

DRAFT IN PROGRESS

BIBLICAL PROPHECY SERIES

SUMMING IT UP

UPDATED: 6/16/2008

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Introduction

After having invested approximately 110 sessions over a five and ½ year period in our study of Biblical prophecy, I wanted to step back with you and examine the prophetic landscape of Scripture from a more panoramic perspective. Thus, the “Summing It Up” mini-series within a series.

In this mini-series, I will attempt to present a more-or-less chronological view of prophetic events with an emphasis upon the events still future to us in the present age. I do not intend to step back into Genesis and recount the progression of Biblical prophecy throughout the Old Testament and the Gospel narratives. However, references to passages in those sections of Scripture might be warranted to support a point being made.

Finally, this overview will not address every specific detail of the prophetic drama to unfold in the future. But, at a minimum, it should provide us with a good framework within which to fit the detail we have studied in Scripture.¹

¹ For those who might be interested, there are several sources I would recommend to complement this brief summary of prophetic events. In addition to the notes for the Prophecy series that have been posted on the website of *The Church of the Servant King*, please see the **Bibliography** section of this document and note in particular the publications of Charles Baker, E.W. Bullinger, Dr. Lewis S. Chafer, Dr. Dwight Pentecost and Dr. John F. Walvoord. My dispensational paradigm is perhaps most similar to Charles Baker; however, the writings of each of these men has proven invaluable in forming my understanding of Biblical prophecy – not to mention the understanding of so many other men and women. Only eternity will reveal the full extent of the blessing of these men’s ministries and writings to their own and subsequent generations. I am eternally grateful to the Lord for these men and so many others from whom I have benefited and who are too numerous to list in a footnote.

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Events Category 1 – Conclusion of the Present Age and the Inauguration of Daniel’s 70th Week (a.k.a. the Tribulation)

EVENT 1.1 – CONCLUSION OF THE PRESENT AGE (THE CHURCH AGE BODY OF CHRIST)

The present dispensation (a.k.a. the Church Age Body of Christ) will conclude with an event known as the Rapture. The Rapture is taught by Paul as a truth relevant to this dispensation in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even **so God will bring with Him** those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout [*Gr. keleusma*], with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up [*Gr. harpadzo*] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore, comfort one another with these words. (1 Thess 4:13-18)

Again, it is not the intent of this series to re-examine in detail the support for every point and position that has been previously presented. However, I will highlight a few relevant points.

- First, note the use of the Greek word *keleusma*. This word can be translated “command” and was used to refer to the shout by a ship’s master to the rowers or the command of a military officer to his soldiers. It anticipates activity in absolute obedience to the order.
- Second, note that both dead and living participate in this resurrection event.
- Third, note the Greek word translated “caught up” – *harpadzo*. This Greek word means to snatch away, to seize, to carry off by force. In the Latin Vulgate, it was translated by the word *rapio* which is the source of our word – *Rapture*.
- Finally, note the fact that this passage mentions that there will be a meeting in the air – not on earth. This means that unbelievers will be left on the earth – just the opposite of what will occur at the 2nd Advent of the Lord to the earth when He will establish His kingdom of righteousness on earth for 1000 years (Rev 20:1-6).

EVENT 1.2 – COVENANT MADE BY THE ANTI-CHRIST WITH ISRAEL

In Daniel 9:25-27, one of the more controversial passages in Scripture, we find a prophecy that helps explain one of the mechanisms for how the Anti-Christ rises to power. Again, I will not present an exhaustive analysis of this passage – only an interpretive understanding.

So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem [decree of Artaxerxes in 444-445 B.C. to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem] until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks [it took 49 years to rebuild the city] and sixty-two weeks [7+62=69 – 69 weeks or 483 lunar years]; it [Jerusalem] will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress [see Nehemiah’s account]. 26 Then after the sixty-two weeks [i.e. after the 62 week portion of the 7+62 or 69 weeks, i.e. after 483 years] the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing [probably a reference to Jesus; the Messiah’s, crucifixion], and the people of the prince who is to

come [*i.e. the Anti-Christ*] **will destroy the city and the sanctuary** [*a reference to some type of destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple apparently at the beginning of the 70th week – the seven-year Tribulation – see v. 27*]. **And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined** [*a reference to continual wars throughout the seven-year Tribulation period – cf. Matt 24:6-7; Rev 6:3-4*]. **27 And he** [*i.e. the Anti-Christ*] **will make a firm covenant with the many for one week** [*i.e. seven years*], **but in the middle of the week** [*i.e. 3 ½ years*] **he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering** [*implies the presence of the Temple*]; **and on the wing of abominations will come one** [*i.e. the Anti-Christ whose image the False Prophet erects in the Temple*] **who makes desolate** [*cf. Matt 24:15*], **even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate** [*reference to the defeat of the Anti-Christ at the 2nd Advent of Jesus*]. (Dan 9:25-27)

Also worthy of note in this passage is a couple of other points which are not positioned during the first part of the Tribulation period; yet need to be highlighted while we have the passage fresh in our minds.

- First, this is our primary passage for understanding that the Tribulation period is a period of seven years duration. (Note the fact that the 70th week has not yet been fulfilled and there is no reason to interpret the one remaining week to be any different in duration than the prior 69 weeks, i.e. one week equals seven years).
- Second, the destruction of the city and the sanctuary mentioned in verse 26 is often interpreted as a prophecy related to the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. While that did occur and while that is a possible interpretation, I believe that the phrase – “the people of the prince who is to come” (a reference to the Anti-Christ and his followers) – should weigh heavily in any interpretation of this passage.
- This destruction of Jerusalem will be followed by a peace treaty of sorts – probably accompanied by a rebuilding of the portion of the city and the Temple that will be destroyed.
- We know that a Temple must be in existence by the middle of the Tribulation in order for the remainder of the prophecy to be fulfilled – i.e. “the abomination” referenced by Daniel, Jesus and the Apostle John (cf. Dan 9:27; Matt 24:15; Rev 13:15) and the mandated cessation of offerings mentioned by Daniel (Dan 9:27).
- Finally, if one interprets this passage in Daniel to be a reference to the A.D. 70 destruction of Jerusalem, then, in my opinion, we seem to have an example of what is a major violation of one of the most essential and fundamental tenets of dispensational-oriented hermeneutics, i.e. the distinction of the Age of Israel from the present Church Age Body of Christ.²

² If this interpretation were to be correct, then Daniel would be prophesying about an event that was to occur during the intercalated, mystery age – a Gentile-centric dispensation known as the Church Age Body of Christ – the mystery doctrines of which were not communicated until the Apostle Paul was selected by God for that purpose.

Events Category 2 – Events During the First Half of the Seven-Year Tribulation Period

EVENT 2.1 – ISRAEL RESIDES IN PEACE IN THE LAND

Ezekiel 38 & 39 describe a much discussed and debated invasion of Israel by the forces of Gog & Magog (i.e. a leader, Gog – perhaps the title of the leader, and the land of Magog). We have examined this passage in some depth previously in our prophecy series and it seems that the best interpretation is to understand that the prophecies it contains will be fulfilled during the Tribulation period.³

There are a number of points in support of this position. The evidence seems to support a distinction between what Ezekiel describes in this passage (i.e. Ezek 38 & 39) and the Gog & Magog revolt that occurs at the end of the Millennium – just prior to the end of human history and Great White Throne Judgment described in a different passage (i.e. Rev 20:7-10).⁴

In Ezekiel 38 & 39, Ezekiel presents a picture of Israel residing securely in her land during the “latter years” when this invasion by the forces of Gog & Magog is repelled by the Lord.⁵ If Ezekiel 38 & 39 is prophecy related to the last seven years of the Age of Israel (a.k.a. Daniel’s 70th week or the Tribulation), then the only part of that period where such conditions could be met is during the first portion of the Tribulation.

EVENT 2.2 – TEMPLE ORDINANCES ARE CONDUCTED

Apparently, during the Tribulation, a period during which the “gospel of the kingdom” will be proclaimed (see Matt 10:5-26; 24:14), there will be a reinstatement of Temple-oriented worship ordinances, perhaps even sacrifices. The existence of the Temple and ordinances related thereto during the Tribulation is a fact that seems to be substantiated by such passages as Revelation 11:1-2.

EVENT 2.3 – ECUMENICAL RELIGION USED BY THE ANTI-CHRIST TO ASCEND TO POWER

We have studied Revelation 17 in some depth which substantiates this point. Babylon is the Satanic counterfeit of what God will establish in Jerusalem at Jesus’ 2nd Advent as the Messiah-King of the earth. The ecumenical-religious / political / economic power base in the city of Babylon will probably emerge very early in the seven year Tribulation period since its destruction seems to coincide with the super-ascendancy and empowerment by Satan of the Anti-Christ – an

³ The two mountain peak analogy used to understand much of OT prophetic Scripture could be at play in this passage. In other words, Ezekiel’s description, like many OT prophet’s descriptions of prophetic events, could contain references to two distinct points on the prophetic horizon which, due to the distance from which they are viewed by the OT prophet, appear more chronologically connected than they happen to be. (As an example, see Isa 61:1-2 quoted by Jesus in Lu 4:18-19. Jesus does not quote Isa 61:2B which refers to His 2nd Advent). Thus, there is a blending and inter-weaving of the description of two similar, but chronologically disconnected events. This could be the case with Ezekiel’s prophecy in Ezekiel 38 & 39 since the passage contains allusions to things that could be true of circumstances in the Tribulation as well as circumstances at the end of the Millennium in some verses.

⁴ See **Appendix A** – “More Detail Related to the Gog / Magog Invasion of Ezekiel 38 & 39.”

⁵ See **Appendix B** – “The Meaning of Latter Years & Last Days in Scripture.”

event that is likely to be closely related to the casting out of Satan from heaven (Rev 12:7-12) at the mid-point of the seven year period.

Initially, the “woman” (the city Babylon) and the “harlot” (the religious/economic system centered there), will exert controlling influence over the “beast” and the “beast” will support her. This arrangement will be used by Satan to catapult the “beast” [*initially a coalition of 10 kings from among whom the Anti-Christ becomes prominent*]⁶ to power.

Revelation 17 describes the city of Babylon as the ecumenical power base; whereas, Revelation 18 describes the city of Babylon as the political/economic power base during the Tribulation. The ecumenical / political / economic power base is destroyed as described by Jeremiah in chapters 50 & 51 and the destruction of this power base provides the Anti-Christ the power vacuum that Satan uses to catapult his human agent (i.e. the Anti-Christ) to ascendancy and power.

The climax of the ascension to power of the Anti-Christ during the period of pseudo peace and prosperity will attend some supernatural events experienced by the “beast” that result in a transformation of the coalition of kings that comprise the “beast.” One of the kings of the coalition of kings that is the “beast” will be “as if slain” and experience a pseudo-resurrection after a visit to the “Abyss” – the abode of Satan and his demon legions (Rev 13:12-14; 17:8). This man, the Anti-Christ, will probably experience this transformation from mere mortal to super-mortal status when he is indwelt by Satan – probably just preceding or at the mid-point of the Tribulation.

EVENT 2.4 – 144,000 JEWS ARE SAVED AND SEALED

This is described in Revelation 7:1-8. There are legitimate differences of opinion as to exactly when this occurs during the Tribulation period. However, the evidence seems to point to this being an event that occurs early in the Tribulation period prior to the judgments being poured out upon the earth (see Rev 7:1). These saved Jews become evangelists during the Tribulation period.

The “sealing” of these 144,000 does not protect these believers from harm by means of human agency since many, if not all, will probably be martyred for their testimony at some point during the Tribulation period. However, they are protected from the effect of God’s direct acts of intervention in human and cosmic events during this period that are described as judgments in Revelation (e.g. Rev 9:4; 13:7; 20:4).

⁶ This is described in Daniel 7:7-8 as the 10 horned fourth beast in a vision of four different beasts representing four empires. Daniel first describes seeing 10 horns among which a smaller horn emerges and uproots 3 of the first 10 horns, thus supplanting them. This same description of the Anti-Christ is found in Revelation 13:1, 5-6.

Event Category 3 – Events Perhaps Just Prior to the Middle of the Tribulation

EVENT 3.1 – INVASION OF THE LAND FROM THE NORTH BY THE FORCES OF GOG

See the description of Event 2.1. This invasion of the Land in which Israel resides will occur from the north (Ezek 38:2, 5-6, 22).

Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, 3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. 4 And I will turn you about, and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords; 5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; 6 Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah **from the remote parts of the north with all its troops** – many peoples with you. (Ezek 38:2-6)

And with pestilence and with blood I shall enter into judgment with him; and I shall rain on him, and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone. (Ezek 38:22)

EVENT 3.2 – GOG AND HIS ALLIES ARE DESTROYED BY GOD

See the description of Event 2.1. The destruction is described in Ezekiel 38:17-23.

