

# Introduction to Prophecy

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### Introduction:

The world is filled with fortunetellers, seers and mystics who pander to man's interest in the future. Some are nothing more than frauds; some follow the occult to predict or attempt to influence future events. Interest in astrology today drives an ever-increasing curiosity in eastern mystical beliefs, much of which are the works of the devil to subvert minds from the truth about God's plan and purpose in the ages to come. The Bible condemns such satanic practices:

*"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee"* (Deuteronomy 18: 10-12)

The future belongs to *God alone*, and it has been written in advance by the men whom He chose:

*"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"* (2 Peter 1: 21)

The Bible is a *supernatural book*. It is much more than a collection of religious principles; it is God's living word, speaking to the very heart of man:

*"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"* (Hebrews 4: 12)

That the Bible is uniquely different from all other religious writings is demonstrated by its distinctive *prophetic* message. While others follow the philosophies of men now dead and silent, Christians have in the Bible alone, God's divine revelation of His plan and purpose for the ages. This *prophetic character* of the Bible attracts attention. Men often derive solace from philosophy, but when troubled hearts question the future, only the scriptures can give the answers. And rightly so, for God's purpose in prophecy is to prepare man for eternity!

### 1. Bible Prophecy . . . What Is It? :

Prophecy is God's revelation of divine will and purpose exercised in events yet future. The Bible is estimated to be *two-thirds* prophecy! Some passages reveal events *immediately future* to the writing and are said to be *near* prophecies. Others deal with events at the close of world history and are called *far*, or *end-time* prophecies. Some scriptures have both a "*near*," and a "*far*" prophetic meaning.

The theological term for studying end-time prophecy is called *Eschatology*. This chapter is not an in-depth treatise on Eschatology, but a brief Biblical introduction to the chronology of events surrounding the second -coming of Jesus Christ and the *close of the ages*.

#### A. Why Christians **Believe Bible Prophecy**:

##### 1. Because God **Says So**:

The believer's faith in Bible prophecy does not rest merely upon its reliability or accuracy, but simply because *God said it!*

*"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure"* (Isaiah 46: 9-10)

##### 2. Because History Is **Fulfilled Prophecy**:

The literal fulfillment of past prophecy, unimpeachably proven and recorded in history, is evident testimony to the infallibility of end-time prophecy. The absolute accuracy of Bible prophecy

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compels honest men to admit to its truthfulness. For example, Isaiah prophesied in 712 B.C., concerning the rebuilding of Jerusalem, even naming the Persian King Cyrus, who would order it:

*“That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid”* (Isaiah 44: 28)

*“For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me”* (Isaiah 45: 4)

The prophecies of Isaiah, along with that of Jeremiah (Jer. 25: 12), were *literally fulfilled* in 536 B.C., 176 years after they were spoken!

*“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah”* (Ezra 1: 1-2)

### 3. Christians Believe Bible Prophecy Because God **Cannot Lie** :

*“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began”* (Titus 1: 2)

## B. The **Purpose** of Bible Prophecy:

### 1. Bible Prophecy **Imparts Confidence** in the Scriptures:

*“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 hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”* (2 Peter 1: 19-21)

Bible Prophecy Is an **Encouragement to Holiness**:

*“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness”* (2 Peter 3: 11)

Bible Prophecy Is **Assurance of Christ's Return**:

*“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief”* (1 Thessalonians 5: 1-4)

### 2. Bible Prophecy Is a **Warning of Impending Danger**:

*“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men”* (2 Peter 3: 3-4, 7)

Bible Prophecy Is an **Invitation to Repent**:

*“To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation”* (Psalms 95: 7-8)

Bible Prophecy Means **Trouble for the World**, Both from the Devil, and from God:

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*“Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time”* (Revelation 12: 12)

*“And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth”* (Revelation 16: 1)

### 3. Bible Prophecy Means **Future Blessing for Israel:**

Bible prophecy constantly reaffirms God's covenant promises to reestablish Israel after the tribulation, which is known to them as the *time of Jacob's trouble*. (Jeremiah 30: 7)

