If we are to realize the will of God for our life we must then understand which portions of Scripture have primary and which have secondary application. Let's review the various ages and note their similarities and commonalities.

### **Age One-The Gentile Age**

1. Let us see if we can't learn a little about the concept of primary and secondary application by taking a look at the first sub-age. The age or sub-age of Innocence:

1.1 This first dispensation is said to begin with the creation of man (Gen 2:7 and Gen 2:21-24) and end with the fall of man (Gen 3:6).

Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed in to his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul ...

Gen 2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Gen 2:23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

1.2 In this age man was responsible for being fruitful, subduing the earth, having dominion over the animals, using vegetables for food, and caring for a place called Eden. Gen 2:15.

Gen 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

1.3 Much of that which occurred we understand but only in part because the Garden and Innocence are foreign to us.

1.4 To attempt to make direct application in our life of the instructions given Adam and Eve is impossible therefore innocence as an age makes for a good teaching tool.

1.5 Though there is no direct application to the Church Age saint in the Age of Innocence, there is significant secondary application and many truths appropriate for us.

1.6 Let's look at a few secondary principles taught in this unique little sub-age which is called by many "The Age of Innocence":

- There was one prohibition given to man in that beautiful garden, "you may not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

- As church age Saints we learn from Gen 2:17 that volition is important to God; He left in perfect environment a mechanism for exercising our freewill.
- People need then to be free to choose Christ or reject Christ.
- We learn that in perfect environment man does not need either sin or human good; grace and human good are mutually exclusive.
- In this Age of Innocence, God introduces us to the principle of grace with a promise of a Redeemer (Gen 3:15); God provides to fallen man coats of skin, typical of the provision of the redemptive sacrifice to come (Gen 3:21).

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee **and the woman**, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head (*Satan's*), and thou shalt bruise his heel (*Christ's*).

Gen 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

- The virgin birth was introduced to us and the future pain, death and victory of the Messiah to come is also taught in Gen 3:15.

- The principle of a right woman being brought to the right man as his completer is taught.

Gen 2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

Gen 2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

Gen 2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Gen 2:23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

- The need for the right man and the right woman to come together as one is taught in this age. Both soul and physical oneness are taught.

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Gen 2:25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

- The need to support one another even against the future attacks of in-laws is taught in this first dispensation; this was long in advance of their being any such human genre of “in-laws”).

2. So you see in a dispensation there may be little if any primary application for us but ample secondary application (e.g. Mat 5:40). Salvation was a product of looking forward to the coming of the Lord. After the fall the blood of the animal was symbolic of the blood of Christ and the animal skin represented a covering ergo an atonement for our sins.

3. The Age of Innocence like all dispensations begins with man being placed in a divinely appointed position of privilege and blessing and ends with the failure of man resulting in judgment from God.

Gen 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:

Gen 3:23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

Gen 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

### **Age of Israel-Jewish Age**

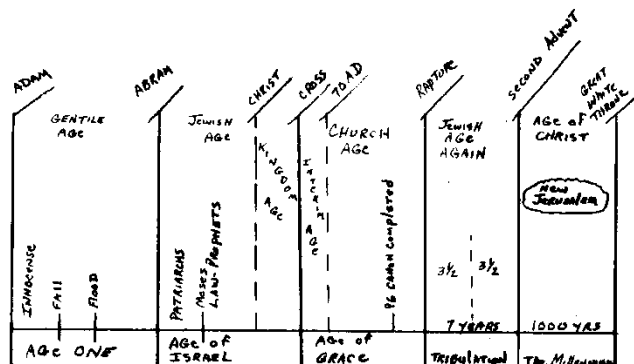
1. Now let's continue our study of the two Theocentric Dispensations by looking at the Age of Israel or as it is better termed The Age of Israel Proper.



Gen 12:4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

2.3 Abram and his wife and nephew Lot with his wife left Haran and made their way south into the Promised Land. Abram and his family are the first Jews. The Jews will not become a nation until the exodus from Egypt. The name Jew in Hebrew actually means “he who crossed the river.”

3. We are now officially into a sub-age which I like to call the Age of Israel proper.



3.1 Every age had certain distinguishing characteristics. The Age of Israel lasted until the cross though there was the very important sub-age I have elected to call the Kingdom Age where Christ offered His Kingdom to Israel.

3.2 A few bullets concerning the Age of Israel proper:

3.2.1 Many races of people,

3.2.2 Many languages,

3.2.3 Israel is the missionary agent,

3.2.4 Specialized priesthood of Levi,

3.2.5 Israel judged in time,

3.2.6 Four unconditional covenants, and

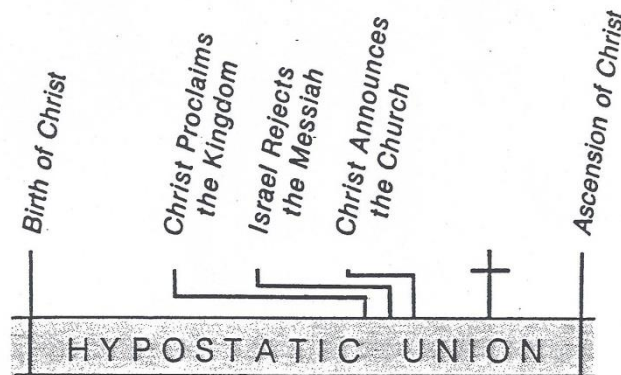
3.2.7 Time span – Abraham to the cross.

3.2.8 Characters in the Age of Israel proper were the Patriarchs, the Prophets and of course Jesus Christ.

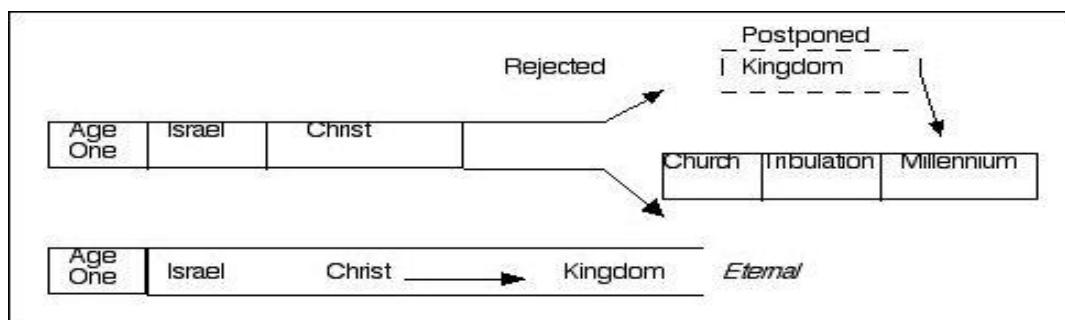
4. The Age of Israel proper began with the selection of Abram and will end with the coming of John the Baptist when the Age of Israel proper gives way to the Kingdom Age or Age of the Hypostatic Union.

Luk16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man pressed into it.

5. The Kingdom presentation would later be offered in a sub-age called The Kingdom Age or The Age of the Hypostatic Union. It is in this sub-age Christ will offer His Messianic kingdom.



6. Israel will reject and be judged for their rejection, i.e., the fifth cycle of discipline and thus God “resorts” to his “new” plan for His people—the future implementation of the four unconditional covenants. The future implementation will take place at His Second Advent. A chart will illustrate:



6.1 Had Israel accepted Christ’s offering of perfect environment and an earthly Kingdom, the four unconditional covenants would have been implemented, however, the offering was rejected, therefore the implementation will be postponed until the Millennium. Let’s review these covenants.

6.1.1 Abrahamic Covenant- Gen 12:1-3; 15:1-10, 12, 17 and 18 and Gen 22:15-18.

Gen 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

Gen 12:2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Gen 15:1 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

Gen 15:2 But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?"

Gen 15:3 And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

Gen 15:4 Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir."

Gen 15:5 He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars -- if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Gen 15:6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Gen 15:7 He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

Gen 15:8 But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"

Gen 15:9 So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

Gen 15:10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half ...

Gen 15:12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him ...

Gen 15:17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces.

Gen 15:18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river Euphrates ..."

Gen 22:15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time

Gen 22:16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

Gen 22:17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,

Gen 22:18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

- The promise of peoples, nations and kings to Abraham and Sarah, would ultimately include the many Gentiles who would later believe and become "grafted branches." Our documentation for this wonderful promise of inclusion can be found in Gal 3:7-8, 29 and Rom 4:11.

Gal 3:7 Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham.

Gal 3:8 The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."

