

A person wearing a dark hooded jacket is seen from behind, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape under a warm, orange-hued sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The person's silhouette is dark against the bright, glowing background.

A LIVING UNDERSTANDING OF THE END TIMES

How Then Shall We Live?

KAY-CHONG YEO



TEACHING SERIES
FORERUNNER RESOURCE

A Living Understanding of the End Times

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**Kay-Chong Yeo
2019**

**A Living Understanding of the End Times
How Then Shall We Live?**

by Kay-Chong Yeo

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Forerunner Resource

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Preface

Matthew 24:3: “And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

Jesus commanded one generation of believers to know that His return was near – the generation that would be alive to see all the trends and signs that He prophesied about in Matthew 24.

Therefore, it is vital to have a clear and biblical understanding of the End Times, especially in such a time as this. Many in the Body of Christ believe that we are living in the generation where Jesus will return.

If this is true, there will be many implications and questions – What does Scripture say? What does it mean for our generation if this is true? What is going to happen? Will it get better or worse? How then shall we live and what then shall we say in order to prepare ourselves and others? Who is Jesus when He returns?

It is so vital for us to answer all these questions if we are indeed living in the generation of Jesus' return so that we can prepare ourselves to be that overcoming, victorious and mature Bride that Jesus is returning for.

This School seeks to provide answers to questions of what is going to happen, what God is looking for and how we should live in light of all of this. This is so that we can know God's heart, make sense of what is happening around us from the Word of God and rise up to be His Voice wherever He has placed us – in our churches, workplaces, families, social circles etc.

Chapter 1

Jesus' Command to know the Signs of the Times

— Knowing the Generation but Not the Day or Hour

A. Introduction

1. Jesus commanded one generation of believers to know that His return was near. It was the generation that would be alive to see all these things or the signs that He prophesied in Matt. 24 (Matt. 24:33-36).
2. As a believer who loves Jesus, we are eager to know what is on His heart, and thus what He meant by “all these things” that will lead to His glorious return to the earth. The Man we love has given us much insight into what He considers to be the important things to know about the generation in which He returns. He wants us to know them because we will live differently.
3. If we are living in the last generation, then we need to know it. There are two questions that many ask.
 - a. Can we know if we are living in the last generation?
 - b. How will we know if we are living in the last generation? What are the signs?
4. The good news is that there is much biblical information on this because Jesus wants us to be prepared for His End-Time purposes. Jesus would not tell us of the circumstances around His coming then say no one could know it.
5. By observing the biblical signs of the times, it is possible to know the generation of Jesus' return yet without knowing the day or hour. My opinions on this generation are based on observation of the biblical signs, not on personal revelation such as prophetic visions. We must insist that our faith be based on what the Bible says, not on personal revelations about the timing of His return.
6. The signs of the times can be divided into three categories. We focus our attention on sign events and sign trends to progressively strengthen our faith that we are getting near to Jesus' return.
 - a. Sign events: these are predicted in Scripture and alert us to the timing of Jesus' return.
 - b. Sign trends: both positive and negative sign trends will signal His coming.
 - c. Prophetic experiences: subjective personal experiences alert us to the End Times.
7. The apostles and the OT prophets also prophesied of sign events and trends. When we combine their prophecies with Jesus' prophecies then we get a much more

complete picture. Jesus' most in-depth teaching on the End Times is called the Olivet Discourse. The most complete record of this prophecy is in Matthew 24-25. Mark and Luke gave a shorter account of it (Mk. 13; Lk. 21).

B. Learn the Parable of the Fig Tree: Know the Generation of His Return (Matt. 24:32-42)

1. Jesus is answering the apostle's question concerning what signs would indicate His return. (Matt. 24:3)
2. Jesus gave us three commands in Matt. 24:32-42.
 - a. He commanded us to learn the parable of the fig tree (v. 32).
 - b. Then to know that His coming was near (v. 33) and therefore, to watch (v. 42). We "see" more clearly (v. 33) as we watch more consistently (v. 42).
 - c. Have you learned this parable? Do you have a biblically informed opinion about the significance of this generation?
3. The lesson of the parable of the fig tree is easy to understand. The fig tree loses its leaves in wintertime and does not sprout till late in the spring. Thus, when the leaves of a fig tree begin to sprout, we know that summer is near.
4. In the same way, when the prophetic sign events and trends take place together making global headlines, then we know that the end of this age is near. They must occur in a way that makes headline news worldwide. This is to constitute a prophetic sign that has a message from God in it that could be discerned by the Body of Christ.
5. As the fig leaves signaling the summer can be seen by anyone who is paying attention, in the same way, the events signaling the second coming will be obvious to anyone looking for them.
6. How long is a biblical generation?
 - a. A generation in Scripture ranges from 40 to 100 years (Gen. 15:13-16; Num. 32:13; Ps. 90:10; Matt. 1:17; Acts 7:6). Moses spoke of Israel's captivity in Egypt as lasting 400 years or 4 generations (Gen. 15:13). Thus, a generation could refer to 100 years.
 - b. There were 14 generations from Abraham to David (Matt. 1:17) each averaging about 70 years.
7. "All these things" in (v. 33 and v. 34) include the prophetic signs spoken of in Matt. 24:4-28. There is only one generation in which God's people will see all the trends and events of Matt. 24 occurring at the same time at an alarming measure or making headline news on a global basis. Jesus commanded His people in that generation to know that His coming was near.
8. For the first time in history, most of these trends and some of the necessary developments that will lead to the events are happening in an alarming measure at

the same time on a global basis. For example, Israel had to become a nation before the abomination of desolation could occur.

9. It seemed incredible to the apostles that all these sign events and trends would occur in a global way in one generation (v. 34). This was the unspoken issue that Jesus addressed by comparing the passing of the heavens and earth to the truthfulness of His words or prophecies (v. 35).
10. The emphasis on Jesus' words in v. 35 is not on His general teachings, but on the reliability of His prophetic words concerning the future given in Mt. 24. As impossible as it seems that all these events would occur together in one generation, the prophetic words of Jesus guarantee it.
11. Jesus compared His prophetic words in Mt. 24 to the reliability and durability of heaven and earth. Paul taught that the form of this world is destined to pass away (1 Cor. 7:31).
12. We are called to know or recognize the generation in which the Lord returns. One will only look up and lift up their heads if they know it is drawing near (Luke 21:25-29).

C. Like the Days of Noah: Unaware of Living in a Prophetic Generation

1. In Matt. 24:32-39, Jesus emphasized that the people alive in the generation in which He returns are to know with confidence that it is the generation of His return. He gives a significant qualifier to this command, namely that we not take it a step further and seek to know the day and the hour.
2. Jesus emphasized that we would not know the hour of His return (Matt. 24:39, 42, 44, 50; 25:13). The Father has strategically hidden that from His people so that we live free from fear and filled with understanding, only as we search the Word and stay deeply connected to Him. It is ironic that this qualifier to the command to know the generation is used as an argument against knowing the generation. We must seek relationship with the Father because only He knows.
3. The main message in this passage is that people who could have understood the prophetic significance of the generation they lived in, did not. The surprise with which Noah's flood came on the majority illustrates the ignorance that Jesus wants His people to avoid. Jesus pointed out how the majority were unaware, even in the face of the preaching of Noah (2 Peter 2:4-5).
4. The surprise of Noah's flood proves the widespread problem of lacking prophetic understanding and faith in a significant history changing generation. The people in Noah's day were caught totally by surprise as they went about the ordinary activities of daily life.
5. Noah and his family prepared for an entire generation without knowing the specific day or hour (Heb. 11:7).
6. One of Jesus' main points is that many living in that generation will not know it (Matt. 24:37-39). Thus, they will make wrong decisions because of their fear, offense

towards God or ignorance of what the Scripture says is happening. Though it is possible for them to know it, many believers will not see it because they did not care about the last generation being important to Jesus.

7. Believers can know the generation just as Noah did, even though it will come suddenly to those without understanding. However, it will not catch the righteous off guard (1 Thes. 5:1-6).
8. Many use Matt. 24:36 to justify their unfamiliarity and their lack of study of biblical prophecy. They use this passage in the opposite way that Jesus intended in its context.
9. Jesus had just laid out main signs necessary to prepare the Body of Christ for that generation. I exhort you to not give way to such shallow arguments. Stand your ground. God has given His word with clarity.
10. As believers who love Jesus, we are eager to know what is on His heart and thus, what He meant by "all of those things" that will lead to His glorious return to the earth. The Man we love has given us insight into what He considers to be the important things to know about the generation in which He will return. He wants us to know them because we will act differently and make different decisions if we understand what is happening.
11. It is essential to have understanding in that hour so that we embrace what is right and refuse what is wrong. For example, the greatest counterfeit justice and unity movement will emerge in that hour. It is referred to as the Harlot Babylon worldwide religion (Rev. 17). Many believers who are not aware of what is happening, will embrace the Harlot Babylon religion, thinking it is good.
12. Our faith is to be stirred by searching the Bible to gain understanding of what the Word says about the prophetic signs that declare the generation in which the Lord returns.
13. God could easily settle the issue of timing by telling His prophets in the Church today, but He has chosen to leave the specific day and hour unknown so that we must cultivate a heart of faith with hunger to know what is on His heart about that generation. Jesus taught that most of the people living in the generation of His return would not know it (Matt. 24:37-39).

D. Jesus rebuked His generation for not discerning the signs of the times

1. Jesus rebuked His generation for not discerning the signs of His first coming. Asking for a sign was legitimate because Joel prophesied that God would send signs just before the Messiah came (Joel 2:30). The Pharisees' hypocrisy was in asking for signs beyond those Jesus did, to test Him (Matt. 16:1-4).
2. Jesus rebuked them for not seeing the prophetic signs of the times for that generation. However, the signs of that generation were not recorded in the OT. If they were rebuked for missing signs not in Scripture, how much more responsible are we to know the biblical signs of the times?

3. Israel's unresponsiveness to Jesus was related to them not knowing the time of "their visitation". He wept over Jerusalem because they did not respond rightly. He had warned the cities of Israel (Luke 19:41-44).
4. Paul taught that the Church should know the times and seasons related to Jesus' second coming (1 Thes. 5:1-6).

E. Overcoming obstacles: the Fear of man

1. Many draw back from teaching on the End Times because of the fear of man. Peter warned the saints to first be aware of the dangers of a scoffing or mocking spirit. The first thing we need to know is what we are up against. All who stand for God's truth in the End Times will be resisted by scoffers or mockers from both outside and inside the Church (2 Pet. 3:3-4).
2. Many will scoff and mock the necessity to understand, proclaim and prepare for the Lord's return. Scoffers will argue that people have always said that Jesus was coming. It was a top priority to Peter to warn the saints to not become cynical. Rather, we are to be "anointed observers" of the signs of the times. We must not let a mocking spirit steal these truths from our heart. We do not want to impart a mocking spirit to our children and grandchildren.
3. I urge you to boldly challenge all the ideas that you hear. Refuse any that you cannot see in Scripture for yourself. I urge you to be like the Bereans who searched the Scriptures to see if the things that Paul said were so (Acts 17:10-11).

F. We are exhorted to watch and pray

1. We are exhorted to watch and pray: ten times related to preparing for the End Times (Matt. 24:42; 25:13; Mark 13:9, 33, 34, 35, 37; Luke 21:36; 1 Thes. 5:6; Rev. 16:15).
 - a. To watch is to cultivate faith and understanding that agrees with what the Word and the Spirit say about Jesus' return.
 - b. We prepare by watching what the Spirit is saying in Scripture, in circumstances, and in our life.
2. Scripture: Search out what the Bible says (OT/NT) about the signs of His coming. There are over 150 chapters in the Bible that focus on the End Times.
3. Circumstances: With a heart of faith, watch the sign events and trends that are predicted in Scripture progressively unfold. Set your heart to be an "anointed observer" of these.
4. Personal life: Be alert to the Spirit's stirring and challenges in your personal life and ministry. Many unique things are happening at a high level at the same time for the first time in history, yet this alone will not move a spiritually dull heart. We are to keep alert to our communion with God so as to always be in a disposition to agree with the Spirit.

IHOP – One Thing Ministries

Chapter 2a

Seeing the Big Picture

God's Restoration Process and Eternal Plan

A. Introduction

1. The End Times is one part of the BIG PICTURE of God's eternal purpose and redemptive plan of God for mankind.
2. As a student of the End Times, it is important for us to see the BIG PICTURE of God so as to correctly connect with and interpret the entire redemptive story of God.
3. Seeing the BIG PICTURE of God will help us understand God's heart and reason for the dramatic and climatic ending of human history.
4. The End Times is also a vital part of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 24:14). The neglect of it causes the Church to lose the correct and complete picture of what the Gospel is about. There are three negative effects if we neglect understanding the End Times:
 - a. We do not preach the whole counsel of the Gospel of the Kingdom, which includes:
 - i. Salvation by grace;
 - ii. Repentance;
 - iii. The Kingdom of God.
 - b. We lose the understanding of eternity, which results in us not living our life with an eternal perspective (2 Cor. 4:16 – 18).
 - c. We do not yearn for the return of Jesus and the establishment of the Kingdom of God here on earth (Matt. 6:10; 2 Peter 3:12; Titus 2:13).