### 4. Bible Prophecy Means **Victory for the Church:**

*“That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish”* (Ephesians 5: 27)

### 5. Bible Prophecy Means **Defeat for the Devil:**

*“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”*  
(Revelation 20: 10)

## 2. The Role of God's Prophets:

### A. The Prophets Spoke an **Authorized Message:**

Prophecy with the **Divine** Signature . . . **“Thus Saith the Lord”:**

*“I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD”* (Ezekiel 2: 4)

The **Vindication** of a **True Prophet:**

*“When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him”* (Deuteronomy 18: 22)

### B. The Prophets Have **Finished Their Task:**

*“But whether there be prophecies, they shall fail”* (*cease*) (1 Corinthians 13: 8)

All Bible Prophecy **Has Been Declared:**

With the finalization of the canon of scriptures (1 Corinthians 13: 8-10), God closed Bible prophecy. There will be no *new revelations* from God! It has been observed that Christians should follow the old adage; *“if it's new, it's probably not true; and if it's true, then it is certainly not new.”*

God's **Perfect Word** Is Complete:

*“But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away”*  
(1 Corinthians 13: 10)

From that word *perfect*, comes the English word used to describe the *plenary inspiration* of the scriptures; that is, the Bible is the complete and final Word of God. Nothing has been omitted or lost; nothing remains to be revealed.

### C. There Are **No More Holy Prophets:**

There Are Many **False Prophets:**

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*“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction” (2 Peter 2: 1)*

The **Impact of False Prophecy** upon the Unsaved:

*“And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of” (2 Peter 2: 2)*

*“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Timothy 4: 3-4)*

### 3. Eschatology . . . The Doctrine of Last Things:

#### A. Where the World Stands **Prophetically Today:**

##### 1. Which Bible prophecy **WAS LAST FULFILLED?** :

The **Restoration of Israel** to its Land, May 1948:

*“And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God” (Amos 9: 14-15)*

Jerusalem **Reunited with Israel**, June 1967:

*“Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (Luke 21: 24)*

##### 2. What Event Appears Next, Prophetically? ... **Christ's Second-coming:**

Bible prophecy reveals two distinct *phases*, or *advents* of Christ's second-coming, the first advent being the rapture of the church:

*“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we 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” (1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17)*

The rapture (literally, *“catching away”*), of the New Testament church is described in Bible prophecy as being *pre-tribulational* (prior to the start of the tribulation); and *pre-millennial* (before Christ establishes His earthly kingdom.) Christ's *second advent* is His revelation in power and great glory:

*“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24: 27, 30)*

At His *second advent* Christ will establish His *millennial kingdom* upon earth. Compare the following distinctions between the first and second advents of His coming:

#### **First Advent . . . Christ Comes in the Clouds:**

*“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thessalonians 4: 17)*

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### **Second Advent . . . Christ Returns to the Earth:**

*“And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east” (Zechariah 14: 4)*

### **First Advent . . . Christ Returns as a "Thief":**

*“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night” (1 Thessalonians 5: 2)*

### **Second Advent . . . Every Eye Shall See Him:**

*“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him” (Revelation 1: 7)*

### **First Advent . . . Christ Returns "For" His Saints:**

*“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14: 3)*

### **Second Advent . . . Christ Returns "With" His Saints:**

*“Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints” (Jude 14)*

### **First Advent . . . Christ Returns to Heaven:**

*“And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven; Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready” (Revelation 19: 1, 7)*

### **Second Advent . . . Christ Establishes His Earthly Kingdom:**

*“And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron . . . And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them . . . and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years” (Revelation 19: 15, 20: 4)*

## 3. Prophetic **Signs** of Christ's **Soon Return:**

### Worldwide Religious **Apostasy:**

*“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (1 Timothy 4: 1)*

### The **Rapid Growth** of Religious **Cults:**

*“There shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them . . . And many shall follow their pernicious ways” (2 Peter 2: 1-2)*