Gal 3:9 So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Gal 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Rom 4:11 And he (Abraham) received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them.

- We are blessed because of the promises made to Abraham and Sarah and truly the world was blessed originally when Abram believed God and it was credited to him for righteousness and all peoples on earth will be blessed through—the ultimate blessing, Jesus Christ.

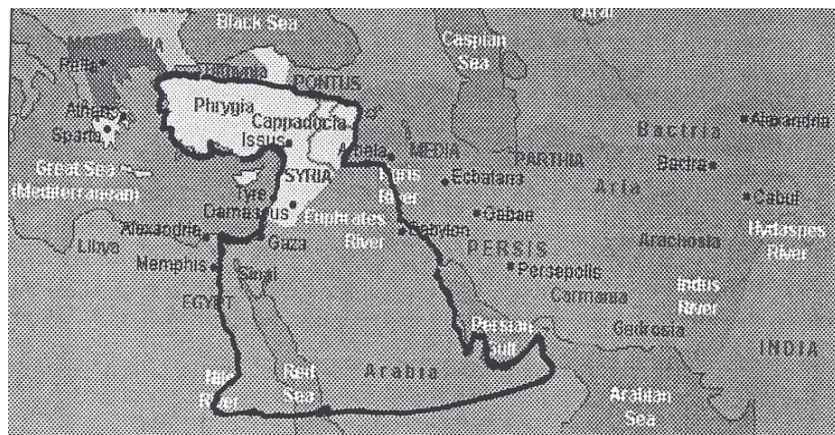
#### 6.1.2 Palestinian Covenant - Gen 15:18-21; Eze 20:33-35 and 42-44

Gen 15:18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates --

Gen 15:19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites,

Gen 15:20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites,

Gen 15:21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."



Eze 20:33 As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I will rule over you with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath.

Eze 20:34 I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered -- with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath.

Eze 20:35 I will bring you into the desert of the nations and there, face to face, I will execute judgment upon you.

Eze 20:42 Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, the land I had sworn with uplifted hand to give to your fathers.

Eze 20:43 There you will remember your conduct and all the actions by which you have defiled yourselves, and you will loathe yourselves for all the evil you have done.

Eze 20:44 You will know that I am the LORD, when I deal with you for my name's sake and not according to your evil ways and your corrupt practices, O house of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD."

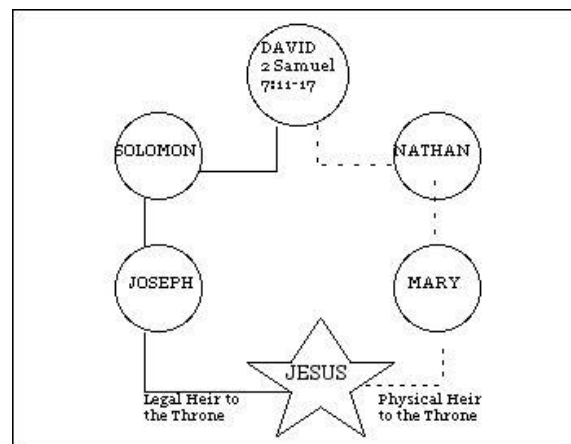
### 6.1.3 Davidic Covenant - 2Sa 7:10

2Sa 7:10 And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning.

Eze 37:24 And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

Eze 37:25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince forever.

Eze 37:26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.



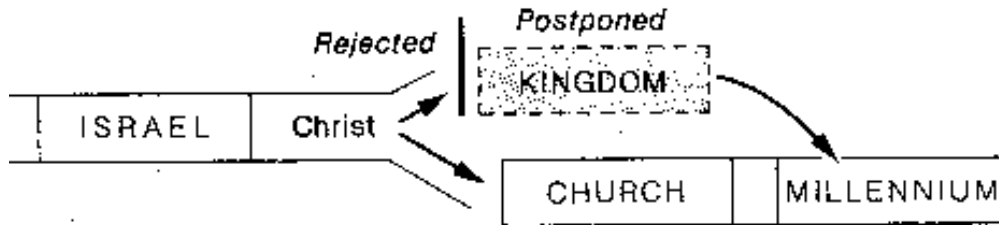
### 6.1.4 New Covenant - Jer 31:31-34

Jer 31:31 "The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

Jer 31:32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

Jer 31:33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Jer 31:34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."



- In Gen 17:1-11 God reaffirms the Abrahamic Covenant, Palestinian and the Davidic Covenant with the ritual of circumcision. At the ripe old age of 99, Abraham is given the heir of the promise, Isaac, who is born that very year to his aged wife Sarah.

### Age of Grace-Church Age

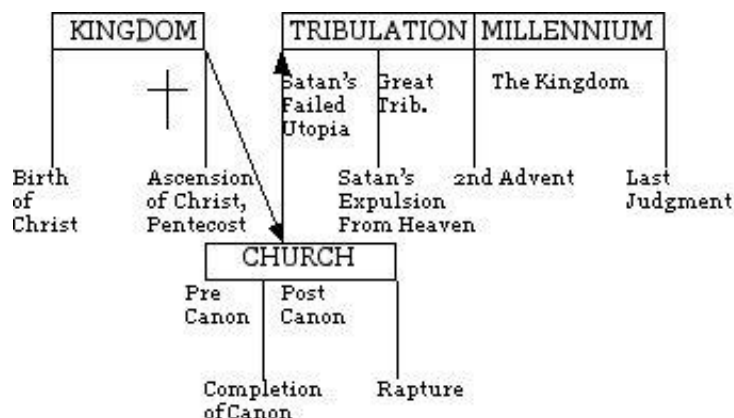
1. After the cross, resurrection and ascension, a new age is implemented. It is the Church Age where there is neither Jew or Gentile. All believers become one in Christ.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

2. The Church Age is generally divided into a pre-canon and a post-canon period. The Church began with the resurrection and ascension and ends with the Rapture of the Church.

3. The Church Age is inserted between two Jewish Ages. It is what we call an intercalation. The two Ages are the Kingdom Age and the Tribulation.

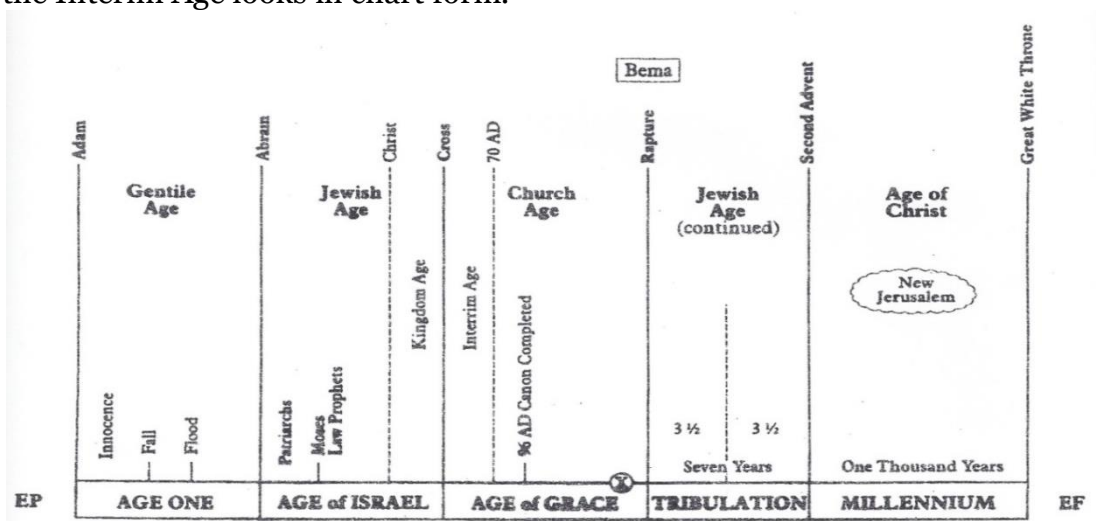


4. Let's look at ten principles of the Church Age:

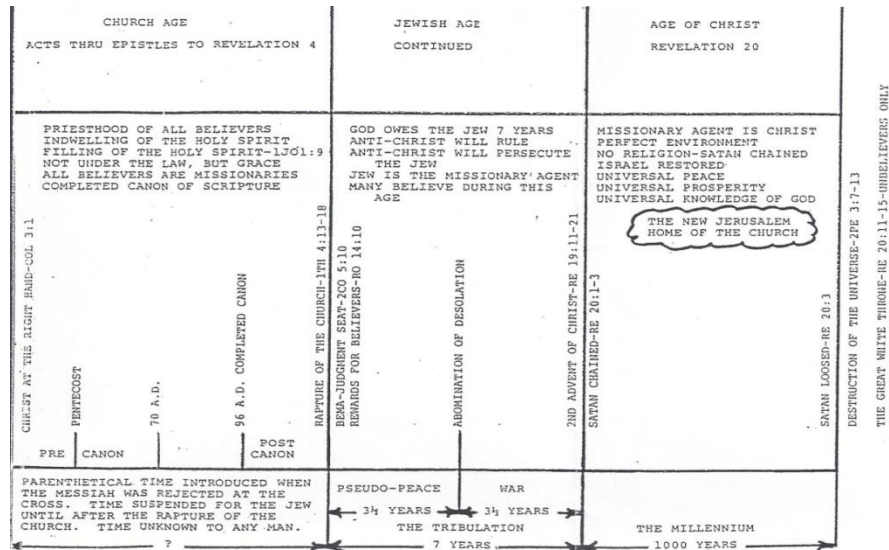
4.1 The end of the age is imminent—the Rapture.