Thus says the Lord God, "Are you the one of whom I spoke in former days through My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days for many years that I would bring you against them? 18 "And it will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," declares the Lord God, "that My fury will mount up in My anger. 19 "And in My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. 20 "And the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground. 21 And I shall call for a sword against him on all My mountains," declares the Lord God. "Every man's sword will be against his brother. 22 "And with pestilence and with blood I shall enter into judgment with him; and I shall rain on him, and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire, and brimstone. 23 "And I shall magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the Lord." (Ezek 38:17-23)

Event Category 4 – Events Surrounding the Middle of the Seven Year Tribulation Period

EVENT 4.1 – REMOVAL OF THE “RESTRAINER” & THE EMERGENCE OF THE ANTI-CHRIST

There are various interpretations of who or what this “restrainer” might be to whom or to what Paul refers in 2 Thessalonians 2:7. We will examine some of the different positions in a separate study. I shall only present my understanding at present of this passage.

And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he may be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. 8 And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders. (2 Thess 2:6-9)

The best explanation to date that I have found for this passage is expressed and summarized in the following rendering with interpretative inserts. The net of it all – the “restraining” is simply Satan holding onto his place in heaven – a place from which he will be excluded at a point in the future (see Rev 12:7-12) which is probably the middle of the Tribulation.

And you know what [*neuter pronoun – interpretively, a reference to the abyss, the abode of Satan and the demons once they are cast from heaven; Satan wants to delay his confinement there*] **restrains him** [*“is holding him” – the verb is transitive requires an object, thus the implied “him” as supplied in the NASV*] **now, so that in his time he** [*the Anti-Christ empowered by Satan*] **may be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he** [*a reference to Satan*] **who now restrains** [*“holds fast” – a reference to Satan holding onto his place in heaven until he is cast out of heaven at the middle of the Tribulation – see Rev 12:7-12 to follow*] **will do so until he is taken out of the way** [*a reference to Satan being cast out of heaven – probably at the mid-point of the seven-year Tribulation period*]. **8 And then that lawless one** [*the Anti-Christ*] **will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming** [*2nd Advent*]; **9 that is, the one** [*Anti-Christ*] **whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders.** (2 Thess 2:6-9)⁷

And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was **no longer a place found for them in heaven.** 9 And **the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan,** who deceives the whole world; **he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.** 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and

⁷ See E.W. Bullinger, *Commentary on Revelation* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications, 1984), 407 for an analysis of this passage that supports this interpretation.

night. 11 “And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death. 12 “For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.” (Rev 12:7-12)

EVENT 4.2 – SATAN IS CAST OUT OF HEAVEN AND ENERGIZES THE ANTI-CHRIST

This is described in Revelation 12:12-17. Satan’s activities increase in intensity during the 1,260 days (3 ½ years) of the Great Tribulation period because he knows that he only has a “short period” before the Christ returns to reassert complete dominion over the earth and he is bound (Rev 20:1-2). Satan works through the Anti-Christ (his human agent) to accomplish his purposes.

12 “For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them, Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.” 13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman [*i.e. Israel*] who gave birth to the male child [*i.e. Jesus, the seed of the woman of Genesis 3:15, the promised Redeemer-Deliverer and Messiah*]. 14 And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent [*see Jesus’ instructions in Matt 24:15ff*]. 15 And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood. 16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who kept the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. (Rev 12:12-17)

EVENT 4.3 – THE ANTI-CHRIST BREAKS HIS TREATY WITH ISRAEL

See Event 1.2 above (especially Daniel 9:27).

27 And he [*i.e. the Anti-Christ*] will make a firm covenant with the many for one week [*i.e. seven years*], but in the middle of the week [*i.e. 3 ½ years*] he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering [*implies the presence of the Temple*]; and on the wing of abominations will come one [*i.e. the Anti-Christ whose image the False Prophet erects in the Temple*] who makes desolate [*cf. Matt 24:15*], even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate [*reference to the defeat of the Anti-Christ at the 2nd Advent of Jesus*]. (Dan 9:27)

EVENT 4.4 – WARS, FAMINES, PESTILENCES, EARTHQUAKES, MARTYRS, AND APOSTASY

Jesus provides a summary overview of these things in Matthew 24:4-14. His instructions for believers found in verse 15 and following that seem to coincide with the middle-point of the seven year Tribulation period indicate that verses 4-14 relate to events just prior to the mid-point of the seven year Tribulation and the beginning of the Great Tribulation. The description that Jesus provides in verses 4-14 seems to coincide with or correlate to what is commonly referred to as the “Seal Judgments” of Revelation 6:1-11. **The first four of these seem to be a summary of**

events leading to the last half of the Tribulation. The fifth and sixth seals seem to best correlate to events in the last half of the Tribulation (see Event Category 5 to follow).

The first four seal “openings” (6:1-8) – Events on Earth

- Seal 1 – White horse – the pseudo Christ (i.e. the Anti-Christ)
- Seal 2 – Red horse – wars & conflicts
- Seal 3 – Black horse – famine
- Seal 4 – Pale horse – pestilence & death (1/4 of earth)

The fifth seal opening (6:9-11)

- Seal 5 – A view of the martyrs in heaven

In addition, martyrs from all over the world are described in Revelation 7:9-17. This passage is a summary passage in which John is provided a view of the martyrs from the entire seven-year Tribulation period.

EVENT 4.4 – THE ECUMENICAL POWER BASE CENTERED IN BABYLON IS DESTROYED

See Event 2.3 above. The “harlot” and the “woman” are evidently two different aspects of the same image. While the “harlot” is the religious system, the “woman” is evidently the city (“Babylon”) that is the capital of this religious system’s power base. Evidently, this “Babylon” is a literal city that is the center of a composite of religious, political and economic powers. Some describe it more in terms of a trans-historical concept that the Babylon of antiquity illustrated.

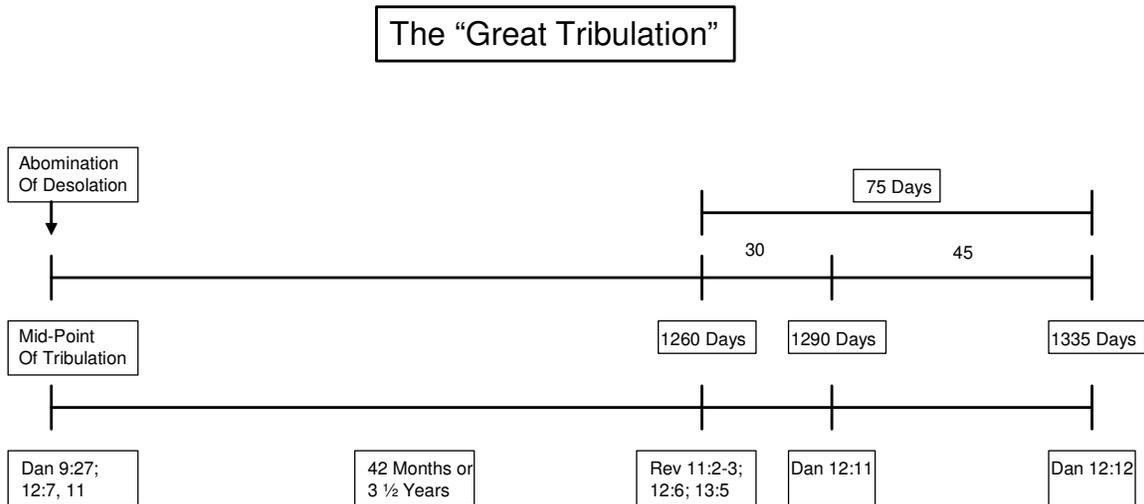
The ancient Babylon is better understood here as the archetypal head of all entrenched worldly resistance to God. Babylon is a trans-historical reality including idolatrous kingdoms as diverse as Sodom, Gomorrah, Egypt, Babylon, Tyre, Nineveh, and Rome. Babylon is an eschatological symbol of satanic deception and power; it is a divine mystery that can never be wholly reducible to empirical earthly institutions. It may be said that Babylon represents the total culture of the world apart from God, while the divine system is depicted by the New Jerusalem. Rome is simply one manifestation of the total system.⁸

While such a conceptual “Babylon” can be supported, I believe the prophetic Babylon of Revelation 17 & 18 is a literal place. Otherwise, the description of its destruction in Revelation 17:16 and 18:2 & 8 makes no sense.

⁸ Alan Johnson, "Revelation," in *Hebrews-Revelation*, Vol. 12 of *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, 12 vols. edited by Frank E. Gaebelein (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981), 155 cited by Thomas Constable, "Notes on Revelation," www.soniclight.com

Event Category 5 – Events of the 2nd Half of the Tribulation

The last 3 ½ years of the seven year Tribulation are often referred to as the “Great Tribulation” (Rev 7:14 cf. Matt 24:21; Dan 12:1 and a “time of trouble for Jacob in Jer 30:7). Most of the information in Scripture about the Tribulation is focused upon events during this last 3 ½ year period.



The events described in the following paragraphs or sections have a significant amount of overlap between them. Furthermore, there are certain events (e.g. the Seal Judgments) that might have aspects that occur during the first half of the Tribulation period. So, while there will be a chronology for these events, the exact chronology or sequence may not necessarily be reflected in the arrangement of the material. Nevertheless, this presentation will provide a helpful framework within which to mentally categorize the Biblical material and is arranged as best as is possible in such a manner to closely correlate to the chronological events of this period.

EVENT 5.1 – THE ANTI-CHRIST BREAKS HIS TREATY WITH ISRAEL

The “False Prophet” of Israel promotes the Anti-Christ and erects a statue bearing his resemblance in the Temple in Jerusalem. This is the “abomination” that was mentioned by Daniel and referred to by Jesus. It is likely that this event immediately follows the ouster of Satan and his demons from heaven at the mid-point of the Tribulation and leaves Satan only a short period of time to accomplish his goals. Therefore, he works his plan through a human agent (the Anti-Christ) whom he empowers by indwelling him directly. See the following passages.

27 And he [i.e. the Anti-Christ] will make a firm covenant with the many for one week [i.e. seven years], but in the middle of the week [i.e. 3 ½ years] he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering [implies the presence of the Temple]; and on the wing of abominations will come one [i.e. the Anti-Christ whose image the False Prophet erects in the Temple] who makes desolate [cf. Matt 24:15], even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate [reference to the defeat of the Anti-Christ at the 2nd Advent of Jesus]. (Dan 9:27)

Therefore when you see the Abomination of Desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place...for then there shall be Great Tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. (Matt 24:15a & 21)

...who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. (2 Thess 2:4)

And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. (2 Thess 2:11-12)

11 And I saw another beast [*the "false prophet" of Revelation 16:13; 19:20; 20:10*] coming up out of the earth and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. 12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. 13 And he performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. 15 And there was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16 and he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead, 17 and he provides that no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom, Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six. (Rev 13:11-18)

And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was **no longer a place found for them in heaven.** 9 And **the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan,** who deceives the whole world; **he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.** 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. 11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives even to death. 12 "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time." (Rev 12:7-12)

EVENT 5.2 – THE OPENING OF THE FIFTH AND SIXTH SEALS

Seals 1-4 seem best to be understood as correlating to Jesus' description of events in the first half of the Tribulation as documented in Matthew 24:4-14 (see Event 4.4 described previously). Matthew 24:15 (Jesus' reference to the "abomination" prophesied by Daniel) occurs at the mid-

point of the Tribulation. However, as has been noted in our Prophecy series, it is possible that Seal judgments 1-4 are an overview of a number of events and circumstances that span more than just the first half of the Tribulation. Some interpreters associate all of the Seal judgments with the last half of the Tribulation period, but I think the correlation of Seals 1-4 with Jesus' chronology in Matthew 24:4-14 leading up to the "abomination" in 24:15 seems to be a strong argument otherwise. Nevertheless, Seals 5 and 6 are most definitely associated with the last half of the Tribulation.

The Fifth Seal – "Martyrdom" (Rev 6:9-11)

And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also. (Rev 6:9-11)

This is obviously a reference to the believers of the Tribulation era (Jew and Gentile) who are killed (murdered) and thus become martyrs on behalf of their faith. The word "souls" here does not mean that John saw the invisible part of man for how can the soul be seen and clothed with a white robe. Rather, this is a figure of speech known as a *synecdoche* in which a part of something is representative of the whole. Like sacrificial animals, they are seen at the foot of the altar of burnt offering. They had been slain for their testimony; however, they were not slain as atonement offerings, but they were slain for their devotion. They are not yet reigning with Christ as portrayed later in Revelation 20:4.

We must take John's vision for what it is – a vision that contains much symbolism that must be interpreted. I cannot answer the question of how these believers are seen by John to be clothed in white robes at this point given the fact that the period of time at issue is the Tribulation. We know from other passages that believers of the Age of Israel (including the Tribulation era) will evidently receive their resurrection bodies in association with Jesus' 2nd Advent – an event that occurs at the end of this period. Let's just take John at his word. In this vision, John sees in heaven martyred believers of the Tribulation period.