### Declension into **Pagan Idolatry:**

*“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Timothy 3: 1-5, 7)*

### Increase in **Gross Immorality:**

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*“For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matthew 24: 38-39)*

The Appearance of **Many False Christs**:

*“For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (Matthew 24: 5)*

International **Political Upheaval**:

*“And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” (Matthew 24: 6-7)*

*“And upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity” (Luke 21: 25)*

### B. A Chronology of **Future Prophecy**:

Beginning immediately after the rapture of the church, the following is a brief outline of the major events surrounding the *second-coming of Christ* and the close of the ages:

#### 1. Bible Prophecy Relating to **Events in Heaven**:

##### a. The **Judgement Seat** of Christ:

*“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” (Revelation 22: 12)*

*“For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14: 10, 12)*

The judgement seat of Christ follows *immediately after* the rapture. It includes *all saints*; not just a select few, or a certain denomination, but *every* born-again child of God!

The **Type** of Judgement . . . **"Bema"** (Greek: *"Reward"*):

The *Bema* judgement is not to determine one's *salvation*, or *destiny* (only believers will be there!); but rather to *reward the motive* for Christian service:

*“Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire” (1 Corinthians 3: 13-15)*

##### b. The **Nature** of the **Reward**:

Although the text above does not elaborate on the nature of the rewards, the New Testament scriptures do list *five "crowns"* to be given believers for faithful Christian service. Are the crowns *literal adornments* for the head? Again, the scriptures do not elaborate. Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost believed them to be *special endowments* of ability to praise God. Whatever they are, the crowns are surely to be sought from a pure heart, to be cast at the feet of Jesus!

The **Crown of Life**:

*“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life” (James 1: 12)*

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*“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life”* (Revelation 2: 10)

The *Crown of Life* is awarded to those who patiently and faithfully endure temptation; and to those who give their life for Christ.

### The **Crown of Glory**:

*“Feed the flock of God which is among you . . . And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away”* (1 Peter 5: 2, 4)

The *Crown of Glory* is awarded to those pastors who faithfully and humbly preach God's word and care for the church.

### The **Crown of Rejoicing**:

*“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?”* (1 Thessalonians 2: 19)

The *Crown of Rejoicing* is awarded to the soul-winner for leading others to Jesus Christ.

### The **Crown of Righteousness**:

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

The *Crown of Righteousness* is awarded to those who love and long for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### The **Incorruptible Crown**:

*“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain . . . Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible”* (1 Corinthians 9: 24-25)

The *Incorruptible Crown* is awarded to those who faithfully run the race of Christian Discipleship, giving up self for the cause of Christ.

### c. The **Marriage of the Lamb**:

*“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints”* (Revelation 19: 7-8)

The *Marriage of the Lamb* begins after the judgement seat of Christ, and concludes with the second-coming of Christ in power and great glory. The events of the marriage are:

#### The **Presentation of the Bride**:

*“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy; for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ”* (2 Corinthians 11: 2)

#### The **Marriage Ceremony**:

The private marriage ceremony is celebrated, not to honor the bride, but the **LAMB!** It was as a lamb that Christ *purchased the bride* (the church), with His own blood; therefore, the ceremony signifies a perfected, completed bride being united with the One to whom it is espoused.



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### The Marriage Supper:

*“And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God”* (Revelation 19: 9)

The *Marriage Supper* occurs on the eve of the Lord's second advent. It is heaven's celebration of the Lamb's wedding (read Revelation 19: 11-16).

### 2. Bible Prophecy Relating to **Events on Earth**:

While events in heaven occupy the saints of God, fulfillment of Bible prophecy is bringing the inhabitants of the earth into the tribulation; the rise to power of the *Antichrist*, and the outpouring of *God's* wrath:

*“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate”* (Daniel 9: 24-27)

Daniel's vision is that of Israel under *Gentile world dominion*, ending in the *Great Tribulation*. The "*Seventy Weeks*" prophecy foretells world history in four distinct periods. The "**weeks**," as fulfilled prophecy confirms, are literally "*weeks*" of seven years each:

#### **First Period . . . Seven "Weeks" (49 Years):**

From the commandment given Ezra (Ezra 1: 1-3), to restore Jerusalem, to its *literal fulfillment*, was 49 years!