4.2 Believers are all in union with Christ—a positional truth.

- 4.3 All believers are indwelt by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit—it is universal.
- 4.4 All believer are priests—it is call “the universal priesthood.”
- 4.5 The cannon of Scripture is complete—Scripture is that portion of the mind of Christ, at least that portion that Christ has deemed as important for us to have.
- 4.6 We have a supernatural way of life—the use of the two power options.
- 4.7 We acquire the filling of spirit and absolute spirituality when we name sin back to God. This is done by the use of 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9.
- 4.8 We are no longer slaves to the law for we now have a higher law—something far greater.
- 4.9 All believers are missionaries—we function as ambassadors for Christ.
- 4.10 Pastor-teachers are provided to present doctrine to local assemblies called churches.
5. Though there are many who teach that the Church Age began with the cross and some who teach it began with the resurrection. There are others who consider the Church Age as having its genesis with the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.
6. It is also my opinion that the Church Age is best taught by recognizing a sub-age called “Interim Age” which began with the resurrection and ends with the completion of the Canon of Scripture in approximately A.D. 96. Such termini helps to explain the existence of many supernatural “whip gifts” such as tongues, interpretation of tongues, discerning of spirits, healing and other miracles which vanished gradually after A.D. 57.
7. These gifts being no longer needed after the completion of the Canon and the establishment of local churches under the authority of pastor-teachers. Let’s again see how the Interim Age looks in chart form.



8. One more chart will help us with an understanding of the Church Age. The chart will help in our understanding of how our age relates to the two eschatological ages to follow.



9. As you can see the Church Age begins after the Interim Age in c. A.D. 70 and ends with the Rapture of the Church and the beginning of the Tribulation.

10. I will review the eschatological ages later but first I want to cover the Church Age in more detail. The best way to do this is to review the importance of Bible doctrine. It is during the Church Age that each of us must transform our minds.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

11. The process of transforming the mind has unfortunately been neglected by many denominations. We have a whole generation of Christians who do not understand the order "Let this thinking be in you which was in Christ Jesus."

12. Josh McDowell in a speech to the 2005 graduates at Dallas Theological Seminary revealed a frightening fact about believers today.

"Ninety-one percent of professing born-again Christians ... assert there are no absolutes. That figure is up from fifty-two percent in 1991, sixty-two percent in 1994 and seventy-eight percent in 1999.

"Of the ninety-one percent in 2005, sixty-five percent said ... 'we cannot know whether any religion is true or not, including Christianity.'"

13. Clearly the problem described in the above cited quotation describes a serious one that can only be addressed when Bible Doctrine becomes the center of church worship; ergo, the need for pastor-teachers to emphasize the importance of acquiring a full knowledge (**EPIGNOSIS**) of the Word of God.

14. 1Pe 1:2-8 summarizes the process for acquiring doctrine.

2Pe 1:2 Grace (**CHARIS**) and peace (**EIRENE**) be multiplied (**PLETHUNO**) unto you through the knowledge (**EPIGNOSIS**) of the Lord Jesus Christ.

14.1 The grace plan of God with its related stability in time is wished upon each and every believer. However, Peter recognized his wish was not being completely fulfilled. The verb **PLETHUNO** means “to augment” or “multiply.”

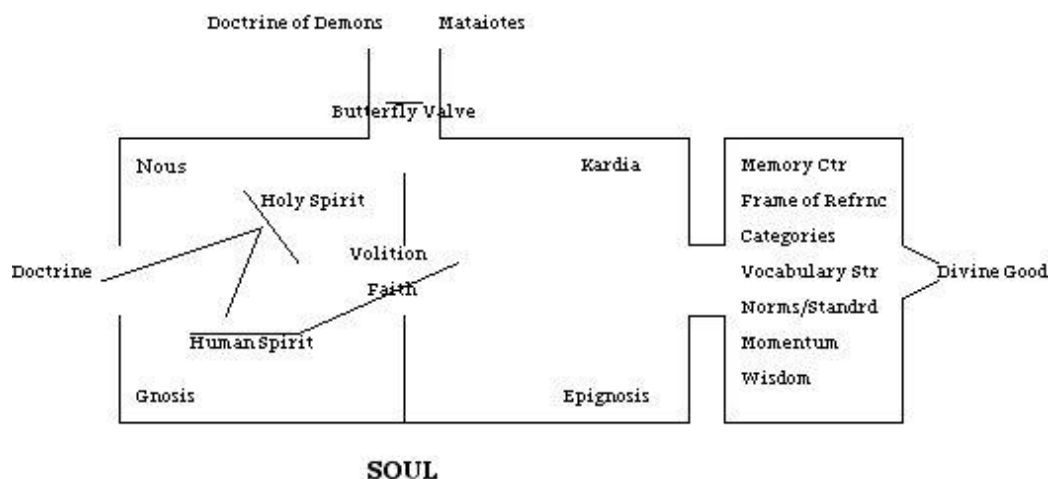
14.1.1 Peter wishes God's grace plan and stability would increase exponentially for all believers.

14.2 The source of this augmentation or multiplication is that wonderful word **EPIGNOSIS**, which is Bible doctrine metabolized in the right lobe of the soul.

14.2.1 The Lord Jesus Christ, our resurrected Celebrity, is described in the possessive genitive case, meaning we are to acquire **EPIGNOSIS** doctrine of our Lord if we are to enjoy God's grace and peace.

14.3 There are no short cuts. Before going on to 2Pe 1:3, let's look one more time at 2Pe 1:2, "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ."

14.3.1 Take note: we get peace “through and by means of doctrine resident in the soul.”



14.3.2 Bible doctrine must however enter the left lobe where it is made perspicuous by God the Holy Spirit, and then by faith it must be transferred to the right lobe, where it will not only provide peace and stability but it will also produce divine good.

14.3.3 Doctrine in the left lobe is called **GNOSIS**; doctrine in the right lobe is called **EPIGNOSIS**. **EPIGNOSIS** doctrine will become part of the believer's stream of consciousness and result in the construction of certain building blocks, such as a memory center, frame of reference, categories, vocabulary storage norms and standards, momentum and wisdom; all of which will facilitate the production of divine good.

#### Memory Center

- It brings into focus that which is pertinent.
- It serves as a source of a whole realm of doctrines for reverse-process thinking.
- It functions closely with both the vocabulary and categorical storage compartments.

#### Frame of Reference

- It serves as a foundation for learning more complex doctrines and provides a system to move from the simple to the complex.
- It provides a new perspective to life's experiences.
- It makes possible our becoming Christocentric rather than anthropocentric.
- It serves as a source for an alarm system to alert the soul when false doctrines are heard.
- It provides a means for handling guilt.
- It provides ideas and thoughts for communicating and witnessing.

#### Categories

- It is a place where technical concepts and ideas are categorized into doctrines and are stored for use when the Memory Center and Frame of Reference demands it.

#### Vocabulary Storage

- It is a place where words are stored to permit thought in regard to spiritual matters.

#### Norms and Standards

- Here is where a new conscience is established.

## Momentum

- Moving doctrine from the left lobe to the right lobe provides momentum to propel the believer forward to even greater spiritual growth.

## Wisdom

- Divine viewpoint creates in the soul an ability to process data and solve complex problems with skill beyond the human IQ.

