

## Dispensational Truth

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**” (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV)

In this scripture it is stated that the believer is commanded to study God’s word in order to be approved of God. However, the command comes with a method of study which is “rightly dividing the word of truth”. Obviously then, there are certain divisions in the scripture that must be properly divided. It has been suggested that all doctrinal error comes from 2 sources; either from the mind of someone who has not studied God’s word or they come from someone who has not rightly divided God’s word thus applying some biblical truth to the wrong time and place.

While we must keep in mind, “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.” (2 Pet 1:20 KJV). Our source of wisdom is God (Ja 1:5) and our source of learning is not from men but rather, “...which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” (1 Cor 2:13 KJV & 1 Jn 2:27)

A look at the scriptures in the proper context that God intended will bring the serious student of the Bible great understanding of how the Bible applies to his life and will make the “big picture” of the bible clear in his mind.

### **I). Divisions in our Interpretation of Scripture.**

\* I have said before, “all things in God’s word have spiritual application to you, but not all things have doctrinal application to you personally”.

\* The Bible has 3 applications for every verse:

- 1). **Spiritual.** 1 Corinthians 10:6,11 “they are written for our admonition...”
- 2). **Historical.** Much of the Old Testament is historical.
- 3). **Doctrinal.** 2 Timothy 3:16

### **II). Divisions of Time**

There are at least 9 major divisions of time in the Bible. These divisions are referred to as being dispensations or ages. A dispensation is “a system of revealed commands and promises regulating human affairs” (Webster’s 9<sup>th</sup> Collegiate). The term dispensation comes from the Bible:

“If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:” (Eph 3:2KJV)

These periods of time all show God’s eternal purpose to “gather together in one all things in Christ” (Ephesians 1:9-10). In each of these times there is given a specific test or responsibility and each time ends in failure which brings God’s forewarned judgment.

The overall purpose is to show man that he is utterly depraved and lost (Romans 3:10,23). In every time period God has sought to save man by GRACE and He has offered every opportunity for man to accept God by FAITH. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 6:23)

## **The 9 divisions (by Rev. Rod Phillips)**

### **A. Edenic Dispensation** (Age of Innocence)

This dispensation extends from the creation of Adam to his expulsion from the garden. As to its duration we know nothing. It was probably very short.

1. The Test: Maintain innocence, do not eat the fruit. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-17).
2. The Failure: They ate the fruit (Genesis 3:1-6).
3. The Judgment: Curse and Death (Genesis 3:7-19).

### **B. Antediluvian Dispensation** (Age of Conscience).

This dispensation extends from the fall of Adam to the universal flood. It lasted 1,656 years. (4046 BC - 2390 BC)

1. The Test: Exercise the conscience that was inherited from Adam to do good and make blood sacrifices (Genesis 3:5,7,22; 4:4).
2. The Failure: Wickedness almost beyond human imagination (Genesis 6:5,6,11,12).
3. The Judgment: A universal flood that covered the entire earth (Genesis 6:7, 13; 7:11-24).

NOTE: The translation of Enoch took place shortly before the flood (Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5).

### **C. Post-Deluvian Dispensation** (Age of Human Government)

This dispensation lasted 427 years and extends from the “Noahic Covenant” to the entrance of Abraham into the promise land. The judgment of this dispensation (the confusion of languages at the tower of Babel), seems to have taken place fairly early. If the confusion of tongues can be equated with the division of the earth in the days of Peleg (Gen. 10:25) then the tower of Babel would have been built in approximately 2260 BC. Abraham will not enter into the promise land until 1963 BC.

1. The Test: Scatter and Multiply (Genesis 8:15-9:7).
2. The Failure: They did not scatter. They decided to build a tower up to heaven (Genesis 11:1-4).
3. The Judgment: God came down and confused their communications with the creation of languages (Genesis 1:5-9). There are over 3,000 known languages and dialects in the world today.

### **D. Patriarchal Dispensation** (Age of the Family).

This dispensation extended from the “call of Abraham” to the exodus of the Jews from Egypt, a period of 430 years (Exo.12:40) (1963 BC .1533 BC)

1. The Test: God commanded Abraham to dwell in Canaan where he would father a great nation (Genesis 12:1-7).
2. The Failure: Abraham chose to dwell in Egypt (Genesis 12:10; 46:6).
3. The Judgment: The children of Abraham wound up in Egyptian bondage (Exodus 1:8-14). This is a good picture of the law of reaping and sowing.

### **E. Legal Dispensation** (Age of Law).

This dispensation extended from the exodus of the Jews from Egypt to the Cross (or to the start of the Church). This period extended from 1533 BC – 30 AD.

1. *The Test*: The nation of Israel was given the responsibility of keeping the law as given to Moses from God (Exodus 19:3-8).
2. *The Failure*: They broke the law and ultimately rejected Jesus Christ (II Kings 17:7-20; Matthew 27:1-25).
3. *The Judgment*: Worldwide dispersion in 70 A.D. under the hand of General Titus of the Roman Army (Deuteronomy 28:63-66; Ezekiel 36:16-19; Luke 21:20-24.)

### **F. Apostolic Dispensation** (Jesus Christ alive on earth and His ministry with the twelve Apostles).

This is a difficult dispensation to define as it bridges the major dispensation of law with the major dispensation of grace. The law was fulfilled in Christ (Matthew 3:15; 5:17,18). His ministry was strictly to the lost sheep of Israel (Matthew 10:5-10; 11:12 15:22-28; John 1:11; Acts 1:6).

1. *The Test*: Accept the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33; Luke 16:16) and Israel will gain the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 3:2; 4:17).
2. *The Failure*: Rejected the entire Trinity of God. God the Father was rejected when the people failed to heed the voice from Heaven which said, “This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him” (Mt.3:17; 17:5.) They also rejected the father by beheading John the Baptist. The prophecy from God (Isa.40:3) said that He would send a forerunner to the true Messiah; This forerunner was John whom Herod beheaded (Matthew 14:10). God the Son was rejected when they hung Him on the cross (Matthew 27:17,20,35; John 1:10,11). God the Holy Spirit was rejected when they stoned Stephen (Acts 6:5; 7:59). Stephen was preaching in the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. *The Judgment*: Blindness to the Gospel of Christ as a nation (Romans 11:25). The fullness of the Gentiles must be completed before God will deal with them again directly as a nation.

### **G. Ecclesiastical Dispensation** (Age of Grace. This dispensation extends from the Cross to the Rapture of the Church (Second Coming of Christ for the believer).

This dispensation is a parenthetical dispensation thrown in between the Dispersion of Israel (70 AD) to their restoration, which is currently well underway. God is using this dispensation to call out a special “people for His name” called the Church, composed of both Jew and Gentile. This dispensation will last approximately 2,000 years and is rapidly coming to a close.

1. *The Test*: By faith, receive Jesus Christ, and be led by the Holy Spirit of God (John 1:12; Romans 8:1-14; Romans 10:9-13; Ephesians 2:8,9).
2. *The Failure*: Christ will be rejected and they will trust works to gain salvation (John 5:39,40; II Timothy 3:1-7).
3. *The Judgment*: Ultimately the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-20) for those who have suffered the first death. The Great Tribulation will be suffered by those who are alive at the Rapture of the Church (Matthew 24:21; Revelation 6:15-17).

## **H. The Tribulation (Dispensation of Judgment).**

Following the Rapture of the Church and prior to the start of the Millennial Reign of Christ on earth, there is another parenthetical dispensation during which the Jews, the Gentiles, and the Church are to be judged.

1. The Church is to be caught out (raptured) at the beginning of this dispensation and judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ (II Corinthians 5:10).
2. The Jews are to be judged during this period under the Antichrist who is ruling the earth. Their judgment is known as the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble” (Jeremiah 30:4-7; Daniel 12:1).
3. The Gentiles (the nations) are to be judged at the close of the Tribulation, when the Lord Jesus Christ shall descend from heaven and sit on the “Throne of His Glory” at Jerusalem, and all nations shall be gathered in their representatives before Him, and the “Sheep Nations” (people) shall be rewarded by entrance into the Millennial Kingdom, and the “Goat Nations” (people), shall be destroyed (Matthew 25:31-46).

## **I. The Millennial Reign of Christ On Earth.**

This dispensation will extend from the Second Coming of Christ (for the Jews) to the end of the 1,000 years. This is the Kingdom Restoration of Israel as promised in Ezekiel 36:25-38. Satan shall be bound and Christ shall reign on this earth (Revelation 20:1-7) for 1,000 years.

1. *The Test:* Obey and worship Christ (Isaiah 11:3-5; Zechariah 14:9,16). This is man’s last test before God will give him up as hopelessly, incurably, incorrigibly God-hating and disobedient. “Take away our excuses,” man cries. “Satan is at fault, take him away,” he cries, “paralyze his power; cripple his malignant activity; bind him and deliver us from his dominating influence, and then you will see that man is radically good and virtuous, and is simply the victim of an unfavorable environment.” God answers, “It shall be done.”
2. *The Failure:* Total and final rebellion (Revelation 20:7-9). The number of people who follow Satan are as countless as the sand of the sea.
3. *The Judgment:* The Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15). This is God’s final judgment on all who have rejected His “Grace by Faith” Salvation.

They will be resurrected from all dispensations to be proven they could NOT be saved by their own works and their names are NOT written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. They will then be separated from God forever in the Lake of Fire. At the end of this judgment the present earth is destroyed by fire (II Peter 3:10-13).

## **J. Eternity Past and Future.**

While this is not one of the 9 divisions it is certainly discussed in the bible. It must be remembered that before the creation of the world God was (eternity past) and after the destruction of the world God will still be (eternity future). We will discuss the inhabitants of eternity past and future and what their destiny will be in the future.

### **III). The Three Divisions of Jesus Christ's Role**

Many times people consider Jesus only in terms of the baby born in Bethlehem who lived 33 years and died at Calvary and forget that before his physical birth He had a role and after His death He also had a role.

#### **A. His Past Role- Prophet** (Hebrews 9:26; Deut. 18:15)

Jesus served in this role from the fall of Adam until the Cross. During this time He looked back to the fall and forward to the cross (1 Peter 1:11) and the result of this office was the salvation of man (Titus 2:11)

1). He was the "Word" in the creation (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16)

2). He was the "Lord God" in the Old Testament times (Genesis 3:8-24). He was the Angel of the Lord, the I AM that I AM, the Captain of the Lord's Host. His work was primarily with His people Israel.

3). He was the redeemer during the days of His incarnation (God manifest in the flesh 1 Timothy 3:16). His purpose was to make an atonement for the people's sin.

#### **B. His Present Role- Priest** (Hebrews 9:24; 4:14)

He serves this role from the time of His ascension until the Rapture of the Church. During this time He intercedes and is an advocate for the believers (Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1). He is a mediator between man and God for the believer and unbeliever (1 Timothy 2:5). He also sanctifies the believers (Ephesians 5:26; Hebrews 13:12)

#### **C. His Future Role- King** (Zechariah 14:9, Revelation 19:16)

He will serve this role during the Millennial Reign on earth which will be the beginning of His "everlasting kingdom" (Revelation 20, 2 Peter 1:11)

## ETERNITY PAST

“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.” (Isa 40:28 KJV)

Eternity Past is a concept that for man to comprehend with his finite mind is nearly impossible. It is a time that is infinite in nature and therefore we cannot begin to fathom its principles. However, we have a Bible that was God-given and preserved so that we might have a record of the events of Eternity Past. To understand this time period is to say, “I cannot understand how it is, but I believe by faith that it is what it is because God said it.” God gave us the only testimony of this time period and His testimonies are “righteous and very faithful” (Ps. 119:138).

### ***1). Before the Beginning of Time, God Existed.***

Try to imagine before Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Eternity Past is that time (for lack of a better word) when there was no time and there was no earth or heaven, but there was God. As hard as this is to understand if it is not true then your salvation is not true either and you may as well throw away your Bible.

We generally think of forever and everlasting as future events, but the Bible describes God as being “from everlasting” which is past tense and not future. There are uses of God’s existence as being from everlasting to everlasting which is from past to future (we will look at Eternity Future later).

“Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting.” (Psalm 93:2 KJV)

“Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.” (Psalm 41:13 KJV)  
(see also Isaiah 63:17; 57:15; Psalm 102:25; Habakkuk 1:12; 3:6)

“Behold, God is great, and we know him not, neither can the number of his years be searched out.” (Job 36:26 KJV)

Not only is God spoken of as being eternal, but Jesus Christ is also “from everlasting”.

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” (Micah 5:2 KJV)

Jesus Christ was chosen as our Saviour **before** the foundation of the world.

“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,” (1 Peter 1:19-20 KJV)

“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.” (Jn 17:24 KJV)

## ***II). In The Beginning God Created.***

The use of the term beginning must be the beginning of time (as we know it) for eternity has no beginning or end. Genesis 1:1 declares that God created the “heaven and the earth.” However, Job 38 states that there was a witness of this event other than God.

“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; 7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4-7 KJV)

### **A). Enter Lucifer and other angelic beings.**

These morning stars and sons of God are angelic beings. The stars of the universe are not created until the 4<sup>th</sup> day of creation (Genesis 1:14-19). These “sons of God” will reappear in Genesis 6 which we will discuss more of in another study. These “sons of God” cannot be human lest we contradict the creation story of Adam who was the “first man” (1 Corinthians 15:45).

### **B). Who is Lucifer?**

While the term Lucifer only exists in the King James Bible one time (Isaiah 14:12) he is clearly described throughout the Bible as being Satan, the anointed cherub that covereth the throne of God (Ezekiel 28:14).