B. Definition of the End Times

1. The End Times refer to the final hours of human history before the Second Coming of Jesus. It specifically refers to the final seven years of human history before the return of Jesus, where many positive and negative events will happen (Isa. 60:1 – 3; Joel 2:11).
2. The End Times is more than just a series of events that will happen. The End Times is about the returning of a Person – the returning of a Messiah and King to establish His eternal Kingdom on earth.
3. Great conflicts and tumultuous events are the result of God's desire to remove every evil, wickedness, injustice, unrighteousness and sin, while Satan and his followers are seeking to oppose all of God's plan in this great eschatological transition (Dan. 7:13 – 14; Rev. 1:7 – 8).

C. Incorrect Paradigms and Wrong Understandings of the End Times**1. The Last Days**

- a. The “Last Days” refer to the timeframe between the Ascension of Jesus (i.e. Acts 1) until the Second Coming of Jesus. We have always been living in the Last Days since Jesus ascended to heaven in Acts 1.
- b. The Last Days are not specifically the End Times, but the End Times are part of the Last Days.

2. The Great Tribulation

- a. The Great Tribulation refers to the final 3½ years of human history before Jesus’ return and not seven years as commonly believed. There are three common terms that describe the duration of the Great Tribulation:
 - i. 1260 days (Rev. 11:3; 12:6);
 - ii. Time, times and half of time (Dan. 7:25; 12:7; Rev. 12:14);
 - iii. 42 months (Rev. 11:2; Rev. 13:5).
- b. The Great Tribulation is the judgment of God against Satan, Antichrist and all who oppose Jesus and it is not a judgment against the Church. However, the people of God, both Israel and the Church, will face unprecedented persecution by Satan, Antichrist and all who opposed Jesus.
- c. The Church will be present on earth during the Great Tribulation as the Bible is consistent in indicating that the people of God will be present.
 - i. There are more than 40 passages of Scripture that point to the presence of the Church on earth during the Great Tribulation (e.g. Dan. 7:20 – 22, 25 – 26; Rev. 6:9 – 11).
 - ii. There are four passages of Scripture that give clear indication of the Rapture of the Church after the Great Tribulation (Matt. 24:29 – 31; Mark 13:24 – 27; 1 Thes. 4:13 – 17; 2 Thes. 2:1 – 2).
- d. Three general reasons for the persecution of the people of God:
 - i. To separate the wheat from the tares and the sheep from the goats (Matt. 13:24 – 30; 25:31 – 46);
 - ii. To purify and to refine the Church (Dan. 11:35; 12:10; Mal. 3:1 – 3);
 - iii. For God’s people to partner with Jesus in the eschatological revolution (Rev. 6; 8 – 9; 16).

3. Time will not cease nor will the world come to an end. Instead, the world we know will transit into the next “Age”. The Bible teaches about three primary timeframes:

- a. Human or natural Age: From the fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 until the Second Coming of Jesus.
- b. Millennial Age (also known as The Millennium): The literal Millennial Kingdom during which Jesus will rule and reign on this earth for 1000 years.

- c. Eternal Age (also known as Eternity): This is when New Jerusalem will descend unto the earth, the current earth will be renewed to become the New Heaven and New Earth, and the Father will dwell on earth with mankind forever (Rev. 21:1 – 3).
 - d. The primary purpose of the Millennial Age is for Jesus to prepare the earth for the coming of the Father. Jesus will cleanse the earth from all sin and evil, disciple the nations and restore the earth (Matt. 28:19 – 20; 1 Cor. 15:24 – 28; 2 Peter 3:10 – 13).
 - e. The End Times is part of the Redemptive Plan of God. It is primarily a global transition from this Human Age to the Millennial Age and eventually to Eternity where God will dwell on earth with man forever (2 Cor. 6:14 – 7:1; Rev. 21:3).
4. We are not going to heaven at Jesus' Second Coming.
- a. At the Second Coming, we will be raptured unto the sky to meet Jesus. After all the saints on earth are caught up into the sky, we will return to earth with a resurrected body to rule and reign with Jesus during the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20).
 - b. We are not going to heaven even during Eternity. Instead, heaven in the form of New Jerusalem, the New Heaven and New Earth will be coming down here on earth.
 - c. Only the saints who die between the crucifixion of Jesus and the Second Coming will go to heaven as a temporary "holding place". At Second Coming, all the dead saints will be resurrected and the living saints will be raptured with new resurrected bodies and we will rule and reign with Jesus on the earth.

D. What are the End Times?

1. The End Times is about restoration. God is restoring His original plan for mankind and for the earth. In Genesis 1 – 3, God had ordained a three-fold eternal plan and purpose:
 - a. Man was placed in the Garden of Eden. It has always been the plan of God for mankind to dwell on the physical earth with a physical body (Gen. 2:8).
 - b. Man walked with God in the cool of the Garden. It has always been God's desire to have an intimate relationship with mankind and dwell in close proximity (Gen. 3:8).
 - c. Man was given dominion over the earth. It has always been the eternal mandate of God for man to rule and reign with Him on earth forever (Gen. 1:26 – 28).
2. However, Adam was tempted by Satan and fell into sin, resulting in the loss of an intimate relationship with God, and his dominion over the earth was given to Satan (Gen. 3:1 – 7).
3. As a result of the fall of Adam, God initiated a salvation plan and restoration process for mankind in Genesis 3:15 that will culminate at the Second Coming of Jesus.

4. Jesus Christ would come as the Last Adam to reverse the curse of sin and to restore all that was intended for and through the First Adam, but which had been lost due to his fall at the Garden of Eden (1 Cor. 15:45).
 - a. Jesus overcame Satan's temptation in the wilderness in Matthew 4 and Luke 6, which was the re-enactment of the temptation of Adam in Genesis 3;
 - b. He died on the cross to pay for our sins and to redeem mankind;
 - c. He took back the dominion of the earth as a Man and gave it back to the Church to enforce it (Eph. 1:22 – 24);
 - d. Jesus will return as a divine Bridegroom for a Bride who will partner with Him to remove every sin, evil, wickedness and Satan from the earth.
 - e. He will establish the Kingdom of God for 1000 years on earth in order to prepare the earth for the coming of the Father.
5. The End Times is part of the redemptive plan of God to restore the original plan of God for mankind and the earth. The salvation of God is more than saving us from hell's fire, but about restoring us to the original plan in Gen 1 – 3 in all its fullness.
6. The End Times is also called the Eschatological Transition. It is about global transition of the world from this Age (i.e. natural human history) to the Age-to-come (i.e. Millennial Age) and eventually to Eternity.

E. The Original Plan of God for Mankind

1. There are four foundational aspects of God's will for mankind that is necessary for the fullness of God to be experienced by mankind – the supernatural aspect, the physical aspect, the governmental aspect and the relational aspect.
2. All four aspects are God's original plan for mankind when He created mankind in Genesis 1 and 2. The Millennial Kingdom is the beginning of the entire restoration process of God's plan.
 - a. All four aspects form the real and true picture of the fullness of our destiny – in this Age, during the Millennium and in Eternity.
 - b. Our eternity and primary identity in Christ is centered on these four aspects of God's will for mankind.
 - c. The fullness of God's will for mankind only happens when all four of these dimensions come together (Eph. 1:9 – 10).
3. To understand God's original plan for mankind, we need to understand why God created the earth and human race.
 - a. From eternity past, God always desired relationship – God yearns as a Father for a family that lives in wholehearted love as the sons of God and the Bride of Christ. God wants a family of voluntary and wholehearted lovers of the Father and of Jesus (2 Chron. 16:9; Matt. 22:37 – 38; 2 Cor. 6:18; Rev. 19:7).

- b. The Father's original plan was to have a family who would govern and rule all creation with Him. He gave man dominion over the earth and this is an eternal mandate and assignment for all mankind (Gen. 1:26 – 28).
 - i. The First Adam lost it at the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3) but the Last Adam took it back in the wilderness after 40 days of fasting (Matt. 4) and at the cross.
 - ii. The dominion mandate will be progressively restored throughout the ages but will only reach its fullness during the Millennium.
- c. God's original plan is to place mankind on a physical earth (i.e. Garden of Eden) where He will relate with man face-to-face in a physical paradise (Gen. 2 – 3).
- 4. We need to have a correct Biblical understanding of God's redemptive plan for mankind. God's redemptive plan for mankind goes beyond saving us from hell's fire. It is to save us to become His sons and the Bride of Christ.
- 5. The redemptive plan of God for mankind is the restoration of His original plan for mankind – a face-to-face relationship with the Father in a physical paradise and to have dominion over earth while functioning in the supernatural realm.
 - a. Scripture begins with God living face-to-face with Adam in Gen. 1 – 2. The Bible ends with mankind relating to God face-to-face in Rev. 22:4.
 - b. Scripture begins with the river of life and the tree of life in the Garden of Eden. The Bible ends with the river of life and the tree of life in the Eternal Garden in Rev. 21 – 22.
 - c. All the plans of God for mankind in the first two chapters of the Bible will be fully restored by Him through Jesus Christ in the last two chapters of Bible.
 - d. This is the storyline of the Bible and human History. This is the story of God's restoration and redemption plan for mankind. (Please refer to Chiastic Chart.)

F. The Redemptive and Eternal Plan of God (Eph. 1:3 – 23)

- 1. Apostle Paul gives us one of the clearest pictures of God's original, redemptive and eternal plan for mankind in Eph. 1:3 – 23:
 - a. The desire of God to bless us with every spiritual blessing from heaven – the supernatural aspect (Eph. 1:3);
 - b. The desire of God for us to live with Him in love – the relational aspect (Eph. 1:4);
 - c. The desire of God for us to rule and reign with Jesus – the governmental aspect (Eph. 1:22 – 23);
 - d. The fullness that comes with the coming together of the heaven and earthly realm – the physical aspect (Eph. 1: 9 – 10).
- 2. Blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (v.3)
God has ordained that every supernatural and heavenly blessing that exists in the heavenly realm be released to us in due time.

3. He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world (v.4)
This is His original plan for mankind – He had this decided even before the foundation of the world.
4. Holy and without blame before Him in love (v.4)
It is God's desire to have an intimate relationship with us. We shall be wholehearted in love, blameless and holy before Him (2 Cor. 6:14 – 7:1).
5. Adoption as son...to Himself... according to the good pleasure of Himself (v.5)
It is God's desire to have a family and to adopt us as His sons. This is His plan that brings Him delight and excitement.
6. We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins (v.7)
Part of the salvation plan of God is to redeem mankind by the blood of Jesus so that all our sins are forgiven in Christ.
7. That in the fullness of times He might gather in one all things in Christ...which are in heaven and which are on earth (v.10)
The fullness of God's plan will be completely manifested when the heavenly and earthly realms come together.
8. He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (v.21 – 22)
God has given all authority and dominion of the earth to Jesus.
9. Which is his body, the fullness of him that fills all in all. (v. 23)
The Church will be God's vehicle to express His fullness and His purposes in the heavenly and earthly realms.
10. Only Jesus can bring together the four realities of God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven – the supernatural, physical, governmental and relational aspects of God's purpose fully manifest on earth. As One who is fully God and fully man, He is the only One who is able to bring both realms together (Eph. 1:10).

Chapter 2b

How do we Study and Approach the End Times?

A. Introduction

1. The Bible has provided a wealth of information pertaining to the End Times – the personalities, events, signs, trends, and what will happen. There are at least 150 chapters in the Bible that talk about the End Times.
2. It is clear that God wants us to know and we can and should know about the End Times. We should develop understanding for what is about to happen prior to the return of Jesus (Jer. 23:20; 1 Thes. 5:1 – 3).
3. We must not be illiterate or ignorant of the biblical narrative concerning the End Times. We must develop clarity, understanding and conviction from the 150 chapters in the Bible pertaining to the End Times.