### 14.4 The subject continues in 2nd Peter 1:3:

2Pe 1:3 According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life (**ZOE**) and Godliness (**EUSEBEIA**) through the knowledge (**DIA HO EPIGNOSIS**) of Him that hath called us to glory (**IDIOS DOXA**) and virtue (**ARETE**).

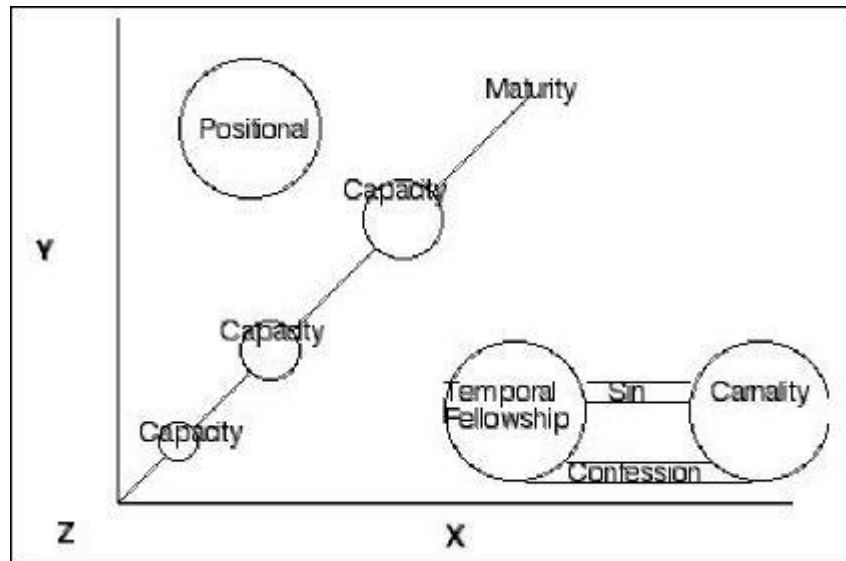
14.5 **ZOE** is here translated "life," meaning that related to both our life in time and eternity. This would certainly include escrow blessings for eternity and logistical grace blessings for time.

14.6 **EUSEBEIA** is here translated "godliness," meaning the spiritual life of the individual believer. It is special and has been designed with you and me uniquely in mind.

14.6.1 The optimum *modus vivendi* certainly would involve the maximum production of divine good through a maximum intake of the Word of God.

14.7 **EPIGNOSIS** is translated "through the knowledge" and is a reference to doctrine in the right lobe. Metabolized doctrine defines how we are to think and act based upon an acceptance of the mind of Christ, (i.e., the Holy Scriptures).

14.7.1 Our Trichotomy of the Christian Life chart provides a simple illustration of the two problem-solving devices and how each relates to our positional and temporal sanctification.



14.8 **KALEO** is translated "called" and means way back yonder in eternity past God called each believer to live the Christian life by using the two power options.

14.9 **DOXA** is translated "glory," but unfortunately **IDIOS** which appears in the Greek, is not translated. It is better translated "He has called us to His glory," meaning that which glorifies Him.

14.10 **ARETE** is translated "virtue" and means doing that which is right, even when difficult and inconvenient; it means a manly strength or courage and valor or any number of commendable qualities proscribed by God.

14.11 Virtue as used here means the consistent manifestation of positive volition to attend Bible class for the purpose of taking in **GNOSIS**, and an acceptance of that taught by the Holy Spirit as **EPIGNOSIS**.

14.12 **GNOSIS** enters first into the left lobe, where the Holy Spirit will teach the human spirit, regardless of human IQ, a complete understanding of the doctrine or doctrines needed to fulfill one's personal sense of destiny.

14.13 In the right lobe **GNOSIS** becomes **EPIGNOSIS**, but only if the now perspicuous doctrine is accepted.

14.14 We all have a choice to transfer the perspicuous doctrine or to reject it. Keep in mind God provides the doctrine and we provide the faith.

14.15 We are here to glorify God and not ourselves.

Ecc 12:13 When all the votes are in and there is nothing left to be said, this is the conclusion of the matter: fear God and Keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

Isa 43:7 Every one who is called by my name was created for my glory, I have formed him; yes I made him.

15. I want us to look at several promises related to the means God has provided for acquiring doctrine, how the acquisition cycle is all based on grace, how human IQ does not matter as long as you are mentally accountable and how metabolized doctrine in the soul of the believer will produce divine good, all of which is part of God's plan.

15.1 The Holy Spirit does the teaching.

Joh 16:13 Therefore when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, Who is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

15.2 When you want it you get it.

Mat 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Joh 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

15.3 It is God's plan we produce divine good, a product of doctrine in our souls.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

15.4 Metabolized doctrine in the soul of the believer will produce divine good.

Jam 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

Jam 1:20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Jam 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Jam 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Jam 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

Jam 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Col 1:3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Col 1:4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,

Col 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

Col 1:6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

Isa 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isa 55:10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

2Ti 3:16: All scripture is God breathed and is profitable for doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness

1Ti 3:17: In order that the man of God might be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

15.5 We are called to glorify Christ. He has given us a spiritual life to live and this life can only be lived by His protocol plan. His plan will result in a Christ-like life.

16. How the process functions are now explained in 2Pe 1:4.

2Pe 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us exceedingly great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine Nature having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

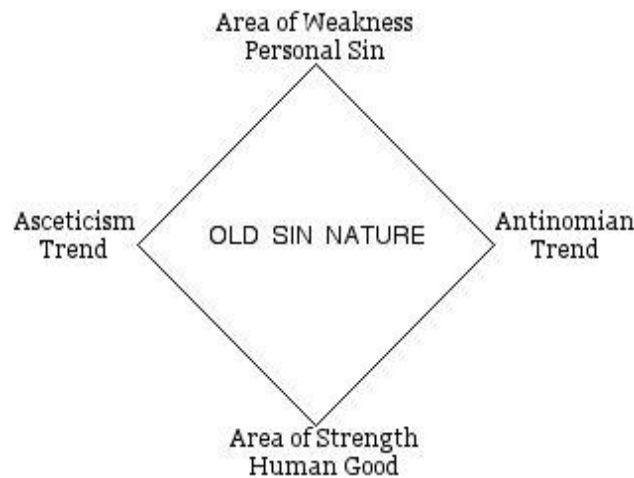
16.1 Corruption through lust is each person's way of life as he functions in time under the control and domination of his Old Sin Nature. There is nothing good which can come from his flesh.

Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way.

Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it?



16.2 The Bible is full of promises for us as believers.

16.3 There are also at least 41 things given to a believer at the moment of salvation, and most of these are precious promises.

16.4 The purpose of our many promises, as we can see from 2Pe 1:4, is to provide an escape from the domination of our inherited old sin natures, with their associated lust patterns and trends.

17. Now let's continue Peter's teaching about the process of spiritual growth.

2Pe 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue and to virtue knowledge.

17.1 The phrase "and beside this" would better read, "and for this reason."

17.2 The phrase "giving all diligence," is a classical Greek idiom. It comes from Greek drama and it would better read "assemble the cast with alacrity."

17.3 The cast, as we will see in the following verses, are various nouns and adjectives which we are to add repeatedly by means of the continuous acquisition of **EPIGNOSIS** in the right lobe.

17.4 The phrase "add to your faith" is a reference to our faith in Christ as Savior.

17.5 We are to add virtue, which again is the word **ARETE** and means the motivation and the positive volition to attend Bible class even under the most difficult of circumstances, and the courage to apply that which we from time to time learn.

17.6 To virtue we are to add knowledge. Knowledge here is **GNOSIS** and is a reference to doctrine heard in Bible class under the filling of the Spirit. Here we find the process of **GNOSIS** to **EPIGNOSIS** being emphasized.

17.7 **GNOSIS**, as we have seen, is received by the Holy Spirit, Who then teaches our human spirit, making it perspicuous.

17.8 You must always continue cycling doctrine, it is a never ending task, and when you stop you begin the terrible process of failure known as reversionism.

17.9 Let's review again our verses in First Peter by looking at how the NIV translates 2Pe 1:2-5.

2Pe 1:2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

2Pe 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2Pe 1:4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2Pe 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

18. Now let's continue with what Peter has to say about the process of righteousness.

2Pe 1:6 And to knowledge **GNOSIS** add temperance and to temperance patience and to patience add Godliness

18.1 **EGKRATES** is translated temperance; it means self-control from organized thinking.

18.2 **HUPOMONE** is translated patience; it means persistence even amidst distraction.

18.3 Again the word for Godliness is **EUSEBEIA**.

18.4 **EUSEBEIA** would entail both the hearing and understanding of what are often very difficult concepts applied to life's circumstances.