1). He was created “full of wisdom” (Ezekiel 28:3-5,12)

\*he is described as being “wiser than Daniel” that no secret can be hidden from. His wisdom is so great that it becomes the source of his fall

2). He was created “full of beauty” (Eze. 28:13)

\*The Hebrew term Lucifer means “light bearer, brilliant one or shining one”. Is it any wonder Satan is described as being “transformed into an angel of light” (2 Cor 11:14). He was covered with “every precious stone” (Eze. 28:13) thus the reason that he was called “light bearer” not because he had any light of his own, but rather he reflected the light and glory of God.

3). He was created a musical being. (Eze. 28:13)

\*He provided heavenly music. God created music for His glory, honor and praise. Lucifer was created like an organ and a tambourine (pipes and tabrets)

4). He was set to be the “anointed cherub” (Eze. 28:14)

\*Lucifer wasn’t just any angel. He was given by God an anointed position much like the cherubim above the mercy seat in Solomon’s temple.

### *C). Lucifer's Fall*

**“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!” (Isaiah 14:12 KJV)**

1). Lucifer's fall was the result of 2 sins (inward and outward). Sin always originates in our heart and if unchecked it will manifest itself outwardly.

3). It started with pride (inward)

“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.”  
(Eze. 28:17 KJV)

4). It was compounded by willful rebellion. (Isaiah 14:13-14)

\*This is the “I wills” of Satan. He sought to be the supreme ruler which was not his to be. He thought he could displace God from the throne.

5). Lucifer is kicked from heaven where he awaits his final judgment in the lake of fire (Rev 20:10)

6). Satan is now the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph 2:2), the “god of this world” (2Cor 4:4) and a “roaring lion seeking whom he may devour” (1Peter 5:8).



## *“The Edenic Age of Conscience”*

This Age began with the creation and extends to the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. The length of time in this period is unknown. It would have to have been long enough for Adam to have named all of the animals and must end within 130 years because Adam was 130 years old when his 3<sup>rd</sup> son Seth was born (Genesis 5:3).

### ***1). The Days of Creation.***

\*The creation of the “heaven and the earth” took place in Eternity Past. This is the place of the “Gap Theory”. \*It is often argued that the creation of the "heaven and the earth" took place in Eternity Past. There is no "time" or "day" until Genesis 1:3-5. This is the place of the "Gap Theory" (Genesis 1:1-2). However, this gap theory is an answer to the secular "geologic ages" that are contrary to the Word of God. The use of the term "replenish" in God's command to Adam is the basis for this belief in a "pre-adamite" earth however, the word replenish in Webster's 9th Collegiate dictionary means to "fill or refill". The emphasis made by some is on defining replenish as "refill" when it can simply mean "fill". For more information on why the Gap Theory does not work see [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org)

#### **A). The 1<sup>st</sup> Day- Genesis 1:3-5**

- 1). God divided the light from the darkness calling them day and night.

#### **B). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Day- Genesis 1:6-8**

- 1). God made the firmament (earth's atmosphere see Gen. 1:20) to divide the waters from the waters.
- 2). Firmament means, “vault or arch of the sky, heavens” (Webster's 9<sup>th</sup> Collegiate Dictionary)

#### **C). The 3<sup>rd</sup> Day- Genesis 1:9-13**

- 1). God “gathered” the seas (see Job 26:10, 38:8) and brought out the land.
- 2). God brought about vegetation.

#### **D). The 4<sup>th</sup> Day- Genesis 1:14-19**

- 1). God made the Sun, Moon and stars.
- 2). These were to rule the day and night and to be for signs, seasons, days and years.

#### **E). The 5<sup>th</sup> Day- Genesis 1:20-23**

- 1). God created “every living creature” in the water and “every winged fowl” *after their own kind.*

#### **F). The 6<sup>th</sup> Day- Genesis 1:24-31**

- 1). God made the beast, cattle and “everything that creepeth upon the earth” *after their own kind.*
- 2). “God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him”.
- 3). Man is created by God and not by chance. Man has not evolved or mutated. If you cross any animal with another you either get nothing, or you get a hybrid that is sterile (i.e.- a mule). The idea that the nations and races come from anything other than Adam is unbiblical!

“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth...” (Acts 17:26 KJV)

4). Man became a “living soul” not just a “being” or simply “breathing” as other creatures and animals (see Gen. 2:7- NIV, CEV)

**G). The 7<sup>th</sup> Day- Genesis 2:1-3**

1). God rested and blessed the seventh day.

***II). Man’s Testing and Failure. Genesis 2:4-7***

**A.) God’s Garden. (Gen. 2:4-15)**

1). God created a perfect environment that needed no rain. Genesis 2:6 describes a mist that kept the earth watered.

2). God put in his garden all pleasant trees along with the “tree of life” and the “tree of knowledge of good and evil”

3). God placed man in this garden “to dress it and to keep it” (2:15).

**B). God’s Tests (Gen. 2:16-3:7)**

\* God created Adam and placed him in a perfect environment, but it was necessary to test Adam to see how he would perform. Adam was created “perfect” but Adam chose to be less than perfect when he failed the 3<sup>rd</sup> test.

1). The Test of Adam’s Mind- (Gen. 2:19-20). Adam named all of the animals. Adam was a man of intellect.

2). The Test of Adam’s Heart- (Gen. 2:18,20-25). Adam named all the animals and found that they all had a mate, but none would suit him. Adam found his heart sought for a woman, which is the natural desire of a man (Romans 1:26-27).

3). The Test of Adam’s Will (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:6). God gave Adam one restriction in this perfect garden paradise and that was not to EAT of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This is why this dispensation is called “Innocence”.

\*Adam failed this test when he chose to eat the fruit knowing it was wrong. Eve was deceived (beguiled- Gen. 3:13; 2Cor 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:13-14).

***III). The Result of Adam and Eve’s Sin.***

**A). Self-Consciousness.**

1). Adam and Eve were ashamed before each other and sewed fig leaves to cover their nakedness (Gen. 2:25; 3:7).

2). Adam and Eve were ashamed before God and hid themselves (sin caused a barrier to fellowship) (Gen. 2:8-10; Isaiah 59:1-2)

**B). Curse on the Serpent Gen. 3:14-15**

1). The serpent was cursed “above all cattle and beast of the field” and would have to crawl on its belly.

**C). Curse on the Woman Gen. 3:16**

1). Increased sorrow in childbirth. Until sin entered the world painless childbirth was a possibility.

2). She would be subordinate to the man.

\*This relationship is spoken of in Ephesians 5 relating the husband and wife to Christ and the church. We are to submit to each other just as Christ submitted Himself in giving His life for the church. While the husband is to love his wife “as their own bodies” and she in turn is to “revere her husband”.

**D). Curse on the Man Gen. 3:17-19**

- 1). The ground was cursed because of Adam’s rebellion toward God’s will.  
“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.” (Rom 8:22 KJV)  
\*the ground would bring forth thorns and thistles.
- 2). Man would eat of the fruit of the ground rather than from the trees God had created in the garden. This included the “tree of life” that will one day be on earth again (Revelation 22:14).
- 3). Man would have to work by the “sweat of thy face” in order to eat.
- 4). Man was made of dust and would die returning to the dust of the ground. The penalty of sin was spiritual and physical death- the spiritual was immediate and the physical would come with time, for Adam this came after 930 years.

**E). Expulsion from the Garden Gen. 3:22-24**

- 1). God had to remove Adam and Eve from the garden “lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever”
- 2). God placed at the East of Eden (notice their expulsion is from West to East) Cherubims and a flaming sword to protect “the way of the tree of life”

As we can see, in this time period, God originally walked and talked with man in the garden. God could deal with this man in childlike innocence, but now God had to deal with man as a sinner. God took “coats of skins, and clothed them” thus speaking of a Saviour whose blood would also be shed for the forgiveness of sin. The ball is now rolling and Satan managed to come between God and man, but God is still interested in restoring His creation to proper fellowship if His people will only choose His will over their own.

“The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9 KJV).

## ***The Age of Conscience***

This dispensation lasted 1656 years (from the Fall of Adam and Eve to the Flood). This was a time when man was ruled by his conscience. Conscience is an understanding of right and wrong as a result of Adam & Eve's partaking of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. However, as we will see, conscience is simply the knowledge of good and evil and lacks application. God tested man in this time period to see if he would apply (follow) his conscience.

### **I). Adam's 3 (recorded) Sons**

#### **A). Abel- the 1<sup>st</sup> Martyr**

- 1). God described Abel as righteous (Matt 23:35; 1 Jn 3:12)
- 2). Abel brought an "acceptable" blood offering (Gen. 4:4) It is due to this sacrifice of obedience in faith that God called him righteous (Hebrews 11:4)

#### **B). Cain- the 1<sup>st</sup> Murderer**

- 1). Cain brought the wrong sacrifice in comparison to God's example of a sacrifice (Gen. 4:3/cf. Gen. 3:21)
- 2). Cain was rebellious, he murdered his brother and lied to God. (Gen. 4:5-9)
- 3) Cain is cursed by God (2 fold curse- Gen. 4:12,15)
- 4). Cain went out and "knew his wife"(Gen. 4:17/5:4)

#### **C). Seth- Abel's replacement (Gen. 4:25)**

- 1). It is through Seth's line that the Messiah would come and through his son's line (Enos) that men would start to call upon God (Gen. 4:26)

### **II). How Could God Judge Man Based on Conscience?**

Romans 2:12 makes a contrast between those who sin without the law and are judged and those who sin with the law and are judged by it:

"For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;" (KJV)

"Which shew the work of **the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness**, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another" (Rom 2:15 KJV)

Clearly, there was a law in their heart (conscience) that causes them to be without excuse (Romans 1:20)

\*Ignorance of the law is no excuse therefore, these were judged by their willingness to obey their conscience.

#### **A). Was their conscience their only guide?**

- 1). God spoke to Cain (Gen. 4:9-15)
- 2). God spoke to Enoch (Gen. 5:22)
- 3). God spoke to Noah (Gen. 6:13)

## **B). God spoke through other men.**

- 1). Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2Peter 2:5)
- 2). Enoch prophesied of judgment (Jude 14)
- 3). God spoke through names in Hebrew.

There has been done an interesting study of the Hebrew names of the descendants of Noah's sons Cain and Seth. In the Hebrew language, names had meaning whereas today we just name our children something that we think sounds good. For example, Methuselah means "when he is dead it shall be sent". What a thing to name your son! However, Methuselah's father was Enoch who walked and talked with God and never died- he was simply translated into heaven (Hebrews 11:5). It must be that God gave Enoch a revelation of things to come in naming his son "when he is dead it shall be sent" because the fact is this: the very year that Methuselah died was the same year of the great flood that God sent!

The following is a listing of the meanings of the names of Seth and his sons which interestingly enough when put in order with very little grammatical changing produce a prophetic message (God was warning his creation!).

Adam- man taken out of red earth  
Seth- appointed, put in place, substituted  
Enos- wretched or mortal  
Mahaleel- the light of God, blessed be the light of God  
Jared- to descend  
Enoch- to teach or train  
Methuselah- when he is dead it shall be sent  
Lamech- overthrower  
Noah- comfort or rest

These names in order give this message:

"Man taken out of red earth, having substituted mortality put in place the light of God to descend, to teach or train, that when he is dead it shall be sent" Now that is an amazing prophetic message of God's warning of the flood to come.

### **What about the line of Cain:**

Cain- a lance, or spear that strikes fast  
Enoch- to train or initiate  
Mehujael- God is combating man  
Methusael- man who is of God  
Lamech- overthrower  
Jabal- a stream or watercourse  
Jubal- a stream  
Tubalcain- the offspring of Cain

"A lance or spear that strikes fast, to initiate God is combating man, who is of God, to overthrow by a stream or watercourse the offspring of Cain" How is that for a message? Clearly, God was warning His creation!

## **III). Man's Response to God and the Result.**

**A). The wickedness of man was great in the earth!**

- 1). Cain was a murderer, Lamech was a polygamist and a killer (Gen. 4:19,23)
- 2). “every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” Gen. 6:5
- 3). Man was so wicked God was sorry He had created mankind- Gen. 6:6-7

**B). The women were corrupted with fallen angels. Gen. 6**

- 1). These “sons of God” are the same “sons of God” found in Eternity Past (Job 38:7-at the creation).
- 2). These “sons of God” are the same as those who appeared with Satan in Job 1:6; 2:1
- 3). Their offspring became “mighty men of renown” (Genesis 6:4). These are the basis of the Greek gods of mythology (Hercules etc)

**C). God’s Response to Man’s Condition.**

- 1). Limited life span to 120 years (Gen. 6:3)
- 2). Destruction of all mankind (Gen. 6:5-7; 6:13)
- 3). Noah “found grace” in the eyes of God (Gen. 6:8)

**D). Noah’s Ark and the Flood.**

- 1). The ark was made of Gopher wood, pitched inside and out. It measured 300 cu. x 50 cu. x 30 (450’x75’x45’) Noah was a year in making it.  
\*there were 3 stories in it, a window at the top edge and a door in the side.
- 2). God instructed Noah to take animals in pairs.  
\*7 pair of clean animals (and fowl) Gen. 6:19  
\*1 pair of unclean animals Gen. 7:2-3  
\*Noah had 7 days to gather the animals Gen. 7:4
- 3). The windows of heaven opened for 40 days/nights Genesis 7:4,12,17 (1”/sec; 6”/min.; 30’/hour; 725’/day). This was a violent downpour!
- 4). The flood was universal, not local- 15cu. upward above the mountains. (Gen. 7:20)  
“And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and **all the high hills**, that were **under the whole heaven, were covered.**” (Genesis 7:19 KJV)
- 5). The water prevailed 150 days (5 months) before starting to go down. (Genesis 6:24; 7:3-4)
- 6). Noah and his wife, his 3 sons- Shem, Ham & Japheth and their wives remained in the ark a total of 1 year and 10 days (370 days) (Gen. 6:11; 7:13-14)

Noah and his family were saved by God’s grace! (Genesis 6:8). Noah’s family was protected by God’s providence as He “shut them in” (Gen. 7:16). The reality is they couldn’t get out and no one else could get in!

“Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**” (John 14:6 KJV)

**The Age of Human Government**

The Flood lasted 1 year and 10 days (370 days- Gen. 8:14). Noah and his wife, their 3 sons and each of their wives became the only 8 people to be “saved” by water (1 Peter 3:20). With these 8 people God repeated His original decree to Adam: “multiply and replenish the

earth". Here began a new era that lasted approximately 427 years starting in Genesis 8 exiting the ark and ending in Genesis 11 with the call of Abraham (~2000 BC).

### ***I). First Things First***

#### ***A). Noah's Sacrifice Gen. 8:20***

- 1). The need for clean animals to be taken into the ark in pairs of 7 becomes obvious in this passage (cf. Gen. 7:2-3)
- 2). Noah's sacrifice was of "every clean beast and of every clean fowl". This was done on an altar unto the Lord as a praise for God's grace and protection.

#### ***B). God's Response Gen. 8:21***

- 1). God stated that man is naturally sinful, "for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth" (cf. Prov. 22:15). Man is incapable of righteousness on his own.

### ***II). Noahic Covenant Gen. 9:1-17***

#### ***A). God promised not to destroy by flood again.***

***(Gen. 8:21;9:11,15)***

- 1). The earth will never see total destruction as it did with the flood until after Christ's Millennial reign. At this time, the earth will be renovated by FIRE in preparation for "new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:9-13).

#### ***B). God promised 4 Seasons and a 2 part Day (Gen.8:22)***

- 1). Seedtime (Spring), Harvest (Fall), Summer and Winter
- 2). Day and Night.
- 3). It is thought that potentially in the perfect environment that followed the Garden of Eden there were no drastic or noticeable seasonal changes. Either way, we know from this time on there are 4 seasons and a 2-part day.

#### ***C). God promised protection from the animals Gen. 9:2***

- 1). God put in the animals an instinctive "fear of man" that can be obviously seen today in wildlife.

#### ***D). God confirmed this covenant with the Rainbow Gen. 9:12-17***

- 1). While we take the rainbow for granted, God showed Noah the 1<sup>st</sup> rainbow! Not having rain prior to the flood would eliminate a previous rainbow (Gen. 2:5)
- 2). The Rainbow is a fitting sign from God as it has 7 colors (ROYGBIV). The #3 is the number of God and #4 is the number of the world, its sum is the perfection of God and the bow stretches from the earth to heaven.

### ***III). A New Food Supply. Gen. 9:3-4***

- 1). God gave the animals to Noah for food whereas to Adam God gave him "every herb bearing seed, and every tree in the which is the fruit" (Gen. 1:29; 2:9)
- 2). God instructed Noah to eat meat, but the blood was forbidden! This same command is repeated in the Mosaic Law and in the New Testament (Lev. 17:10-11; Acts 15:20)
- 3). Although man originally only ate vegetables there is no biblical support for vegetarianism. (Acts 10:9-16, 1 Timothy 4:3-5).

#### **IV). A New Authority- Human Gov't Gen. 9:5,6**

##### **A). God Instituted Capital Punishment**

- 1). God relegated the AUTHORITY to men to carry out this command: **“Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”** (Gen. 9:6 KJV)
- 2). This was a form of JUSTICE and PREVENTION of crime rather than revenge. (Cain and Lamech both feared their lives for revenge- Gen. 4;14,23-24)

#### **V). The Sin of Noah and His Son Gen. 9:20-29**

##### **A). Noah's Drunkenness**

- 1). Noah started farming and planted a vineyard.
- 2). Noah, like Adam, took “forbidden fruit” and similarly in nakedness sinned. (cf. Deuteronomy 32:14, Numbers 6:3)
- 3). It is possible that Noah was unfamiliar with fermentation as a result of the environmental changes following the flood, however the following incident with Ham is the typical result of drunkenness.

##### **B). Ham's Sin (Gen. 9:22-24)**

- 1). Ham “saw the nakedness of his father and told his brethren”
- 2). Shem and Japheth respectfully covered Noah with their backs turned so as to not see their father's nakedness.

##### **C). Noah's Curse and Blessing (Gen. 9:24-29)**

- 1). “And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.” (Gen. 9:25 KJV). Canaan was the son of Ham and due to God's blessing on Ham the curse fell on Ham's son.

2). “And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.” (Gen. 9:26 KJV). Notice the blessing is not on Shem but on his Lord God. It is through Shem that the Messiah came. The focus is on the Jewish people who would receive God's Inspired revelation. There is neither blessing or cursing on Shem's seed much like Ham (Canaan excluded).

\*The Canaanites later became servants to the Israelites.

- 3). “God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.” (Gen. 9:27 KJV). Here is the first direct blessing on the family of Japheth. Japheth was the eldest (Gen. 10:21) and received the greater portion as was common in the scriptures.

\*Japheth climbed Shem's mountains (Sir Hillary) and invented the 1<sup>st</sup> planes and cars. Japheth was 1<sup>st</sup> to the moon, discovered the 2 poles, the passage to India, electricity, the steam engine, and the telephone.

\*Japheth literally dwelt in the tents of Shem from British Columbia to the Cape of South America.

- 4). It must be noted that these 3 families constitute the nations of the world who are either purely one of the three or a mixture of parts of the three. These blessings and cursings are a source of trouble for some and a source of discrimination. However, this is just how it is and it is confirmed by history and the Bible and is not intended maliciously against anyone.

#### **VI). The Tower of Babel Gen. 11:1-9**

##### **A). The Establishment of a One-World Religion & Social Effort at Self-Promotion.**



- 1). Here in the land of Babylon (Shinar) under the leadership of Nimrod (?) the people choose to build a tower to heaven to make a name for themselves. It was an effort of centralization and unification contrary to God. (Gen. 11:4-5)
- 2). This was more than simply the erection of a tower. It was the culmination of unity and cooperation to do what they wanted; “nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.”
- 3). There is a current trend to “join forces” politically and spiritually which is steps toward the one-world system of the anti-christ.

**B). God’s Judgment. Gen. 11:6-9**

- 1). God confused their tongues thus creating the various languages and dialects seen in the world today (this miracle was reversed in Acts 2).
- 2). God scattered the people. God intended for man to multiply, replenish the whole earth for His glory, honor and praise; not to centralize and build a monument to themselves.
- 3). We have built monuments to ourselves and again God will come but this time the judgment will be final!

### ***The Age of the Family***

This Time period extended from the Call of Abraham (~2000 BC) to the Exodus from Egypt (430 years). This period started in Genesis 12 and ends with Exodus 14:31. This age is also called the “Patriarchal Age” or the “Age of Promise” as it deals with Abraham and the promise that God extended to him concerning his family. Up until this point God had worked with one man at a time (Adam & Noah) who both failed and so now God is again calling a man but a man with a family. This family will in turn lead to God’s dealing with a whole nation.

#### ***I). The Call of Abraham. Genesis 12***

##### **A). The Nature of the Call: Genesis 12:1**

“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:”

1). Hebrews 11:8-12 speaks of Abraham who by faith “when out, not knowing whither he went...for he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God”

##### **B). Why Abraham?**

1). James 2:23 describes Abraham as “the Friend of God” which might suggest favoritism but it is clear in Isaiah 41:2 that God chose Abraham because of his heart! In Genesis 18:19 God said: “For **I know him**, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord...”. This is an example of the foreknowledge of God (Romans 8:29) and is to be distinguished from “predestination” that causes events to be one way or the other.

#### ***II). The :Promises to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-7; 13:14-16; 15:5; 17:4-8)***

##### **A). The 7-fold promise (Gen. 12:2-3)**

- 1). I will make of thee a great nation
- 2). I will bless thee
- 3). I will make thy name great
- 4). Thou shalt be a blessing
- 5). I will bless them that bless thee
- 6). I will curse them that curse thee
- 7). In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

##### **B). The Land**

- 1). God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abraham (Gen. 12:6-7; 13:14-18; 15:7,18) along with everything from the “river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates”.
- 2). This extends from the Nile to the Euphrates surrounding the Jordan River. This is an area of approximately 300,000 square miles.
- 3). This was prime land as it connects 3 continents (Europe, Asia & Africa).

##### **C). Whose Seed Would Inherit the Land?**

1). One must recognize that Abraham had physical “seed” through his sons (Ishmael & Isaac). He also had spiritual “seed” through the saved Gentiles of the New Testament (Galatians 3:7,29).

- 2). The land was promised to be to Abraham and his seed for an “everlasting possession” (Gen. 17:8).
- 3). God defined Abraham’s seed that would inherit this land as “in Isaac shall thy seed be called” (Gen. 21:12). This was later extended to Jacob the 2<sup>nd</sup> born of Isaac (Gen. 25:23; 26:1-4; 28:13-14). Jacob was renamed Israel (Gen. 35:9-12) and his 12 sons became the 12 tribes of Israel (Gen. 29, 30,35) who inherited this land.
- 4). This land grant was an “everlasting possession” but Israel lost it due to disobedience (Gen. 4:25-27). However, Israel will possess this land again (Jeremiah 30:3; Zechariah 10:6) in the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ.

### **III). The Covenant Of Circumcision Genesis 17:10**

“This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; **Every man child among you shall be circumcised.**” (KJV)

#### **A). A Seal of Abraham’s Faith**

1). Abraham was justified by faith (Romans 4:3) recorded in Genesis 15:6 and yet it was 14 years later that God gave him this covenant sign of his faith (Genesis 17:24-25; Romans 4:11). Abraham was saved by his faith, but God gave him circumcision as a sign or seal of acceptance of his faith.

#### **B). A Sign of Separation**

1). Circumcision served as a sign that Israel was set apart from the rest of the world. They were a chosen people to serve God and to be different from the world.

#### **C). A Symbol of Human Depravity and Need.**

1). The fact that circumcision involved the male organ of procreation was a symbol that man from his birth is unclean and needs cleansing. Moses related this idea to the innerman: “Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.” (Deut 10:16, cf. 30:6; Jer. 4:4). It suggested cutting off the old flesh and being something new (like New Testament salvation 2 Cor 5:17, Rom. 6:4-13)

#### **D). A Picture of Spiritual Circumcision.**

1). According to Colossians 2:11-13, there is a spiritual circumcision performed by God when a person accepts Jesus as his personal Saviour.

### **IV). 400 Years in Egypt**

\*Abraham had a son Isaac and a Grandson named Jacob who became Israel (Gen. 32:24-32). Jacob had 12 sons one of whom was Joseph the youngest. Joseph was hated by his brothers and was sold and taken to Egypt (Gen. 37:27-28). In Egypt God blessed Joseph and made him 2<sup>nd</sup> under the Pharaoh (Gen. 41:38-46). More than 10 years later, there was a great famine in the land and Jacob and his son moved to Egypt at Joseph’s invitation and God’s confirmation (Gen. 45:25-46:6).

#### **A). Why Would God Want Them in Egypt 400 Years?**

- 1). God told Abraham that they would be “sojourners in a land that is not theirs...and they shall afflict them four hundred years” (Gen. 15:13). However the reason for this became apparent: “But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.” (Gen. 15:16 KJV). The Amorites were synonymous with the Canaanites and God was giving 400 years for them to either repent of their sin or for it to destroy them. (Cf. Leviticus 18:24-25,27-28).
- 2). God wanted to keep Israel pure and free from Idolatry. In Egypt the Israelites were considered unclean by ceremonial law which minimized the possibility of intermarriages which might lead to Israel accepting the pagan ways of their spouses.
- 3). Israel was given time to grow in Egypt without the warfare that they would face in Canaan. Israel was 70 in number when they entered Egypt and upwards of 2 million when they left (Exodus 12:37). Israel suffered hardship in Egypt but this too was God’s plan as it strengthened them (Exodus 1:7-22) and kept them from wanting to stay in Egypt (a picture of the world and the move to salvation).

**Conclusion:** At the end of 400 years God raised up a leader named Moses who left Pharaoh’s house and followed God.

## *The The Age of the Law*

This dispensation extended from the Exodus to the death of Jesus Christ a period of over 1500 years. It was during this time that God had called out a people, that is a nation (Israel) to be a nation of priests (Exodus 19:6). These were given a written law rather than a law written in their hearts (Rom. 2:15). These were given an outward and visible system of worship. This was a “Theocratic” nation where God ruled by choosing a representative that He would appoint to lead the people. Moses was the first leader of this nation, then came Joshua. God’s people would reject this leadership and come into bondage in their land. God raised up “judges” to deliver the people and govern them for a period of 450 years. After these judges God gave them a physical king (Saul) against His desire but according to their wish to be “like the other nations”. As a result of this kingship evil kings came and divided Israel and eventually led them into bondage by Assyria and Babylon. Finally, Israel came under Roman rule and the Messiah was turned over to the Romans to be crucified (AD 30). 40 years later General Titus led the Romans to destroy Jerusalem and the Temple and the Jewish nation was scattered losing their home in Palestine (AD 70).