#### **Second Period . . . Sixty-two "Weeks" (434 Years):**

From the restoration of Jerusalem to the appearance of Christ the Messiah was *434 years*, literally as prophesied!

#### **Third Period . . . An Unspecified Interval (Daniel 9: 26)**

Between the crucifixion of Christ and the final "*week*" of Daniel's prophecy is a time of indeterminate length, known to believers as the *church age*, or the gathering of a Gentile bride for Christ's name (Acts 15: 13-17). This "*divine time-out*" has lasted from the cross, and will close at the rapture.

#### **Fourth Period . . . One "Week" (7 Years):**

Daniel's *seventieth-week* prophecy is that of the *tribulation*; beginning after the rapture of the church, and closing at the second-coming of Christ in glory. It is divided in the middle by a terrible ungodly act of the Antichrist; the last three and one-half years (Daniel 12: 11), being known as *great tribulation* (Matthew 24: 15-21, Revelation 13: 5).

A detailed commentary here on the *tribulation* and related events is not possible due to the obvious limitations of time and space. What follows is a brief outline suggesting the chronological sequence of prophetic events to come, with scripture references for further study:

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### a. **Tribulation** . . . The First Three and One-half Years:

The **Antichrist** Revealed:

Occurs immediately after the rapture (2 Thessalonians 2: 7-8; read also verses 1-6, 9-12).

The Rise to Power of the "**Beast**":

Revival of the Roman Empire . . . "*Political Babylon*" (Revelation 13: 1-8).

The Unveiling of the **False Prophet** :

The "*unholy spirit*" (see Revelation 19: 20) of the satanic trinity (Revelation 13: 11-17).

The "**Mother of Harlots**" Vision:

The *ecumenical gathering* of apostate world religions into the harlot church - "*Religious Babylon*" (Revelation 17: 1-7)

The First "**Seal**" **Judgement**:

The Antichrist begins a sweeping *bloodless conquest* of world powers (Revelation 6: 1-2).

**Temple Worship** Re-instituted in Jerusalem:

A *peace treaty* is signed between Antichrist and Israel (Daniel 9: 26-27).

A Massive **Worldwide Return** of the Jews to Israel:

Is this Ezekiel's "**Dry Bones**" vision? (Ezek. 37: 1-12).

Israel **Invaded** from the North:

*Gog and Magog* (Russia), allied with Persia (Iran), Libya, Ethiopia, Gomer (Germany), and Togarmah (Turkey), conspire to attack Israel (Ezekiel 38: 1-23, 39: 1-12)

The Second "**Seal**" **Judgement**:

Peace is taken from the earth. (Revelation 6: 3-4)

The "**Abomination of Desolation**":

The Antichrist breaks his pact with Israel. (Daniel 9: 27, Matthew 24: 15)

Desolation of the "**Great Whore**":

The Harlot Church, "*Religious Babylon*" is destroyed. (Revelation 17: 15-18)

### b. "**Great**" **Tribulation** . . . The Last Three and One-half Years:

**Persecution** and **Flight** of Israel:

An *Israelite Remnant* flees into the wilderness.  
(Hosea. 2: 14-15, Matthew 24: 15-22, Revelation 12: 6, 14)

The **SEALING** of the **144,000**:

Virgin men (12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel, see Revelation 7: 1-8) chosen as **Jewish missionaries**. (Revelation 14: 1-5)

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### God's **Two Witnesses**:

The awesome power demonstrated by these two heavenly visitors plagues the dominion of the Antichrist for 42 months. (Revelation 11: 3-12)

A Vision of **Gentile Multitudes Saved** During the Tribulation. (Revelation 7: 9-17)

Although *many will be saved* during the tribulation, *not one soul* will be saved, who, during the church age, heard the gospel and rejected the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 2: 7-12)