For example: Pray for your enemies; show impersonal love toward those you dislike, even if they despise you; give thanks in all things even when the all things occurring in your life are experientially very bad; use your liberties as such and not as a license; pray for the will of God without equivocating about the potential outcomes.

11.5 This simply stated is a description of you and me living our very own spiritual lives in our very own souls.

18.5 This verse would seem to describe what we like to call "the application of doctrine"; the application of doctrine begins first in the mind and actions or application will follow. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he ..."

19. Now let's see what Peter says must be added to "Godliness."

2Pe 1:7 And to Godliness add brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness add charity;

19.1 The word for brotherly kindness is **PHILADELPHIA** and means a love response to a pleasant or favorable stimulus. Examples might be:

Category I love - a love toward God. This occurs when you respond positively to God blessing you.

Category II love - a love toward the right man/right woman. This takes place when the spouse responds in a pleasing way; for example, he or she is sweet and caring. It is then there is **PHILADELPHIA** toward him or her.

Category III love - a love of friends. This takes place when your friends compliment you or they do something nice for you. It is then you demonstrate **PHILADELPHIA**.

19.2 We have been told to add to Godliness brotherly kindness and to brotherly kindness we are told to add charity. The word for charity is **AGAPE** and means a proper response which comes from the dictates of doctrine.

19.2.1 As noted, you must add this proper mental attitude **AGAPE** to "brotherly love." Examples of "charity" or **AGAPE**:

- We love God when we are disciplined. It is under these circumstances we must demonstrate **AGAPE** even though what is done to us is not pleasing but grievous. We even continue to pray fervently for His will to be done, even if it means our suffering continues. This is **AGAPE**.
- Category II love between right man/right woman often demands, in the case of the husband, that he love the wife as Christ loved the Church even though the wife may get really cantankerous. In the case of the woman, she is to submit herself as a subordinate to the man, even though his conduct from time to time may be far from that which motivates subordination.
- Category III love from time to time requires the display of impersonal love toward friends and acquaintances, even though they may be acting against our best interest. We must not retaliate in kind.

19.3 The two loves translated "brotherly kindness" and "charity" in verse seven are application examples of **EUSEBEIA**, i.e., living your very own spiritual life in accordance with the mind of Christ. Note the promise found in 2Pe 1:8.

2Pe 1:8 "For while these things be in you and abound they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge - **EPIGNOSIS** of our Lord Jesus Christ."

20. In Summary

20.1 We are to be partakers of God's essence through the cycling of Bible doctrine to the right lobe; there it is called **EPIGNOSIS**.

20.2 By this process we escape the control of the lust patterns of our old sin natures and the corruption which is found in the Devil's world.

20.3 If we continue in the Word and assemble the cast of characters mentioned earlier, we are promised divine good; we will not be unproductive.

21. A negative result for the reversionistic believer (one who has rejected Bible doctrine repeatedly) is found in 2Pe 1:9.

2Pe 1:9 but he that lacketh these things (the cast of characters demanded by the Apostle Peter) is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

21.1 This verse suffers from a translation problem.

21.1.1 "But" is actually a poor translation of **GAR**. It is better "for you see."

21.1.2 The phrase "he that lacketh these things" is better translated "to whom these things are not present." Instead of speaking of the "assembled characters" belonging to the Christian, the verse indicates they are present but not his or her settled possessions.

21.1.3 Because he or she has not followed the protocol plan of God, this Christian wakes up in a new world every day"; unaware of his or her very own spiritual life and oblivious to the fact he or she has a spiritual sense of destiny.

21.1.4 They are everywhere today; the churches are full of them, and perhaps worse, there are many born-again people who have even rejected the Church altogether.

21.1.5 The phrase "cannot see afar off" is a translation of **MUOPAZO**, a word used by Aristotle of a near-sighted man. It was also used by Ecclesiasticus of a soul on which the light shines, but blinking he turns away because the light hurts his eyes.

21.1.6 Here the word **MUOPAZO** modifies the word **TUFLOS**, translated "blind." The word blind is better translated "he screws up his eyes because of the light, seeing only things present and not the heavenly things." It might better be said, because of the light he doesn't see the present things very well."

21.1.7 Negative people can't see spiritual things because they are discerned spiritually. Vincent has written of the blind soul, "he cannot see the things of heaven, though he may be quick enough in regard to worldly matters."

21.1.8 "Hath forgotten" in the Greek text is literally "having taken forgetfulness." The phrase comes from **LAMBANO LETHE**, which is better translated "having seized a state of forgetfulness, a state of oblivion."

21.1.9 "Purged" is **KATHARIZO** and means "to be cleansed." This is an apt description of the saint who will not use the two power options.

21.1.10 Continued refusal to take in the Word may result in someone forgetting they were ever saved.

21.1.11 This near-sighted Christian is not stone blind but simply lacks even the basics, because the light of the Word dazzles his evil soul as he turns his dimmed spiritual eyes away, a sad situation indeed.

22. Now let's leave First Peter and develop further our subject, "The Importance of Doctrine."

23. It is impossible to please God if you do not believe that He is and that He blesses those who use the two power options.

Heb 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."

24. Without doctrine you will find your prayers to be an abomination to God.

Pro 28:9 "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayers shall be an abomination."

25. Pro 12:1a tells us the man who loves spiritual growth will love knowledge.

Pro 12:1 "Whoever loveth instruction loveth knowledge: and he that hateth reproof is brutish."

25.1 Notice Pro 12:1b tells us not to despise discipline; we should accept it and move forward. The man who rebels against the discipline of God is animal-like.

26. Doctrine was always with God, even from eternity past; before anything was there was doctrine. Pro 8:22 and 23 show the importance God places on doctrine.

Pro 8:22 "The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old;  
Pro 8:23 I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began.  
Pro 8:24 When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water;

Pro 8:25 before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth,  
Pro 8:26 before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world.

Pro 8:27 I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,

Pro 8:28 when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,

Pro 8:29 when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.

27. God has magnified His Word even above His name and reputation-- a clear demonstration to us of the importance of His Word.

Psa 138:2 "I will worship toward the Holy Temple and praise Thy Name for Thy loving Kindness and for Thy Truth: for Thou hast magnified Thy Word above all Thy Name."

27.1 The attitude of a believer toward Bible doctrine determines whether he or she receives blessing or discipline in time.

Pro 8:33-36 "Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the post of my doors. For whoever findeth doctrine, findeth life and shall obtain favor of the Lord. But he that sinneth against doctrine wrongeth his own soul: and all they that hate me love operational death in time."

27.2 Daily study of the Word of God will make the believer a unique success, says Jos 1:8

Jos 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then you shall make thy way prosperous, and then you shall have a good success.

27.3 Doctrine is the basis for blessing in time.

Psa 23:6 "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: for I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

28. Doctrine must become more real than reality.

KJV

2Pe 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your heart

28.1 You may recall from our review of the acrostic ICED that we noted an expanded and corrected translation of 2Pe 1:20 demands a categorical study of Scripture.

Expanded Translation

2Pe 1:20 Know and understand no verse should be read and interpreted alone, i.e., it must not be isolated from what the Scripture says elsewhere.

29. In order to function properly in time, every believer is urged to get under the authority of his or her right pastor-teacher.

Heb 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Heb 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, those men who have spoken unto you the Word of God: whose faith follow, considering the result of their modus operandi of study and teach.

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves for they watch for your souls as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

30. A nation without a pivot of positive believers will fall under the fifth cycle of discipline. As goes the believer, therefore goes the nation.

Hos 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

Hos 4:2 By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

Hos 4:3 Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.

Hos 4:4 Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are as they that strive with the priest.

Hos 4:5 Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother.

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

31. The pastor-teacher in the local church has the responsibility for communicating doctrine.

Eph 4:11 And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some Pastors-Teachers;

Eph 4:12 for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ;

Eph 4:13 until we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

Eph 4:14 that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"

32. Doctrine is only found in the written Canon.

1Pe 1:8 Whom having not seen, you love; in whom, though now you see him not, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Gal 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

### 33. Doctrine produces

- confidence,

2Co 5:6-8 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord: for we walk by faith, not by sight: we are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, rather than present with the Lord.

- divine viewpoint,

2Co 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalt itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

- orientation to the plan of God,

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

- a stable mind,

Isa 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

- a basis for divine guidance,

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may know what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

- all things potentially for time, and

2Pe 1:2-3 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things which pertain unto life and godliness through the knowledge of him who has called us to glory and virtue.