These believers are seen by John to be asking for vengeance by God on their behalf and on behalf of those who still dwell upon the earth. This is not the role of the present dispensation of believers, i.e. believers of the Body of Christ. However, in John's symbolic vision, the mere presence in heaven of believers who have been killed because of their testimony and faithfulness to Jesus is an affront to God's righteousness. God's justice will act in response. Those who have murdered God's own are enemies of God's sovereign will to regain dominion over this earth and establish His righteous reign through His Son. The murderers, the enemies of God and of Christ, are aligned with Satan's plan to retain dominion. God's redemptive plan will not be thwarted.

The imprecatory Psalms allude to the circumstances that attend John's vision of the fifth seal (e.g. Psa 10; 11; 54:5; 55:9; 79; 94; 143:12).

The Sixth Seal – "Cosmic Signs of Advent" (Rev 6:12-17)

And I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. 14 And the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up; and every mountain and island were moved out of

their places. 15 And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand?" (Rev 6:12-17)

The sixth seal appears to take us to the time of the end since it speaks of the signs in the sun, moon and stars which the Lord Jesus Himself associated with His personal appearing (6:12-13 cf. Matt 24:29-30, 35; Isa 2:10-22; 13:6-13; 24:19-23; 34:1-5, 12; Jer 4:29; Ezek 32:7-8; Hag 2:6-7, 21-22; Joel 2:28, 31; 3:15; Zeph 1:14-18; 2 Pet 3:10). We will see the events associated with the Lord's 2nd Advent described more fully in Revelation 19.

There are many allusions to the circumstances described in association with this sixth seal in the Psalms, e.g. Psalm 2:2; 68:4; 97:5.

EVENT 5.3 – THE SEVENTH SEAL OPENING & THE TRUMPET JUDGMENTS & THE BOWL JUDGMENTS

God responds to the prayers of the martyred saints and God's righteousness demands that His justice take action. The prayers of believers are viewed as ascending to God from the smoke of a censer containing burning coals. To this was added more incense. The incense may represent the prayers of the Tribulation saints that are joined to the prayers of other believers who cry to God for justice (cf. Psa 28:4; 141:1-2).

Requite them according to their work and according to the evil of their practices; Requite them according to the deeds of their hands; repay them their recompense. (Psa 28:4)

O Lord, I call upon Thee; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to Thee! May my prayer be counted as incense before Thee; the lifting up of my hands as the evening offering. (Psa 141:1-2)

The result is that the seventh Seal is opened (Rev 8:1-6) that is associated with the sounding of the seven trumpets (Rev 8:7-9:21 & 11:15-19). The first four trumpet judgments (Rev 8:7-13) are judgments poured out upon the earth and heavens instead of directly upon unbelieving mankind. After the "half an hour," the trumpet judgments begin. Each of the first four trumpet judgments have an indirect affect upon men.

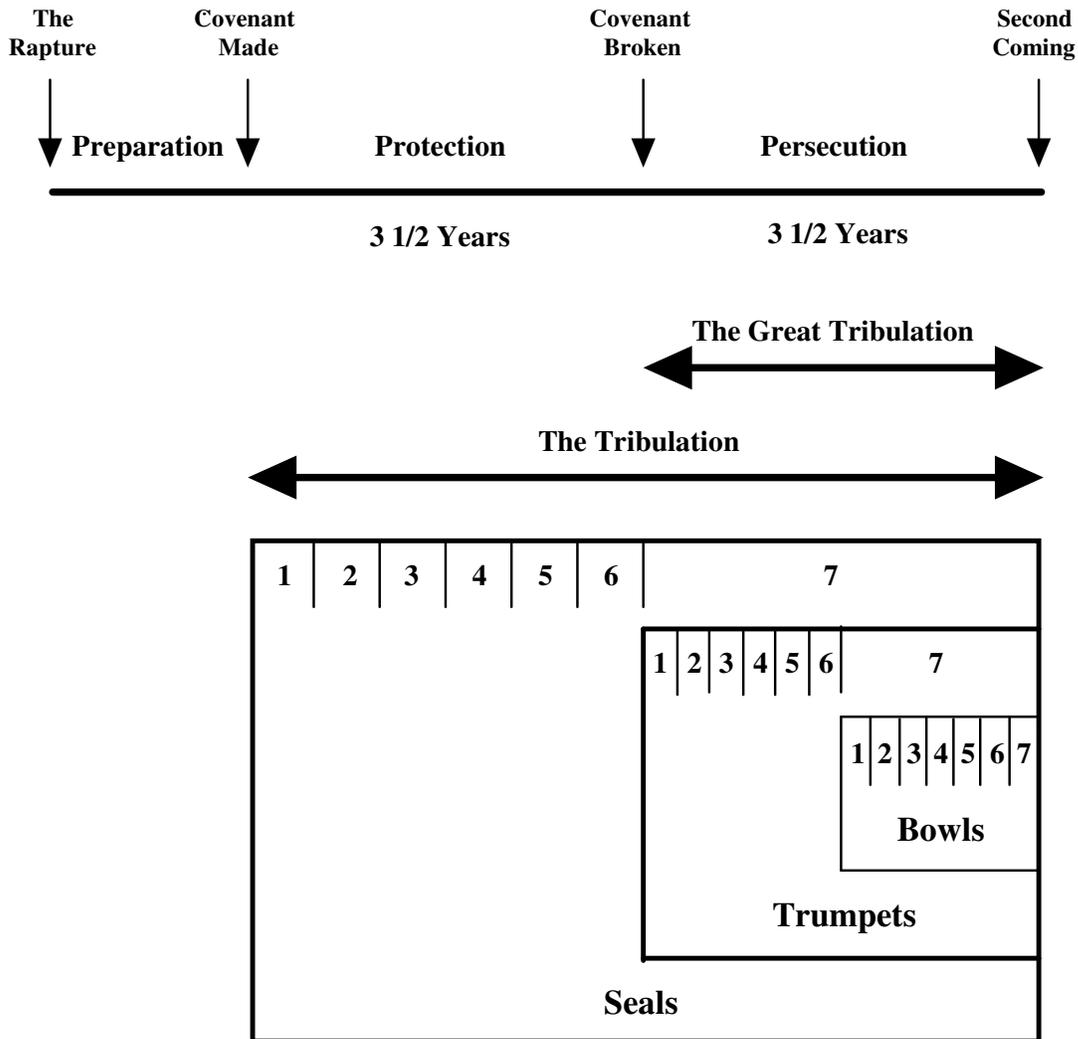
- Trumpet #1 – vegetation is decimated (8:7)
- Trumpet #2 – the seas are affected (8:8-9)
- Trumpet #3 – fresh water is made bitter (8:10-11)
- Trumpet #4 – the heavens (light) is affected (8:12)

Prior to the sounding of the fifth, sixth and seventh trumpet judgment, John observes an eagle fly through heaven and pronounces three "woes" upon those who dwell upon the earth. The three "woes" correspond to trumpets five thru seven. The "woes" are pronounced because these last three trumpet judgments (Rev 9:1-21 & 11;15-19) have a direct effect upon men – i.e. unbelievers.

- Trumpet #5 (Woe #1) – Locusts from the bottomless pit (9:1-12)
- Trumpet #6 (Woe #2) – Demons from the Euphrates (9:13-21)
- Trumpet #7 (Woe #3) – The bowl judgments (11:15-19 & 15:1-16:21)

The relationship between these various judgments is depicted in the following diagram obtained from Dr. Thomas Constable of Dallas Theological Seminary.⁹ **Need to highlight the difference between the diagram below and the statements made previously regarding the 6th and 7th Seal Openings to seemingly correspond to the last half of the Tribulation vs. the first half.**

The Tribulation Judgments



In the judgments associated with the Seventh Trumpet, repentance is not sought by God as earlier (Rev 9:20-21). The Seventh Trumpet (a.k.a. the Third Woe), which corresponds to the Seven Bowl Judgments, culminates very quickly in the 2nd Advent of Christ and the destruction of unbelievers associated with that event. The time has come for the appeal of Psalm 68:1-3 to be answered. The last two great witnesses of Christ and of God have finished their testimony (Rev 11:1-14) and God's sovereign plan will now be finalized. There is no time for further testimony.

The Bowl judgments are summarized as follows:

- Bowl #1 – Sores (16:1-2)

⁹ See www.soniclight.com where Dr. Constables Notes on all of the books of the Bible can be found.

- Bowl #2 – Seas and Sea Life Destroyed (16:3)
- Bowl #3 – Fresh Water Sources Destroyed (16:4-7)
- Bowl #4 – Scorching Heat (16:8-9)
- Bowl #5 – Darkness (16:10-11)
- Bowl #6 – War & Invasion of the Land by the World's Armies (16:12-16)
- Bowl #7 – Widespread Destruction (16:17-21)

Interspersed within all of these judgments are other events that will be described in some of the following sections.

EVENT 5.4 – THE TWO WITNESSES HAVE THEIR MINISTRY

In Revelation 11:1-14, we find a description of the two witnesses who will arise during this period, provide testimony to unbelievers in the streets of Jerusalem, perform miraculous demonstrations of power, be killed and then resurrected. These men are effectively God's last and most visible attempt to persuade unbelievers to reject the claims of the Anti-Christ and accept the gospel before the final judgments of the Tribulation occur. The 2nd Advent of the Messiah-Christ (Jesus) is but a short time away.

EVENT 5.5 – REGIONAL POWERS VIE FOR SUPREMACY & SEEK CONTROL OVER ISRAEL

As previously stated, the exact chronology and sequence of the events of the Tribulation is a degree of detail that God has not provided in Scripture. Apparently, during the Great Tribulation period (the last three and one-half years), regional powers which attempt to overthrow the Anti-Christ are drawn into Israel and seek control over Israel.

Daniel 11:36ff – The Anti-Christ is Attacked by the King of the South and the North; The Anti-Christ Defends His Gains Against the Eastern Coalition

One of the passages that weighs heavily in this analysis is found in Daniel 11:36ff. In the verses leading up to this passage, Daniel has seen a vision of the pre-incarnate Christ or an angel that is described in similar terms to the pre-incarnate Christ (Dan 10:4-6; cf. Ezek 1:4-28; Rev 1:9-20). This vision occurred in response to Daniel's prayers during a three week period of fasting as a result of the prior visions and prophetic revelation that had been given to Daniel (see Dan 10:1-3 cf. prior chapters).

When Daniel started praying at the beginning of the three week period, an angel, probably Gabriel (cf. Dan 8), had been dispatched to provide further explanation to Daniel in response to Daniel's prayers. However, Gabriel had been hindered by the "prince of the kingdom of Persia" for twenty-one days (Dan 11:13). As a matter of fact, the angel later describes this interaction in terms of a "fight" (Dan 11:20).

The "prince of the kingdom of Persia" was the demon that Satan had charged with responsibility over the Persian Empire. The "fight" was so intense that Gabriel had to elicit assistance from another holy angel – Michael. We know from Paul's epistle to the Ephesians that God orders His angelic hosts into differing ranks (i.e. "principality and power and might and dominion" in Ephesians 1:21). Evidently, Gabriel and Michael were assigned authority over angels who administer God's affairs for the nation Israel (cf. Jude 9, Rev 12:7). Michael is mentioned three times in the Old Testament, all in Daniel (i.e. 10:12, 21; 12:1) and twice in the New Testament (Jude 9; Rev 12:7).

In Daniel 10:14, the angel (Gabriel?) indicates to Daniel that he will provide Daniel with understanding of what will happen to his people (the Jews) in the "latter days." The phrase "latter days" in this verse is used to refer to the period (or some part of the period) of Israel's future

history – future events that are more immediate and future events more distant that span the seven-year Tribulation, 2nd Advent and/or the Messianic kingdom. (Compare to other passages such as Isaiah 2:2; Jeremiah 23:20; 49:39; Ezekiel 38:16 and Micah 4:1 – all of which have eschatological meaning and reference).

In verse 14, the “latter days” refers to the events described by the angel in chapter 11 and pertain to the more immediate course of events related to the Persian and Grecian empires of the 4th thru 2nd Centuries B.C. as well as to much more distant events on the prophetic horizon of Jewish related history, i.e. the Tribulation.

Daniel 11:1-35 contains a great amount of detail relating to the emergence of the Empire of Alexander the Great and its subsequent division amongst his successors. The amazingly detailed prophecies of the first thirty-five verses of Daniel 11, containing as they do approximately one hundred and thirty-five prophetic statements, all now fulfilled, constitute an impressive introduction to the events that are yet future, beginning in verse 36. There is no supported evidence which can contradict any statement made in these thirty-five verses. The accuracy of these prophetic statements in Daniel 11:1-35 is supporting evidence that provides us with great assurance that prophecy that is still to be fulfilled will have the same precise fulfillment in the future.