B. Principles to Approaching and Studying these 150 Chapters in the Bible

1. Do not be overwhelmed or be intimidated by the amount of information regarding the End Times. Be patient in developing a plan as you embark on a journey of developing clarity and understanding.
2. Set a simple five-year timeframe with a clear plan and schedule. Begin by reading through the pivotal Biblical passages pertaining to the End Times:
 - a. Pivotal passages in the OT – Daniel and Zechariah 12 – 14.
 - b. Pivotal passages in the NT – Matthew 24 – 25; Mark 13; Luke 21; 1 Thessalonians; 2 Thessalonians and Revelation.
3. Take time to read through and be familiarized with the details and information in all the 150 chapters of the Bible pertaining to the End Times. Then develop clarity and understanding, using personal notes and charts to describe and illustrate it.
4. The primary purpose of studying the End Times is not simply to acquire knowledge and information, but to develop conviction that leads to a response in accordance to the Word of God (Mark 4:24; Luke 8:18).
5. The Bible makes it clear that we can and we will understand with clarity the heart of God concerning the End Times. Therefore we must be diligent and intentional in developing clarity and understanding of it (Jer. 23:20; Dan. 9:22; 10:12 – 14).
6. Prayer is a major key to unlock revelation, understanding and insight into the Word of God pertaining to the End Times. It is vital to **BATHE our study of the Word with prayer and BIRTH our understanding of the Word through prayer.**

C. Important Dates and Events pertaining to the End Times

1. 722 BC: Invasion of Northern Kingdom of Israel by Assyria that resulted in the exile of Israel from the land.
2. 701 BC: Invasion of Southern Kingdom of Judah by Sennacherib of Assyria during the reign of King Hezekiah.
3. 606 BC: The first attack of Jerusalem led by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.
4. 586 BC: Invasion by Babylonian army led by King Nebuchadnezzar that resulted in the deportation and captivity of the Jewish people to Babylon for 70 years.
5. 539 BC: The overthrow of the Babylonian Empire by the Persian Empire led by King Cyrus.
6. 536 BC: The first return of 50,000 Jewish people to Jerusalem led by Zerubbabel to rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem as a result of King Cyrus's decree.
7. 516 BC: The completion of the rebuilding of the Temple of Jerusalem.
8. 175 – 165 BC: Control of Jerusalem gained by Synchro-Greek king Antiochus Epiphanes and the desolation of the Temple, which led to an uprising by the Jewish people led by Judas Maccabee.
9. AD 70: The destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by Emperor Titus of the Roman Empire which resulted in the Diaspora.

D. The Importance of Knowing and Understanding these dates and events

1. All biblical prophecies in the OT have dual or double fulfillments:
 - a. Partial or near fulfillment: Refers to fulfillment of prophecies in the time and era of ancient Israel and Judah in the OT. 722 BC and 586 BC are two vital dates during which many prophecies were partially fulfilled.
 - b. Complete or future fulfillment: Refers to fulfillment of prophecies in the generation of Jesus' return, the Millennial Kingdom and Eternity.
2. All that has happened in 722 BC and 586 BC serve as powerful prophetic pictures and foreshadows, and give us insight into what will happen at the End of the Age.

E. Main Teaching of the End Times in the Bible

1. Main teachings in the OT on the End Times are primarily in the Major and Minor Prophets, which are divided into three different periods:
 - a. Pre-Exilic period (before 600BC) – the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Micah, Hosea, Amos, Joel, Jonah, Obadiah, Habakkuk and Zephaniah;
 - b. Exilic period (600 to 536BC) – the book of Daniel;
 - c. Post-Exilic period (after 536BC) – the books of Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.
2. Main teachings in the NT on the End Times are primarily through three teachers:
 - a. Jesus (AD30) – Matthew 24 – 25, Mark 13 and Luke 21;
 - b. Paul (AD50) – 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy;
 - c. John (AD90) – the book of Revelation.

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Overview of the End-Time Drama

A. THE DAY OF THE LORD – 2 TRENDS BROUGHT TO FULLNESS (Joel 2:11)

1. Great Day of the LORD (positive trends) – greatest revival in history.
 - a. Fullness of revival (Rom. 11:25; Eph. 4:13; Rev. 7:9).
 - b. Victorious Church (Eph. 4:13, 5:27; Matt. 16:18; 22:37; Jn. 17:21-26; Rev. 19:7, 12:11, 15:2).
 - c. Fullness of the Gentiles and salvation of Israel (Rom. 11:25).
 - d. Bridal Paradigm (Rev. 22:17; Hos. 2:16; Matt. 22:37, 25:8).
 - e. House of Prayer (Lk. 18:7-8; Matt. 21:13; Rev. 5:8, 8:3-5, 22:17,20; Isa. 62:6-7; Joel 2:12-17,32; Zech. 12:10).
 - f. Spirit of power, prophecy and revelation (Acts 2:17; Jer. 31:9, 23:20, 30:24; Dan. 11:33-35; 12:3,10; Isa. 26:9; 29:24; Rev. 11:3-6; 18:20; Matt. 17:11; Mal. 4:6; Jn. 14:12).
 - g. Great Harvest (Matt. 24:14, 28:19; Rev. 7:9, 5:9, 14:6, 15:4; Dan. 7:14,27).
2. Very Terrible Day of the LORD (negative trends) – greatest crisis in history
Dan. 12:1 “there shall be a TIME OF TROUBLE, SUCH AS NEVER WAS since there was a nation, even to that time.”

Matt. 24:21 “For then there will be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.
 - a. Fullness of man’s sin (Rev. 9:21, 14:18, 17:5; Dan. 8:23, 12:10)
 - b. Fullness of Satan’s rage (Rev. 12:12, 9:21; Dan. 7:21,25)
 - c. Fullness of God’s judgment (Rev. 14:10, 15:7)
 - d. Fullness of creation’s groan (Rom. 8:19-24)
 These include earthquakes, upheavals in the sea, atmosphere, agriculture, sky, heaven, etc.
 - e. The condition of man’s heart:
 - i. Hatred of God (Rev. 11:18, 16:9,11,21, 13:7, 19:19)
 - ii. Fear (Lk. 21:11,26)
 - iii. Relational breakdowns (Matt. 24:10-12)

B. THE PRIMARY NEGATIVE EVENTS and PEOPLE IN THE END TIMES

1. Antichrist and the False Prophet (Rev. 13) – final world leader who wages war against God and persecutes God's elect with the help of a worldwide religious leader called the False Prophet who functions in a counterfeit spirit of Elijah. Together they will lead the world governmentally, spiritually and economically and form a counterfeit unity. They will use physical violence (death), money (mark of Beast) and deception (spiritual power) as their primary tools.
2. Ten-nation Confederation (Dan. 7:1-8; Ezek. 38:2-6) is a vital support providing a power base for the Antichrist's worldwide kingdom.
3. The Great Tribulation – a 3½ years' period at the end of the age when the Antichrist rules over a worldwide system including government, finances and religion. This is a period of unprecedented distress (Matt. 24:21, 29; Mk. 13:24; Rev. 7:14; Dan. 12:1). It is also known as the time of Jacob's Trouble (Jer. 30:4-7).
4. Image of the Beast and the mark of the Beast (Rev. 13:14-18) – global economics and religion.
5. Abomination of desolation – the key event to trigger the Antichrist's release. This phrase is used 7 times in Scripture. It is used 5 times by Daniel (Dan. 8:13, 9:26,27, 11:31, 12:11) and 2 times by Jesus (Matt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14).
6. Falling away from the faith (2 Thes. 2:3) – the apostasy. The Spirit expressly says that in LATTER TIMES that some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons (1 Tim. 4:1).

C. THE PRIMARY POSITIVE EVENTS and PEOPLE IN THE END TIMES

1. Second Coming of Christ – the most prominent event in the End Times (Rev. 19:11-12; Zech. 14; 1 Thes. 4 and 5; Matt. 24; Lk. 21; Mk. 13). It speaks of the time that Jesus appears in the sky to all the people of the earth. He will come to establish His earthly Kingdom bringing judgment to sin and vindication to God's people.
2. Rapture – speaks of the "catching away" of all of God's people in the air and occurs simultaneously with the Second Coming (1 Thes. 4:13-17; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; Matt. 13:30,40-43; 2 Thes. 2:1). It includes the resurrection of all the saints leading to the giving of rewards at Judgment Seat of Christ (Rev. 11:18).
3. The Two Witnesses or Prophets (Rev. 11:3-6)
4. 144,000 sealed Jewish and Gentile believers (Rev. 7:4-8, 14:1-5) supernaturally sealed or protected by the power of God in the midst of God's judgments.
5. Great Harvest from all nations including the Salvation of Israel (Rom. 11:12-15,26; Matt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9, 14:6, 15:4; Ps. 66:4; Zeph. 2:11, 3:8-10; Amos 9:11-12)
6. Rebuilding the Jerusalem temple – the Tribulation Temple will be desecrated by the Antichrist yet shall be the context for the ministry of the Two Witnesses (Dan. 9:27, 11:36-45; Matt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14; 2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 11:1-2). The Millennial Temple,

not the Tribulation Temple, will be built by Jesus (Ezek. 43:1-7, 10:4, 18-19, 11:22-23) and the Gentile nations will help to finance it.

7. The Judgment of the Great Harlot (Rev. 17) – the worldwide religious system.
8. The fall of Babylon (Rev. 18) – the worldwide economic system.
9. The Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16) – the final military conflict between God and the Antichrist and his international armies (Joel 3:2-15; Zech. 14:1-5; Zeph. 3:8). The Antichrist, the False Prophet and their armies are defeated (Rev. 19:12-17).
10. Millennial Kingdom of Christ – a literal 1,000-year period in which Jesus rules the earth and fully manifests the Kingdom of God (Rev. 20:1-6; Isa. 2:1-11; Rom. 8:19-23). Jesus will rule the whole world from Jerusalem in perfect righteousness and continual peace, allowing resurrected saints with glorified bodies to rule with Him in the government. King Jesus is physically present to restore creation to the conditions of the Garden of Eden. During this time, God will bind Satan and pronounce His judgments on the Gentile nations (Matt. 25:31-32).
11. Marriage of the Lamb and Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-10).
12. Great White Throne Judgment is the time of the final punishment of Satan and all who followed him (Rev. 20:11-15).
13. Descent of God and the New Jerusalem to the New Earth (Rev. 21:2).

D. PURPOSE OF THE TRIBULATION: TRAINING THE SAINTS THROUGH AFFLICTION

1. God's Purpose (Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7-8; 2 Thes. 1:6-10; Dan. 11:35, 12:10; Isa. 24:4-6; Zech. 13:2)
 - a. To purify God's people
 - b. To bring in the harvest, including the salvation of Israel.
 - c. To vindicate the saints of righteousness and demonstrate God's power in protecting them.
 - d. To expose the false believers within the Church.
 - e. To punish sin and purge from the earth the defilement of sin.
2. God's Power establishing Mercy – "pockets of mercy" and "cities of refuge" (Zeph. 2:3).
3. God's Love
God's judgments remove all that hinders love by removing options (temptations), which function as the props we trust in and the temptations we refuse to resist. *God uses the least severe means to produce the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love without violating anyone's free will.*

E. THREE PROPHETIC TIME FRAMES IN THE END TIMES

1. The 3 prophetic time frames in the End Times all relate to the final 7-year period of history (Dan. 9:27; comparing Matt. 24 with 1 Thes. 5:2-3).
 - a. The beginning of birth pangs (Matt. 24:8).
 - b. Worldwide counterfeit peace and safety (for 3½ years?)
 - c. The Great Tribulation
2. Scriptures for the last 3½ years of natural history use 6 different ways of expression:
 - a. 42 months (Rev. 11:2, 13:5).
 - b. 1260 days (Rev. 11:3, 12:6).
 - c. Time, times and half a time (Rev. 12:14; Dan. 7:25, 12:7).
 - d. Middle of the week (Dan. 9:27).
 - e. The Great Tribulation (Rev. 7:14).
 - f. Jacob's Trouble (Jer. 30:7).
3. Worldwide counterfeit peace and safety – first 3½ years (Dan. 9:27; 1 Thes. 5:2-3).
4. The fullness of birth pangs (Heavy Labor) is called the Great Tribulation or Jacob's Trouble covering the final 3½ years (Matt. 24:8,15-31; Rev. 6-19; Jer. 30:5-7).
5. 12 worldwide trends: the beginning of birth pangs (Matt. 24:4-8; Mk. 13:5-8; Lk. 21:7-18).
 - a. False christs – false leaders in the Church (Matt. 24:5; Mk. 13:6; Lk. 21:8).
 - b. War – military and political conflict (Matt. 24:6; Mk. 13:7; Lk. 21:9).
 - c. Ethnic conflict – civil disorder and racism as nation (ethos) rises against nation (Matt. 24:7; Mk. 13:8).
 - d. Economic warfare – economic related hostility, aggression, conflict in kingdom competing against kingdom. The greatest glory of a personal or national kingdom is often financial (Matt. 24:7; Mk. 13:8).
 - e. Famines – massive food shortages. (Matt. 24:7; Mk. 13:8; Lk. 21:11).
 - f. Pestilences – fearful epidemic diseases (Matt. 24:7; Lk. 21:11).
 - g. Earthquakes – various places (Matt. 24:7; Mk. 13:8; Lk. 21:11).
 - h. Troubles – events that cause pressure (Mk. 13:8).
 - i. Commotions – chaotic events (Lk. 21:9).