- works acceptable to God.

2Ti 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Jam 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

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Jam 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

Jam 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

34. To avail ourselves of doctrine and thus avoid the catastrophe of being blinded by the lights of the world, we must consistently use our two power options; i.e., the intake of the Word under the filling of the Spirit.

34.1 This is the only way we can assemble the cast of characters listed by Peter.

34.2 For many Christians, their spiritual lives are simply a one-act play. The first act for them is faith in Christ, but God desires that the show goes on and the story line developed.

34.3 To avoid being a one-act play, there must be a disciplined approach of rebound and study of the Word. Without the assembled characters, the curtain will never rise on Act II. A vast audience of unseen witnesses is waiting in the theater. The question perpetually remains, “Are we willing to claim the promises which lead us to fulfill our very own sense of spiritual destiny--our **EUSEBEIA?**”

## **The Tribulation – Age of Israel**

1. The last seven years owed Israel, the Tribulation, will end with the Second Advent when the Lord returns to implement His four unconditional covenants and to establish Israel as once again “His people.”

2. We have no way of knowing when the Rapture will occur. What we do know it will take place when Christ returns to get His bride the Church. The bride is you and—all believers regardless of church affiliation, denomination etc. Let’s go to the Old Testament for a marvelous prophecy of the several eschatological events to include the Tribulation.

3. It was in the year of 539 B.C. that Daniel was given one of the world's most spectacular prophecies concerning the timing of the first Palm Sunday. Judah, by 600 B.C. had become an idolatrous nation; a nation which had been warned time and again to repent and return to Jehovah God. Judah was ripe for God's discipline. Discipline was about to fall upon the apostate southern kingdom.

4. In 606 B.C. Babylon advanced upon Judah with a great and powerful army. Judah was devastated and many hostages were taken captive to Babylon as slaves; among those were Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. As a result of Judah's continued rebellion, further defeat and hostage taking occurred in 597 B.C. Babylon returned in 586 B.C. to further ravage Judah; this soiree resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem and Solomon's Temple.

5. In 539 B.C. Daniel as an old man read from the 25th chapter of Jeremiah where he learned their dispersion would last only 70 years. The old prophet put a pencil to 606 minus 539 arriving at 67; he knew deliverance had to be near; excitedly he began to pray. The prayer can be found in Dan 9:1-19. The prophet only wanted to know, when are we going to be permitted to return to the land? Gabriel was sent to answer his prayer, and much more. Let's review the angel's answer.

KJV

Dan 9:24 "Seventy 'sevens' (490 years) are decreed for your people (Israel) and your holy city (Jerusalem) to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy (Christ at His Second Advent).

Dan 9:25 "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (1st of Nisan 445 B.C.) until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, (the 1st Palm Sunday) there will be seven 'sevens,' (49 years) and sixty-two 'sevens' (434 years thus 483 years).

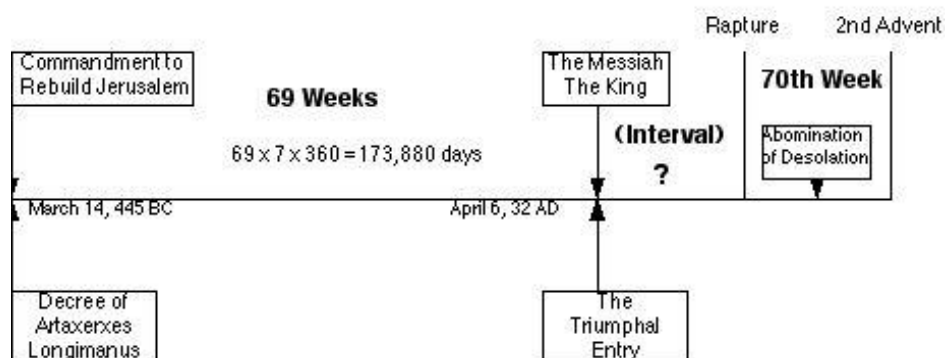
It (the city of Jerusalem) will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. Dan 9:26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' (the 434 years that follow the 49 years it took to rebuild the city) the Anointed One (Christ) will be cut off (the crucifixion) and will have nothing. The people of the ruler (the Romans in A.D. 70) who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed (the Church Age).

Dan 9:27 He (the Satan indwelt AntiChrist) will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven' (the Tribulation). In the middle of the 'seven' (three and one-half years into the Tribulation) he (the AntiChrist) will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him (the demise of the Satan indwelt AntiChrist).

This is our first indication in Scripture that the Tribulation will be seven years in length.

6. Chuck Missler in his book *Cosmic Codes* has developed an interesting chart depicting the events commonly known as the Seventy Weeks of Daniel.

## The Seventy Weeks of Daniel



### 7. Jesus tells the disciples of the events of Daniel's 70th Week - Mat 24:9-14

Mat 24:9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

Mat 24:10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

Mat 24:11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

Mat 24:12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

Mat 24:13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

8. Christ Warns of the events occurring in the middle of the Tribulation. One of the more significant events is the Abomination of Desolation – the abomination refers to the worship of a statue of the AntiChrist built by the False Prophet. It is at this time the AntiChrist is resuscitated from his terrible head wound. Mat 24:15-20

Mat 24:15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel-- let the reader understand--

Mat 24:16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Mat 24:17 Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house.

Mat 24:18 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.

Mat 24:19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

Mat 24:20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

Mat 24:21 For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now-- and never to be equaled again.

Mat 24:22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

Mat 24:23 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it.

Mat 24:24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect-- if that were possible.

Mat 24:25 See, I have told you ahead of time.

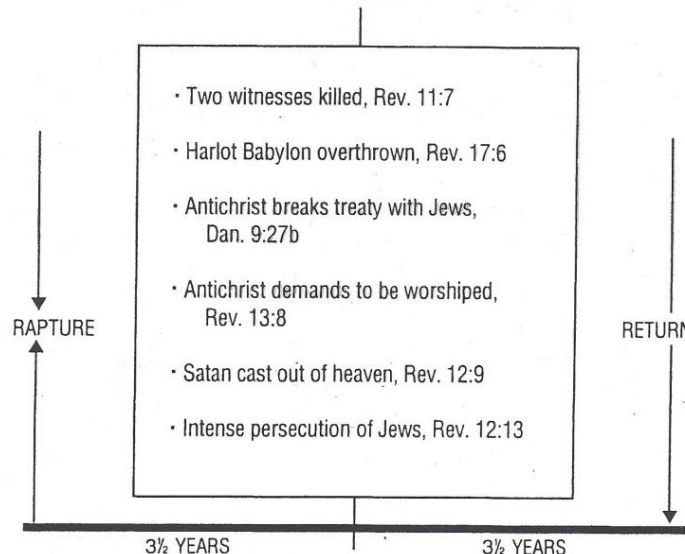
Mat 24:26 "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it.

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

Mat 24:28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

9. A chart will help explain the events taking place in the middle of the Tribulation.

## THE MIDPOINT OF THE TRIBULATION



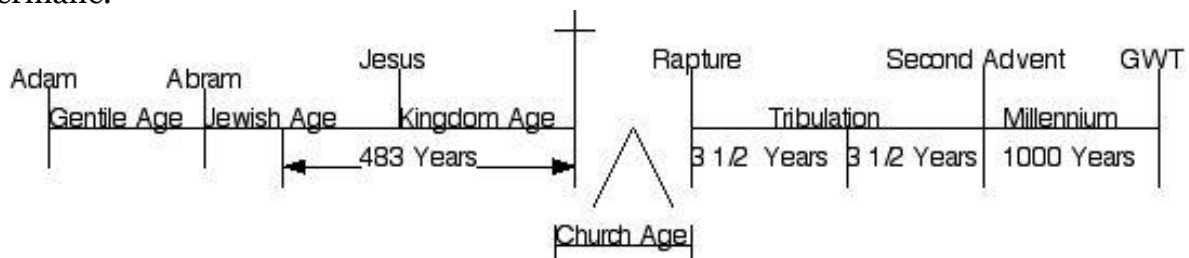
10. The Tribulation ends when King Jesus returns to establish His millennial reign.

Mat 24:29 "Immediately after the distress of those days ""the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

Mat 24:30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

The seven year Tribulation is uniquely Jewish and, therefore, the Jewish calendar is germane.



11. The Tribulation will last for 2520 days or 84 Jewish months, or seven Jewish years. For this reason we find the Tribulation is said to be divided into two periods of 1260 days, or 42 months, or three-and-one-half years, or a time and a times and a half-time. The book of Revelation is replete with the use of these terms.