Between verses 35 & 36, there is a gap of over two thousand years of human history. The time gap that we observe between verses 35 & 36 is not without precedent in the book of Daniel. You may recall that a similar time gap is found in chapter 9 in the revelation Daniel received about the 70 seven’s (“weeks”) of years (i.e. 490 years). In that prophecy, there is a gap of time between the 69th week (historically fulfilled) and the 70th week (not yet fulfilled). Even liberal scholars who believe that the book of Daniel was written in the 2nd Century B.C. admit that verses 36 and following have no literal fulfillment in the past.

This king (i.e. the Anti-Christ) will be the focus of attack by the king of the South (cf. Dan 11:42-43), a power south of Palestine (probably Egypt and African nations), and the king of the North, a force to its north (probably a coalition led by Russia). Evidently they will attack him simultaneously. Apparently this “king” of Daniel 11:36 is neither the king of the South nor the king of the North himself. In view of Daniel 9:26, he will probably be a western ruler, the little horn arising out of the Roman Empire (i.e. the Anti-Christ, cf. Dan 7:8, 24). He will have entered into a covenant pact with Israel thereby establishing a vital connection between Israel and his domain (see 9:27).

The conflict will be great, but he, apparently the ruler (i.e. the Anti-Christ) described in verses 36-39 will invade many countries, overwhelm them, and pass on to conquer others.¹⁰ Daniel uses phraseology common to his day to describe what is probably the future implements of war.

Evidently, there will be a coalition of powers in the East during this period. They will challenge the Anti-Christ and force him to redirect his forces away from the Southern campaign on which they will have embarked (Dan 11:44).

¹⁰ Ezekiel described a great military force descending on Israel from the far north in the future (Ezek. 38—39; 38:15). Ezekiel did not mention a power from the South. Part of the fulfillment of Ezekiel’s prophecy could be the same invasion Daniel recorded here. However, some have concluded that the invasion from the north in the Ezekiel passage and the invasion in our passage in Daniel are different – with the invasion described in Ezekiel occurring earlier. As we have previously mentioned in this Prophecy series in our study of that passage, portions of Ezekiel 38-39 will be fulfilled in the Tribulation and portions will be fulfilled during the battle of Gog and Magog at the end of the Millennium. As in many prophetic passages, there are dual references to two different end-time events. This aspect of the fulfillment of the Ezekiel passage will probably occur in the second half of the Tribulation, when Israel is suffering intense persecution. The bottom line is that it is not critical that we fully understand the relationship between the invaders of the north in Ezekiel 38-39 and the “king of the north” in Daniel 11:40. What is most critical is that those who live during that period understand and grasp the prophetic significance of events that transpire.

Rumors of enemy armies from the East (cf. Rev 16:12) and from the North (cf. Dan 11:40) will cause him to kill more people (cf. Zech. 13:8). He will also return to the Land. His headquarters in the Land will evidently be in Jerusalem. This city stands between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas. The NIV translation "at the beautiful holy mountain" confirms this location since Jerusalem stands on Mt. Moriah. It is evidently in Jerusalem that he will meet his match and suffer defeat. Later revelation in Scripture indicates that Jesus Christ will return from heaven and destroy him (Rev. 19:19-20; cf. Zech. 14:1-4).

EVENT 5.6 – JERUSALEM IS RAVAGED

In association with the events previously described, Jerusalem will be ravaged during the course of the ensuing battle and invasions as the armies of the powers of the world vie for control. God uses the Anti-Christ's attempt to consolidate his power base in Jerusalem as a means of drawing the unbelievers of the world into a concentrated mass so that they may be slaughtered. See Zechariah 14:1-4 cf. 12:1-9.

EVENT 5.7 – SIGNS OF THE SECOND ADVENT

Accompanying the Second Advent of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, will be various signs associated with His coming - signs that are distinct from all of the judgments that have been previously poured out upon the earth. For instance, consider Isaiah 13:9-13; Joel 2:1-32; 3:9-17; Matt 24:29).

EVENT 5.8 – PEOPLE WILL MOURN WHEN THEY SEE THE MESSIAH APPEAR

Evidently Jesus' appearance in association with His Second Advent will provide people the opportunity to gaze upon Him for some period of time (see diagram at the beginning of Event Category 5). Zechariah records that the inhabitants of Jerusalem will look upon Him Whom they have pierced (Hosea 14:1-5; Zech 12:10-14; 13:1) and every family will mourn. The realization of wasted time spent pursuing false idols and things of this world is especially acute when contrasted with the realities of eternity – visualized in the Person of the Resurrected Jesus Messiah. Jesus, Himself, in His earthly ministry mentions this same phenomenon in Matthew 24:30-31.

EVENT 5.9 – THE ARMIES OF THE MESSIAH ATTEND HIS RETURN

Armies of heaven will attend our Lord Jesus, the Christ-Messiah at His Second Advent. These armies will consist of angels (Matt 24:31 cf. Matt 13:41; 16:27; Mk 8:38; Lu 9:26; 2 Thess 1:7), but it is believers in their resurrection bodies who ride the horses (cf. Rev 17:14; cf. Rev 2:27; Zech. 14:5). Their dress connects them with the Lamb's bride (Rev 19:8).

The references in Hebrew Scripture to this event are extensive. Consider Isaiah 11:4; 49:2; 63:1-6; Ezekiel 20:33-38; and Psalm 2:9; 45 as examples (cf. Matt 25:31-46).

EVENT 5.10 – BELIEVERS FLEE JERUSALEM AIDED BY TOPOGRAPHICAL CHANGES

Zechariah 14:5 speaks for itself on this point.

Believers flee Jerusalem facilitated by topographical changes (Zech 14:5).

EVENT 5.11 – THE ARMIES OF THE WORLD UNITE AT ARMAGEDDON AGAINST THE CHRIST AND HIS ARMIES AND ARE DESTROYED

We have already seen numerous passages that reference this fact; however, I will list several here even if they may have been previously referenced. (See Joel 3:9-11; Rev 16:16; 19:11-21). Attending the destruction of these armies is the liberation of the Land that will be habitation of the restored and redeemed Israel with Jerusalem as its capital city (Dan 12:1b; Zech 12:10; 13:1; Rom 11:26-27).

EVENT 5.12 – THE “BEAST” AND THE “FALSE PROPHET” ARE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE

Revelation 19:20 references this event.

Event Category 6 – Events Following the Tribulation & the Inauguration of the Millennium

Previously listed are some of the events that will occur in close chronological proximity to the 2nd Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ. Some of the following events also occur in close chronological proximity to the 2nd Advent of Jesus as the Messiah.

EVENT 6.1 – A RE-GATHERING OF BELIEVING JEWS TO FORM THE REDEEMED NATION OF ISRAEL

Then it will happen on that day that the Lord will again recover the second time *[the first time was probably under Zerubbabel, Nehemiah & Ezra]* with His hand the remnant of His people, who will remain, from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And He will lift up a standard for the nations, and will assemble the banished ones of Israel, and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. (Isa 11:11-12)

“For, behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel and Judah.” The Lord says, “I will also bring them back to the land that I gave to their forefathers, and they shall possess it.” (Jer 30:3)

“For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your own land.” (Ezek 36:24)

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. 2 And He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry. 3 And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, Thou knowest.” 4 Again He said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.’” 5 “Thus says the Lord God to these bones, ‘Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. 6 ‘And I will put sinews on you, cover you with skin, and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the Lord.’” 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew, and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9 Then He said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.”’” 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life, and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. 11 Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.’” 12 “Therefore prophesy, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. 13 “Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. 14 “And I will put My Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken and done it,” declares the Lord.’” (Ezek 37:1-14)¹¹

¹¹ In the verses to follow in this passage (Ezek 37:15-28), the prophet’s description of circumstances that will attend and/or follow the 2nd Advent of the Messiah continue to be described. Amazingly, Satan has even tried to distort the meaning of this passage. Mormons claim that the two sticks represent the Bible (the stick of Judah) and the Book of Mormon (the stick of Joseph). This interpretation ignores both the greater context and the immediate context (vv. 18-28) of the passage and super-imposes a totally different agenda upon the passage. In the Messianic Kingdom, both Israel and Judah will be reunited

The bones in this passage are symbolic of the spiritual status and the hope (v. 11) of the Israelites to experience the blessings of the Messianic kingdom at the time of their Babylonian Exile – the time during which Ezekiel lived and ministered. The revival of the dry, lifeless bones symbolized Israel's national restoration. The rebirth of the nation and her restoration was primarily to be a spiritual restoration which only God could accomplish.

Why did this take place in two stages – first, the gathering of the bones and covering them with sinew and flesh and second, the breathing of life into them? Why didn't the Lord accomplish it all at once? It is possible that the answer to these questions rests in the direction of Ezekiel's prophesying – first, to the bones and second, to the wind or Spirit? If so, Ezekiel's prophesying to the bones was similar to his prophesying to the Jews of his generation – spiritually dead people who were as dead men in their comprehension and acceptance of the prophet's message. Dead men don't comprehend anything. Spiritually dead men don't comprehend spiritual truth. However, when men become alive through the Spirit (*ruah* – breath or wind), spiritual truth is understood and appropriated. The *ruah* of God entering these people was tantamount to an act of re-creation (cf. Gen 2.7). What Ezekiel's preaching and prophesying had failed to achieve (i.e. restoration of the spiritual life of a nation), prayer and the Spirit of God would achieve. The breath of life that the corpses would receive symbolized the Holy Spirit, promised in Israel's New Covenant (cf. 36.24-28).

The Lord explains to Ezekiel that the bones represented the house of Israel (vv. 11-13). They had been complaining that they were like dry bones because they had been dead for so long – no hope for the future, no hope for becoming a nation again and no hope of seeing God's promises to them fulfilled (i.e. the promises to Abraham which were reiterated and expanded in promises to David and through Jeremiah). Through their exile in Babylon, they were in effect cut off from the Lord. The spiritually dry bones of their lives were scattered in a valley apart from the Land of Promise. However, **the Lord, through the Holy Spirit, would insure that a spiritually redeemed people would be brought back into the Promised Land.** They would be indwelt by the Spirit of God and they would know that He is God and that He fulfills His Word and promises.

This vision and the prophecies contained therein include both a physical and spiritual restoration of Israelites and a future time is in view (cf. Matt 24.30-31). At that future time when the nation is restored, it will consist of three major elements that are at the crux of God's Promises to His people – a restored Land (Ezek 35.1-36.15); a redeemed people (Ezek 36.16-37.28); and a theocratic government ruled by the Lord Himself (Ezek 40-48).

“Also, I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them, they will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit. 15 “I will also plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them,” says the Lord your God. (Amos 9:14-15)

“In that day,” declares the Lord, “I will assemble the lame, and gather the outcasts, even those whom I have afflicted. 7 “I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcasts a strong nation, and the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on and forever.” (Micah 4:6-7)

“And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.” (Matt 24:31)

as a single nation (Hos 1.11). When re-united, Israel will be led by King David himself and he will be their one shepherd (see 34.23-24). God's covenant of peace (36.15 cf. Isa 54.10) will be with them forever in contrast to the departing of His shekinah glory from the Temple and Judah that was pictured earlier by Ezekiel (see 9-11). God will dwell with them forever.

EVENT 6.2 – JUDGMENT OF LIVING ISRAEL AND LIVING GENTILES

“As I live,” declares the Lord God, “surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. 34 “And I shall bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; 35 and I shall bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I shall enter into judgment with you face to face. 36 “As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you,” declares the Lord God. 37 “And I shall make you pass under the rod, and I shall bring you into the bond of the covenant; 38 and I shall purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I shall bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am the Lord. (Ezek 20:33-38)

See also Matthew 25:1-30 for living Israel and Matt 25:31-46) for living Gentiles.

EVENT 6.3 – SATAN IS CAST INTO THE ABYSS AND CONFINED FOR 1000 YEARS

And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. (Rev 20:1-3)

EVENT 6.4 – AGE OF ISRAEL (INCLUDING TRIBULATION) SAINTS ARE RESURRECTED

Your dead will live; their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, for your dew is as the dew of the dawn, and the earth will give birth to the departed spirits. (Isa 26:19)

“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued [see Rev 20:11-15]. 2 “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. 3 “And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.” (Dan 12:1-3)

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. (Rev 20:4-6)

EVENT 6.5 – MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” 8 And it was given to her to clothe herself in the fine linen bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 And he said to me “Write,

'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God." 10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Rev 19:7-9)

See also Matthew 22:1-14.