### The Third "**Seal**" **Judgement**:

Famine strikes the food supplies for the *working class*. (Revelation 6: 5-6)

### The "**Mark of the Beast**":

The "*seal of doom*" is forced upon the "*inhabitants (Unsaved) of the earth.*" (Revelation 13: 16-18)

### The Fourth "**Seal**" **Judgement**:

The *plagues of death* come upon the earth. (Revelation 6: 7-8)

### The Fifth "**Seal**" **Judgement**:

A vision of martyred *tribulation saints* in heaven. (Revelation 6: 9-11)

### The Sixth "**Seal**" **Judgement**:

The consummation of God's *terrible wrath* begins. (Revelation 6: 12-17)

### The seventh "**SEAL**" **JUDGEMENT**:

Heaven stands aghast; The seven "*trumpet*" *judgments* follow.

### The First "**Trumpet**" **Judgement**:

Hail and fire mingled with blood falls from heaven. (Revelation 8: 7)

### The Second "**Trumpet**" **Judgement**:

A great mountain is cast, burning, into the sea. (Revelation 8: 8-9)

### The Third "**Trumpet**" **Judgement**:

The great star "*Wormwood*" falls from heaven. (Revelation 8: 10-11)

### The Fourth "**Trumpet**" **Judgement**:

The sun, moon and stars are darkened; three "*woes*" are announced. (Revelation 8: 12-13)

### The Fifth "**Trumpet**" **Judgement**:

The first "*woe*" pronounced; a five month *plague of locusts*. (Revelation 9: 1-12)

### The Sixth "**Trumpet**" **Judgement**:

The second "*woe*" pronounced; a military invasion of 200 million! (Revelation 9: 13-21, 11: 13-14)

### The Seventh "**Trumpet**" **Judgement**:

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The third "*woe*" pronounced: heaven announces the doom of Antichrist and *political Babylon*. The final judgments of the great tribulation follow, as the full fury of God's wrath is poured out in the seven "*vial*" judgments. (Revelation 11: 15-19, 16: 1)

### The First "**Vial**" Judgement:

A plague upon those who have received the *mark of the Beast*. (Revelation 16: 2)

### The Second "**Vial**" Judgement:

The sea *turned into blood*, killing every living creature in it. (Revelation 16: 3)

### The Third "**Vial**" Judgement:

The rivers and fountains of water *turned into blood*. (Revelation 16: 4-7)

### The Fourth "**Vial**" Judgement:

The sun's intensity increased to *scorch men with fire*. (Revelation 16: 8-9)

### The Fifth "**Vial**" Judgement:

*Darkness and tormenting pain* inflicted upon the Antichrist and his kingdom. (Revelation 16: 10-11)

### The Sixth "**Vial**" Judgement:

The Euphrates River *dried up*, preparing the gathering of the earth's great armies for the *Battle of Armageddon*. (Revelation 16: 12-16)

### The Seventh "**Vial**" Judgement:

*An earthquake* and "*exceeding great*" hailstones destroy political Babylon. (Revelation 16: 17-21)

- c. The **Second-coming of Christ** in Power and Great Glory (Revelation 19: 11-13, Zechariah 14: 4-8):

The "*armies*" returning with Christ:

The *saints* of the church, His *bride*! (John 14: 3, 1 Thessalonians 4: 17, Revelation 19: 7-8, 14)

- d. The **Battle of Armageddon**:

The armies of the earth **utterly destroyed**. (Revelation 19: 15-19, 21, Zechariah 14: 1-3)

### The **Damnation** of the **Enemies of God**:

The antichrist and false prophet cast alive into a *lake of fire* burning with brimstone. (Revelation 19: 20)

- e. The **Devil's Exile**:

Satan *bound for one thousand years*, and cast into the bottomless pit. (Revelation 20: 1-3)

- d. The **Triumph** of the **Tribulation Saints**:

The *bodily resurrection* and *judgement seat* for those saved and martyred during the tribulation. (Revelation 20: 4-6)