Rev 11:2 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.

Rev 11:3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

Rev 12:6 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."

Rev 13:5 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.

Rev 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

Rev 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

Rev 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Since the timing of the Rapture is unknown, accordingly the time of the Second Advent is unknown; other than of course, it shall follow seven years after the Rapture of the Church.

12. That being the case, watchfulness is enjoined as Matthew records.

Mat 24:36 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Mat 24:37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Mat 24:38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

Mat 24:39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Mat 24:40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.

Mat 24:41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

Mat 24:42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

13. The Rapture, because it is imminent, demands it must occur before the highly specific traumatic events of the Tribulation thus the Church will not go through the Tribulation. Clearly, "imminency" supports the Pre-Trib view.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 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 so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1Co 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1Pe 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

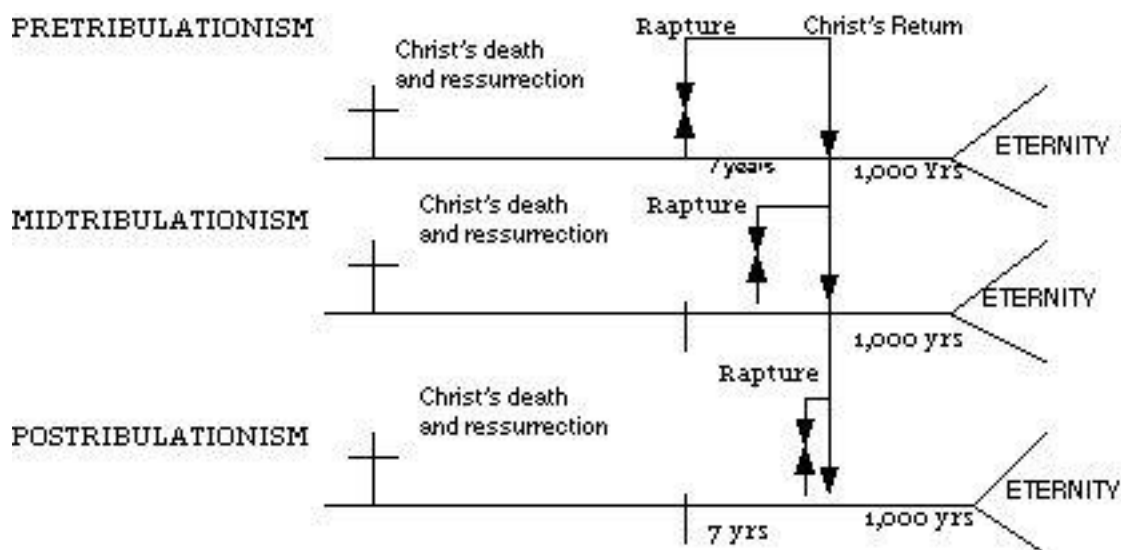
Jam 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Jam 5:8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

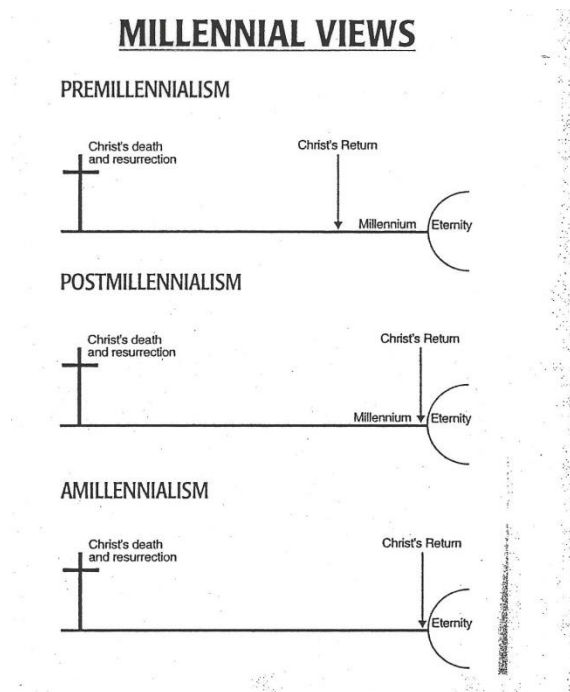
1Jo 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

1Jo 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

14. There three different view of the events after the eschatological events after the death of Christ, however, only the pre-tribulation view, can be support by a categorical study of the Scripture. The three views in chart form are:

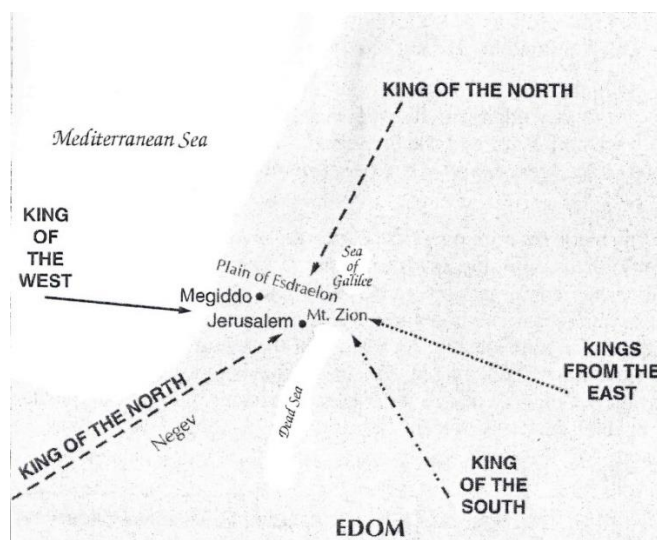


15. Now I want to give you a view of the Pre-millennium view. This view is also the only view supported by a categorical study of Scripture.



16. The end of the Tribulation is characterized by what appears to be the demise of Israel when the armies of the world attack and drive the remnant of Israel back into the city of Jerusalem and ultimately into the ersatz temple. The attacking forces arrive at Megiddo for what they believe to be the last battle when Christianity and “real” Israel are finally put to “death.”

17. The attacking forces are named in Scripture only as the King of the North, King of the West, King of the South and Kings from the East. A chart will illustrate their deployment.



## Millennium-Age of Christ

1. Many Old Testament and New Testament passages combine to teach that Christ will be the supreme ruler of the earth in an age called by many the Age of Christ, or the Millennium. The Apocalypse as you might imagine speaks to the subject in several places. Rev 20:1-11 and Rev 21:1-3 summarize His role.

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Rev 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

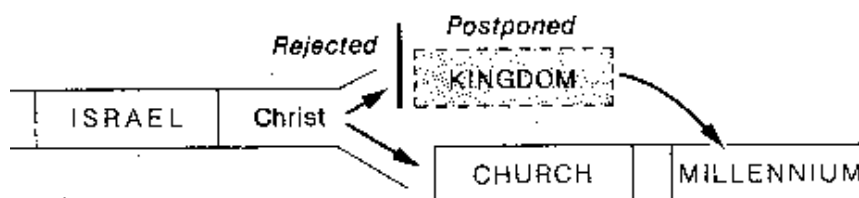
Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Rev 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

Rev 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Rev 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

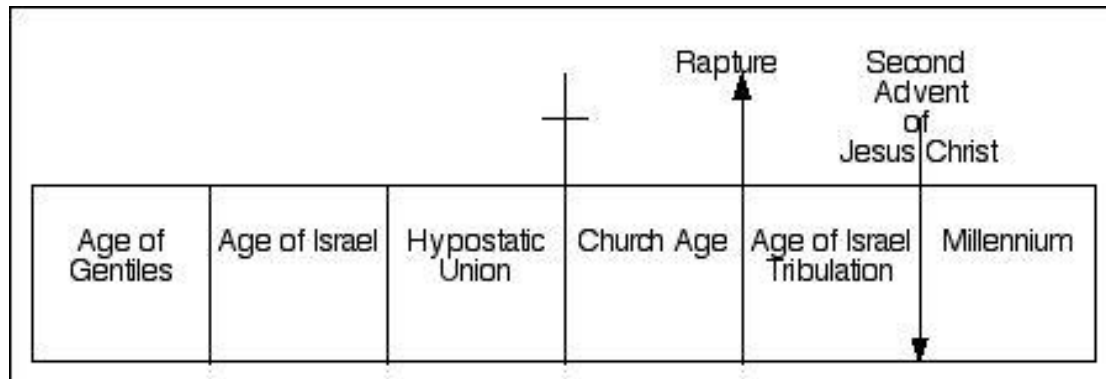
Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.



Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

Rev 21:2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.



1.1 In Daniel 12:2 the two resurrections are also mentioned in connection with the resurrection of Israel to judgment at the Second Advent, when some are cast into the Lake of Fire and some are brought forward to live and reign with Christ in the Millennium. For example, in a message to Israel:

Dan 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

2. During the Millennium, Christ, as David's son, will sit on the throne of David and David will serve as Christ's executive officer.

Jer 30:9 Instead, they will serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.

Eze 34:23 I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd.

Eze 34:24 I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

Eze 37:24 "My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees.

Eze 37:25 They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever.

Hos 3:5 Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.

3. God's faithfulness to perform what He has promised to David and believing Israel is emphasized in Jer 33:20-21.

Jer 33:20 "This is what the LORD says: 'If you can break my covenant with the day and my covenant with the night, so that day and night no longer come at their appointed time,

Jer 33:21 then my covenant with David my servant--and my covenant with the Levites who are priests ministering before me--can be broken and David will no longer have a descendant to reign on his throne.

4. Israel's boundaries will be extensive, far beyond the boundaries of any prior kingdom of David, and it will be a forever kingdom.

Gen 15:18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Gen 15:19 The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites,

Gen 15:20 And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims,

Gen 15:21 And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.

Dan 2:44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

Dan 2:45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands--a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."

5. Christ's reign will be a universal rule.

Mic 4:1 In the last days the mountain of the LORD'S temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.

Mic 4:2 Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

6. Christ will rule with a rod of iron in absolute power.

Psa 2:8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

Psa 2:9 You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

Rev 19:15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

6.1 The Lord Jesus will perform several judgments. Let me summarize the judgements associated with the Second Advent:

The Scriptures anticipate a coming judgment by Christ Jesus on all men. Such was the expectation of the Psalmist as he wrote: "... for He cometh to judge the earth: He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with His truth. Psa 96:13

Paul verifies the same truth by saying: "Because he hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." Acts 17::31

7. All who oppose Him will be punished. Christ's government shall be one of righteousness and peace.

Isa 11:2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him--the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD--

Isa 11:3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;

Isa 11:4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

8. These unusual characteristics are made possible in part because Satan is bound and rendered inoperative. The only source of evil in the world will be the sin nature residing in unbelievers.

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Rev 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

9. The Millennium will begin with believing adults transformed by the application of the New Covenant. However, there will be unbelieving children born into this age with old sin natures.

9.1 Children who are born during this Age of Christ will be subject to the righteous rule of Christ. Many will not believe, and, if deemed appropriate by Christ, they may even be executed. Such capital punishment will be summarily executed by Christ if their manifest sin or evil adversely affects perfect environment.

9.2 Volition will remain a divine institution and some number of progenies will reject the "Christ." This unbelieving ilk will produce both sin and evil.

10. "Open sin and evil" will be punished; no one will be permitted to disrupt perfect environment.

Zec 14:16 Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

Zec 14:17 If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, they will have no rain.

Isa 11:4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

11. Israel will enjoy a place of privilege and special blessing as God's priest nation. Many passages bear on this subject. In the Millennium the Israelites will be re-gathered and restored to their Promised Land.

Jer 30:3 The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their forefathers to possess,' says the LORD."

Jer 31:8 See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return.

Jer 31:9 They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

Eze 39:25 "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will now bring Jacob back from captivity and will have compassion on all the people of Israel, and I will be zealous for my holy name.

Eze 39:26 They will forget their shame and all the unfaithfulness they showed toward me when they lived in safety in their land with no one to make them afraid.

Eze 39:27 When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will show myself holy through them in the sight of many nations.

Eze 39:28 Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind.

Amo 9:11 "In that day I will restore David's fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be,

Amo 9:14 I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit.

11.1 The people of Israel will be the subjects of the King.

Isa 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isa 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Jer 23:5 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

Jer 23:6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

Rom 9:4 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 ...

Rom 9:6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:

Rom 9:7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

Rom 9:8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed ...

Rom 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

Rom 11:1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? . . .

Rom 11:26 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:

12. Israel will have title to their land even as the Gentiles receive abundant blessings in their lands.

Isa 19:23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will go to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria. The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together ...

Isa 19:25 The LORD Almighty will bless them, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance."

Isa 49:5 And now the LORD says--he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength--

Isa 49:6 he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

Isa 49:7 This is what the LORD says--the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel--to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: "Kings will see you and rise up, princes will see and bow down, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Isa 49:22 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I will beckon to the Gentiles, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders.

Isa 66:18 "And I, because of their actions and their imaginations, am about to come and gather all nations and tongues, and they will come and see my glory.

Jer 3:17 At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the LORD. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts.

Jer 16:19 O LORD, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in time of distress, to you the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, "Our fathers possessed nothing but false gods, worthless idols that did them no good.

13. Although the Millennium is often correctly described as a political rule, it will also be a time of abundant spiritual blessing.

Jer 31:33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Jer 31:34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

14. It will certainly be a time of righteousness, prosperity and universal peace.

Psa 72:7 In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.

Isa 2:4 He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

Isa 12:3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Isa 12:4 In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

Isa 61:2 to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

Isa 61:3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion--to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

15. As a center for worship, a Millennial Temple will be built. It is described in Ezekiel, chapters 40 through 46. There will again be sacrifices in that Temple.

15.1 The sacrifices mentioned by Ezekiel seem to be a memorial looking back to the cross, just as the Old Testament sacrifices looked forward to Christ's coming.

16. The groaning and travail of creation will be lifted. There will be prosperity, health, and both physical and spiritual blessing such as the world has never known.

Isa 35:1 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus,

Isa 35:2 it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God ...

Isa 35:7 The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

Isa 30:23 He will also send you rain for the seed you sow in the ground, and the food that comes from the land will be rich and plentiful. In that day your cattle will graze in broad meadows.

17. There will be important changes in the topography of the earth.

17.1 The Promised Land will again be the garden spot of the world, the center of God's kingdom on earth and the place of unusual blessing.

18. The Millennium will be a golden age, the climax of earth's history, and the fulfillment of God's purpose to establish His Son as the supreme ruler over the universe.

Isa 45:23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Rom 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

19. Those who are "overcomers" will receive special rewards in Christ's kingdom.

1Jo 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

1Jo 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Rev 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

20. Who is he that over-cometh, none other than he who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ. 1Jo 5:5

1Jo 5:5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Rev 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Rev 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Rev 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Rev 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Rev 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

21. The Lord Jesus Christ, as the Messiah of Israel and King of kings, will rule over the entire earth.

Zec 14:9 The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

22. Included in the topographical changes will be the elevation of Jerusalem.

Zec 14:10 The whole land, from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem, will become like the Arabah. But Jerusalem will be raised up and remain in its place, from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses.

22.1 Jerusalem will be secure and never be destroyed again.

23. An indication of the rule of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords is that He will judge the nations that fought against Jerusalem in the Tribulation.

Zec 14:12 This is the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.

Zec 14:13 On that day men will be stricken by the LORD with great panic. Each man will seize the hand of another, and they will attack each other.

24. A plague will seize man and beast alike. Israel will acquire great quantities of gold, silver, and clothing.

Zec 14:14 Judah too will fight at Jerusalem. The wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected--great quantities of gold and silver and clothing.

25. Those who survive the purging judgments at the beginning of the Millennium will be required to worship Christ annually.

Zec 14:16 Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

26. God will withhold rain from those nations that do not send delegations to Jerusalem when the Feast of Tabernacles is celebrated.

Zec 14:17 If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, they will have no rain.

Zec 14:18 If the Egyptian people do not go up and take part, they will have no rain. The LORD will bring on them the plague he inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

Zec 14:19 This will be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

27. It will be a time when the holiness of God is uniquely revealed.

Zec 14:20 On that day HOLY TO THE LORD will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, and the cooking pots in the LORD'S house will be like the sacred bowls in front of the altar.

Zec 14:21 Every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the LORD Almighty, and all who come to sacrifice will take some of the pots and cook in them. And on that day there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD Almighty.

28. The Millennium begins with the Second Advent and ends with the Gog revolution. The Gog revolution is put down by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain.

Rev 20:2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

Rev 20:3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

29. The destruction of the forces of Satan and his followers is followed by the Great White Throne.

30. The Great White Throne Judgment is followed by the destruction of planet earth when a new perfect environment is ushered "in." And so we await the coming of our Lord.