### ***1). God’s Preparation for this Kingdom (Ex. 1-15)***

#### **A). God prepared Moses**

- 1). While Moses was in the land of Midian (Ex. 2:15) keeping the sheep of Jethro his father-in-law God revealed Himself in a burning bush on Mt. Horeb (Ex. 3:1-2).
- 2). God revealed Himself as the “God of thy father, the God of Abraham , the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob” (Ex. 3:6).
- 3). God told Moses that He saw “the affliction of my people which are in Egypt” (Ex. 3:7) and that He wanted to “deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with mild and honey” (Ex. 3:8).
- 4). While Moses was reluctant and gave excuses God showed Moses 2 miracles and told him of a 3<sup>rd</sup> that he could show to the people as a sign. Between these and the bush that was not consumed with fire Moses was convinced to go.

#### **B). God prepared the Israelites.**

- 1). God told Moses to show to the people the 3 miracles (Ex. 4:8-9).
- 2). Moses rod turned to a serpent, his hand turned leprous and then healed, and the water turned to blood.
- 3). Moses stood before the people and showed the signs and Aaron spoke the words of God “And the people believed” (Ex. 4:30-31).

#### **C). God prepared the Egyptians**

- 1). At 80 years of age, Moses stood before the Pharaoh with Aaron and showed the miracle of the rod turned to a serpent. The magicians did the same with “enchantments” but “Aaron’s rod turned and swallowed up their rods” (Ex. 7:10-12). Pharaoh’s heart was hardened and thus God had to “prepare” Egypt through adversity to let the Israelites go.
- 2). The 10 plagues that followed were all attacks on the “gods” of Egypt: (Ex. 7:17-12:30).

- Water into blood- against Osiris & Isis, goddess of the Nile
- Frogs against Hekt, goddess who had the head of a frog.
- Lice against the earth god Seb and the priests who could not officiate with any vermin on them.
- Flies against the god of the atmosphere Shu, son of Ra the sun-god.
- Murrain on the cattle against Apis the sacred bull
- Boils against Sutech or Typhon to whom victims were sacrificed and then their ashes flung to the winds.
- Locusts against the sacred beetle (scarab)
- Hail mingled with fire against Shu
- Darkness against Ra the sun-god, whom Pharaoh was believed to be the child of.
- Death of the firstborn son against the nation who was guilty of infanticide by casting all male Hebrew children into the Nile (Ex. 1:22).

#### **D). God prepared Pharaoh**

As Egypt is a picture of the world, Pharaoh is a picture of Satan who will offer you compromises as he did Moses. There were 4 compromises that Pharaoh offered, but he had to accept that God's people would prosper just as Satan will be defeated and God's people will prosper.

1). ***“Worship God if you want to... but you don't have to leave Egypt to do it”*** Exodus 8:25-27

The modern day equivalent would be: “Religion is okay, but don't be so narrow about it. You don't have to let religion separate you from the world”

Moses knew that if they worshipped God in Egypt and sacrificed the “sacred bull” they would be killed. Satan will tempt you to stay in the world and to compromise your worship. You cannot worship God HIS way and stay in the world!

2). ***“If you must go out of Egypt to worship, don't go far...”*** Ex. 8:28

Modern day equivalent: “Religion is fine, but there is no need to be fanatical about it. Stay as close to the world as you can”

“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: **walk as children of light:** 11 And **have no fellowship** with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” (Eph 5:8,11)

3). ***“Let the men go worship, but the women and children should stay here”*** Exodus 10:9-11

Modern equivalent: “If you must break with the world and serve your God, then go, but don't force such a narrow lifestyle on everyone else in your family. They should choose for themselves”

4). ***“Okay, go, but the flocks and herds of animals stay here”*** Exodus 10:24-26

Modern day equivalent: “Don't let your odd religious commitments get in the way of business and prosperity- keep your investments in the world”

“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matt 6:20-21 KJV)

#### **E). God prepared the Passover.**

1). Before Israel could be delivered they had to be redeemed by BLOOD. The Passover is a picture of the “plan of salvation” through Christ “For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for

us:” (1 Cor 5:7KJV). Israel was saved by the blood of the passover lamb just as we are saved by the “Lamb of God”

2). The Israelites were in Goshen a part of Egypt, and needed saving. We are in the world (Egypt) and need saving. The command was to put blood on the door posts and when the Lord saw the blood He would “pass over” just as we are saved by the blood on the door-posts of our heart.

3). The Passover was “the beginning of months” (Ex. 12:2). A man does not begin to live until he is saved by the blood of Christ. Prior to this he is dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1-5).

4). The Feast of the Passover (Exodus 12:8-10). “And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.” They were saved by the blood of the lamb, but they had to feed on the lamb- some Christians never “feed on the Lamb” and are spiritually malnourished (Jesus is the “bread of life” John 6:35). The lamb was to be roast over a spit which formed the shape of the cross (a rod lengthwise through the lamb and one through the shoulders for turning). They were to eat this lamb along with “unleavened bread”. Leaven is a picture of sin and so we must come to the feast table without sin.

#### **F). God prepared the Exodus**

The final preparation involved 3 miracles:

1). God took the cloud that led Israel and moved it between Israel and the Egyptians so that the Egyptians could not see the Israelites and yet it gave light to the Israelites to see their way in the night (Ex. 14:19-20).

“And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.”

2). God used Moses to part the water of the Red Sea so they could pass over on “dry ground” with a “wall of water” on the right and the left side. It is suggested that for the estimated 2 million Israelites to pass in one night that this parting of the water would have been 1 mile wide!

3). As the pursuing Egyptian army came across the Red Sea all of their chariots lost their wheels stopping them in the middle. As they began to flee the water came crashing in on them so that “Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore” (Ex. 14:23-30).

“And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.” (Exodus 14:31 KJV)

“Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

2 The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.” (Exodus 15:1-2 KJV)

#### **G). God prepared History**

God’s deliverance of His people Israel has many striking similarities to His coming deliverance of His people again when Christ returns.

1). Pharaoh defied Jehovah and His servants just as the anti-christ will speak blasphemously against God and His people (Psalm 2:1-3; Daniel 11:36; Revelation 13:5-6)

- 2). Just as the Lord gave Pharaoh and the Egyptians a non-judgmental miracle warning with the rod turned to a serpent He will give the world a non-judgmental miracle in the rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- 3). Just as the 10 plagues came in rapid succession each worse than the last the judgments of the tribulation (bowls and seals) will follow each other in intensity (Rev. 6-18)
- 4). The total annihilation of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea will be repeated at Armageddon as the beast (anti-christ) and the false prophet are cast into the lake of fire along with their armies (Daniel 11:36-45; Zechariah 14:1-15; Revelation 19:11-21)



## *The Age of the Law, Part 2*

### **“Wilderness Wandering”**

#### **Exodus 15:22-Deuteronomy 34:12**

##### ***I). The Waters of Marah Ex. 15:22-27***

###### **A). The Problem:**

- 1). Moses led the people 3 days into the wilderness with no water. At Marah they found bitter water.
- 2). The people began to murmur
- 3). Moses cried to God and God told him to cast a tree into the water and they became sweet

###### **B). The Purpose:**

- 1). God used this as an opportunity to prove Himself to Israel and to give them a conditional covenant.
- 2). “And said, **If thou wilt** diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, **I will** put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.” (Ex. 15:26 KJV)
- 3). God brought them to Elim where there were 12 wells of water and 70 palm trees

##### ***II). Manna & Quails Ex. 16:1-36***

- 1). 45 days gone by and the people began to complain about “the way it was” in Egypt and “how it is” in the wilderness.
- 2). God told Moses that He would send Manna in the morning and Quail in the evening for food “**that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.**” (Ex. 16:4).
- 3). The command was to gather an “omer” (varies between ½ - 2 quarts) for every person in the household and regardless it would be enough and not too much. They were to gather an “omer” for each person, each day except on the 6<sup>th</sup> day. On the 6<sup>th</sup> day they were to gather for the 7<sup>th</sup> day and it would miraculously keep over (cf. Ex. 16:19-30)
- 4). “Manna” means, what is it? “it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.” (Ex. 16:31)
- 5). Aaron put an omer full in a pot to save as a testimony (later to be put in the ark of the covenant) (Ex. 16:33-34, Heb. 9:4)
- 6). The Israelites ate manna for 40 years until they came to Canaan.

##### ***III). Mt. Sinai Ex. 19- Numbers 10:33***

Less than 3 full months had gone by when Israel came to the Mt. Sinai and camped there (Ex. 19:1)

**A). God's Covenant Ex. 19:3-9**

- 1). God spoke to Moses and offered Israel a conditional covenant that IF they would obey and keep God's covenant THEN they would be a "peculiar treasure" above all people and a "kingdom of priests, and an holy nation".
- 2). Israel replied: "All that the Lord hath spoken we will do."

**B). The 10 Commandments Exodus 20:1-17**

- 1). No other gods
- 2). No graven images (idols)
- 3). Don't take the Lord's name in vain
- 4). Keep Sabbath holy (cf. Ex 16:23)
- 5). Honour father and mother
- 6). Shalt not kill
- 7). Shalt not commit adultery
- 8). Shalt not steal
- 9). Shalt not bear false witness
- 10). Shalt not covet

**C). The Law (Exodus 20-Deut.)**

The law was more than just the 10 commandments. The law can be broken into 3 parts: The Moral Law, Civil Law and Ceremonial Law.

- 1). Moral Law- was the 10 commandments
- 2). Civil Law- pertained to rules of property, slavery, inheritance, marriage and other civil details.
- 3). Ceremonial Law- pertained to the ordinances of the Tabernacle and sacrifices.

**D). Aaron and the Golden Calf (Ex. 32)**

While Moses was on Mt. Sinai with God Aaron collected the golden earrings and made an idol of a calf (from the Egyptian god- Apis). God told Moses that the people "have corrupted themselves" dancing naked and worshipping this idol. Upon seeing this sight, Moses broke the tablets that God had written the law (with His own finger 31:18, 32:16).

- 1). Aaron makes excuses and blames the people (Ex. 32:21-24)
- 2). Moses gave the "who is on the Lord's side" speech and the Levites join him. (32:26-29)
- 3). Moses offers an intercessory prayer to God for Israel (Ex. 32:30-35)

**E). The Tabernacle (Ex. 35-40)**

The plans for the tabernacle were discussed in Exodus 25-30:10. In Ex. 35-40 the Tabernacle was built and dedicated.

**IV). Wilderness Wandering. Numbers 10:33-Deut. 34:12**

As the Israelites began the 1<sup>st</sup> month of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year since the exodus from Egypt Moses led them to pack up and head for the "Promised Land".

**A). The 12 Spies (Num. 13:1-33)**

- 1). Moses sent 12 men to go ahead and "spy out" the land to see the value of the land and the strength of the inhabitants.
- 2). After 40 days 10 of the 12 came back and reported "We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. And they brought up an evil report of the land

...” (Num. 13:31-32). Joshua and Caleb said, “Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it” (Num. 13:30)

3). All of the Israelites murmured against Moses and Aaron and said they wanted to go back to Egypt! (Num. 14:1-4).

4). Joshua, Caleb, Moses and Aaron begged God’s mercy on the people and tried to persuade the people to trust God. (Num. 14:5-10).

#### **B). God’s Judgment (Num. 14:11-38)**

“Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; 23 Surely **they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers**, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:” (Num. 14:22-23 KJV)

1). Because of their lack of faith evidenced by 10 occasions God declared that every person 20 years old and up would die in the wilderness as they would wander for 40 years (one year for each day the 12 spies were in Canaan).

2). The only exceptions to this were Joshua and Caleb.

#### **C). More Judgments in the Wilderness.**

1). Korah, Dathan & Abiram and 250 princes rose against Moses and Aaron questioning their God given authority. (Num. 16:1-35)

2). 14,000 die by a plague from God because they murmured against Moses claiming that he had killed the 250 princes (Num. 16:41-50).

3). Moses strikes the rock twice at Meribah out of anger/frustration when God told him to speak to the rock. God told Moses “Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel” he would not go to the “Promised Land”. (Num. 20)

4). The people murmured again against God and Moses and God send fiery serpents (Num. 21:4-9).

#### **D). Deuteronomy**

“And it came to pass in the **fortieth year, in the eleventh month**, on the first day of the month, that Moses spake unto the children of Israel, according unto all that the LORD had given him in commandment unto them;” (Deut. 1:3 KJV)

1). Moses repeated the Law of God for the sake of the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation who may not have heard it the 1<sup>st</sup> time and instructed them to love God, keep His commands and teach them to their children. (Use of music to teach Deut.31:30)

2). Moses begged God to let him see the “Promised Land” (Deut. 3:23-27)

“And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the LORD shewed him all the land...And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I swore unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.” (Deut. 34:1,4 KJV)

“So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.” (Deut. 34:5 KJV)

## *The Age of the Law, Part 3*

### **“Joshua & The Judges”**

“Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, 2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.” (Joshua 1:1-2 KJV)

#### **I). Israel's Orders: Deuteronomy 7:1-4**

“When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; 2 And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; **thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them,** nor shew mercy unto them: 3 **Neither shalt thou make marriages with them;** thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. 4 **For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods:** so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.”

God instructed them that they were to destroy them because of their idolatry. Israel was not to fear these nations in light of what God had already done to Pharaoh- God would protect Israel (7:17-24). God would give them the victory, but they were NOT to allow the false idols to remain or to bring the gold or silver of these gods into their homes for it was an abomination and a curse (7:25-26).