- j. Unusual fearful sights (Lk. 21:11).
 - k. Great signs from heaven – cosmic or atmospheric signs (Lk. 21:11).
 - l. Persecution (Matt. 24:9-14, 36-41; Lk 21:12-19).
6. Other Biblical signs during beginning of birth pangs:
- a. Nation of Israel and city of Jerusalem being re-established under Jewish control.
 - b. The victorious Church will be in full revival, established in the Bridal Paradigm. We will be engaged in a worldwide worship and prayer movement, anointed with the prophetic spirit with great power as we effectively bring in the Great Harvest.
 - c. The increase of evil is a prophetic sign of the End Times (Rev. 9:21, 14:18).

F. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE END TIMES

1. Israel became a nation (1948) and governed the city of Jerusalem (1967).
2. The emergence of a regional political leader in the Middle East or Europe that has unusual diplomacy nations around the world. He will be the leader of a 3-nation coalition (Dan. 7:8, 20, 24).
3. The formation of a European Union in alliance with a 10-nation confederation with a 3-nation coalition at the core (Dan. 7:8, 20, 24).
4. Emergence of a one-world government based in European Union (revised Roman Empire) with a 10-nation confederation support system (Rev. 17:12).
5. A Middle East peace treaty that brings worldwide counterfeit peace and safety lead by one key man with unusual diplomatic ability (Dan. 9:27; 1 Thes. 5:3).
6. The city of Babylon rebuilt on the Euphrates as a new worldwide economic and religious center (Isa. 13 – 14; Jer. 50 – 51; Rev. 17 – 18). Babylon plays a major role in 4 ways: geographically, nationally, spiritually and prophetically.
7. The one-world religion – the rise of false prophets, occult, New age, liberal “Christianity” with Muslims, Hindu, Buddhists all with a commitment to moral tolerance paving the world for a one-world religion (Rev. 13, 17 – 18).
8. Mystery Babylon (Jer. 51 – 52; Rev. 17 – 18) – the great city of mystery Babylon. Persecution of Christians during the time of counterfeit world peace and safety (increased birth pangs) (1 Thes. 5:2-3; Matt. 24:9-14, 36-41).
9. Rebuilding the Temple with the outer court retained by Gentiles (or Arabs).
10. Religious alliances (Islamic, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc.) solidifying to an official worldwide organization with authority.

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11. Gentile believers *provoking Israel to jealousy*. The emergence of messianic movement with Gentile believers embracing Israel with revelation (Rom. 11:11, 14).
 12. *The increase of travel and knowledge* – scientific, communication, technology, etc (Dan. 12:4).

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Overview of the End Times in the OT and NT

Positive and Negative Trends, Events and Persons

(Isa. 60:1–3)

A. Main teachings of the End Times in the Bible

1. There are three different periods of revelation in OT:
 - a. Pre-Exile (600B.C.) – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Micah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Zephaniah and Habakkuk.
 - b. Exile to Babylon (550B.C.) – Daniel.
 - c. Post Exile (520B.C.) – Zechariah, Haggai and Malachi.
2. There are three different periods in the NT over approximately 60 years:
 - a. Jesus' teachings in Matt. 24 – 25; Mark 13; Luke 17; 21. (30 A.D.).
 - b. Paul's teachings in 1 and 2 Thes. (50 A.D.).
 - c. John's teachings in the Book of Rev. (90 A.D.).

B. Daniel's teachings on the End Times

1. The Antichrist or the Little Horn (Dan. 2:41 – 42; 7 – 8; 11).
2. The emergence of one-world government based in the revived Roman Empire with a 10-nation confederation (Dan. 2:41 – 42; 7:7, 20 – 24). This kingdom would be empowered by the historical reality of the 7 world empire.
3. The Great Tribulation – 3½ years (Dan. 7:25 – 27).
4. Increase of evil (Dan. 8:23).
5. The final 7-year period of human history commonly referred to as the End Times, the "70th week" or the "final week" (Dan. 9:27).
6. Counterfeit world peace and safety (Dan. 9:27).
7. Abomination of Desolation (Dan. 9:27).

C. Ezekiel's teachings on the End Times

1. The Antichrist or Gog (Ezek. 38:2, 3, 14 – 18; 39:1, 11 and 15).
2. The Armageddon campaign (Ezek. 38:10 – 23; 39:1 – 16).

D. Zechariah's teachings on the End Times

1. Jerusalem as center of world conflict – nations' hostility toward Israel (Zech. 12:1 – 9).
2. Israel's spiritual revival (Zech. 12:10 – 13:6).
3. The Great Tribulation (Zech. 13:7 – 9).
4. The Armageddon campaign (Zech. 14:1 – 5).
5. The Millennial Kingdom (Zech. 14:16 – 21).

E. Jesus' Teachings on the End Times

Jesus spoke of 2 prophetic time frames in the End Times:

1. **The beginning of birth pangs before the 7-year period** (Matt. 24:4 – 8; Mark 13:5 – 8, Luke 21:7 – 18). Jesus gave us 12 major worldwide trends that are to be discerned and received as prophetic signs to help the Church prepare for the coming years:
 - a. False christs (Matt. 24:5; Mark 13:6; Luke 21:8).
 - b. War – including military and political conflict (Matt. 24:6; Mark 13:7; Luke 21:9).
 - c. Ethnic conflict with civil disorder and racism as nation (ethnos) rises against nation (Matt. 24:7; Mark 13:8).
 - d. Economic warfare or economic hostility and aggression that sees kingdom competing against kingdom (Matt. 24:7; Mark 13:8).
 - e. Famines or massive food shortages (Matt. 24:7; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11).
 - f. Pestilences or fearful epidemic diseases (Matt. 24:7; Luke 21:11).
 - g. Earthquakes in various places (Matt. 24:7; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11).
 - h. Troubles or events that cause pressure (Mark 13:8).
 - i. Comotions or chaotic events (Luke 21:9).
 - j. Fearful sights that are unusual and terrifying (Luke 21:11).
 - k. Great signs from heaven including cosmic or atmospheric signs (Luke 21:11).
 - l. Persecution (Matt. 24:9-14, 36-41; Luke 21:12 – 19).

2. Fullness of birth pangs (Great Tribulation) (Matt. 24:15 – 31)

Jesus spoke of:

- a. The Abomination of Desolation. (Matt. 24:15)
- b. The need to flee Jerusalem. (Matt. 24:16 – 20)
- c. The Second Coming and Rapture. (Matt. 24:29 – 31)
- d. The Great Harvest. (Matt. 24:14)
(Note that Jesus did not teach on the Antichrist.)

F. Paul's Teaching on the End Times

1. God prepares His Bride through persecution
 - a. By establishing her in abounding love (1 Thes. 3:12 – 13; 2 Thes. 3:5).
 - b. By strengthening her in growing faith (2 Thes. 3 – 5).
2. Counterfeit world peace and safety (1 Thes. 5:2 – 3)
 - a. The Antichrist shall establish a political peace treaty with many including Israel and Middle East Islamic nations during the first 3½ years of the last 7 years (Dan. 9:27). This will be a time of temporary peace and safety for unbelievers.
 - b. In the midst of the counterfeit world peace and safety, there will be persecution against the Church.
3. A Great Falling Away in the Church (2 Thes. 2:3)
 - a. This will be a distinct reality that sets the stage for Antichrist's reign of terror. Many in the Church will join the Great Harlot's religion and economic networks.
 - b. False teachers will deceive Church members into renouncing their faith (Matt. 24:9 – 13; 1 Tim. 4:1 – 3; 2 Tim. 3:1 – 8; 4:3 – 5; Jude 1:18 – 19; 2 Peter 3:3 – 5).
4. The Antichrist ruling the world (2 Thes. 2:3 – 4)
 - a. 3 titles of Antichrist are being used by Paul. Paul called him the man of sin (v.3), the son of perdition (v.3) and the lawless one (v.8).
 - b. The spiritual activity of the Antichrist will be focused on opposing all that is called God (Dan. 11:36 – 37; Rev. 13).
 - c. He will exalt himself above all that is called God, sitting in the Jerusalem Temple and claiming to be God.
5. The restraint and restrainer that holds back the Antichrist (2 Thes. 2:6 – 7)
 - a. This truth emphasizes the Divine timing of all events as being under the sovereignty of God.
 - b. The restrainer is the power of the state or civil authority that hinders the powers of chaos under the authority of God and His timing (Rom. 13:1 – 7).

6. The mystery of lawlessness (2 Thes. 2:7) speaks of the hidden hatred of God in the heart. This reveals the seriousness of the spiritual problem that requires God's wrath.
7. Assurance of the Antichrist's defeat (2 Thes. 2:8).
8. Worldwide demonic deception with supernatural power (2 Thes. 2:9-10).
9. Worldwide spirit of delusion sent from God to those choosing deception (2 Thes. 2:11-12). Whatever the people choose, God will give them a greater measure of it (Mk. 4:24-25).
 - a. The End-Time delusion is a judicial response to their own hardening of heart, and God has the right to push anyone further down their chosen course.
 - b. The people will become calloused, insensitive and unreceptive to external stimulation. Paul uses quotations from Deuteronomy, Psalms and Isaiah to show that this has been a perpetual weakness in Israel - stupefied in mind and stumbling in action.

G. John's teachings on the End Times

1. The details of God's judgments consist of the seven seals (Rev. 6), seven trumpets (Rev. 8-9) and seven bowls of wrath (Rev. 15-16), totaling 19 judgment events in all.
2. The presence of 144,000 Jewish and Gentile believers who are supernaturally sealed (Rev. 7:1 – 8).
3. The time frame of 42 months (Rev. 11:2; 13:5) and 1260 days (Rev. 11:3; 12:6).
4. Two witnesses killed in Jerusalem and then raised to life and lifted to heaven before a global audience (Rev. 11:1 – 13).
5. The False Prophet establishing a worldwide religion with a talking image in Jerusalem enforced by death and a global economic system based on 666 (Rev. 13:11-18; 19:20).
6. The Antichrist (Rev. 13)
 - a. John emphasized the Antichrist's supernatural origin, worldwide following and scope of authority, measure of demonic power, mysterious death and healing.
 - b. John emphasized his historical roots and the 10-nation confederation (Rev. 17).
7. Antichrist's kingdom is built on the seven empires in history that persecuted Israel. They are all expressed in an eighth kingdom (Rev. 17:11).
8. The Harlot (Rev. 17-18; Isa. 13-14; 21; Jer. 50-51) will seduce the earth with her worldwide religious and economic networks based in the literal city of Babylon on the Euphrates River.
 - a. There will be a unique synergism in combining religion and commerce in a very successful way. The religious and economic powers of the entire world will be unified for the first time in history. All the major world religions will be unified in apostate Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, New Age cults etc.

- b. A worldwide religious alliance of major religions will eventually become an official worldwide organization with political authority to kill people. It will thrive on making people feel free in their sins and about their human greatness as being like God without relating to God through Jesus.
 - c. For a short season, the Antichrist will be tolerant of all the world religions under the authority of the Harlot (worldwide religious/economic networks). The city of Babylon will surpass in influence and power all other cities with religious centers i.e., Mecca (Islam), Jerusalem (Judaism), Rome (Catholicism). It will surpass in wealth all the financial centers on earth i.e., NYC, Tokyo, London, Frankfurt, etc.
9. Harlot and Antichrist (Rev. 17)
- a. A religious civil war in the kingdom of darkness will break forth in which the Harlot will be destroyed by the 10-nation confederation (Rev. 17:16-17).
 - b. Satan's kingdom will suffer a massive division, which will be a major sign, encouraging the prophetic Church in the End Times, signaling that the end is near (Rev. 17:16).
 - c. The Antichrist will start as an emerging regional leader who helps raise up the city of Babylon to worldwide prominence. When the time is right for him to step into worldwide leadership, he will allow the 10 kings to burn the Harlot (Rev. 17:16).
 - d. The Antichrist will be fiercely intolerant of all the world religions under the authority of the Harlot. After the fall of the Harlot, all religions will be illegal and seen as an enemy to "Antichrist worship" (Rev. 13:11 – 18).
 - e. God will judge Babylon and burn her with fire in one hour (Rev. 18:8; 10, 17).
10. The Millennial Kingdom lasting 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-7).
11. Final global revolt at the end of the Millennium (Rev. 20:7-10).
12. New Jerusalem descending to the Millennial and New Earth (Rev. 21:2, 10; 3:12).

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Chapter 4a

Timeline and Chronology of End-Time Events

A. Introduction

1. Scriptures describe 3 distinct prophetic time frames in the End Times. We clearly find these when comparing Matt. 24 with 1 Thes. 5:2 – 3 and Dan. 9:27.
2. The chronology of the End-Time events can be divided into 3 prophetic time frames:
 - a. The beginning of Birth Pangs (Matt. 24:4 – 8; Mark 13:5 – 8; Luke 21:7 – 18)
 - b. The final 7 years of human history – the 70th week or the final week (Dan. 9:24 – 27)
 - i. Counterfeit world peace and safety – first 3½ years (Dan. 9:27; 1 Thes. 5:2 – 3)
 - ii. The Great Tribulation – final 3½ years (Matt. 24:21; Jer. 30:5 – 7)
 - c. 2nd Coming of Christ and rapture of the saints leading to the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom.