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### 3. The **Millennial Reign of Christ**:

One-thousand years of *universal righteousness* upon the earth. (Isaiah 9: 6-7, 35: 1-10, Jeremiah 23: 5-6, Daniel 2: 34-35, Zechariah 14: 9-11, Acts 1: 9-11, Revelation 20: 4-6)

### 4. The **Final Revolt** and **Doom of Satan** (Revelation 20: 3, 7-10):

At the close of the millennium the devil shall be "*loosed a little season*" (vs. 3). Believers are often puzzled by this statement. "*Why turn him loose again? Just leave him there!*" The divine intent, however, yields readily to *scriptural reasoning* (Isaiah 1: 18.) Man claims that human nature is basically good and that sin is merely the result of a *bad* environment. God demonstrates the error of such a belief; for a thousand years many on earth who survived the tribulation will live in a perfect environment. Though the very influence of evil is removed and they enjoy the blessings of Christ's reign, countless multitudes will not repent, and when tempted by the devil will revolt against God! (vs. 8). This "*loosing*," then, is to permit all an opportunity of choice freely between heaven and hell . . . sadly, a great number will choose wrongly!

### C. The **Great White Throne Judgement** of God:

*"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire"* (Revelation 20: 11-15)

#### 1. The **Resurrection of the "Dead"**:

All the unsaved from all ages in the earth stand before God. (John 5: 29, Revelation 20: 12)

#### 2. The **Judgement** Against Their "**Works**":

*"Degrees"* of punishment? (Luke 12: 47-48, Revelation 20: 12-13)

#### 3. The Eternal **Doom** of the **Unsaved**:

*Eternal Death* ("*separation forever*") in the *Lake of Fire*. (Revelation 20: 14-15)

### D. The **New Heaven** and the **New Earth**:

#### 1. The Beginning of the *Eternal Ages*. (Isaiah 65: 17, 66: 22, 2 Peter 3: 13, Revelation 21: 1)

#### 2. God Makes **All Things New**:

The *Old Heaven* and *Earth* are passed away.  
(Hebrews 12: 26-27, 2 Peter 3: 10-12, Revelation 21: 1)

### E. The "**Prepared Place**." (John 14: 1-6)

The *Holy City*, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven.  
(Revelation 21: 2-3, 9-27, 22: 1-7)

*"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God"* (Revelation 21: 2-3)

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*“And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal”*  
(Revelation 21: 10-16; read also Revelation 21: 17-27, Revelation 22: 1-7)

The *Holy City* is our Lord’s gift to His bride, the church. It’s divine splendor is described in this chapter; every believer who has said *“I can’t imagine how beautiful Heaven must really be”* should read Revelation 21. Just how big is this glorious city? Converting furlongs to miles equals an area *roughly* 1500 miles by 1500 miles by 1500 miles. The *Holy City* is *foursquare*, a cube. That would approximate the distance from Miami, Florida, to Montreal, Canada, over to Calgary, Canada, then down to El Paso, Texas, and back to Miami; which is merely surface area - New Jerusalem will be as tall as it is in breadth!

Most anthropologists think that throughout human history a total of about 40 billion people have lived. To appreciate the size of the *Holy City*, consider that an estimated 25% of that total number, or 10 billion people (*the actual number is known only to God*), have been saved and will be in Heaven. How crowded will this city be? First, reduce the actual living space by 50% to accommodate streets, buildings and other infrastructure; if every person, in his own place, had an equal inheritance (*unlikely, due to the nature of the rewards*), each of the 10 billion residents would have an area of 200 acres in front, 200 acres behind, 200 acres left, 200 acres right, 200 acres above, and 200 acres beneath. That’s a **big city!**

The glory of that city will not be measured just by its size, or by the golden streets, precious gems, or even by the apostles and notables from Christianity through the ages, but because it is where the Lord Jesus Christ will dwell with His people. From the hymn of Charles J. Butler, 1898, come the words that say it best:

*“In cottage, or mansion fair, Where Jesus is, ‘tis Heaven there”*