EVENT 6.6 – THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST ON EARTH BEGINS

May he also rule from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. (Psa 72:8)

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this. (Isa 9:6-7)

Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time, and became like the chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. (Dan 2:35)

And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. (Dan 2:44)

I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. 14 And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed. (Dan 7:13-14)

And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem; and the bow of war will be cut off. And He will speak peace to the nations; and His dominion will be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. (Zech 9:10)

And I saw thrones and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Rev 20:4)

Characteristics of the Millennium

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESTORED TEMPORAL REALM OF THE EARTH

➤ Topography and Geography of the Earth is Changed

Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. (Isa 2:2)

¹Then he brought me back to the door of the house; and behold, water was flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, for the house faced east. And the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar. ²He brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate by way of the gate that faces east. And behold, water was trickling from the south side. ³When the man went out toward the east with a line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he led me through the water, water reaching the ankles. ⁴Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the knees. Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the loins. ⁵Again he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not ford, for the water had risen, enough water to swim in, a river that could not be forded. ⁶He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me back to the bank of the river. ⁷Now when I had returned, behold, on the bank of the river there were very many trees on the one side and on the other. ⁸Then he said to me, "These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters of the sea become fresh. ⁹It will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and the others become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. ¹⁰"And it will come about that fishermen will stand beside it; from Engedi to Eneglaim there will be a place for the spreading of nets Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many. ¹¹"But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. ¹²"By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing." (Ezek 47:1-12)

⁸"And beside the border of Judah, from the east side to the west side, shall be the allotment which you shall set apart, 25,000 cubits in width, and in length like one of the portions, from the east side to the west side; and the sanctuary shall be in the middle of it. ⁹"The allotment that you shall set apart to the LORD shall be 25,000 cubits in length and 10,000 in width. ¹⁰"The holy allotment shall be for these, namely for the priests, toward the north 25,000 cubits in length, toward the west 10,000 in width, toward the east 10,000 in width, and toward the south 25,000 in length; and the sanctuary of the LORD shall be in its midst. ¹¹"It shall be for the priests who are sanctified of the sons of Zadok, who have kept My charge, who did not go astray when the sons of Israel went astray as the Levites went astray. ¹²"It shall be an allotment to them from the allotment of the land, a most holy place, by the border of the Levites. ¹³"Alongside the border of the priests the Levites shall have 25,000 cubits in length and 10,000 in width. The whole length shall be 25,000 cubits and the width 10,000. ¹⁴"Moreover, they shall not sell or exchange any of it, or alienate this choice portion of land; for it is holy to the LORD. ¹⁵"The remainder, 5,000 cubits in width and 25,000 in length, shall be for common use for the city, for dwellings and for open spaces; and the city shall be in its midst. ¹⁶"These shall be its measurements: the north side 4,500 cubits, the south side 4,500 cubits, the east side 4,500 cubits, and the west side 4,500 cubits. ¹⁷"The city shall have open spaces: on the north 250 cubits, on the south 250 cubits, on

the east 250 cubits, and on the west 250 cubits. ¹⁸"The remainder of the length alongside the holy allotment shall be 10,000 cubits toward the east and 10,000 toward the west; and it shall be alongside the holy allotment. And its produce shall be food for the workers of the city. ¹⁹"The workers of the city, out of all the tribes of Israel, shall cultivate it. ²⁰"The whole allotment shall be 25,000 by 25,000 cubits; you shall set apart the holy allotment, a square, with the property of the city. (Ezek 48:8-20)

⁴In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. ⁵You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel [*somewhere east of Jerusalem*]; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him! ⁶In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. ⁷For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light. ⁸And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. ⁹And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one. ¹⁰All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba [*six miles northeast of Jerusalem*] to Rimmon [*about 35 miles southwest of Jerusalem*] south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin's Gate [*probably in the north wall of the city*] as far as the place of the First Gate [*unidentified gate*] to the Corner Gate [*probably the northwest limit of Jerusalem*], and from the Tower of Hananel [*probably a defensive fortification on the north wall*] to the king's wine presses. (Zech 14:4-10)

➤ ***The Ferocity of Wild Animals is Removed***

⁶And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. ⁷Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. (Isa 11:6-9)

⁹No lion will be there, nor will any vicious beast go up on it; these will not be found there but the redeemed will walk there. (Isa 35:9)

²⁵"I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate harmful beasts from the land so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. (Ezek 34:25)

➤ ***Vegetation and Crops Flourish (Stopped here)***

⁶In the days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom and sprout, and they will fill the whole world with fruit. (Isa 27:6)

¹The wilderness and the desert will be glad, and the Arabah will rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. ²It will blossom profusely and rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy the glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon they will see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. (Isa 35:1-2)

⁶Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah. ⁷The scorched land will become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, its resting place, grass becomes reeds and rushes. (Isa 35:6-7)

¹³"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the plowman will overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; when the mountains will drip sweet wine and all the hills will be dissolved. (Amos 9:13)

⁸And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. (Zech 14:8)

➤ ***Human Lifespan is Increased***

²⁰"No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed. ²¹"They will build houses and inhabit them; they will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²"They will not build and another inhabit, they will not plant and another eat; for as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, and My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands. ²³"They will not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they are the offspring of those blessed by the LORD, and their descendants with them. (Isa 65:20-23)

SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS CHARACTERISTICS AND EVENTS

➤ ***The New Covenant is Fulfilled – The Holy Spirit Indwells Believers and has a Vital Ministry***

¹⁵Until the Spirit is poured out upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field is considered as a forest. ¹⁶Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness will abide in the fertile field. ¹⁷And the work of righteousness will be peace, and the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever. ¹⁸Then my people will live in a peaceful habitation, and in secure dwellings and in undisturbed resting places; ¹⁹And it will hail when the forest comes down, and the city will be utterly laid low. ²⁰How blessed will you be, you who sow beside all waters, who let out freely the ox and the donkey. (Isa 32:15-20)

³For I will pour out water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and My blessing on your descendants. (Isa 44:3)

³¹"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴"They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." (Jer 31:31-34)

¹⁹"And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, ²⁰that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God. (Ezek 11:19-20)

²⁴"For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. ²⁵"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. ²⁸"You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God. ²⁹"Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you. ³⁰"I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations. ³¹"Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations. ³²"I am not doing this for your sake," declares the Lord GOD, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel!" (Ezek 36:24-32)

²⁹"I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel," declares the Lord GOD. (Ezek 39:29)

²⁸"It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹"Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. (Joel 2:28-29)

➤ ***Satan is Confined in the Abyss***

¹Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ²And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. (Rev 20:1-3)

➤ ***The Millennial Temple is Built***

Ezekiel 40:5-43:27 is too extensive to quote in its entirety in these notes; however, as has been previously observed, this passage contains a detailed description of a Temple in Jerusalem the dimensions of which have never been met by any Temple that has ever existed. Portions of this passage are included in the following section.

➤ ***Animal Sacrifices Are Offered as Memorials***

⁷ Even those I will bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; for My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples." (Isa 56:7)

²⁰"Then they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as a grain offering to the LORD, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem," says the LORD, "just as the sons of Israel bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. ²¹"I will also take some of them for priests and for Levites," says the LORD. ²²"For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure. ²³"And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from sabbath to sabbath, all mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the LORD. (Isa 66:20-23)

¹⁷"For thus says the LORD, 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; ¹⁸ And the Levitical priests shall never lack a man before Me to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to prepare sacrifices continually.'" (Jer 33:17-18)

¹⁸And He said to me, "Son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'These are the statutes for the altar on the day it is built, to offer burnt offerings on it and to sprinkle blood on it. ¹⁹You shall give to the Levitical priests who are from the offspring of Zadok, who draw near to Me to minister to Me,' declares the Lord GOD, 'a young bull for a sin offering. ²⁰You shall take some of its blood and put it on its four horns and on the four corners of the ledge and on the border round about; thus you shall cleanse it and make atonement for it. ²¹You shall also take the bull for the sin offering, and it shall be burned in the appointed place of the house, outside the sanctuary. ²²On the second day you shall offer a male goat without blemish for a sin offering, and they shall cleanse the altar as they cleansed it with the bull. ²³When you have finished cleansing it, you shall present a young bull without blemish and a ram without blemish from the flock. ²⁴You shall present them before the LORD, and the priests shall throw salt on them, and they shall offer them up as a burnt offering to the LORD. ²⁵For seven days you shall prepare daily a goat for a sin offering; also a young bull and a ram from the flock, without blemish, shall be prepared. ²⁶For seven days they shall make atonement for the altar and purify it; so shall they consecrate it. ²⁷When they have completed the days, it shall be that on the eighth day and onward, the priests shall offer your burnt offerings on the altar, and your peace offerings; and I will accept you,' declares the Lord GOD." (Ezek 43:18-27)

¹³"This is the offering that you shall offer: a sixth of an ephah from a homer of wheat; a sixth of an ephah from a homer of barley; ¹⁴and the prescribed portion of oil (namely, the bath of oil), a tenth of a bath from each kor (which is ten baths or a homer, for ten baths are a homer); ¹⁵and one sheep from each flock of two hundred from the watering places of Israel--for a grain offering, for a burnt offering and for peace offerings, to make atonement for them," declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶All the people of the land shall give to this offering for the prince in Israel. ¹⁷It shall be the prince's part to provide the burnt offerings, the grain offerings and the drink offerings, at the feasts, on the new moons and on the sabbaths, at all the appointed feasts of the house of Israel; he shall provide the sin offering, the grain offering, the burnt offering and the peace offerings, to make atonement for the house of Israel." ¹⁸Thus says the Lord GOD, "In the first month, on the first of the month, you shall take a young bull without blemish and cleanse the sanctuary. ¹⁹The priest shall take some of the blood from the sin offering and put it on the door posts of the house, on the four corners of the ledge of the altar and on the posts of the gate of the inner court. ²⁰Thus you shall do on the seventh day of the month for everyone who goes astray or is naive; so you shall make atonement for the house. ²¹In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall have the Passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten. ²²On that day the prince shall provide for himself and all the people of the land a bull for a sin offering. ²³During the seven days of the feast he shall provide as a burnt offering to the LORD seven bulls and seven rams without blemish on every day of the seven days, and a male goat daily for a sin offering. ²⁴He shall provide as a grain offering an ephah with a bull, an ephah with a ram and a hin of oil with an ephah. ²⁵In the seventh month, on the fifteenth day of the month, at the feast, he shall provide like this, seven days for the sin offering, the burnt offering, the grain offering and the oil." (Ezek 45:13-25)

^{46:1}Thus says the Lord GOD, "The gate of the inner court facing east shall be shut the six working days; but it shall be opened on the sabbath day and opened on the day of the new moon. ²The prince shall enter by way of the porch of the gate from outside and stand by the post of the gate. Then the priests shall provide his burnt offering and his peace offerings, and he shall worship at the threshold of the gate and then go out; but the gate shall not be shut until the evening. ³The people of the land shall also worship at the doorway of that gate before the LORD on the sabbaths and on the new moons. ⁴The burnt offering which the prince shall offer to the LORD on the sabbath day shall be six lambs without blemish and a ram without blemish; ⁵and the grain offering shall be an ephah with the ram, and the grain offering with the lambs as much as he is

able to give, and a hin of oil with an ephah. ⁶"On the day of the new moon he shall offer a young bull without blemish, also six lambs and a ram, which shall be without blemish. ⁷"And he shall provide a grain offering, an ephah with the bull and an ephah with the ram, and with the lambs as much as he is able, and a hin of oil with an ephah. ⁸"When the prince enters, he shall go in by way of the porch of the gate and go out by the same way. ⁹"But when the people of the land come before the LORD at the appointed feasts, he who enters by way of the north gate to worship shall go out by way of the south gate. And he who enters by way of the south gate shall go out by way of the north gate. No one shall return by way of the gate by which he entered but shall go straight out. ¹⁰"When they go in, the prince shall go in among them; and when they go out, he shall go out. ¹¹"At the festivals and the appointed feasts the grain offering shall be an ephah with a bull and an ephah with a ram, and with the lambs as much as one is able to give, and a hin of oil with an ephah. ¹²"When the prince provides a freewill offering, a burnt offering, or peace offerings as a freewill offering to the LORD, the gate facing east shall be opened for him And he shall provide his burnt offering and his peace offerings as he does on the sabbath day. Then he shall go out, and the gate shall be shut after he goes out. ¹³"And you shall provide a lamb a year old without blemish for a burnt offering to the LORD daily; morning by morning you shall provide it. ¹⁴"Also you shall provide a grain offering with it morning by morning, a sixth of an ephah and a third of a hin of oil to moisten the fine flour, a grain offering to the LORD continually by a perpetual ordinance. ¹⁵"Thus they shall provide the lamb, the grain offering and the oil, morning by morning, for a continual burnt offering." ¹⁶"Thus says the Lord GOD, "If the prince gives a gift out of his inheritance to any of his sons, it shall belong to his sons; it is their possession by inheritance. ¹⁷"But if he gives a gift from his inheritance to one of his servants, it shall be his until the year of liberty; then it shall return to the prince. His inheritance shall be only his sons'; it shall belong to them. ¹⁸"The prince shall not take from the people's inheritance, thrusting them out of their possession; he shall give his sons inheritance from his own possession so that My people will not be scattered, anyone from his possession." ¹⁹"Then he brought me through the entrance, which was at the side of the gate, into the holy chambers for the priests, which faced north; and behold, there was a place at the extreme rear toward the west. ²⁰He said to me, "This is the place where the priests shall boil the guilt offering and the sin offering and where they shall bake the grain offering, in order that they may not bring them out into the outer court to transmit holiness to the people." ²¹Then he brought me out into the outer court and led me across to the four corners of the court; and behold, in every corner of the court there was a small court. ²²In the four corners of the court there were enclosed courts, forty cubits long and thirty wide; these four in the corners were the same size. ²³There was a row of masonry round about in them, around the four of them, and boiling places were made under the rows round about. ²⁴Then he said to me, "These are the boiling places where the ministers of the house shall boil the sacrifices of the people." (Ezek 46:1-24)