B. The Beginning of Birth Pangs

1. Jesus spoke of a specific period of time called the “beginning of birth pangs”.
 - a. They all relate to the final 7-year period of natural history and are compared to the labor pangs that a woman endures just before the birth of her child.
 - b. This is a prophetic picture of the trauma that all on earth will endure just before the birthing of the Millennial Kingdom.
 - c. Paul spoke of creation as groaning before the Millennial Kingdom (Rom. 8:21 – 22).
2. The beginning of birth pangs began in 1948 (Israel became a nation) because the premise for the timing of all events in the End Times is God’s plan for Israel.
 - a. The events unfolding in Israel is the time-table for the unfolding of God’s prophetic plans. In other words, Israel is the reference point for understanding redemptive history past and present.
 - b. Israel is the “filter” for interpreting the significant contributions to God’s ultimate plans for the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom on earth.

3. There are 12 major worldwide trends that are to be discerned and received as prophetic signs to help the Church prepare for the coming years (Matt. 24:4 – 8; Mark 13:5 – 8; Luke 21:7 – 18):
 - a. False christs – false leaders in the Church (Matt. 24:5; Mark 13:6; Luke 21:7).
 - b. War – military and political conflict (Matt. 24:6; Mark 13:7; Luke 21:9).
 - c. Ethnic conflict – civil disorder and racism as nation rises against nation (Matt. 24:7).
 - d. Economic warfare – economic related hostility and conflicts in kingdoms competing against kingdoms (Matt. 24:7; Mark 13:8).
 - e. Famines – massive food shortages (Matt. 24:7; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11).
 - f. Pestilences – fearful epidemic diseases (Matt. 24:7; Luke 21:11).
 - g. Earthquakes – in various places and in greater magnitudes (Matt. 24:7; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11).
 - h. Troubles – events that cause pressure (Mark 13:8).
 - i. Commutations – chaotic events (Luke 21:9).
 - j. Fearful sights – unusual events (Luke 21:11).
 - k. Great signs from heaven – cosmic or atmospheric signs (Luke 21:11).
 - l. Persecution – the increase of martyrdom of believers in Jesus (Mark 13:12; Luke 21:12 – 19; Rev. 6:9 – 11; 7:13 – 14; 9:21; 13:7; 16:6; 17:6; 18:24; 2 Tim. 3:3).

C. Counterfeit World Peace and Safety (Dan. 9:27; 1 Thes. 5:2 – 3)

The Antichrist shall establish a political peace treaty with many including Israel and Middle East Islamic nations during the first 3½ years of the last 7 years. This will be a time of temporary peace and safety for unbelievers. In the midst of the counterfeit world peace and safety, there will be persecution against the Church.

1. A Great Falling Away in the Church (2 Thes. 2:3)
 - a. This will be a distinct reality that sets the stage for Antichrist's reign of terror. Many in the Church will join the Great Harlot's religion and economic networks.
 - b. False teachers will deceive Church members into renouncing their faith (Matt. 24:9 – 13; 1 Tim. 4:1 – 3; 2 Tim. 3:1 – 8; 4:3 – 5; Jude 1:18 – 19; 2 Peter 3:3 – 5).
2. The Harlot and The Antichrist's empire (Rev. 13, 17 – 18)
 - a. The apostle John has given us an understanding of the relationship between Harlot and Antichrist's evil empire and their use of 4 areas of earthly power (political,

military, economic and spiritual). These truths are essential in our understanding of the 'falling away'.

- b. 4 areas of earthly power joined in 2 distinct pairs unfolding in a 2 stage drama.
 - i. The first pair is a powerful synergy of religion and money (commerce) surprising and supernaturally brought together into a one world headquarter based in the city of Babylon on the Euphrates (Rev. 17 – 18). A series of worldwide religious/economic networks will be established in Babylon called the Harlot.
 - ii. The second pair consists of political authority and military force under the leadership of the Antichrist as the Little Horn. The synergy of legislation and force is even more dangerous than the Harlot. This evil empire and its leader (called the Beast) take longer to develop and are established after the Harlot.
- c. The Harlot (Rev. 17 – 18) with her religious tolerance and prosperity will be the first to rise to prominence and take center stage. She will be characterized by religious tolerance (except Christianity) and prosperity.
 - i. There will be great enthusiasm and momentum as the Harlot emerges with worldwide prominence.
 - ii. This is the one side of the coin with the great falling away as the other. This first stage occurs in the first 3½ years.
- d. Antichrist's evil empire (Rev. 13) – Little Horn with his political and military power will rise more slowly, but will be much more powerful and dangerous.
 - i. The Antichrist's reign of terror combines both pairs, in other words, all four elements religion, commerce, political and military power.
 - ii. This second stage occurs in the last 3½ years.

D. The Great Tribulation

1. The Great Tribulation or the fullness of birth pangs occurs during the last 3½ years of the 7-year period (Matt. 24:15 – 31; Rev. 6 – 19).
2. This is the time when the Antichrist will show his hostility openly without needing to deceive unbelievers. The Antichrist will require all people on earth to worship him.
3. Summary of the two great stages of opposition in the negative side of the drama.
 - a. The falling away (stage 1: first 3½ years) – religious tolerance, prosperity.
 - b. The Antichrist (stage 2: last 3½ years) – reign of terror.

The progressive developments in these two stages will be God's mercy to alert the Church and help her prepare for the final onslaught. Many will stumble and compromise in the first stage of the Harlot but will be given an opportunity to recover before permanent compromise sets in as irreversible apostasy.

E. Second Coming of Christ and Rapture of the Saints leading to the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom

1. Jesus' Second Coming to establish His Millennial Kingdom is the ultimate prophetic theme. Scripture calls His coming our blessed hope (Titus 2:13) The NT has over 300 references to this.
2. The Rapture of the Church – as Jesus descends from heaven, He will rapture or “catch up” all the saints in the air from one end of the sky to the other to meet Jesus (1 Thes. 4:16-17).
3. The Marriage of the Lamb and the rewards for each believer occurs in context to the Second Coming and the Rapture (Rev. 19:7). The Second Coming describes what Jesus does when He comes back to earth as the Rapture describes what happens to the Church when Jesus appears in the sky. The Second Coming and the Rapture will occur in the same time frame.
4. Jesus' victory in the Armageddon Campaign (continues for a 3½ year period) will destroy the worldwide empire of the Antichrist and False Prophet along with their armies (Rev. 16:16; 19:11-21; Mt. 25:31-32). The final military conflict will be between Jesus and the Antichrist. Blood is spilled for over 200 miles throughout Israel (Rev. 14:20; Joel 3:2-15; Zech. 14:1-5; Zeph. 3:8).
5. Jesus' 1,000 year Millennial Kingdom – This is one of the major revelations of Scripture. It speaks of Jesus' establishing God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus will rule all the governments on earth as King of kings after He binds Satan and casts him in prison (Rev. 20:1 – 6 ; Isa. 2:1 – 4; 9:6 – 9; 11:1 – 16; 51:1- 8; 60 – 62; 65:17 – 25; Ps. 2:6 – 12; 110:1 – 7; Mt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21).

The Political Signs of the End Times

A. Introduction

1. The Scriptures commands us to know the signs of the times. Many Scriptures emphasize how important prophetic signs are at the End of the Age. In the Scripture, Jesus taught more than any of the apostles on our need to discern the times (Matt. 24:32 – 44; Luke 21:28 – 31).
2. The nation of Israel has always been the primary timing indicator for God's prophetic calendar. The entire End-Time scenario in Scripture is given in context to events related to Israel. Daniel 9:24 – 27 is the most significant prophecy about that nation in the End Times.

B. Five most significant prophetic political events in the Scripture

1. The re-birth of Israel in May 15, 1948 (Isa. 14:1; 66:7 – 8; Ezek. 36:22 – 37:1 – 2; Zech. 12:1 – 6; Matt. 24:32 – 35; Mark 13:28 – 30; Luke 21:29 – 31).
2. The re-capturing of Jerusalem during the 6-Day War in June 1967 (Isa. 14:1; 66:7 – 8; Ezek. 36:22 – 37:1 – 2; Zech. 12:1 – 6; Matt. 24:32 – 35; Mark 13:28 – 30; Luke 21:29 – 31).
3. Jerusalem being the center of world controversy and conflict (Zech. 12:1 – 3; 14:1 – 3).
4. The establishment of European Union in the same territory as the ancient Roman Empire (Dan. 2:41 – 42; 7:7, 20, 24; 9:26 – 27; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3 – 16).
5. An international leader in the unique position to establish a peace treaty with Israel and Middle East to bring world peace (Dan. 9:27; 1 Thes. 5:2 – 3).

Note: Four of these events have occurred (Europe is soon to be unified). The most significant prophetic political events are occurring in this generation.

C. The nation of Israel as the primary political signs of the End Times (Dan. 9:24 – 27)

The nation of Israel has always been the primary timing indicator for God's prophetic calendar. The entire End-Time scenario in the Scriptures is given in context to events related to Israel. Daniel 9:24 – 27 is the most significant prophecy about the nation in the End Times. It speaks of Israel in the following:

1. Israel becomes a nation and gain control over Jerusalem (Isa. 14:1; 66:7 – 8; Ezek. 36:22 – 37:1 – 2; Zech. 12:1 – 6; Matt. 24:32 – 35; Mark 13:28 – 30; Luke 21:29 – 31).
 - a. Over 5 million Israelites are back in their ancient land, making this the largest movement of people to return to Israel in history.

- b. The return of Israel as a nation had been seen as impossible to most. The Jewish people were weak and were scattered throughout many nations. Suddenly, out of the burning ashes of the Holocaust, Israel became a nation and then captured Jerusalem from the Muslims in June 1967.
- 2. Israel will establish a covenant with the Antichrist (Dan. 9:27)
 - a. Israel's governmental leaders will make a covenant with the Antichrist (called the *covenant with death and with Sheol*) and give their authority to him 7 years before Jesus' 2nd Coming (Isa. 28:14 – 18; Dan. 9:27; Zech. 11:16; Ezek. 38:8 – 14; 39:26; John 5:43; Luke 19:11 – 28; 1 Thes. 5:3).
 - b. This political covenant will include peace treaties and economic deals with many nations including Israel and other Middle Eastern Islamic nations. This covenant will seem to "guarantee" political, economic and spiritual prosperity along with protection for Israel.
 - c. This pact will seem to settle the Middle East crisis, bringing Jews and Muslims together regarding Jerusalem and its holy sites. A key issue will be Mount Moriah (in Jerusalem) which is holy to both Muslims (current site of the Dome of the Rock – the 3rd holiest shrine in the Islamic world) and Jews (ancient site of Solomon's Temple).
 - d. The Antichrist will use this covenant to get a stronghold in the land of Israel. He will plant part of his headquarter in Israel (Dan. 11:45). The terrible consequences of this covenant are described by Isaiah as a scourge going through the land in a relentless way (Isaiah 28:14 – 20).
- 3. Re-building of the Third Temple
 - a. Significant activities related to the Third or the Tribulation Temple signal the End Times. The Temple does not exist currently but we know that it must be rebuilt (Dan. 9:26 – 27; 11:31; 12:11; Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14; 2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 11:1 – 2; 13:12 – 18).
 - b. Even now, plans to rebuild the Third Temple are being pursued aggressively in Israel. This may occur just before the 1st half of the final 7-year period, often referred to as Daniel's 70th Week.
 - c. The Third Temple is NOT the same as the Millennial Temple. There are two distinct Jerusalem Temples prophesized in Scriptures – the Tribulation Temple (Third Temple) which will be built by unbelieving Jews and then desecrated by the Antichrist. The Millennial Temple will be built by Jesus (Isa. 2:3; 60:6 – 13; Ezek. 37:26 – 28, 40 – 48; Zech. 2:11; 6:12 – 15; 14:16 – 21).
- 4. The Abomination of Desolation
 - a. Jesus taught about the Abomination of Desolation as the primary sign of the End Times in Matthew 24:15 – 22.