#### **II). Israel's Conquest.**

\*God called out Joshua to be Moses' successor and with this calling God gave Joshua these words of encouragement: (Joshua 1:5-8 KJV)

“There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. 6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. 7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

**A). Joshua leads the people across the Jordan River.**

- 1). God told Joshua that this miracle would confirm him as the successor to Moses in the eyes of the people (Josh. 3:7).
- 2). Joshua told the people that this miracle would confirm God's protection as they entered the land (Josh. 3:9-10).
- 3). As the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant stepped into the edge of the Jordan the waters parted.
- 4). The place of crossing was "right against Jericho" which is 5 miles North of the Dead Sea. The waters were stopped "very far from the city Adam" (modern day ed Damieh) which would be at least 20 miles North of the Dead Sea.
- 5). After crossing the Jordan 12 stones were placed as a memorial for future generations (Josh.4:4-9).
- 6). The Israelites camped at Gilgal, the men were circumcised and the manna ceased (Josh. 5:2-12).

**B). Joshua's 3-Part Conquest.**

- 1). Straight Forward- Jericho (Josh. 6:1-27). Achan's Sin (Josh. 6:17-19, 7:1-1,20-26). The defeat at Ai (Josh. 7:2-5). Ai defeated (Josh. 8:1-29). Joshua read the Law to the people at Mt. Gerizim and Ebal (Josh. 8:30-35).
- 2). South- The tricky treaty with the Gibeonites (Josh. 9:3-27). The sun stands still in Ajalon (Josh. 10:12-14). Joshua defeats 5 Kings at Makkedah (Josh. 10:3-5, 16-30). Lachish, Eglon, Hebron, Debir, from Kadesh-barnea to Gaza, and Goshen is defeated (Josh. 10:31-43).
- 3). North- Hazor, Madon, Shimron, Achshaph, Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Hivites all defeated (Josh. 11:1-15).

**"So Joshua took the whole land,** according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. **And the land rested from war.**" (Joshua 11:23 KJV)

\*Joshua chapter 12 records 31 Kings that Joshua defeated West of the Jordan River.

**C). Joshua's Last Words at Shechem.**

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve;... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15 KJV)

- 1). The people all vowed to serve God (24:21,24).
- 2). Joshua made a covenant and an ordinance of God's blessing if they would serve God alone and wrote it in the "book of the law of God" (24:25-27).
- 3). Joshua died being 110 years (24:29).
- 4). "And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel." (Joshua 24:31 KJV).

### **III). Israel's Failure and Deliverance.**

“And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and **there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD**, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. 11 And **the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:**”

“Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.” (Judges 2:10-11,16 KJV)

#### ***A). Cycles of Apostasy.***

1). The key phrase in the book of Judges is: “every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 17:6, 21:25).

2). Every time Israel turned to idolatry they became oppressed by the nations of that land and in turn God raised up a deliverer (6 times) who led them to victory and judged them during a time of peace. After the death of the judge Israel would return again to idolatry and start the cycle again (Judges 2: 16-19).

3). God gave Israel judges or delivers to test Israel to see if they would keep God's commands. It was repeated grace in light of the fact that God knew they would fail!

4). There are 13 judges spanning 410 years (Acts 13:20 includes Eli's 40 years) whom God used to reach His people.

#### ***The Book of Judges ends with this statement:***

“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”(Judges 21:25 KJV)

#### ***List of the Judges of Israel.***

1). Othniel- Judges 3:9-11

2). Ehud- Judges 3:15-30

3). Shamgar- Judges 3:31

4 & 5). Deborah & Barak- Judges 4:4-5:31

6). Gideon- Judges 6:11-8:32

7). Tola- Judges 10:1-2

8). Jair- Judges 10:3-5

9). Jephthah- Judges 11:1-12:7

10). Ibzan- Judges 12:8-10

11). Eglon- Judges 12:11-12

12). Abdon- Judges 12:13-15

13). Samson- Judges 13:24-16:31

14). Eli- 1 Samuel 4:18

15). Samuel- 1 Samuel 7:6, 15-17

### ***Time Table of the Period of the Judges***

• Mesopotamian oppression	8 yrs- Judges 3:8
• Othniel-deliverance and rest	40 yrs- Judges 3:11
• Moabite oppression-Eglon	18 yrs- Judges 3:14
• Ehud- deliverance and rest	80 yrs- Judges 3:30
• Canaanite oppression-Jabin	20 yrs- Judges 4:3
• Deborah & Barak- deliverance & rest	40 yrs- Judges 5:31
• Midianite oppression	7 yrs- Judges 6:1
• Gideon- deliverance & rest	40 yrs- Judges 8:28
• Abimelech (king)	3 yrs- Judges 9:22
• Tola- judge	23 yrs- Judges 10:2
• Jair- judge	22 yrs- Judges 10:3
• Ammonite oppression	18 yrs- Judges 10:8
• Jephthah- deliverance & rest	6 yrs- Judges 12:7
• Ibzan- judge	7 yrs- Judges 12:9
• Elon- judge	19 yrs- Judges 12:11
• Abdon- judge	8 yrs- Judges 12:14
• Philistine oppression	40 yrs- Judges 13:1
• <u>Samson- fights Philistines &amp; judge</u>	<u>20 yrs- Judges 15:20</u>

***Subtotal*** ***410 years***

• Eli- judge 40 yrs- 1 Samuel 4:18

***Total*** ***450 years (Acts 13:20)***

There are many who are quick to point out a “contradiction” in 1 Kings 6:1 which says that there were 480 years from the Exodus from Egypt until the 4<sup>th</sup> year of King Solomon’s reign when mathematically there are 573 years (cf. Acts 13:18-21).

Here are the facts:

• Wilderness wandering	40 years
• Days of the Judges	450 years
• Reign of Saul	40 years
• Reign of David	40 years
• <u>Reign of Solomon</u>	<u>3 years (up to 1 Kings 6:1)</u>

***Total*** ***573 years***

Here there seems to be a contradiction between the 573 years and 1 Kings 6:1 that says 480 years! There is a discrepancy of 93 years (573-480=93)

***Time Table of Israel's Captivity Recorded in Judges, Caused By Sin:***

Apostasy	Captive to:	Years	Deliverer
• 3:5-8	Mesopotamia	8	Othniel 3:9-11
• 3:12-14	Moab	18	Ehud 3:15-30
• 4:1-3	Canaanites	20	Deborah & Barak 4:4-5:31
• 6:1-10	Midianites	7	Gideon 6:2-8:35
• 10:6-18	Philistines	18	Jephthah 11:1; 12:7
• 13:1	Philistines	40	Samson 13:2; 16:31
<b><i>Total</i></b>		<b><i>111 years</i></b>	

Judges 10:8 records 18 years of these 111 as being East of the Jordan which is not part of the 9 ½ tribes that are considered so the Israelites were only in captivity 93 years (111-18=93). ***There goes your discrepancy of 93 years!***

The point of these 93 years is that when you are out of God's will and in captivity to Satan that time does not count as far as God is concerned! God said 480 years extended from the Exodus until the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Solomon because He didn't count the 93 years that Israel lost due to their sin!



## *The Age of the Law, Part 4*

### **The Time of The Kings**

1 Samuel 8:1- 2 Chronicles 36:21

1 Samuel 8:4-5

"Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, 5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." (KJV)

Israel, having survived 450 years of the Judges, realized that the Nation was falling apart. They had seen periods of oppression from the nations of Canaan and deliverance brought about by God's called Judges. The "elders of Israel" desiring to make things better decided that a monarchy was the answer. Unfortunately, they failed to recognize God as their king as He said: "they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them" (1 Sam. 8:7). And so against God's wishes and warning through Samuel (1 Sam. 8:10-22) Israel spent the next 500 years under the leadership of the Kings who would lead Israel away from God splitting the Nation and later into captivity (Babylonian and Assyrian).

1 Samuel 8:19-22

"Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;

20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD.

22 And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city."(KJV)

### **I). Why or Why Not a King?**

#### **A). Moses Prophesied of a King in Israel**

1). In Deuteronomy 17:14-20 Moses spoke of a King in Israel who would be chosen by God, but he was not to multiply silver, gold, horses or women. He was to keep a copy of the law and live by it lest pride lead him astray. Israel's first King Saul failed in pride. Israel's 2<sup>nd</sup> King (David) failed in numbering the people, collecting women and money. Israel's 3<sup>rd</sup> king (Solomon) failed in collecting women, money, horses and his wives led him to idolatry.

2). Deuteronomy 28:36 prophesied of a king and a nation that would "serve other gods, wood and stone."

#### **B). Samuel Warned of the problems of a Monarchy**

1 Samuel 8:10-18 lists God's warning that a king would make servants of the people, collect taxes for himself, land confiscation for his use etc....

#### **C). Israel's Heart Motive.**

Although Samuel's sons had perverted the office of the Judge and this was a real concern but the heart of the people is shown twice in their statement: "we will have a king over us; That we also

may be like all the nations". Israel was to be a holy and peculiar people unlike the other nations (Exodus 19:5, Deuteronomy 14:2).

## **II). The United Kingdom**

Israel's 13 tribes (counting Levi) were united under their 1<sup>st</sup> 4 kings Saul, Ish-bosheth (ruled 12 of 13 for 2 years while David ruled Judah), David and Solomon. Saul, David and Solomon all reigned for a period of 40 years totaling 120 years.

### **A). Saul's Failure (1 Sam. 9-11:21, 2 Sam. 1-21)**

- 1). In the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Saul's reign Israel feared an army of Philistines at Michmash. Saul failed to wait for Samuel to perform the priestly duty of offering sacrifice to God and did it himself losing God's blessing on the kingdom (1 Sam 13)
- 2). Pride nearly led Saul to kill his son Jonathan (1 Sam 14)
- 3). Saul led Israel in battle to defeat the Amalekites, but God had commanded that they "destroy all that they have, and spare them not" but "Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs and all that was good...". For this reason of rebellion God rejected Saul's kingship and sought another king who might be one "after God's heart" (1 Samuel 15).
- 4). After Saul's encounter with the witch at Endor Samuel told Saul that God had taken the kingdom from him and given it to David (1 Sam. 28:16-19).

### **B). David (1 Sam. 16-31, 2 Sam. 1-25, 1 Kings 1-11, 1 Chronicles 2,3,10-29)**

David's lineage comes from the book of Ruth and is the same line of Jesus Christ from the tribe of Judah (Matthew 1:6, Luke 4:31). He is called "the Lord's anointed" in 2 Sam. 19:21;23:1 and a "man after God's heart" (Acts 13:22). David is often used in the scripture as a picture of Christ (Is. 55:3, Jer. 30:9, Eze. 34:23, Hosea 3:5) and he was the only king to be born in Bethlehem, the Saviour's birthplace. However, David too made some serious failures as a king leading Israel astray.

- 1). The Bathsheba/Uriah incident brought a curse on David's immediate family (2 Sam 12:9-13:39)
- 2). David's many wives and concubines was a direct rebellion of Deut. 17:14-20 and a poor example to the people
- 3). Although David sinned greatly he repented greater and was called a man after God's own heart by God himself (Acts 13:22). David was Israel's greatest king and the "sweet psalmist of Israel". He established Jerusalem as the center of Israel. He defeated the Philistines for good. However, his son Solomon's downfall would come from things he learned in his father.
- 4). God blessed David's seed and promised that his throne would be forever- 2 Sam.7:8-16 (Jesus will sit on this throne Is 9:7)

### **C). Solomon (2 Sam. 12:24,25; 1 Kings 1-11; 1 Chron. 22-23,28-29; 2 Chron. 1-9)**

Solomon came to the throne when he was "young and tender" (1 Chron. 22:5; 29:1) but "the Lord magnified Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed upon him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel." (1 Chron. 29:25). Solomon built the beautiful Temple in Jerusalem as the "house of the Lord". However, Solomon led Israel in it's last unified days.

- 1). Solomon's court took huge taxes to maintain.
- 2). Solomon allowed heathen practices in the land.

3). “king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh,” (1 Kings 11:1 KJV)

“And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.<sup>4</sup> For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that **his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God**, as was the heart of David his father.” (1 Kings 11:3-4 KJV)

4). Because of Solomon’s idolatry and adultery God prophesied that the kingdom would be divided (1 Kings 11)

### **III). The Divided Kingdom**

Under the rule of Rehoboam (Solomon’s son) Israel split. The 10 northern tribes under king Jeroboam were called Israel and the 2 southern tribes became Judah. These both had 19 kings. The 19 northern all did evil and came from a number of families. The 19 southern kings (& one queen) were all of the line of David- some did right, but many did evil. In Judah (south) there were 3 revivals under the reign of Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, and Josiah, but in Israel (north) there were none.

There is only one who is qualified to be the king, that is Jesus Christ.

*“And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Rev. 19:16 KJV)*

## *The Age of the Law, Part 5*

### **The Time of the Prophets**

The time of the Old Testament Prophets overlaps much of the times already discussed as it extends from Moses to Malachi a period of about 1100 years (1500 BC- 400 BC). After the death of Malachi are the “400 Silent Years” where God seemed to leave His people to their own demise. Israel had rejected God’s messengers and so Israel would not hear another prophet until John the Baptist whose ministry ended prior to Christ’s death.

#### **I). What Is A Prophet?**

The prophets were nearly exclusively men whom God called to speak to Israel on His behalf.

**A). Prophecy is of two types:** Foretelling and Forthtelling. *1). Foretelling* is the telling of future events (prophecy as we think of it).

*2). Forthtelling* is the act of speaking the message that God gave to the people (similar to preaching).

\*much of the message to Israel was forthtelling in messages of repentance, but a greater amount of the prophet’s message was dedicated to the restoration of Israel and the Messiah to come along with His kingdom.

#### **B). God’s Test of a Prophet.**

*1). If a “prophet” arise and his prophesy came true but he taught contrary to the Bible (leading people to false gods) then he was NOT of God and was to be put to death.* Deut. 13:1-5.

*2). If a “prophet” spoke and his prophesy failed then he was NOT of God!* God’s prophets were right 100% of the time. Those who claimed to speak in God’s name and were proven false were to be put to death (Deuteronomy 18:20-22).