³"He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness. ⁴"Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. (Mal 3:3-4)

➤ ***Feasts of the New Year, Passover and Tabernacles Are Re-instated***

¹⁸"Thus says the Lord GOD, "In the first month, on the first of the month, you shall take a young bull without blemish and cleanse the sanctuary. ¹⁹"The priest shall take some of the blood from the sin offering and put it on the door posts of the house, on the four corners of the ledge of the altar and on the posts of the gate of the inner court. ²⁰"Thus you shall do on the seventh day of the month for everyone who goes astray or is naive; so you shall make atonement for the house. ²¹"In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall have the Passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten. ²²"On that day the prince shall provide for himself and all the people of the land a bull for a sin offering. ²³"During the seven days of the feast he shall provide as a burnt offering to the LORD seven bulls and seven rams without blemish on every day of the seven days, and a male goat daily for a sin offering. ²⁴"He shall provide as a

grain offering an ephah with a bull, an ephah with a ram and a hin of oil with an ephah. ²⁵"In the seventh month, on the fifteenth day of the month, at the feast, he shall provide like this, seven days for the sin offering, the burnt offering, the grain offering and the oil." (Ezek 45:18-25)

¹⁶Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. ¹⁷And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. ¹⁸If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. ¹⁹This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. ²⁰In that day there will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "HOLY TO THE LORD " And the cooking pots in the LORD'S house will be like the bowls before the altar. ²¹Every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to the LORD of hosts; and all who sacrifice will come and take of them and boil in them And there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts in that day. (Zech 14:16-21)

➤ ***The Nations of the Earth Worship in Jerusalem***

²Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. ³And many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
To the house of the God of Jacob;
That He may teach us concerning His ways
And that we may walk in His paths."

For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war. (Isa 2:2-4)

² Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths " for from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (Micah 4:2)

²It will be a day when they will come to you from Assyria and the cities of Egypt, from Egypt even to the Euphrates, even from sea to sea and mountain to mountain. (Micah 7:12)

²⁰"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'It will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. ²¹The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, "Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go." ²²So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.' ²³"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'"" (Zech 8:20-23)

¹⁶Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. ¹⁷And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. ¹⁸If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. ¹⁹This will be the punishment of

Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. ²⁰In that day there will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "HOLY TO THE LORD " And the cooking pots in the LORD'S house will be like the bowls before the altar. ²¹Every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to the LORD of hosts; and all who sacrifice will come and take of them and boil in them And there will no longer be a ¹Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts in that day. (Zech 14:16-21)

➤ ***There is Worldwide Knowledge of the Lord***

⁹They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isa 11:9)

³⁴"They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." (Jer 31:34)

¹⁴"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." (Hab 2:14)

➤ ***Righteousness and Justice is Universal***

⁷There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore the zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (Isa 9:7)

⁴But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. (Isa 11:4)

¹"Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. ²"He will not cry out or raise His voice, nor make His voice heard in the street. ³"A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴"He will not be disheartened or crushed until He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law." (Isa 42:1-4)

⁵"Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. (Jer 23:5)

POLITICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND EVENTS

➤ ***Israel is a United Nation***

¹⁸"In those days the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and they will come together from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers as an inheritance. (Jer 3:18)

¹⁵The word of the LORD came again to me saying, ¹⁶"And you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, 'For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions'; then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.' ¹⁷"Then join them for yourself one to another into one stick, that they may become

one in your hand. ¹⁸"When the sons of your people speak to you saying, 'Will you not declare to us what you mean by these?' ¹⁹say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will put them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.'" ²⁰"The sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes. ²¹"Say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; ²²and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms. ²³"They will no longer defile themselves with their idols, or with their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. And they will be My people, and I will be their God. (Ezek 37:15-23)

➤ *Christ Rules from Jerusalem and the Davidic Covenant is Fulfilled*

¹Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes. (Isa 40:11)

⁷"I will make the lame a remnant and the outcasts a strong nation, and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on and forever. (Micah 4:7)

²"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity." (Micah 5:2b)

¹¹ Even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you. ¹²"When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³"He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴"I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, ¹⁵but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶"Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever." (2 Sam 7:11-16)

⁶For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (Isa 9:6-7)

¹⁷"For thus says the LORD, 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; ¹⁸and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man before Me to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to prepare sacrifices continually.'" ¹⁹The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, ²⁰"Thus says the LORD, 'If you can break My covenant for the day and My covenant for the night, so that day and night will not be at their appointed time, ²¹then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests, My ministers. ²²As the host of heaven cannot be counted and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.'" ²³And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, ²⁴"Have you not observed what this people have spoken, saying, 'The two families which the LORD chose, He has rejected them'? Thus they despise My people, no longer are they as a nation in their sight. ²⁵"Thus says the LORD, 'If My covenant for day and night stand not, and the fixed patterns of

heaven and earth I have not established, ²⁶then I would reject the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, not taking from his descendants rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob But I will restore their fortunes and will have mercy on them." (Jer 33:17-26)

¹¹"In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, and wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old; ¹²That they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by My name," declares the LORD who does this. (Amos 9:11-12)

³²"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." (Lu 1:32-33)

➤ ***Christ Governs the Nations of the World & Israel is Pre-eminent***

³And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; ⁴But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. ⁵Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist. (Isa 11:3-5)

² Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths" for from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. (Micah 4:2-3)

⁹And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one. (Zech 14:9)

⁵And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great. (Rev 19:15)

¹When the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and again choose Israel, and settle them in their own land, then strangers will join them and attach themselves to the house of Jacob. ²The peoples will take them along and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them as an inheritance in the land of the LORD as male servants and female servants; and they will take their captors captive and will rule over their oppressors. (Isa 14:1-2)

²²Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will lift up My hand to the nations and set up My standard to the peoples; and they will bring your sons in their bosom, and your daughters will be carried on their shoulders. ²³Kings will be your guardians, and their princesses your nurses they will bow down to you with their faces to the earth and lick the dust of your feet; and you will know that I am the LORD; those who hopefully wait for Me will not be put to shame. (Isa 49:22-23)

¹⁴"The sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you,
And all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet;
And they will call you the city of the LORD,
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

¹⁵"Whereas you have been forsaken and hated
With no one passing through,
I will make you an everlasting pride,
A joy from generation to generation.

¹⁶"You will also suck the milk of nations

And suck the breast of kings;
Then you will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior
And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.
¹⁷"Instead of bronze I will bring gold,
And instead of iron I will bring silver,
And instead of wood, bronze,
And instead of stones, iron.
And I will make peace your administrators
And righteousness your overseers. (Isa 60:14-17)

⁵ Strangers will stand and pasture your flocks,
And foreigners will be your farmers and your vinedressers.
⁶ But you will be called the priests of the LORD;
You will be spoken of as ministers of our God
You will eat the wealth of nations,
And in their riches you will boast.
⁷ Instead of your shame you will have a double portion,
And instead of humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion
Therefore they will possess a double portion in their land,
Everlasting joy will be theirs.
⁸ For I, the LORD, love justice,
I hate robbery in the burnt offering;
And I will faithfully give them their recompense
And make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹ Then their offspring will be known among the nations,
And their descendants in the midst of the peoples.
All who see them will recognize them
Because they are the offspring whom the LORD has blessed. (Isa 61:5-9)

⁷ Then the remnant of Jacob
Will be among many peoples
Like dew from the LORD,
Like showers on vegetation
Which do not wait for man
Or delay for the sons of men. (Micah 5:7)

➤ ***Israel is at Peace in the Land and the Land Covenant is Fulfilled***

¹ "So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you, ² and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, ³ then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. ⁴ "If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back. ⁵ "The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. ⁶ "Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live. ⁷ "The LORD your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. ⁸ "And you shall again obey the LORD, and observe all His commandments which I command you today. ⁹ "Then the LORD your God will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your ground, for the LORD will again rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers; ¹⁰ if you obey the

LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul. (Deut 30:1-10)

⁸Then my people will live in a peaceful habitation, and in secure dwellings and in undisturbed resting places. (Isa 32:18)

⁵I will be like the dew to Israel;
He will blossom like the lily,
And he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon. (Hosea 14:5)

⁷Those who live in his shadow
Will again raise grain,
And they will blossom like the vine.
His renown will be like the wine of Lebanon. (Hosea 14:7)

¹⁵"I will also plant them on their land,
And they will not again be rooted out from their land
Which I have given them,"
Says the LORD your God. (Amos 9:15)

⁴Each of them will sit under his vine
And under his fig tree,
With no one to make them afraid,
For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. (Micah 4:4)

⁴And He will arise and shepherd His flock
In the strength of the LORD,
In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God
And they will remain,
Because at that time He will be great
To the ends of the earth.

⁵This One will be our peace
When the Assyrian invades our land,
When he tramples on our citadels,
Then we will raise against him
Seven shepherds and eight leaders of men. (Micah 5:4-5)

¹⁰"In that day," declares the LORD of hosts, "every one of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and under his fig tree." (Zech 3:10)

¹¹People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security. (Zech 14:11)

➤ ***God's Covenant with Abraham is Fulfilled***

¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates: ¹⁹the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite ²⁰and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim ²¹and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite." (Gen 15:18-21)

See also Ezekiel 47:13-48:8, 23-27

➤ **Resurrected Saints of All Dispensations Reign with Christ**

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. (Rev 20:4-6)

The purpose of the thrones that John saw was twofold: ruling and judging (cf. Dan. 7:9-10, 22; Matt. 19:28). Those who sat upon the thrones could possibly be the faithful saints who have returned with Christ to the earth (19:7-8, 14, & 19). They receive authority from God to take charge of the earth, the beast's domain, under Christ's rule.

Paul alludes to a ruling, reigning and judging set of duties that will be performed by resurrected believers of the Body of Christ (Rom 8:16-21; 1 Cor 6:1-3; 2 and 2 Tim 2:11-12 are examples).

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of glory of the children of God. (Rom 8:16-21 cf. Heb 1:1-2)

Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters of this life? (1 Cor 6:1-3)

It is a trustworthy statement: 'For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; if we endure, we shall also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; if we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.' (2 Tim 2:11-12)

However, it is quite possible that when Jesus returns, the thrones are set up for judgment in view of the armies of the beast and those allied with him. Daniel 7:21-22 indicate that the "little horn" (a.k.a. the "Beast" and the Anti-Christ) will make war against the saints until Christ comes and renders a judgment in favor of the saints. We know that at the time of Jesus' 2nd Advent, there will be a judgment of nations as well as individuals. Jesus indicates in Matthew 25:31-46 that nations will be separated – sheep from goats. He also indicates that there will be an evaluation, a judgment of Tribulation people. Also, we know from Revelation 1:4 that there are "seven spirits" before the throne of God in heaven.

So, who is being referenced by the "they" of verse 4 – "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them" – since the reference seems to be distinct from what follows – "the souls of those who had been beheaded...?" Apparently, the "they" refers to Jesus Christ and those who return with Him at His 2nd Advent – a group that may include believers of

the Body of Christ in resurrection bodies although that conclusion can only be reached by assuming that Paul's references to our "judging the world" in passages such as 1 Corinthians 6:1-3 refer to the 2nd Advent. That connection is not entirely clear although possible.

Regardless, what is more clear is that the "they" of verse 4 are probably the ones who execute the judgment with Christ at His 2nd Advent that is referenced in Matthew 25:31-46. "They" will likely include the Twelve Apostles to Israel (see Matt 19:28-30 cf. Psa 122:5; Isa 32:1-4; Ezek 43:7; Zech 6:13).

Obviously, the remainder of Revelation 20:4 is referring to the Tribulation martyrs. It is also possible that the Tribulation martyrs are included in the "they" who sit on thrones and execute judgment as well; however, somehow, the Tribulation martyrs must undergo the judgment mentioned in Matthew 25:31-46 prior to sitting on thrones and having judgment committed to them.

Summary – The exact chronology of events associated with Jesus' 2nd Advent is not clear in Scripture. However, it is clear that saints of the present age, saints of the Age of Israel prior to the present age and saints of the Tribulation will have some ruling, reigning and judging responsibilities with Christ either at the 2nd Advent and/or during the period of the Millennial reign.