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- b. The Abomination of Desolation will occur when the Antichrist declares himself to be God. The Antichrist will demand to be worshipped as God and the image of the Beast will be set up (Rev. 13:14 – 15; 14:9 – 11; 15:2; 16:2).
 - c. The desolation will occur in 2 different ways:
 - i. The Antichrist will seek to desolate or destroy any who refuse to worship him.
 - ii. God will desolate or destroy in judgment all those who yield to the pressure of worshipping the Antichrist.
 - d. The Abomination of Desolation is referred to 7 times in the Scriptures (Dan. 8:13; 9:26, 27; 11:31; 12:11; Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14).
5. The nations will set a siege against Jerusalem – Jerusalem will become the center focus of world attention (Zech. 12:2 – 8; 14:1 – 2).
6. Other developments in Israel
- a. The re-establishment of the Hebrew language as prophesized by Zephaniah (Zeph. 3:9).
 - b. Sabbaths will be established in Israel's society and civil law (Matt. 24:15 – 20).
 - c. Islamic terrorism was prophesized by Jesus (Ezek. 35:1 – 36:7; John 16:2).
 - d. Anti-Semitism will sweep the globe. All nations will stand against Israel resulting in $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Jews being killed and $\frac{1}{3}$ will be saved (Dan. 12:1 – 10; Zech. 13:8).
 - e. Israel's condition just before Jesus' 2nd Coming includes being in prison camps and assaulted by foreign armies (Isa. 11:11 – 16; 27:12 – 13; 42:6 – 24; 49:5 – 25; 61:1 – 2; Jer. 30:3 – 24; 31:1 – 23; Ezek. 20:33 – 44; 39:25 – 29; Hos. 11:10 – 11; Amos 9:8 – 15; Joel 3:1 – 2; Zeph. 3:19 – 20; Zech. 9:10 – 14).
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IHOP – One Thing Ministries

The Significance of Israel in God's End-Time Plan

A. Introduction – Seeing the Big Picture

1. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone for all people. There is no separate plan of salvation for Israel (Rom. 4:1 – 3).
2. God only has one people, one Body, one Bride, and one redemptive plan. The end of that plan is that both Jew and Gentile would be united into one new man (Eph. 2:15).
3. There is no distinction between Jew and Gentile from the standpoint of the Gospel. While God maintains His election of Israel as His redemptive vehicle on the earth, He enforces no distinction between Jew and Gentile. Even from the Old Covenant, God has always desired all nations to enter into that covenant and be grafted into His covenant people (Acts 15:9; Rom. 3:22; 10:12; Colossians 3:11; Exodus 12:48; Num. 15:15, 26).
4. Standing with Israel does not mean agreeing with everything they do!
Very much like a parent who will stand by their child to the end (no matter what happens), but will strongly disagree with some of their child's decisions, so we are called to stand (as God Himself does) by Israel's side, even though we might and should disagree with some of their policies.
5. Standing with Israel does not mean adopting their culture.
Flying the flag and blowing the shofar does not mean we stand with Israel. In like manner, not flying the flag and not blowing the shofar does not mean we don't stand with Israel. If you like the culture, enjoy it. If you don't like the culture, don't worry about it. The issue is not about the culture.

B. The Real Issue about Israel

1. The Real Issue – God's Sovereign Election (Rom. 9:11).
 - a. The issue about Israel isn't actually about Israel! It's about God and His sovereign right to elect (choose) a people through whom He would reveal Himself.
 - b. This issue goes back to the garden, where God elected a tree and demanded that man would honor His election. Man rebelled against this, and we are living the rest of history in the fallen world as a result.
 - c. But God had a plan! God has elected or has chosen to confine Himself to a course of action on the earth. That course was to bring Himself forth in the flesh through a woman. That woman would have a single lineage, whom God would elect. The whole of history from Adam through Christ, and even until now, is about God exercising His right to choose (Gen. 3:15).

2. Israel exists because God elected a gentile, pagan, idolatrous Iraqi named Abram (Gen. 18:18).
 - a. God chose him, set him apart, changed his name to Abraham, and made a covenant with him. God did not choose Abraham because he was Jewish, or even righteous.
 - b. Rather God chose a man through whom He would reveal Himself to the nations of the earth, and set that man apart to be the father of a new nation that was not a nation. God chose that salvation would come through Abraham.
3. God elected Isaac, and not Ishmael. God elected Jacob, and not Esau. It was not because of anything about the individuals, but it was God choosing a lineage through which salvation would be made available to all who believe. There could only be one line, because Jesus was going to be human (Rom. 9:11).
4. Out of the nations of the earth, God called forth His very own nation. It was never about Israel, it was always about God creating a context to be born into and to bring salvation to the nations through. It was about God declaring Himself to the nations.
5. When we speak of Israel, we must understand that we are speaking of God's sovereign election of a people through whom He would bring the light of revelation and eventually the Light of Christ (Rom. 9:20; 11:17 – 22).
 - a. We must tread with reverence on the holy ground of Israel, knowing that we tread in the realm of God's Right to Choose.
 - b. We must not become arrogant against God and those He has chosen, nor be wise in our own estimation and question God's choice.
 - c. We must have a holy fear over the issue of Israel, because we tread in the realm of the kindness and severity of God.

C. God is NOT Finished with Israel

1. God has not rejected Israel (Rom. 11:1-2).
2. Israel's rejection of God in Christ is neither full nor final (Rom. 11:11).
3. Israel has experienced a partial hardening (Rom. 11:25).
4. God's calling is irrevocable (Rom. 11:28 – 29).
5. ALL Israel will be saved (Rom. 11:26).

D. Jesus is returning to Jerusalem to Rule the Earth

1. We must understand that Jesus is coming back to the earth to rule forever from a throne. And that throne will be in Jerusalem (Acts 1:1 – 12; Ps. 132:13 – 14; Jer. 3:17).
2. We must understand that Jesus is returning to the remnant of Israel that survives the Great Tribulation, and then repents and believes in Him. He is not returning to "the

Earth" in a vague way, but to Jerusalem specifically. He is not returning to "humans" generally, but specifically to redeem Israel (Zech. 14:4, 16 – 17; Ps. 110:2; Joel 3:17).

E. Israel was and will be God's Vehicle of Salvation

1. The reason that Israel is "the chosen people" or God's set apart nation is not because they are Israel. Rather, they are Israel because God has chosen them as a people through which salvation would be brought to the ends of the earth.
2. His original plan was to bring "salvation" (justice, righteousness, peace, order) to the earth through Adam and Eve and their descendants. After the fall, God once again set apart a people through Abraham and Sarah, through whom salvation would be brought to the Earth.

"You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews." (John 4:22)

"I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous." (Rom. 11:11)

"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (Gen. 22:18)

"Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel." (2 Tim. 2:8)

"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh (Jesus) comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples." (Gen. 49:10)

"I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob (Jesus), A scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab (cf. Gen 3:15), And tear down all the sons of Sheth." (Num. 24:17)

F. Satan has ALWAYS Sought and will CONTINUE to Seek to destroy Israel

1. Satan has always sought to destroy the Jews. He knows that God has ordained that he be cast into prison, and then into the lake of fire for eternity.
 - a. His first desire is to avoid this imprisonment and unbearable eternal punishment.
 - b. From the start, he has set out to destroy Israel, because Israel is God's vehicle to restore His divine order to the earth.
2. Satan is seeking to exploit Jesus' "prophetic loophole". Jesus, pronouncing a judgment upon the blind guides of the Jews at the end of His ministry, declared that He would not return for His second coming until the Jewish leadership, in Jerusalem, welcomes Him back as the Messiah and the Son of God (Matt. 23:39).

3. From Genesis until now, Satan has sought to stop the prophesied "Seed", Jesus, from being able to come forth. While this battle is inevitably futile, it is still very real (Rev. 12:3 – 17).
 - a. Throughout history God has narrowed down the way in which He would come, and each time, Satan set out to destroy the people through whom Jesus would come.
 - b. In this prophecy, Jesus gives Satan a clear target. If Satan can destroy all the Jews, and destroy Jerusalem from the earth, then there will be no Jewish leadership in Jerusalem to welcome Him back.
 - c. In this way, Satan would have an accusation against God as being a liar.
4. Satan's rage is working in cooperation with and under the leadership of God to refine and ultimately redeem Israel (Zech. 12:2 – 3; 14:2).

G. Israel is God's Litmus Test for the Church and the Nations in the End Times

1. A litmus test is a crucial and revealing test in which there is one decisive factor.
2. God will use Israel as the litmus test to reveal the truth of the inner nature of both the Church and the remnant of the nations in the End Times (Matt. 25:31 – 46).
 - a. After the second coming, all the people of the nations who are not killed and who do not accept the mark of the Beast, will be brought before Jesus and judged by their treatment of the Jews during the Great Tribulation.
 - b. It is not their "works" towards Israel that will gain them merit, or their failure to stand Israel that will condemn them, but rather it is their response to Israel that will reveal the truth that is deep in their heart.
3. The Church will also be judged according to their stance towards Israel (Rom. 11:18 – 22).
 - a. Paul gives a very dire warning to the Gentile Church in Rome concerning their attitude towards the Jews who are currently rejecting Jesus. Paul boldly says that if these gentile believers become arrogant towards the unredeemed Jews they will be in danger of departing from the faith.
 - b. Some gentile believers arrogantly compare themselves with the Jews who have rejected Christ, thinking that they are 'better'. In doing so, the gentile believers are standing before God on the basis of works and no longer on the basis of faith in God's goodness, and are no longer in the faith, and hence, no longer saved.
4. Nazi Germany in World War II was a dress rehearsal for what is coming.
 - a. The Church in Germany, for the most part, failed to stand for the Jews against the Nazi's. They preferred their comfort, status, and lives over that of the Jews. A lack of proper understanding and passion for Israel led them to betray Jews to death.
 - b. We must cultivate a theological understanding and a passion in our heart for the Jews, so that we will have an unyielding resolve to stand with them.

5. The Church will provoke Israel to jealousy through signs, wonders, and the prophetic spirit, as well as sacrificially standing with them.
 - a. Under the Antichrist's mark system and persecution, we will take Jews into our homes. They will see our bare cupboards and ask what we will do about food. We will pray to Jesus, and God will provide supernaturally. They will see us prophesying and praying to begin and end plagues, and praying to be spared from plagues, and they will see God answer.
 - b. This will cause them to think, "This is like Moses and Elijah! This is what Yahweh does!" This will provoke them to jealousy. We must build a theology and develop a passionate heart NOW concerning Israel so that we can operate in this way in those days.

H. Israel is the Litmus Test of the Apostolic Heart

1. Paul's ministry revolved around his desire to see the Jews come to the saving knowledge of Christ (Rom. 9:3; 10:1; 11:13 – 14).
2. In this day when we believe and long for the restoration of the Apostolic ministry, let us remember that in the heart of Apostolic ministry is the salvation of Israel. Paul who is a leading authority on Apostolic ministry, declared this truth in his ministry.
3. Paul went so far as to wish that he himself could be condemned to eternal damnation in the lake of fire, if only that would bring Israel to salvation.
4. We should evaluate our heart and our ministry by this standard. Do we feel for Israel what God feels for Israel? Do we shape our prayer, our preaching and our ministries, around the hope that Israel would be moved to jealousy and be saved?

IHOP – One Thing Ministries

Understand the Redemptive Role of Israel in the End Times

A. Introduction

1. The redemptive role of Israel in the End Times cannot be fully understood without seeing God's big picture in regard to the heart of the Gospel in Isaiah 61, the centerpiece of God's eternal purpose and the battle of Jerusalem.
2. To fully understand the subject of Israel and the End Times, we need to know that it is about the wisdom, majesty and glorious leadership of Jesus. It is also about the redemption of mankind and restoration of creation. It is not an event nor just about the nation of Israel.

B. Isaiah 61 – Gospel of Grace and Gospel of the Kingdom

1. The primary text that Jesus preached from during His First Coming was Isaiah 61. This is a passage that speaks of the very heart of the Gospel.
2. It is interesting to note that in the First Coming when Jesus preached, He ended this text in the middle of verse two (compare Isa. 61:1 – 2a and Luke 4:18 – 19).
3. The preaching of the Gospel has a two-fold aspect:
 - a. Gospel of Grace: the aspect of forgiveness, healing and restoration (Isa. 61:1 – 2a).
 - b. Gospel of the Kingdom: the aspect of executing judgment, establishing justice, bringing joy to the earth and establishing of the Kingdom of God (i.e. Messianic Kingdom or Millennial Kingdom) on the earth (Isa. 61:2b – 7).
4. Jesus concentrated on the aspect of forgiveness and healing in His First Coming. This is because according to the plan of God, it was the time for Him to be crucified to offer atonement and salvation to man.
5. In the Second Coming, He will concentrate on the aspect of the establishment of the Kingdom of God. He will appear as a roaring Lion to punish those who have rebelled against God and execute justice.
6. The Messianic Kingdom on earth is connected with the restoration of Israel.
 - a. The restoration of Israel is the overall context of Israel in Isaiah 60 – 62.
 - b. When Jesus was raised from the dead, He taught the disciples for forty days about the Kingdom of God. This resulted in the expectation of them for the restoration of Israel in Acts 1:6.

- c. Jesus did not correct their question as being wrong. Instead, He replied that it was not the time for the restoration of Israel until the Gospel is preached to all the nations of the world (Acts 1:7 – 8).
- 7. The nation of Israel plays a vital role in the Second Coming of Jesus and the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom of God.
- 8. This is what Paul talks about in Romans 11:15 – the restoration of the nation of Israel and her spiritual return to the Messiah will usher in the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom on the earth.