*3). The 3<sup>rd</sup> test was the test of the Prophets personal life.* The prophets had perverted God’s pure commands and had falsely prophesied to the people. The prophets were working for hire (Micah 3:5,11), they were drunkards (Isa. 28:7), profane and wicked (Jer.23:11), deceitful (Eze. 22:25), adulterers and liars, supporting the evil doers, immoral in conduct (Jer. 23:14-15). God

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD.” (Jeremiah 23:16 KJV)

#### **II). Method’s and Messages of the Prophets**

##### **A). Methods Used**

Sometimes the prophets simply stood and spoke the words that God had given them in a clear and authoritative manner, but at other times they used unique methods listed below.

*1). The Parable or Allegorical Method*

In Isaiah 5:1-7, God is presented as the owner of the vineyard which represented Israel. Ezekiel 16 contains a series of graphic word pictures portraying Israel as an unfaithful wife- a fallen woman often referred to as “playing the harlot”. Ezekiel 23 portrays Jerusalem and Samaria as two sisters who both corrupted themselves as prostitutes. Through metaphors, parables and allegories the prophets brought awareness to the people’s sin and of God’s impending judgment.

2). *The “Acted Oracle” Method* This was somewhat dramatic, but often an effective presentation of the people’s sinful situation. For 3 years **Isaiah** walked naked and barefooted as a sign of humiliation that Israel would face if they didn’t turn from their ways (Isa. 20). **Jeremiah** took a clay bottle and gathered the elders of Jerusalem and broke it in pieces as a sign of God’s judgment if they continued to dishonor Him (Jer. 17-19). **Ezekiel** made a miniature city of Jerusalem and acted out the coming of enemy soldiers to destroy it. Then he laid on his left side for 390 days and then on his right side for 40 days to depict the different phases of the coming Babylonian Captivity. As odd sounding as these methods were these were methods that God TOLD the prophets to do. These men were “hard-core” believers willing to do anything that God asked of them!

## **B). Messages Presented**

1). *God’s Righteous Demands.* The prophets cried out for the people to live holiness and purity rather than strict ritualism. Isaiah pointed out that God would reject incense offered by a hypocrite as if it were offered to a false idol (Isa. 66:3). God was never and is NOT interested in formal righteousness that comes from ritualistic obedience. God is interested in cleansed hearts and lives characterized by truthfulness, humility, kindness and justice.

2). *God’s Judgment on Sin.* Over and over the prophets warned of military defeat, famine, drought, sickness and even deportation to foreign lands if Israel would not turn from their wickedness.

3). *The Messiah.* The prophets recorded hundreds of prophecies of the Messiah and many of these were fulfilled in Christ’s earthly life while the others record His return and Millennial reign. These prophecies were too specific to be denied as descriptions of Jesus Christ. **Micah** named Bethlehem as the birthplace (Mi. 5:2). **Isaiah** prophesied the virgin birth along with the suffering Saviour (Is. 7:14; ch53). **Zechariah** prophesied of the 30 pieces of silver for betrayal (Zech. 11:12). **Jeremiah** spoke of a coming King who would save Israel and be “THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS” (Jer. 23:5-6). Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel all spoke of the great Tribulation ended by the battle that our Saviour would win against Satan.

Finally, Malachi the last prophet until John the Baptist wrote:

“For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.”  
(Mal. 1:11 KJV)

The truths revealed by the prophets from Moses to Malachi are glorious and overwhelming. No wonder the Emmaus disciples said that their hearts burned within them when the resurrected Christ “beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27 KJV)

# God's Message Bearers- The Prophets

## INTRODUCTION

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy... 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." (KJV II Peter 1:19-21). It is evident to us that God used men to convey a message to mankind. It is recorded that, "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, throughly furnished unto all good works." (KJV II Tim 3:16-17). Therefore, if the Scripture is given by God and is for our benefit, then a look at the lives of the men whom God chose to use to convey His message can be very advantageous to us for example's sake. Albert C. Knudson said, "There are two classes of preachers: the good preachers who have something to say, and the poor preachers who have to say something. But there is yet another and higher class. It consists of those who both have something to say and who have to say it. Such are the prophets." (Knudson 65).

Old Testament prophecy, as an institution, began with Moses in Deuteronomy 18:9-22. However, it is to be noted that God spoke to Abimelech, king of Gerar in Genesis 20:7 saying that Abraham was a prophet. In Deuteronomy chapter 18, Moses spoke to Israel as God had instructed him. It was commanded that "When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations." (KJV v9). There have been such liberal critics who have suggested that the origin of Hebrew prophecy was simply the adaptation of a pagan practice that was already commonplace in Canaan. It was known that there were those pagan people in the "promised land" who practiced all sorts of evil and witchcraft. Among these practices God commanded His people not to use divination, observe the times (astrology), or enchantments, or witchcraft, or charming, or consulting with familiar spirits, wizards, or necromancers. All these practices are an "abomination unto the Lord" and are the reason that God would drive the inhabitants from this land. However, as Moses spoke these words, in Deuteronomy 18, it is obvious that from the beginning, God instructed the Israelites to keep themselves from the practices of the pagan peoples. Moses went on to explain the very nature of wisdom and knowledge is from God and that He would raise up a Prophet from among their midst. It was to be that Israel would learn through divine revelation, not by discovery through divination or occult practices.

The development of Old Testament prophecy can be viewed in two general periods: the era of precanonical prophets and the era of canonical prophets. "The precanonical prophets were those who came, for the most part, before the ninth century BC and left no written records of their prophetic messages" (Freeman 27). These precanonical prophets can also be referred to as preliterate or oral prophets that is to say, those whom God spoke through but did not use to record their message as a book of Scripture. Some of these prophets were: Enoch who according to Jude 14, being only the seventh after Adam, prophesied that the Lord would come with ten thousands of his saints. Noah prophesied of the great flood that would come upon all man and after the flood he prophesied concerning the future of the descendants of his three sons (Genesis 9:25-27). Moses was referred to as the prophet that the Lord used to bring Israel out of Egypt (Hosea 12:13). Miriam was called in Exodus 15:20, a prophetess. Aaron, her brother, God called

a prophet in Exodus 7:1. These first prophets were, outside of Moses, rarely heard until the time of Samuel. In Acts 3:24, Peter indicated Samuel as being the beginning of the prophetic era. After Samuel was a time often referred to as the "school of the prophets". These "schools of the prophets" may have been students who were under certain outstanding prophets like Samuel, Elijah, Amos, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. These "schools of prophets" are much like the disciples of Jesus and John the Baptist. Regardless of the title, all of these prophets of the "schools" were ordained of God for a specific purpose. The purpose was that Israel had not remain faithful to God in their relationship with the inhabitants of the land and so God needed to intervene. "In the midst of this situation it would appear that God raised up, under the leadership of Samuel, and then later Elijah and Elisha, the sons or disciples of the prophets to minister with them in the instruction of the people in the law of God and to promote religious and spiritual revival to the end that the nation might survive" (Freeman 34).

After Samuel, there were many other recorded prophets of the precanonical era, who lived during the period of the kings of Israel. These were such men as Nathan, who rebuked David, prophesied of the Messiah and anointed Solomon (II Samuel 12:1; II Samuel 7:1-17; I King 1). Gad who also rebuked David (II Samuel 24:11). Ahijah, a prophet to Jeroboam concerning the division of Judah and Israel (I Kings 11:29). Shemaiah, a prophet to Rehoboam instructing him not to fight (I Kings 12:21-24) Jehu and Eliezer, both prophesied against Jehoshaphat and Micaiah who stood against the false prophet Zedekiah (I Kings 22:1-36). Elijah and Elisha the last of the precanonical prophets, stood and prophesied against the idolatry that was so common during the reign of King Ahab.

The second era: the canonical period of prophets began with the prophet Obadiah in the ninth century. There are sixteen prophetic books in the Old Testament from Isaiah to Malachi. Of these sixteen, they can be subdivided into four Major Prophets and twelve Minor Prophets. The Major Prophets are: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. The Minor Prophets are: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. Interestingly enough, all of these prophets were men of "like passions as we are" and their only special characteristic was that of a "Divine Calling". These prophets were called to be a spokesman for God and not for their own gain or personal glory. Each of these prophets were their own individual and God used their different personalities to convey His message. Many of the prophets didn't record their "Divine Call", but evidence of their divine commission is obvious in their ministry. Moses did record his "burning bush" incident with God. There is also recorded the story of Samuel, who literally heard the voice of God cry out Samuel, Samuel. Jeremiah, called the weeping prophet, recorded his "Divine Call" and said that the "word of the Lord" came to him saying: "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." (KJV Jeremiah 1:5). God continued to tell Jeremiah that He had "put my words in thy mouth." This call in Jeremiah's life was so strong that even when he would have given up because of the daily struggles, he felt compelled to continue because "his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones..." (KJV Jeremiah 20:8). These men were hand picked by God and neither their political position nor their ancestry had any bearing on their being chosen. Samuel Schultz noticed that "none of the writing prophets was the son of a prophet; nor were they succeeded in their ministries by any of their sons" (Schultz 23).

The nature of Biblical Prophecy was simply Divine! Some have suggested that the prophets merely recited history, that is to say that the meaning of the present and future is decided by understanding and interpreting the past. Here are some examples of prophecy that could only be

divine because of the lack of physical ability of the men. Ezekiel, exiled in Babylon, predicted the fate of King Zedekiah in Jerusalem would entail having his eyes put out while trying to escape the besieged city and be carried captive to Babylon. He also predicted the exact day when the siege of Jerusalem would take place (Ezekiel 24:2). Jeremiah predicted the seventy years of captivity in Babylon and then the return of Israel (Jeremiah 25:11-12). Amos predicted the fall of Israel (Amos 5:27). Micaiah predicted the violent death of King Ahab (I Kings 22). Micah named Bethlehem, the birth place of the Messiah, to come (Micah 5:2).

Often times when one speaks of a prophet, it is assumed that a prophet has the sole responsibility of telling or predicting the future. However the reality is that most of the messages brought by the prophets were forth-telling rather than foretelling. This forth-telling was the conveying of a message (similar to preaching) given to the prophet by God or "Divine Revelation". This concept is explained in Exodus 4:12-16 when God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. God specifically told Moses, "I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say..." and that Aaron would be a spokesman of these words that God had given. In Exodus chapter seven, God specifically told Moses that Aaron, his spokesman, was a prophet. Much like God told the prophet Jeremiah "And whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak... Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth." (KJV Jeremiah 1:7,9). It is apparent that the primary function of the prophet was to speak the message that God had revealed to him. The words that Isaiah spoke were said to be of God directly: "...for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." (KJV Isaiah 1:20). God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach "...the preaching that I bid thee." (KJV Jonah 3:2). Over and over it is recorded "The word of the Lord that came to... or Thus saith the Lord..." and so one can see that the prophets were primarily instruments or like a mouthpiece for God. Next to forth-telling, was the divinely inspired ability of foretelling or prophesying future events. Many of the prophets predicted military victories and losses, kingship changes, and agricultural trends, but most interesting to us today are the Messianic prophesies. These prophesies spoke of the Messiah who would come, where he would be born, the life he would live, the death he would die in detail and his purpose that was to save the people from their sins. Micah, the prophet, prophesied specifically that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah's "virgin birth" and that he would be called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14). Isaiah was the prophet who gave the most detailed description of the Messiah as he would suffer and die for the sins of His people in Isaiah 53. Zechariah prophesied that the Messiah would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12). Psalms chapter 22, a Psalm of David is the most incredible description of Calvary; from the words of Jesus "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" to the mocking words of the thief on the cross "...let him deliver him..." and even the prophecy that "...they pierced my hands and my feet... they part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture" (KJV Psalm 22:1,8,16,18). It also was prophesied that the Messiah would "ascend on high...lead captivity captive..." \*verb tense changed for grammatical structure (KJV Psalm 68:18) and this was repeated after its fulfillment in Ephesians 4:8 "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men." (KJV)

Just as we have today, men who claim to be prophets and make all sorts of wild claims, there were false prophets in the beginning. Jeremiah and Ezekiel stood against these "false prophets" who were only interested in personal gain and denounced these men and their prophecy that was "a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord." (KJV Jeremiah 23:16). Jesus, in revealing the end time situations, said "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive



many. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." (KJV Matthew 24:11,24). God, knowing that these false prophets would arise gave certain guidelines to be a test of whether a prophet was of God or not. The first test given is in Deuteronomy 13:1-5. This test says that if a prophet gave a sign and it even came to pass, and then he proceeded to persuade the people to turn to another god, he was wrong and should be put to death. The second test involved a prophet who came claiming to speak on behalf of the Lord God and yet he practiced divination, sorcery, astrology, witchcraft, etc., he was an abomination (Deuteronomy 18:9-14). Another test was the testimony of the prophets moral character. "The false prophet was a mercenary who prophesied for hire (Micah 3:5,11); he was a drunkard (Isaiah 28:7); he was profane and wicked (Jeremiah 23:11); he conspired with others to deceive and defraud (Ezeiel 22:25); he was light and treacherous (Zephaniah 3:4); he committed adultery, walked in lies and supported the evil doers (Jeremiah 23:14); and he was generally immoral in life and conduct (Jeremiah 23:15)." (Freeman 104). Lastly, the historical confirmation of the prophecy authenticated the true prophet. "And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? 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." (KJV Deuteronomy 18:21-22). If a prophet prophesied and the prophecy was not accurate then he was not of God and was to be put to death. In Isaiah 41 :21-24 God challenged the idol-gods to predict the future or explain the past as sign of their authority. These could not fulfill any prophecy and so God said "ye are of nothing and your work of nought: an abomination is he that chooseth you." And so we can see that God alone is the source of all wisdom and knowledge. God alone can tell the future and explain the past. He alone is the solution to all problems whether they be of ancient days or modern. Wisdom is not in science, nor is it found in text books, but rather it comes from God who "giveth to all men liberally..." if we will just ask Him for wisdom (James 1:5). The prophets are a good example to us by their faith in God and in His wisdom, along with their zeal to stand up even when it was not popular, and speak the message of God's words!