➤ ***Universal Peace is Prevalent***

⁴And He will judge between the nations,
And will render decisions for many peoples;
And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks
Nation will not lift up sword against nation,
And never again will they learn war. (Isa 2:4)

¹⁷And the work of righteousness will be peace,
And the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.

¹⁸Then my people will live in a peaceful habitation,
And in secure dwellings and in undisturbed resting places. (Isa 32:17-18)

¹⁸"Violence will not be heard again in your land,
Nor devastation or destruction within your borders;
But you will call your walls salvation, and your gates praise. (Isa 60:18)

¹⁸"In that day I will also make a covenant for them
With the beasts of the field,
The birds of the sky
And the creeping things of the ground
And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land,
And will make them lie down in safety. (Hosea 2:18)

² Many nations will come and say,
"Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD
And to the house of the God of Jacob,
That He may teach us about His ways
And that we may walk in His paths "
For from Zion will go forth the law,
Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

³And He will judge between many peoples
And render decisions for mighty, distant nations
Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares

And their spears into pruning hooks;
Nation will not lift up sword against nation,
And never again will they train for war.
⁴Each of them will sit under his vine
And under his fig tree,
With no one to make them afraid,
For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. (Micah 2:2-4)

⁴And He will arise and shepherd His flock
In the strength of the LORD,
In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God
And they will remain,
Because at that time He will be great
To the ends of the earth. (Micah 5:4)

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
And the horse from Jerusalem;
And the bow of war will be cut off
And He will speak peace to the nations;
And His dominion will be from sea to sea,
And from the River to the ends of the earth. (Zech 9:10)

➤ *Jerusalem is the Capital of the World*

¹⁷"At that time they will call Jerusalem 'The Throne of the LORD,' and all the nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem, for the name of the LORD; nor will they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart. (Jer 3:17)

³⁰"These are the exits of the city: on the north side, 4,500 cubits by measurement, ³¹shall be the gates of the city, named for the tribes of Israel, three gates toward the north: the gate of Reuben, one; the gate of Judah, one; the gate of Levi, one. ³²"On the east side, 4,500 cubits, shall be three gates: the gate of Joseph, one; the gate of Benjamin, one; the gate of Dan, one. ³³"On the south side, 4,500 cubits by measurement, shall be three gates: the gate of Simeon, one; the gate of Issachar, one; the gate of Zebulun, one. ³⁴"On the west side, 4,500 cubits, shall be three gates: the gate of Gad, one; the gate of Asher, one; the gate of Naphtali, one. ³⁵"The city shall be 18,000 cubits round about; and the name of the city from that day shall be, 'The LORD is there.'" (Ezek 48:30-35)

¹⁶The LORD roars from Zion
And utters His voice from Jerusalem,
And the heavens and the earth tremble
But the LORD is a refuge for His people
And a stronghold to the sons of Israel.
¹⁷Then you will know that I am the LORD your God,
Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain
So Jerusalem will be holy,
And strangers will pass through it no more. (Joel 3:16-17)

¹And it will come about in the last days
That the mountain of the house of the LORD
Will be established as the chief of the mountains
It will be raised above the hills,
And the peoples will stream to it. (Micah 4:1)

⁶"In that day," declares the LORD,
"I will assemble the lame
And gather the outcasts,
Even those whom I have afflicted.

⁷"I will make the lame a remnant
And the outcasts a strong nation,
And the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion
From now on and forever.

⁸"As for you, tower of the flock,
Hill of the daughter of Zion,
To you it will come--
Even the former dominion will come,
The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem. (Micah 4:6-8)

²"Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes, with great wrath I am
jealous for her.' ³"Thus says the LORD, 'I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of
Jerusalem Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of
hosts will be called the Holy stack.' (Zech 8:2-3)

Events Following the Millennium

SATAN RELEASED FROM THE ABYSS & DECEIVES NATIONS

7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. (Rev 20:7-8)

REVOLT AGAINST MESSIAH'S RULE AND THRONE IN JERUSALEM

9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (Rev 20:9)

ENEMIES ARE DESTROYED BY FIRE

9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (Rev 20:9)

SATAN CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE

10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Rev 20:10)

UNBELIEVERS JUDGED AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE & CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev 20:11-15)

8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Rev 21:8)

Eternity

CHRIST PRESENTS THE REDEEMED KINGDOM TO THE FATHER

20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. 21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, 24 **then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.** 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. (1 Cor 15:20-25 esp. v. 24)

NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH ESTABLISHED

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

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. (2 Pet 3:10)

THE NEW JERUSALEM IS UNITED WITH THE NEW EARTH

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev 21:2)

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. 12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. 13 There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. 16 The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. 17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements. 18 The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; 20 the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. 22 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; 26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 27 and nothing unclean, and no one who

practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Rev 21:10-27)

CHRIST RULES FOREVER IN THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace,
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
From then on and forevermore
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (Isa 9:6-7)

24 "My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them. 25 "They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever. 26 "I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. 27 "My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. 28 "And the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever." (Ezek 37:24-28)

13 "I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a Son of Man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him.

14 "And to Him was given dominion,
Glory and a kingdom,
That all the peoples, nations and men of every language
Might serve Him
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed. (Dan 7:13-14)

32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." (Lu 1:32-33)

15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." (Rev 11:15)

Appendix A – More Detail Regarding the Gog/Magog Invasion of Ezekiel 38-39

These chapters (Ezekiel 38 & 39) represent the sixth and last message of Ezekiel that he gave the night before refugees from Jerusalem reached the exiles and gave them the message that Jerusalem had fallen (see Ezek 33.21-22). The two chapters consist of seven separate messages that begin with the phrase “thus says the Lord God.”

- Ezekiel 38.3 – Introduction of the invading people groups
- Ezekiel 38.10 – Introduction of Gog’s plan to attack unsuspecting Israel
- Ezekiel 38.14 – Gog’s invasion is part of God’s sovereign plan to disclose Himself to the nations
- Ezekiel 38.17 – God’s tactics for the destruction of Gog – phenomenon of nature
- Ezekiel 39.1 – God declares the destruction and details of burial
- Ezekiel 39.17 – Gog’s forces – food for animals
- Ezekiel 39.25 – Analogies to the exile generations of Israel and Judah

The prophecy contained in these two chapters involves “Gog” of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. In this Appendix, we will examine who this character is or will be and we will attempt to sort through the perplexing and contrasting maze of references that seems to almost defy any attempt to pinpoint the timing and setting of the events described.

Some of the questions that arise from a reading of these two chapters include the following.

- Is Gog a ruler since he is described as a “prince?”
- Where is Rosh, Meshech and Tubal?
- Is the re-gathering and restoration (38.8) that Ezekiel mentions in this passage and that is to occur in the “latter days” and “latter years” (38.16 cf. 38.8) associated with the Tribulation period, the 2nd Advent or the end of the Millennium?
- How do we reconcile references to Israel dwelling safely in the Land (38.11, 12, 14) with the invasion of Gog and his coalition of forces from the North (38.6, 9) if such invasion occurs in the Tribulation or in association with the Battle of Armageddon? Israel doesn’t dwell safely in the Land until after the 2nd Advent of Christ in the Millennium.
- It takes seven years (39.9) for the Israelites to burn the weapons of the invaders. If the destruction of Gog occurs during the Tribulation, then will the clean up continue into the beginning of the Millennium? Or, if this battle with Gog described in Ezekiel is the same as the battle of Gog and Magog that occurs at the end of the Millennium, then why would a clean up be needed since the new earth will be replacing the present earth?
- It takes seven months (39.12) for the Israelites to bury the dead. Would burial even be necessary if this Gog is the same as the Gog who is associated with the revolt at the end of the Millennium?

Theologians have debated the timing of the events described in these chapters due to these very questions. I think that it will be very important to keep in mind an observation that we’ve made as we’ve progressed chronologically through the prophecies of these Old Testament prophets.

We’ve seen a recurring pattern that has been exhibited by the prophets we’ve studied to date whereby separate and distant prophetic events are melded together into one prophetic narrative using poetic imagery and references. It is as if these prophets were looking at a distant horizon and observing two peaks as if they were conjoined and part of the same mountain when in reality they are two separate mountains separated by a great distance. Sometimes those two peaks represent the 1st and 2nd Advent of Christ and sometimes they represent the 2nd Advent and the end of human history – events separated by a number of years, but from the prophet’s distant perspective, they seemed to be concurrent.

Where is “Rosh” and Who are These People Groups?

“O Gog, the prince of Rosh” – The Septuagint (LXX), which was written just a little more than three centuries later than Ezekiel, translated this phrase – “ruler [אֲדִינְשָׁרָא] of Rosh.”¹² The proper name “Rosh” only occurs in Ezekiel 38.2-3 and 39.1 along with Meshech and Tubal – all of whom are mentioned to be under the rule of Gog. In our passage, Gog is twice mentioned to be from the “uttermost parts of the North” (38.15 & 39.2). In the “Hebrew cosmography this would include a wedge of territory extending up from a point somewhere south of Israel to the western shores of the Black Sea and the eastern coast of the Caspian.”¹³ This is true regardless of whether one considers the possibility that Ezekiel was prophesying from the vantage point of the Exile in Babylon or from the vantage point of Jerusalem. The perspective would not materially change the general area against which he was prophesying.

There is a difference of opinion regarding the translation of the Hebrew word רֹשׁ (“Rosh”). Some translations render “Rosh” as a proper noun and some translations render it as an adjective (“O Gog, the chief prince” or “head prince”). The evidence seems to favor the adjective rendering, i.e. “chief” or “head” prince. “Rosh” never appears as a nation in any other biblical list of place names, yet all of the other names in our passage (i.e. Magog, Meshech, Tubal, Persia, Ethiopia, Libya) do appear in numerous passages (cf. Gen 10.1-7; 1 Chron. 1.5-7; Ezek 27.13-24; 32.26).¹⁴

While the origin of the name “Rosh” cannot be definitively established, there is much evidence that seems to establish a connection between the “Rosh” and modern-day Russia. Three primary reasons exist: 1) Some of the countries named by Ezekiel were located in what is now Russia; 2) The armies are said to come “from the far north” (Ezek 38.6, 15; 39.2) and relate to regions now under the domination of modern day Russia; 3) Ezekiel spoke of a coalition of several nations, many of whom are either under the influence of Russia or have great prospects of being under the influence of Russia, e.g. Iran (“Persia”); Sudan and northern Ethiopia (“Cush”), Libya (“Put”), and Turkey (“Meshech,” “Tubal,” “Gomer,” and Beth Togarmah”).¹⁵

If “Rosh” was in fact a power (verses an adjective), it is most probable that “Rosh was one of the many Sarmatian or Iranian tribes which almost surrounded the Caspian sea; was located near the Caucasus Mountains perhaps as early as the tenth century B.C. (although likely somewhat later); was mentioned in Assyrian and Babylonian records (ca. 700-600 B.C.); and was in the general migration of the Sarmatians westward which reached its fullest extent ca. 200 B.C.”¹⁶ [The

¹² The meaning of the Hebrew word for “Rosh” is “head” or “chief.” This would result in a translation of “Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince (or ruler) of Meshech and Tubal.” See footnotes in Earl Radmacher, gen ed, *The Nelson Study Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997), 1396. Nevertheless, even if translated in this manner, the fact remains that the peoples of Meshech and Tubal are also thought to have been associated with the same general region as will be described in association with “Rosh.”

¹³ Jon Ruthven, “Ezekiel’s Rosh and Russia: A Connection?” *Bibliotheca Sacra*, 125:500 (October, 1968), 325.

¹⁴ See Charles H. Dyer, “Ezekiel” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament*, John Walvoord and Roy Zuck, editors (Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983), 1299-1300 for helpful commentary on this subject. Note the date on this commentary, i.e. 1983 – prior to the so-called “collapse” of the U.S.S.R. Many have discounted the arguments put forth by Dyer and others that attempt to establish a connection between “Rosh” and a future Russian on the basis that the Soviet Union is no longer. However, I would argue that the Soviet Union never totally collapsed. The power behind the former empire is just in a period of underground dormancy. This is why I distrust President Putin. If we are even close to the Rapture and the Tribulation, he has all the makings of being the type of ruler to execute such a campaign as described here in Ezekiel 38 & 39. If we are not close to the Rapture, he strikes me as a close parallel to what the King of the North will be like.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ruthven, “Ezekiel’s Rosh and Russia: A Connection?” 332.

Sarmatians were a group of tribes that had gained complete control of the Crimean area (now southern Russia) by 200 B.C. and are linked to tribes from Iran who may have penetrated that region by as early as 900 B.C. – especially the region between the Black and Caspian Sea. They are mentioned by Herodotus in Book Four of his *Histories* in reference to military engagements with Cyrus of Persia and the Scythians (ca. 540 B.C.)]