C. Centerpiece of God's Eternal Purpose

1. The centerpiece of God's purpose is for Jesus to establish His Kingdom over all the earth as He joins the heavenly and earthly realms together (Eph. 1:9 – 10).
 - a. God is a Spiritual Being who created a physical world. It is His desire to bring the two worlds (i.e. spiritual and physical) together.
 - b. The fullness of God is when the heavenly and earthly realms comes together!
 - c. The sin of Adam and the rebellion of Satan caused a split between Heaven and earth.
 - d. Only a Person who is both God and man could bring together the gap between Heaven and earth.
 - e. Jesus will bring Heaven and earth together at His Second Coming when the New Jerusalem descends to earth establishing a vital connection with earthly Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2, 10).
2. The Person and the Place
 - a. The Messiah is God's King upon the earth. This Messiah-King is being referred to as God's Son in Psalm 2:6, 7, 12.
 - b. The Jewish world sees the Messiah as a King but misses Him as God's Son. The Christian world sees Jesus as God's Son but misses Him as the King of Israel (Ps. 2:6 – 7).
 - c. God has determined to establish His authority on earth through a certain Person – Jesus Christ. But He has also chosen a certain place as His throne – Jerusalem. We have to accept God's chosen Person and His chosen place.
“Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion...” (Ps. 2:6)
 - d. These two expressions of God's authority – His Person and His Place – constitute a test for all mankind. It is a test of man's heart to see whether we will submit to the will of God. It is through God's chosen Person and chosen Place that God detects the root of sin and rebellion in man.

3. Jesus will rule all the nations from His Throne of glory in Jerusalem (Matt. 25:31 – 32; Jer. 3:17; Ezek. 43:6 – 7).
 - a. His heavenly Throne is also in New Jerusalem. It will be a dynamic convergence between the two Jerusalems (Rev. 22:3).
 - b. Jesus rules in heaven as the Son of God (i.e. New Jerusalem) and He rules on the earth as the Son of David (earthly Jerusalem). The government of heaven and of earth will come fully together at the Second Coming. He is the only One who has the authority to bring both realms together.
4. There will be an explosion of God's glory when the government of heaven is joined with together with the government of the earth. This will usher in:
 - a. God's fullness on earth (Hab. 2:14).
 - b. Satan being cast into prison (Rev. 20:1 – 3).
 - c. Resurrection of the dead and the created order being delivered from its bondage (Rom. 8:17 – 23; 11:15; Isa. 11:6 – 9; 35:1 – 8; 65:17 – 25).

D. The Redemptive Role of Israel in the End Times

1. To invite the King of glory to rule in Jerusalem and to reign over them (Matt. 23:37 – 39; Ps. 24:7 – 10; Luke 19:11 – 28).
 - a. Jesus will not rule Jerusalem until He is officially invited by the Jewish leadership to be their King.
 - b. Jesus has bounded Himself by His own prophecy to only come back to Jerusalem after Israel's leadership asks Him to reign over them in their own free will.
 - c. Only upon the covenantal invitation of leadership of Israel will Jesus establish Himself as King over Jerusalem and Israel. After that, He will branch out His government over all the nations (Isa. 2:1 – 4; Mic. 4:1 – 5; Jer. 3:17; Ezek. 37:28; 43:4 – 7).
 - d. Satan understood this truth and therefore, seeks to exploit this "loophole" in God's prophetic plan. His plan is to control Jerusalem and seeing to it that no Jew is alive to invite Jesus back to be King in Jerusalem over Israel.
2. Israel as a proto-type of God's holy nation in the Millennium (Isa. 2:2 – 3; Deut. 28:1 – 2).
 - a. Having being provoked to jealousy by the Gentile Church at the End of the Age, Israel will in turn provoke the nations of the earth under the leadership of Jesus to walk out the commandments of the LORD (i.e. Torah and the Sermon on the Mount).
 - b. Nations will flock to Israel to learn from her how they might walk in the same blessings and abundance.

E. Battle of Jerusalem: the Vortex of God's End-Time Drama

1. Satan's rage against the Jewish people – Satan wants to exterminate the Jewish people so that a believing remnant cannot invite Jesus to rule Israel as her Messiah. Satan seeks to exterminate Israel and the Church that stands with her (Rev. 6:9 – 11; 7:9 – 14; 9:21; 11:7; 12:13 – 17; 13:7 – 15; 16:5 – 7; 17:6; 18:24; Dan. 7:21,25; 8:24; 11:33 – 35; 12:7; Matt. 10:21 – 22,28; 24:9; Luke 12:4 – 7; 21:16 – 19).
2. The Battle of Jerusalem is the most significant battlefield in the spirit realm today.
 - a. The Battle of Jerusalem is central to the Armageddon Campaign and Jesus' Second Coming to reign as King of the whole earth.
 - b. The Armageddon Campaign is a war for Jerusalem. After Jesus wins this war and is received by Israel in Jerusalem as their King, Satan will be cast into prison (Rev. 20:1 – 3) and the Kingdom of God will be established on earth.
 - c. Satan knows this truth and is focused on avoiding this prison sentence that will land him in the Lake of Fire after the Millennium (Rev. 20:10).
 - i. His primary agenda is not to keep people out of heaven but to stay out of prison even though he hates it when people get saved.
3. The call to the Church to engage in the Battle of Jerusalem
 - a. Making prophetic proclamation to Israel (Isa. 40:1 – 2).
 - b. Making prophetic proclamation to the Gentile nations (Jer. 31:7 – 10).

Chapter 5c

The Political Signs of the Times Pertaining to Israel and the Nations

A. Introduction

1. The Scriptures command us to know the signs of the times. Many Scriptures emphasize how important prophetic signs are at the End of the Age. In the Scriptures, Jesus taught more than any of the apostles on the need to discern the times (Matt. 24:32 – 44; Luke 21:28 – 31).
2. When comparing Matt. 24 with 1 Thes. 5:2 – 3 we see three distinct prophetic time frames related to the final seven-year period of this age:
 - a. The beginning of birth pangs (Matt. 24:8).
 - b. The worldwide period of counterfeit peace and safety – Increased birth pangs (1 Thes. 5:2 – 3; Dan. 9:27).
 - c. The Great Tribulation – Heavy birth pangs (Matt. 24:21; Jer. 30:5 – 7).
3. The beginning of birth pangs began in either 1948 (when Israel became a nation) or 1967 (when Jerusalem came under Jewish control). However, I believe that it should begin in 1948. This is because Israel is the reference point for understanding God's redemptive history (past and future). Israel gives us the prophetic timetable for the unfolding of God's End-Time plans.
4. Five of the most significant prophetic political events in the last 2,000 years are:
 - a. The re-birth of the nation of Israel (May, 15, 1948).
 - b. The re-capturing of Jerusalem during the Six Day War (June, 1967).
 - c. Jerusalem being at the center of world controversy (Zech. 12:1-3; 14:1-3).
 - d. The establishment of the European Union in the same territory as the ancient Roman Empire. (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; 9:26 – 27; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16)
 - e. An international leader in the unique position to establish a peace treaty with Israel and the Middle East to bring world peace (Dan. 9:27; 1 Thes. 5:2 – 3).
5. Four of these have occurred (Europe soon to be unified.) Thus, the most significant political prophetic events in the last 2,000 years are occurring in our generation.
6. The nation of Israel has always been the primary time indicator for God's prophetic calendar. The entire End-Time scenario in the Scriptures is given in context to events

related to Israel. Dan. 9:24 – 27 is the most significant prophecy about nations in the End Times. It speaks of Israel being in the Land, with a functioning Temple in Jerusalem and in covenant with the Antichrist.

7. Several prophecies related to Israel are closely linked and interdependent on each other. These include:
 - a. The Abomination of Desolation being set up.
 - b. The return to the Land to re-establish the State of Israel.
 - c. Israel gaining control of Jerusalem.
 - d. Rebuilding the Temple.
 - e. Re-establishing the Hebrew language and the Sabbath (in their civil law).
 - f. Israel becoming the central focus of world politics, resulting in worldwide anti-Semitism.
 - g. The gathering of all nations around to lay siege against Jerusalem.

B. The Abomination of Desolation: the Primary Sign of the End Times

1. The sign of the Abomination of Desolation has many significant implications to it (Matt. 24:15 –22). The Abomination of Desolation is directly referred to six times in the Scriptures, four times by Daniel (Dan. 8:13; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11) and two times by Jesus (Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14).
2. The Abomination of Desolation will occur when the Antichrist declares himself to be God. Central to this Abomination is the image of the Beast (Antichrist) which will be a statue (image or idol) that is demonically empowered so that it will seem to think, talk, breathe, and make laws. This statue (image) will be the abomination in the Temple. The apostle John made emphasis of this image ten times (Rev. 13:14, 15; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4).
3. This image will be the greatest abomination to God in history because the Antichrist will demand to be worshipped as God. The desolation will occur in two different ways:
 - a. The Antichrist will seek to desolate or destroy any who refuse to worship him.
 - b. God will desolate or destroy in judgment all those who yield to the pressure to worship the Antichrist.
4. After the wound on the Antichrist's head has healed, the Abomination of Desolation will be the key piece of legislation that begins his aggressive plan to rule the whole earth as God. This act of abomination will occur in the middle of the last seven years before Jesus returns.
5. The image (statue or idol) of the Beast will be set up in the Jerusalem temple. When this happens, the daily sacrifices (taught by Moses) that had been recently restored will be stopped (Dan. 9:27; 12:11).

6. Antiochus Epiphanes (Antiochus IV; 175-164 BC) defiled the Temple in a way that would prophetically foretell how the Antichrist will defile it in the End Times (Dan. 11:31).
7. The Abomination of desolation requires Israel to be in the Land with a rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem in order to set up an idol in it (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 25:15; 2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 13:5, 15 – 18).

C. The Relationship between the Antichrist Functions and the Rebuilt Temple

1. Significant activities related to the Tribulation Temple signal the signs of the End Times. The Abomination of Desolation cannot occur unless Israel rebuilds the Temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem (Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14; 2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 11:1 – 2; 13:12 – 18; Dan. 9:26, 27; 11:31; 12:11).
2. The Temple does not currently exist, but we know that it must be rebuilt. Even now plans to rebuild the Third Temple are being pursued aggressively in Israel. This may occur just before the first half of the final seven-year period (often referred to as Daniel's 70th Week).
3. Paul's prophecy about the Tribulation Temple is founded on Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 9:27). Paul prophesied of the desecration of the Tribulation Temple by the Antichrist (2 Thes. 2:4).
4. For the Antichrist to stop the daily sacrifices in the Temple, the Tribulation Temple must exist (Dan. 12:11; Rev. 11:1 – 2).
5. The Third Temple is NOT the same as the Millennial Temple. There are two distinct Jerusalem Temples prophesied in Scriptures:
 - a. The Tribulation Temple (Third Temple) which will be built by unbelieving Jews and then desecrated by the Antichrist.
 - b. The Millennial Temple will be built by Jesus (Isa. 2:3; 60:6, 10, 13; Ezek. 37:26 – 28; 40 – 48; Zech. 2:11; 6:12 – 15; 14:16 – 21).

D. The Nations Will Set a Siege against Jerusalem

1. Jerusalem will become the central focus of world attention (Zech. 12:3; 14:2).
2. At that time, Israel's military forces / strength will be re-established (Zech. 12:6–8).

E. Israel becomes a nation and gains control over Jerusalem

1. For the Abomination of Desolation to occur and for Israel to be attacked and in the center of world attention, they would have to be in the Land and be re-established as the State of Israel (Isa. 14:1; 66:7 – 8; Ezek. 36:22 – 37:1 – 2; Zech. 12:1 – 6; Matt. 24:32 – 35; Mark 13:28 – 30; Luke 21:29 – 31).
2. The people must be re-gathered (Deut. 30:1, 5 – 9; Isa. 11:10 – 12; Ezek. 37:1 – 12).

3. Over five million Israelites are back in their ancient land, making this the largest movement of people to return to Israel in history (surpassing the Exodus from Egypt over 3,500 years ago).
4. Even 100 years ago, it seemed impossible that Israel would become a nation. The Jewish people were weak and scattered throughout many nations. Then suddenly, out of the burning ashes of the Holocaust, Israel became a nation and then captured Jerusalem from the Muslims.