---

#### **Works Consulted:**

- Beacon Bible Commentary: Beacon Hill Press, Kansas City, Mo. 1966 Vol.5.  
Freeman, Hobart E. An Introduction To The Old Testament Prophets. Chicago, 1968.  
Hailey, Homer. A Commentary On The Minor Prophets. Michigan, 1972.  
Holy Bible. King James Authorized Version, 1611.  
Knudson, Albert C. The Prophetic Movement in Israel. New York, 1921  
Shultz, Samuel T. The Prophets Speak. New York, 1968.  
Smith, Richard R. Portraits Of The Prophets. New York, 1930.

## *Apostolic Transition*

This period is not one of the “Dispensations” that we are studying, but rather it is a transitional period between the Age of the Law and the Age of the Church. It is the transition from God’s dealing with Jews to His dealing with Gentiles. An understanding of this time period will clear up many places in the first 5 books of the New Testament that are misunderstood and misapplied today.

### **Mark 16:16-18**

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” (KJV)

This passage of scripture has caused 2 major doctrinal problems in churches today.

- 1). The need for baptism along with belief in Jesus Christ for salvation (Acts 2:38). Was the thief on the cross saved without baptism?
- 2). The signs that “follow them that believe”. If a “believer” possesses these signs then he must be saved and if he does not have these signs then he is not?

Rather than “rightly dividing the word of truth” many have simply chosen to deny these passages as authentic or they simply ignore them. The NIV/NASB versions of the Bible have separated Mark 16:9-20 from the text and added a footnote: “The earliest manuscripts and some other ancient witnesses do not have Mark 16:9-20”. This statement really means that Vaticanus and Sinaiticus (2 corrupted manuscripts from the 4<sup>th</sup> Century) do not contain Mark 16:9-20. The Living Bible has added a footnote that says, “Verses 9 through 20 are not found in the most ancient manuscripts, but may be considered an appendix giving additional facts.”

***In this study we will compare scripture with scripture rather than denying the Word of God (along with the testimony of 300 years of church history prior to Vaticanus and Sinaiticus) and come to an understanding of who these signs are given to and what their purpose is.***

### ***1). The Gospel of the Kingdom.***

After 400 years of silence, the New Testament began with the genealogy and birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah in the Gospel of Matthew. In Matthew chapter 2 entered John the Baptist preaching in Judea, “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” John the Baptist was the fulfillment of the prophecies of Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1 (Mark 1:2-3). John could have been the fulfillment of the prophecy of Malachi 4:5-6 as recorded in Luke 1:17.

#### **A). The Message:**

This message of repentance for the kingdom was at hand was a message of repentance for Israel! In John 1:49 Nathanael came to Jesus and said, “thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel” and Jesus did not correct him. Matthew 4:17-23 says that Jesus repeated John’s

message through Galilee (Jews), teaching in the synagogues (Jews) and at this time we find the beginning of the “Sermon on the Mount” which was a proclamation of righteous living as God had instituted with Israel!

**B). The 12 Disciples’ Commission: Matthew 10**

Matt 10:5-7

“These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**” (KJV)

It is clear that Jesus sent His 12 to call Israel to repentance rather than a universal call to salvation. This is simply a continuation of God’s original plan for Israel to be a peculiar nation of priests for the purpose of holy living and a testimony to the world (Exodus 19:5-6). Jesus told a Canaanite woman “...I am not sent **but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**” (Matt. 15:24 KJV). Romans 1:16 declares that the “gospel of Christ” was sent “to the Jew first”. John 4 says, “...for salvation is of the Jews.”. God had a plan to use the nation of Israel to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. God was willing to set up the kingdom with Jesus Christ sitting on the throne of David but the Jews rejected Him.

**II). Why Baptism and Signs?**

**A). Baptism:**

Acts 2:38 says that Peter preached a message of repentance and baptism in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins. Clearly salvation is by faith in Jesus. It is Jesus who “remits” or cleanses sin by His blood. The Jews were told to repent of their ways and be baptized associating themselves with Jesus Christ the Messiah.

**B). Signs.**

God always has dealt with Israel through signs. God gave Abraham a son through a wife who was barren and past age. God spoke to Moses in a burning bush. God gave Moses sign after sign in Egypt and the wilderness. It is only consistent that God would give Israel signs when the Messiah came. Jesus performed signs and miracles to validate His ministry before the Jews and yet they refused to believe. Matthew 12 records their unbelief requesting more signs after Jesus healed a withered hand and a blind demoniac and so Jesus declared that “An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign”. After this Jesus gave the sign of Jonah representing Jesus’ death and burial, then He prophesied of Israel’s destruction due to unbelief.

**III). The Rejection of the Kingdom**

**A). Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost (Matt. 12:24-32)**

Jesus healed a blind demoniac and the Pharisees accused Jesus of healing by the power of Beelzebub (Satan) rather than by the power of the Holy Spirit. This sin is not a sin of unbelief, or rejection but it is identified in Mark 3:30 “Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit”. The sin was in the fact that they said that Jesus had an unclean spirit which blasphemed the Holy Spirit.

**B). Postponement of the Kingdom**

Matthew 13-25 describes Christ’s account of the Mysteries and Parables of the Kingdom (that those who go into the Tribulation and Millenium must live by). Next Jesus told of the coming Church Age, a 7 Year Tribulation and His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming to rule and reign a Kingdom. Christ made

His triumphant entry, but Israel as a nation rejected Him as their king and ultimately crucified Him saying “We have no king but Caesar” (John 19:15).

#### ***IV). A Second Chance***

**Acts chapters 1-7** are purely a “Jewish Church” period where God was still dealing with Jews. The miracles of tongues (spoken languages) in **Acts 2** was a sign to Jews (dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven- Acts 2:5). **Acts 3:12-26** Peter preaches to “Ye men of Israel...repent and be converted”. **Acts 4** Peter and John preach to Jews, the priests and Saducees. **Acts 5:31** says that God exalted Jesus “to give repentance to Israel”. **Acts 6** details the calling of deacons in this church and the entrance of Stephen “full of faith and of the Holy Ghost”. **Acts 6:9-7:60** accounts Stephen’s trial before the Jewish council and the high priest. Stephen preached Jesus Christ to these Jewish leaders saying, “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost”. Stephen is stoned marking the final rejection of the Messiah by the nation of Israel. **Acts 8:1** enter Saul (Paul) the apostle to the GENTILES (cf. Acts 9:15). **Acts 8:5** Philip preaches to the SAMARITANS. **Acts 8:37** the salvation and baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch (this verse is removed from the NIV). Acts 10:11 Peter’s vision concerning Gentiles. Acts 10:44-47 Cornelius a Gentile saved.

“Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, **lo, we turn to the Gentiles.**” (Acts 13:46 KJV)

#### ***V). The Message to the Gentiles***

“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:” (1 Cor. 1:21-22)

“In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. 22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not:...” (1 Cor. 14:21-22)

The signs were for Israel to shew them a Messiah, “He came unto his own and his own received him not” (John 1:11).

However, the Jewish church had undergone a transition and the Gentiles were now included in God’s plan for a nation of priests:

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9-10 KJV)

## *The Age of the Church*

After a long history of rejection Israel has failed every opportunity to restore man's relationship with God which was lost in Eden. Israel rejected Jesus Christ as their king and so the world will now accept the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2; 2 Cor. 4:4).

As a result of Israel's long history of rebellion God turned to a new people that He would call the Church. The Church would be a body of called out people (just like Israel) to be a nation of priests (like Israel) who would have a personal relationship with God and the gift of the Holy Spirit dwelling in them (unlike Israel). Israel was set aside (but not replaced) until Jesus Christ comes to restore her in His millennial reign. This Church Age will extend until the rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17).

### ***I). The Church***

#### ***A). The Church Defined.***

1). It is a mystery. (Ephesians 3:1-11; Romans 16:25-27).

**Mystery** is defined as "anything in the character or attributes of God, or in the economy of divine providence, which is not revealed in man" (Webster's Dictionary 1828)

To the Old Testament saints and prophets the Church as a body was unknown. Salvation to other tongues and kindreds was spoken of, but not a body outside of Israel (Rom. 9:25; Hosea 2:23). The church had to be a mystery until Israel chose to reject the Kingdom that Jesus offered them.

2). It is a "Called-Out" body

The church is a group that God has separated from the world (Romans 12:1-2) unto the gospel of God (Rom. 1:1). These are a peculiar people (1 Peter 2:9) whose calling is to spread the gospel to the ends of the world (Matthew 28:18-20).

3). It is the "Body of Christ" (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18)

Jesus Christ is the head of the church which is His body. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 says that we are baptized into this body by the Holy Spirit whether we are Jew or Gentile, bond or free (cf.: Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4).

4). It is to be the Bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2)

The church is espoused to Christ and will one day marry Him at the "marriage supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19)

\*Israel was God's bride (Jeremiah 3:14; Isaiah 50:1).

5). It is the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

See also 1 Cor. 3:16; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5)

#### ***B). The Origin, Members & Purpose of the Church***

1). The church began in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost. Israel was a people by lineage whereas the church is a people by the Spirit. It was on the day of Pentecost that God's Spirit was given as Christ had promised (Jn 7:39, 14:16-17).

2). 1 Corinthians 10:32 separates people in 3 classes: Jews, Gentiles and the Church of God. This separation is not ethnic nor geographic, but rather a spiritual separation. The Jews are descended from Abraham, Gentiles are all the other nations and the church is made up of Jew and Gentile. Galatians 3:28 speaks of the membership as being neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female as we are all ONE body in Christ in the spiritual sense. The call to membership is to "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord" (Romans 10:13).

3). The purpose of the church is simply to make Christ known to the world. It is summed up in the "Great Commission" (Matt. 28:19-20). Titus 2:11-14 tells us how to live (soberly, righteously, godly) as we ought to be "zealous of good works".

## ***II). The History of the Church Age.***

There are 7 periods of the Church Age that are listed in Revelation 2-3.

- 1). ***Ephesus***: "Desirable or fully purposed"- The Backslidden Church. AD 33-200.
- 2). ***Smyrna***: "Myrrh"- The Persecuted Church AD 200-325
- 3). ***Pergamos***: "Much Marriage" The Licentious Church. AD 325-500
- 4). ***Thyatira***: "Odor of Affliction" The Lax Church AD 500-1000
- 5). ***Sardis***: "The Red Ones" The Dead Church AD 1000-1500
- 6). ***Philadelphia***: "Brotherly Love" The Favored Church AD 1500-1900
- 7). ***Laodicea***: "Rights of the People" The Lukewarm Church AD 1900-?

## ***III). The Rapture of the Church***

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

### ***A). The Testing and Failure of the Church***

1). The test for the church age is to accept God's gift of salvation by grace through faith in the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ which alone can pay for sin. The failure is the rejection of this salvation by many. Therefore, God will judge the world for its failure in rejecting His Son in a 7 year tribulation.

### ***B). The Rapture of the Church***

1). Just as God spared Noah and his family from the destruction of the world and as Lot was spared from the destruction of Sodom God will spare the Church from destruction.

This act of God is called the rapture. The term rapture is not found in the Bible but the event is clearly biblical. Rapture means "a state or experience of being carried away" (Webster's 9<sup>th</sup> Collegiate Dictionary). This term rapture is clearly described in 1 Thessalonians 4:17

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

2). At this point (1999) in history we have seen all things fulfilled with the exception of the rapture and the events that follow. There is a terrible time of Tribulation that is to follow the rapture and so we must carefully consider our responsibility as members of the body of Christ (the church) in telling the world of a Saviour!

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” (2 Cor 4:3-4 KJV)

## ***The Tribulation Transition***

“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. 25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 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. 27 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 KJV)

### ***I). Introduction:***

#### ***A). 70 Weeks.***

- 1). The prophet Daniel introduces 70 weeks and declares that 69 weeks after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem the Messiah would be cut off.
- 2). A week represents 7 years (see Gen. 29:27) and therefore 70 weeks total 490 years. 69 weeks would be 483 years. Figuring from the date of Ezra led the people back to Jerusalem (444, 450 or 458BC) and working in the 483 years (69weeks x 7years) we arrive at the time of Jesus Christ who was the Messiah “cut off” at Calvary.
- 3). For the 70<sup>th</sup> week the “prince that shall come” otherwise called the anti-christ will destroy Jerusalem and the temple. He will confirm a peace treaty for a week (7years), but he will break it at the half way point (3 ½ years).
- 4). While some have suggested that the tribulation happened in AD 70 when Titus the Roman General besieged Jerusalem this cannot be for he never confirmed any peace treaty. The 70<sup>th</sup> week was postponed by God as Israel rejected the Messiah and the “Age of the Church” was ushered in.

### ***II). Tribulation Defined***

#### ***A). Terms used:***

Great tribulation (Matt. 24:21), Jacob’s trouble (Jer. 30:7), day of vengeance (Isaiah 63:4), day of wrath (Rom 2:5-6), wrath of the Lamb & great day of his wrath (Rev. 6:16-17)

#### ***B). Who is appointed unto wrath?***

- 1). **Israel:** “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people...” Dan. 9:24)
- 2). **Those who reject Jesus Christ:** “For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:” (Col. 3:6 KJV)

#### ***C). Who will be delivered from this wrath?***

- 1). **The SAVED:** “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” (Romans 5:9 KJV)
- 2). **See also:** 1 Thessalonians. 1:9-10; 5:9.