Rosh is also mentioned in the context of other primary elements of the invading force – Gomer and Togarmah – who also come from the “uttermost parts of the North.” Other forces or peoples are also mentioned – Persia, Cush or Ethiopia, and Put or Lybia (38.5).

So, there seems to be two distinct groups mentioned in regard to this invasion – 1) a scattered collection of people – usually identified with Lybia, Ethiopia, and Persia (a region extending from modern N. Africa to Iraq/Iran) and 2) a larger group from the far north. The alliance comes from all directions – Persia (east); Ethiopia (south); Libya (west); and Gomer (north). Gomer (38.5) was most likely a reference to the Cimmerians – a people from modern-day southern Russia. Togarmah (38.5) was a reference to a people further north – near the Black Sea.¹⁷ A summary of these peoples mentioned is as follows:

- Magog – near the Black and Caspian Seas
- Rosh (if a proper noun and not an adjective) – near the Black and Caspian Seas
- Meshech and Tubal – near Magog
- Persia – east of Israel (modern-day Iran and Iraq)
- Ethiopia – south of Israel (Northern Africa)
- Libya – west of Israel
- Gomer & Togarmah – southern Russia near the Black Sea

What is the Timing of These Events?

There seems to be conflicting indications in this passage regarding the timing of these events. Note the following phrases and descriptions found in these two chapters:

- “In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel” (38.8)
- “They were brought out of the nations” (38.8)
- “All of them [Israel] dwell safely” (38.8)
- “I [Gog] will go up against a land of unwallled villages...a peaceful people, who dwell safely...without walls, and having neither bars nor gates” (38.11)
- “Against the waste places that are again inhabited and against a people gathered from the nations” (38.12)
- “On that day when My people Israel dwell safely” (38.14)
- “It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land” (38.16)
- “A great earthquake in the land of Israel” (38.19)
- “I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire and brimstone.” (38.22)
- “They [Israel] will make fires with them [weaponry of Gog’s forces] for seven years” (39.9)
- “For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them” (39.12)
- “When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies’ lands” (39.27)
- “For I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel” (39.29)

We know the timing of certain events associated with the end of the Tribulation, the 2nd Advent, the beginning of the Millennium and the battle of Gog & Magog at the end of human history. For instance, consider the following:

¹⁷ Radmacher, *The Nelson Study Bible*, 1396.

- The first half of the Tribulation will be a period of relative peace and prosperity [*similar to the dwelling in the land safely and peaceably in Ezekiel 38.8, 11?*] as the Antichrist and the False Prophet of Israel consolidate their power (Dan 9.27a)
- During the 2nd half of the Tribulation when the 6th Seal of judgment is opened, there will be worldwide disturbances and fear of divine wrath [*similar to that which is associated with Gog's destruction in Ezekiel 38.18-23, e.g. earthquakes*]. See Rev 6.12-17. Timing – 2nd half of the Tribulation.¹⁸
- Jerusalem is overrun by Gentile powers [*including Gog's forces?*] for three and one half months (Lu 21.24 cf. Rev 11.2). Timing – 2nd half of the Tribulation.
- Armies from the East and North [*including Gog's forces?*] converge upon Palestine (Dan 11.44 cf. Rev 16.12). Timing – 2nd half of the Tribulation.
- Signs [*including the earthquakes of Ezekiel 38.19?*] appear in the earth and sky (Isa 13.10; Joel 2.10, 30-31; 3.15; Matt 24.29). Timing – just prior to the 2nd Advent and toward the end of the Tribulation.
- Jews flee Jerusalem aided by topographical changes [*caused by the earthquakes of Ezekiel 38.19?*] (Zech 14.5). Timing – just prior to the 2nd Advent and toward the end of the Tribulation.
- Final regathering of Israel [*same as Ezekiel 38.8, 12; 39.27?*] (Isa 11.11-12; Jer 30.3; Ezek 36.24; 37.1-14; Amos 9.14-15; Micah 4.6-7; Matt 24.31). Timing – associated with the 2nd Advent.
- National deliverance of Israel from the Antichrist (Dan 12.1b; Zech 12.10; 13.1; Rom 11.26-27). Timing – 2nd Advent.
- Israel is exalted above Gentile nations [*dwells safely and prosperously in the Land as in Ezekiel 38.12?*] (Isa 14.1-2; 49.22-23; 60.14-17; 61.5-9). Timing – Millennium.
- Satan released from the abyss to deceive the nations (Rev 20.7-8) and global armies [*including the forces of Gog in Ezekiel 38 & 39?*] besiege Jerusalem and are destroyed (Rev 20.8-9). Satan cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev 20.10). Timing – end of the Millennium and human history and beginning of eternity.

One can easily see from the above analysis how different views have arisen regarding the timing of the events of Ezekiel 38 and 39. There are primarily three different positions espoused by pre-millennialists depicted in the table below.

Position	Pros	Cons
End of Christ's Millennial Reign – Battle of Gog & Magog (Rev 20.7-9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Some support from certain phrases in Ezekiel 38 & 39, e.g. the attack occurs while Israel is dwelling safely and prosperously in the Land ➤ The forces of Gog in Ezekiel 38 & 39 could be among the global armies that besiege Jerusalem and are destroyed at the end of the Millennium. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The results of Ezekiel's battle do not coincide with the events that follow the Gog & Magog revolt in Revelation 20. Why bury the dead for seven months after the battle (Ezek 39.12-13) when the next prophetic event is the resurrection of the unsaved dead (Rev 20.11-13)? ➤ Why would people remain on the earth after the battle to burn the weapons of war for seven years (Ezek 39.9-10) instead of entering immediately into

¹⁸ Some dispensationalists place the timing of the Seal judgments earlier in the Tribulation period. This is due in part to the fact that the seventh seal judgment is tantamount to the beginning of the trumpet judgments.

		<p>eternity (Rev 21.1-4)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The effect of the two battles relative to Israel is different. In Ezekiel, the battle is the catalyst God uses to draw Israel to Himself (cf. Ezek 39.7, 22-29) and to end her captivity. The battle in Revelation 20 occurs after Israel has been faithful to God and enjoyed His blessings for 1000 years.
Beginning of the Millennium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The timing of some of the phrases in Ezekiel 38 & 39 could coincide with events surrounding the 2nd Advent and the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom (e.g. the phenomena of nature, the regathering of Israel) ➤ At the beginning of the Millennium, all weapons of war will be destroyed (Micah 4.1-4) which corresponds to Ezekiel's description that 7 years are required to burn the implements of war used by Gog's forces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Israel will not have been dwelling peaceably and prosperously in the Land just prior to the 2nd Advent as indicated by Ezekiel
Sometime during the Tribulation period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The fact that the attack comes when Israel is at peace (Ezek 38.8, 11) coincides with the period of relative peace and prosperity that is present during the 1st half of the Tribulation when Israel's covenant with the Antichrist is in effect (Dan 9.27a) ➤ After the covenant with the Antichrist is broken in the middle of the Tribulation, the nation will suffer tremendous persecution (Dan 9.27b; Matt 24.15-22) ➤ This could provide the time needed to bury the dead (Ezek 39.12-13) and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If the forces of Gog in Ezekiel include the present-day Soviet Union or Russia, can they be so utterly destroyed per Ezekiel's description, yet somehow, at a later point, allow Russia to be part of the forces that attack the Antichrist in Jerusalem just before the defeat of all the worldly forces at the 2nd Advent of Christ? (This would require two invasions of Israel by powers from the North during the Tribulation).¹⁹

¹⁹ Two separate invasions could be possible, especially since the invasion described by Ezekiel is against Israel whereas the invasion described by Daniel (Dan 11.40a) is against the Antichrist who has established his headquarters at Jerusalem.

	to burn the weapons of war (Ezek 39.9-10)	
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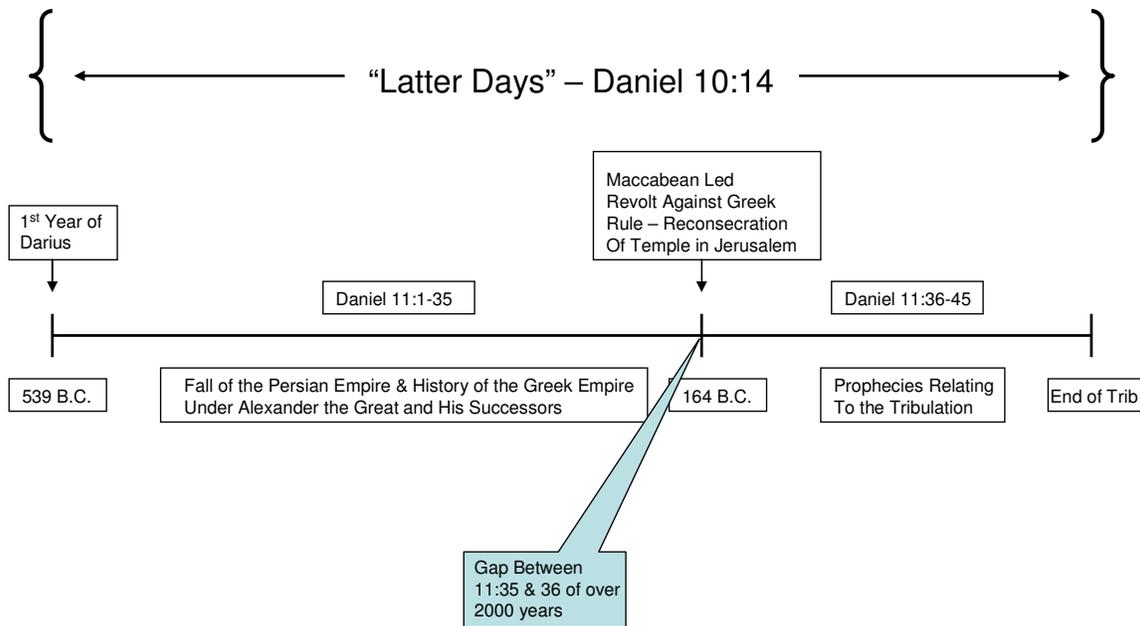
So the evidence seems to indicate that the invasion from the confederation led by Gog will occur sometime during the Tribulation period. God allows this invasion to occur in accordance with His sovereign plan and purpose in order to: 1) deal with that portion of Israel that was arrogant and living in relative peace and prosperity (38.12 cf. 39.23-24, 26); 2) magnify and glorify His name among the nations by preserving and blessing the believing remnant of Israel (38.16, 23; 39.7 cf. 39.29). Ezekiel words his prophecy regarding these future events in such a way that even one of his own contemporary hearers could not miss the relevance to their generation (see 39.23-29).

Appendix B – The Meaning of the Phrase “Latter Years,” “Last Days” and “Latter Days” in Scripture

The phrases “latter days” (or “latter years”), “last days,” and “last day” are found throughout prophetic passages of Scripture. The following brief analysis of these phrases should assist the reader in understanding their usage.

“Latter Days” or “Latter Years” Often Used to Refer to the Tribulation Period

The phrases “latter days” or “latter years” is often used to refer to the period of the Tribulation. The phrases are always used in reference to events that are future to the period in which the writer of Scripture lived and wrote and sometimes embraces a period other than the Tribulation. For instance in Daniel 10:14, an angel provides Daniel with additional detailed revelation concerning future events in God’s program with Israel. The details of the “latter days” are recorded in Daniel 11. In Daniel 11:1-35, we find amazingly detailed prophecies – approximately one hundred and thirty-five prophetic statements – relating to events that would occur at the end of the Persian Empire in the 6th thru the 5th Centuries B.C. and under Alexander the Great and his successors during the 4th thru the 2nd Centuries B.C. Then, between Daniel 11:35 and 11:36, we have an amazing gap in time that is observed. In verses 36-45, we are transported to the Tribulation period. The diagram below reflects this distinction.



“Latter Days” or “Latter Years” Often Used to Refer to the Period of Great Blessing Upon Israel, i.e. the Millennium or Messianic Kingdom

Other passages where we see the phrases “latter days” or “latter years” used to refer to a future period of Israel’s existence as a nation and people is found in Numbers 24:14; Deuteronomy 4:30; 31:29; Isaiah 2:2; Jeremiah 23:20; 30:24; 48:47; 49:39; Ezekiel 38:8; Daniel 2:28; Hosea 3:4; and Micah 4:1 as examples. Peter establishes the connection between Joel’s prophecies (Joel 2:28-32 describing events preceding and surrounding the 2nd Advent of Christ) and the phenomenon of tongues that accompanied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost shortly after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension (cf. Acts 2:14-39). Shortly thereafter, Peter establishes the connection between these prophecies and the Pentecost phenomenon and

the conditions for the 2nd Advent of Jesus as the Messiah to occur along with the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom on earth in Acts 3:17-26.

Appendix C – A Biblical & Dispensational Perspective of Human History