**3). The saved are looking for the Saviour NOT the wrath to come.** “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” Titus 2:13

### **III). The Tribulation Trumpets**

“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.” (1 Cor. 15:52 KJV)

1). This “last trump” is not to be associated with the 7 trumpet judgements of Revelation 8 & 11. Those 7 trumpets are the defeat of Mystery, Babylon (Rev. 17) just as 7 trumpets were used to defeat Jericho in Joshua 6.

2). The “last trump” is the voice of God calling the saints to “Come up hither” (Rev. 4:1). This trumpet is like unto the silver trumpets in Numbers 10:1-2 that were used “for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps.”

### **IV). The Tribulation Examined**

This time known as the tribulation or Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week (Dan 9:24-27) is spoken of often without much regard as to the seriousness of that time. We have mentioned the 666 mark of the Beast during this time along with the false peace treaty of the anti-christ (which is broken ½ way through the 7 years). What else will take place during this time?

1). The Seven Seals (Rev. 6:1-17; 8:1-6)

White horse of the anti-christ, Red horse of war, Black horse of famine, Pale horse of death, Souls under the altar (martyrs), earthquake, sun darkened, moon turns red, stars fall, silence for ½ hour with the golden censor. ¼<sup>th</sup> of the population of the earth is killed by the pale horse rider (Rev. 6:8).

2). The Seven Trumpets (Rev. 8:7-9:21; 11:15-19)

Hail & fire mingled with blood, burning mountain cast into the sea (1/3 of sea turns to blood), star called wormwood falls on 1/3 of rivers and turns them bitter killing people who drink it. Sun, moon and stars are darkened by 1/3. The 1<sup>st</sup> “woe” of locust like scorpions, the 2<sup>nd</sup> “woe” horsemen released to kill 1/3 of population. Kingdom of our Lord established following the 7 vials.

3). The 7 vials (Rev. 15:1-16:21)

Boils, blood on the sea killing all life in it, blood on rivers, heat of sun to scorch all men, darkness & pain, Euphrates dried up, hail (a talent of weight 75-93 lbs.)

4). The Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16; 19:11-19)

Here we will find the return of Jesus Christ on a white horse with the saints of heaven to make war against Satan and the “kings of the earth”.

Jesus will come with a “a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” (Rev. 19:15) This will be the day of God’s vengeance! At Calvary Jesus shed His blood for mankind with love and forgiveness in His heart. At this return He will return with blood on his vesture (Rev. 19:13) but it will not be the blood of salvation. It is the blood of vengeance (see Isaiah 63:1-6). In Isaiah it is spoken of as one who treads in a winepress. In Rev. 14:18-20 we are told that the blood will flow out of the winepress for 1600 furlongs (200 miles) up to the horse’s bridle!

Here in the valley of Megiddo, located in the heart of Palestine where the great battles of the Old Testament took place, and where "...the day of the LORD cometh,...For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle;...Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations," (Zechariah 14:1-3)

Here Satan will be defeated, the anti-christ and the beast will go to the Lake of fire, the nations are judged and Jesus will reign for 1000 years (Satan is bound- Rev.20)

## ***The Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ***

“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.” (1 Cor. 15:24-25 KJV)

***Introduction:*** The Millennium is a term stemming from two Latin words “mille” which means 1,000 and “annum” which means year. The biblical support for this comes in many places, but undeniably in Revelation 20:4 “...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”. From 1 Corinthians 15 we know that the Millennium is the last 1,000 years of TIME as it states “Then cometh the end...”. The end is the end of TIME as time is an earthly designation. Genesis 1:1 speaks of the beginning of TIME on earth and John 1:1 says that Jesus was God and with God at the beginning of TIME on earth. However, God is from “everlasting to everlasting” (Psalm 41:13; 90:1-2) which is from Eternity Past to Eternity Future (no limits of time).

\*Since we have already discussed the changes that will take place in the earth (nature) and in government in Zechariah chapters 8-9 we will turn our attention to the inhabitants of the Millennium and the Religious aspect of the Millennium.

### ***I). Who Will Inhabit the Earth?***

#### ***A). Church Age Saints.***

- 1). These are those who will have returned with Jesus Christ to judge Satan, the anti-christ and his followers at Armageddon (Rev. 19:11-21).
- 2). These will judge the cities of the world based on their faithfulness (Luke 19:12-27; Romans 8:17-18; 2 Timothy 2:12; 2 Corinthians 1:5-14; Revelation 5:10)

#### ***B). Converted (Restored) Israel.***

- 1). These are spoken of as a “remnant shall be saved” in Romans 9:27. Israel was given an unconditional covenant of a land that will be restored in the Millennium (Jeremiah 30:3)
- 2). This restoration can be seen through Zechariah 10 & 13

#### ***C). The Tribulation Remnant***

- 1). Those who don't take the mark and escape the anti-christ. (Revelation 20:4; Daniel 11:41-42).
- 2). Those who survive the Tribulation and help the Jews. (Matthew 25:31-46 “The Sheep & The Goats).

#### ***D). Those Born in the Millennium.***

- 1). People will reproduce (Jeremiah 30:20; Ezekiel 47:22).
- 2). Isaiah 65:20 indicates that there will be a return to the pre-flood aging process (Zechariah 8:4-5 also).

### ***II). Worship in the Millennium.***

**Adoration for Jesus Christ will be the focus of worship.** (Isaiah 12:1-6; 25:1-26:19; 56:7; 61:10-11; Jeremiah 33:11,18,21-22; Ezekiel 20:40-41; 40:1-46:24; Zechariah 6:12-15; 8:20-23; 14:16-21).

“And it shall come to pass...shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.” Isaiah 66:23

***A). Temple Worship:***

The Temple will be rebuilt during or just prior to the Tribulation. The Temple will be in the “holy portion” (Ezekiel 45,48) of Israel’s original land (Psalm 105:9-12) that Solomon reigned over (1 Kings 4:21).

***B). Bloody Sacrifices:***

1). Just as it was in the Old Testament, the Priesthood and reinstitution of bloody sacrifices will be required in the Millennium (Ezekiel 20:40-41; 43:18-46; Zechariah 14:16; Isaiah 56:6-8; Jeremiah 33:15-18).

2). These sacrifices will be for national atonement “...to make reconciliation for the house of Israel”(Ezekiel 45:17).

***C). The Worship of the Nations:***

1). Isaiah 2:2-3 says of the Mountain of the Lord that “all nations shall flow unto it”. Zechariah 14:16 says that all the nations shall go “from year to year” that is annually to worship to worship the King and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

2). Those who refuse to worship Jesus will be plagued and suffer drought (Zechariah 14:17-19; Isaiah 60:12). Even in a land that is restored to “Garden of Eden” beauty there will be those who still refuse to acknowledge God’s goodness (Isaiah 26:10)

***III). Salvation in the Millennium:***

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9)

In the Millennium things will be different that the above stated scripture that is biblical salvation by FAITH alone under the dispensation of GRACE. In the Millennium a certain amount of works will be NECESSARY as it has been already stated that the nations are REQUIRED to worship annually at the Temple or suffer plague and death.

The Plan of Salvation in the Millennium is Matthew 5-7 (The Sermon on the Mount). While there are certainly spiritual values that we can gather from the Sermon on the Mount we must be cautious in making doctrinal stances from this passage of scripture.

In the Millennium, if a man call another man a fool he is in danger of going straight to hell.

In the Millennium, if a man is angry with his brother without a cause, he will be dragged before the council.

In the Millennium, if a man takes you to court, you are to give him everything you have.

This is the reason that you find the book of James written “to the twelve tribes” (Israel) speaking so much of FAITH PLUS WORKS. “...though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?” (James 2:14).

Revelation 12:17 and 14:12 speak of keeping the commandments of God and having the testimony or faith of Jesus Christ. In the Church Age there are those who might suggest this type of WORKS based faith, but this is contrary to Ephesians 2:8-9, but is a clear application to the inhabitants of the Millenium.

#### ***IV). Gog and Magog.***

At the end of the Millennium Satan will be released from his chains (Rev. 20:1-3) where he will gather those who are tired of worshipping Jesus Christ and chose to rebel at Gog and Magog. Here God will destroy them all with a fire from heaven and Satan is finally cast to the lake of fire and brimstone to be tormented day and night forever!  
(see also: Psalm 72:8-9; Isaiah 26:9-11; Ezekiel 38:18)

“And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.” Zechariah 14:9

## *Eternity Future*

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” (Rev. 20:14- 21:1-2 KJV)

Having come from Genesis to Revelation we have found that the Bible makes a complete circle. In Genesis 1 we found God created “the heaven and the earth” and now in Revelation 21 we find that He will create “a new heaven and a new earth”. In the Genesis 2:9 there was a “tree of life” and in Revelation 22:2 we find the “tree of life” again. Genesis depicts paradise lost whereas Revelation depicts paradise gained.

In Eternity Future there are 4 places where people will dwell which we will discuss.

### ***I). The Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20:14-15)***

Throughout the bible the term hell is used to describe the literal place where unsaved souls go immediately after death (Luke 16:22-23). Hell is described as a place of “torment” (Luke 16:28) and “everlasting fire” (Matthew 25:41), “the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:44), “outer darkness”, a place of “weeping and gnashing of teeth”(Matthew 8:12) “fire unquenchable” (Luke 3:17) “furnace of fire” (Matthew 13:42) “blackness of darkness” (Jude 1:13) and “the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day or night” (Revelation 14:11).

It is apparent from Revelation 20:13-14 that all those who die and go to hell will remain there until a day of judgment when they will be asked, “why should I let you into heaven” to which they will reply “I did good deeds, I went to church, I didn’t cheat on my taxes etc...”. Unfortunately these answers will not be acceptable and they will be cast into the “lake of fire” because they didn’t have their name written in the Lamb’s book of life (Rev. 21:27) with the blood of the Lamb (John 1:29).

The Lake of Fire will also be the final judgment for Satan, the anti-christ and his false prophet (Rev. 19:20; 20:10) where they will “be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

### ***II). The New Jerusalem (Revelation 21)***

#### ***A). It’s Size and Description.***

1). 12,000 furlongs (1 furlong=220 yards). Thus, new Jerusalem is 1500 miles squared! This is a city whose length, breadth and height are 1500 miles.

2). The City has a wall of 144 cubits (18-22 inches) which would be 216 or 264 feet high depending on the 18” or 22” cubit.

3). The wall has for it’s main material “jasper” which is “an opaque cryptocrystalline quartz of any of several colors; esp.: green chalcedony” (Webster’s 9<sup>th</sup>). The foundation of the wall is “garnished with all manner of precious stones” (Rev. 21:19). The foundation is of 12 layers each

layer having the name of one of the 12 apostles. The stones named can be found in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. These layers in order are:

- Jasper, a transparent crystal
- Sapphire, a blue stone found in North Carolina, Persia & Wales.
- Chalcedony, a white translucent stone (sometimes called onyx stone found in Iceland and the New Hebrides Islands)
- Emerald, a green stone found in South America and Mexico.
- Sardonyx, a red and white stone.
- Sardius, a brownish-red stone.
- Chrysolyte, a gold stone
- Beryl, a stone like “frozen-fire”
- Topaz, a light yellow-orange stone found on an island in the Red Sea.
- Chrysoprasus, a golden green stone
- Jacinth, a dusky red stone
- Amethyst. A light purple crystal.

4). Each of the four sides has 3 gates on it to make 12 gates each representing the one of the 12 tribes of Israel. At the gates are 12 angels. Each of the 12 gates was of “one pearl” and the gates “shall not be shut at all by day” (Rev. 21:12-13,21,25).

5). The “street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass” (Rev. 21:21).

6). Lining the street and the pure river that flows from the throne of God are the “tree of life” which have 12 different fruit for each month respectively. This fruit is for the “overcomers” of the Tribulation and Millenium (Rev. 2:7)

7). There will be no sun for light. Light will come directly from Jesus Christ as a result of His glory (Rev. 21:23; 22:5)

“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. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (Revelation 21:3-4 KJV)

### ***III). The New Earth (Revelation 21:1)***

Isaiah 66:22-24 suggests that the new earth will be the inheritance of Israel. This earth will be a garden paradise like Eden was. The context of this passage is coming to worship the Lord on the “new moon” and the “sabbath” however Israel is promised an inheritance forever. It seems that their inheritance is on this new earth (Isaiah 9:6-7; Ezekiel 37:25-27; Jeremiah 33:17-21; Ephesians 1:10).

Revelation 21:24-26 speaks of the nations of the earth who are saved walking in the light of the Lamb and the kings of the earth will bring their glory and honour to new Jerusalem. These saved nations must be Gentiles who were saved in the Tribulation (thus not a part of the body ‘bride’ of Christ). These are saved by not receiving the mark of the anti-christ and for their works (Rev. 12:17, 14:12). This is the inheritance given to the “sheep” in Matthew 25 that is spoken of as

“the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the earth” in contrast to the “goats” who go “into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels”.

#### ***IV). The New Heaven (Revelation 21:1)***

“For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, **he formed it to be inhabited**: I am the LORD; and there is none else.” (Isaiah 45:18 KJV)

It is clear that God created the heavens to be inhabited and that his kingdom will have no end thus it will extend into the outer galaxies... (cf: Isaiah 9:7, 45:11-18; Luke 1:33; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 22:3-5; Daniel 7:14,18).