F. Israel will establish a Covenant with the Antichrist

1. The angel Gabriel spoke to the prophet Daniel about the final seven years of this age immediately before the Messiah would come to rule the world from Jerusalem (Dan. 9:24 – 27).
2. Gabriel spoke of these seven years as a week. This was a common expression in Israel. They thought of both a week of years (seven years) as well as a week of days (seven days). A week was used to describe years (i.e. seven years) or days (i.e. seven days). This final seven year period just before Jesus' return is often referred to as "Daniel's prophetic week" or "Daniel's 70th week." (Dan. 9:24 – 27).
3. Israel's governmental leaders will make a covenant with the Antichrist (called the covenant with death and with Sheol or Hell), and give their authority to him seven years before Jesus' Coming (Isa. 28:14 – 18; Dan. 9:27; 11:45; Zech. 11:16; Ezek. 38:8- 12, 14; 39:26; John 5:43; Luke 19:11 – 28; 1 Thes. 5:3).
4. The remnant of Israel will fully resist this decision. At the end of the Tribulation, Israel will reverse their decision by asking Jesus to rule over them, leading to great blessing.
5. This political covenant will include peace treaties and economic deals with many nations, including Israel and other Middle Eastern Islamic nations. This covenant will seem to "guarantee" political, economic and spiritual prosperity along with protection for Israel.
6. The Antichrist will win the trust of Israel by establishing peace in the Middle East, making a way for them to build the Temple and gaining financial security by possibly establishing Jerusalem as one of the economic centers of the world. One of the implications of this covenant or peace treaty will be to allow Israel to offer animal sacrifices (commanded by Moses) in their Temple.
7. The Antichrist will then break the covenant and stop the grain offerings and animal sacrifices offered by a restored Levitical priesthood. This gives us insight into the details of this covenant.
8. The Great Tribulation starts with the Antichrist establishing a covenant or peace treaty (that is designated for seven years) that results in a counterfeit peace that lasts approximately three and a-half years because in the middle of the week (seven-year period), the Antichrist will break the treaty, resulting in the termination of Israel's religious activities in the Temple (1 Thes. 5:3).

9. Twice in 1 Thes. 5:3, Paul refers to "they" as those who rejoice in peace and then those who will not escape. This "they" refers to all the unbelieving nations on the earth, including Israel. Those who are deceived think the time of peace was God's blessing instead of the work of the Antichrist.
10. The peace and safety will be established by the Antichrist just prior to a sudden "coming of destruction" of the day of the Lord, but after an escalating "nation against nation" season which is the beginning of birth pangs. The world will wrongly assume that their problems are being permanently solved by the Antichrist's seemingly skillful leadership.
11. The global pressures during the first prophetic time frame (beginning of birth pangs) will set up the situation, in which the Antichrist will look successful as he appears to solve world problems. During this time, he will take control of many governments in order to fix their economy, etc. He will appear to have the answers for a short time.
12. A man will rise to power, appearing to deliver the world from its global political, economic, spiritual and military crisis. The Antichrist's credibility to establish his worldwide empire will come partially by his ability to establish peace in the Middle East, which will be the most volatile place in history. He will be seen as the man who ended the time of international conflict when the nations of the world rose up against each other in military conflicts (Matt. 24:7 – 8; Dan. 8:25; 11:21).
13. This pact will seem to settle the Middle East crisis, bringing Jews and Muslims together regarding Jerusalem and its holy sites. A key issue will be Mount Moriah (in Jerusalem), which is holy to both Muslims (current site of the Dome of the Rock which is their third holiest shrine) and Jews (ancient site of Solomon's Temple).
14. No one knows when the last seven-year period of natural history begins. However, we do know how it starts and how it ends. It will start as a result of the Antichrist making a covenant with Israel and various Middle East nations. (Dan. 9:27).
15. The Antichrist will use this covenant to get a stronghold in the land of Israel. He will plant part of his headquarters in Israel. The "glorious holy mountain" is in Jerusalem (site of the Temple) (Dan. 11:45).
16. The terrible consequences of this covenant are described in Isaiah 28 as a scourge going through the land in a relentless way. The very mention of what happens will cause terror and every attempt to find comfort at that time will be totally frustrated (Isa. 28:14 – 20).

G. Other Developments in Israel

1. Some believe that the re-establishment of the Hebrew language was prophesied by Zephaniah (Zeph. 3:9).
2. Sabbaths will be established in Israel's society and civil law (Mt. 24:15-20).
3. Islamic terrorism was prophesied by Jesus. The initial fulfillment of this prophecy occurred in the first century at the hands of fellow Jews like Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9),

then again by the crusaders through the Middle Ages. The most dramatic fulfillment of this prophecy will be in the End Times by Islamic terrorists which will greatly increase (Ezek. 35:1 – 36:7; John 16:2).

4. Anti-Semitism will sweep the globe. Satan wants to exterminate the Jewish people so that a believing remnant cannot invite Jesus to rule Israel as her Messiah (Rev. 12:13 – 17).
5. Israel's condition just before Jesus' Coming includes being in prison camps and assaulted by foreign armies (Isa. 11:11- 16; 27:12 – 13; 42:6 – 24; 49:5 – 25; 61:1 – 2; Jer. 30:3 – 24; 31:1 – 23; Ezek. 20:33 – 44; 39:25 – 29; Hos. 11:10 – 11; Amos 9:8 – 15; Joel 3:1 – 2; Zeph. 3:19 – 20; Zech. 9:10 – 14).

IHOP – One Thing Ministries

Introducing the Harlot Babylon

(Rev. 17 – 18)

A. Introduction

1. Rev. 17 – 18 is about the rise and emergence of the Harlot Babylon at the End of the Age.
 - a. It is one of the most significant End-Time prophecies because it gives us insight into Satan's strategy to deceive the nations while causing many Christians to fall away from the faith.
 - b. The Harlot Babylon will "seduce" and deceive many believers around the world resulting in the Great Falling Away. Unbelievers will be deceived as well (2 Thes. 2:3).
2. There are four important passages of Scripture that prophesy about the Great Falling Away that is related to the emergence of the Harlot Babylon.
 - a. 2 Thessalonians 2:3
 - i. Paul prophesied about two of the most significant signs before the return of Jesus. These two events must happen before and close to the Second Coming and the rapture of the saints.
 - ii. The Great Falling Away, where many believers will turn away from the Lord Jesus, and the revealing of the Antichrist are two of Paul's most significant signs indicating the nearness of Jesus' second coming.
 - iii. The Great Falling Away will be massive and global in dimension. It will be closely related to the emergence of the Harlot Babylon.
 - b. 1 Timothy 4:1 – 3
 - i. Paul gave prophetic insight into the reason for the Great Falling Away at the End-of-the-Age.
 - ii. By the revelation of the Holy Spirit, Paul revealed that many will be "*giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrine of demons*". A doctrine of a demon is a teaching that is inspired by demons.
 - iii. This is one of the major reasons for global deception among believers at the End of the Age.
 - c. 2 Timothy 4:3 – 5
 - i. Paul gave two specific reasons for the Great Falling Away at the End of the Age.
 - ii. "...not endure sound doctrine" – Sound doctrine teaches obedience and allegiance to Jesus and it requires endurance. Many do not realize that there

is “an enduring dimension” to the truths of God. It requires effort and intention to hold on to the truths of God because truth does not automatically become our conviction.

- iii. *“according to their own desire ...they have itching ears...”* – To “turn the ear away” means that people will no longer hear what God intended to say in various Bible passages. Many will choose to hear what they desire and not what the truth says.
- d. 2 Timothy 3:1 – 5
 - i. Paul prophesied about the coming of perilous times where many believers will only have a form of godliness but lack the power of God.
 - ii. Many believers will not have the reality of the Kingdom of God and the reality of the power of Gospel in their life.

B. Overview of Rev. 17 – 18

1. Rev. 17 – 18 is one of the most significant End-Time prophecies. It gives us the clearest insight into the Great Falling Away.
2. Rev. 17 – 18 reveals Satan’s strategy in seducing and deceiving the Church, Israel and the nations. The main purpose of this passage of Scripture is to forewarn the people of God about the coming deception.
3. The Harlot Babylon is a spirit that manifests itself through a perverse religious network and a global economic system that will infiltrate and corrupt the nations.
 - a. The Harlot Babylon will be established in the literal rebuilt city of Babylon in Iraq (i.e. 50 miles south of Baghdad), which will be restored and used as one of the headquarters for the Antichrist.
 - b. It will function as the centre of all worldwide demonic religious and economic networks (Rev. 17 – 18; Isa. 13 – 14; 21; Jer. 50 – 51).
 - c. As Jerusalem suddenly came out of the ashes and was rebuilt, so Babylon will be suddenly rebuilt. The judgments prophesied in Jer. 50 – 51 that suddenly destroy Babylon forever have not yet happened.
4. The Harlot Babylon will arise across the earth in the final seven years of human history with two powerful expressions that will operate simultaneously.
 - a. Rev. 17 gives us a glimpse of the Harlot Babylon as the coming One-World Religion based on a system of tolerance and syncretism.
 - b. Rev. 18 gives us a glimpse of a powerful global economic system that will be based out of the City of Babylon.
 - c. They are two separate and distinct “entities” but will operate in the same spirit. They will also have in-depth and complex inter-connections with each other, and great synergism and purposes.

5. The Harlot Babylon encompasses both the worldwide religious network and the worldwide economic network, which will be inextricably linked to each other in a complex manner. Thus, the precise identification of who she is and how she operates is difficult to grasp.
6. We must challenge all our preconceived notions and continually evaluate all of our major premises related to the Harlot Babylon so as to make sure they line up with our growing understanding of what Scripture says about this End-Time mystery.

C. Importance and difficulty of Rev. 17 – 18

1. The emergence and rise of the Harlot Babylon is one of the most important End-Time prophecies in the Bible. There is an unusually large amount of Scripture devoted to this vast and important subject (Gen. 10 – 11; Isa. 13 – 14; 21; 47; Jer. 50 – 51; Ezek. 16; 23; 26 – 28; Rev. 17 – 18).
2. Rev. 17 – 18 is one of the most important prophecies in the Bible concerning the Harlot Babylon. It is the longest prophecy in the NT with 42 verses.
 - a. The second longest prophecy in the NT is about the New Jerusalem with 33 verses (Rev. 21:1 – 22:5).
 - b. The longest prophecy in the OT is Jer. 50 – 51 with 110 verses and, it also focuses on Babylon in the End Times. One of the longest prophecies in the OT is Isa. 13 – 14 (i.e. 54 verses), which also focuses on the role of Babylon in the End Times.
3. Why is there such an emphasis on the Harlot Babylon? It is essential for us to understand the emergence of the Harlot Babylon because she will powerfully seduce and deceive Israel, the Church and people across the nations. Those who are fully deceived by her will end up in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 14:8 – 11).
4. Rev. 17 – 18 is the most difficult chapter in the book of Revelation to understand. It is the most symbolic passage of Scripture filled with many complex and intricate details.
5. Why is this most important prophecy veiled in such cryptic language? Because the Lord wants us to diligently pour over every line of it and discuss it often so as to understand its every nuance.
6. We must function as forerunners that prepare the unprepared. Therefore, it will be necessary to wrestle and diligently work through what the Scripture says about the Harlot with much prayer and fasting as Daniel did in Dan. 9 – 10. The enemy will resist all who pursue these themes.

D. Introducing the basic theme of Rev. 17:1 – 6

1. There are three primary themes in Rev. 17:
 - a. The emergence of the Harlot Babylon (Rev. 17:1 – 6).
 - b. The emergence of the Antichrist (Rev. 17:7 – 11).

- c. The emergence of the ten-nation confederation (Rev. 17:12 – 13).
- 2. Rev. 17:14 describes the plan of the Antichrist and his empire to war against Jesus and the saints.
- 3. Rev. 17:15 – 18 describes the first destruction of the Harlot Babylon.
- 4. Rev. 17:1 – 6 gives us details about the emergence of the Harlot Babylon as a One-World Religion, describing her evil seductions and cruel persecutions.
- 5. Simple Outline of Rev 17:1 – 6:
 - a. An angel introducing the rise of Harlot Babylon (v.1 – 2).
 - i. An insight into her ultimate judgment (v.1).
 - ii. An insight into her seduction and deception (v.2).
 - b. Dynamic relationship between Harlot Babylon and the Antichrist (v.3).
 - c. Description of the Harlot Babylon (v.4).
 - d. The root and the origin of the Harlot Babylon (v.5).
 - e. The nature of the Harlot Babylon (v.6).

E. Introducing the Great Harlot (Rev. 17:1)

“Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters...”

- 1. John received one of the most significant prophecies related to the End Times through an angel where he saw the nature, history and judgment of the coming Harlot religion (i.e. Rev. 17) and its economic power (i.e. Rev. 18).
- 2. Before the angel showed John the wealth and counterfeit beauty of the harlot religion, he showed him the inevitable judgment and sure defeat of the Harlot Babylon. This system will fail and be utterly destroyed.
 - a. The worldwide Harlot religion will be destroyed by the jealousy of the ten primary kings that serve the Antichrist (Dan. 7:7, 20, 24). They will burn the Harlot in the middle of the final 7-year period. Satan’s kingdom is a kingdom of hatred not unity (Rev. 17:12, 16).
 - b. In the middle of the final 7 years of this Age, the Antichrist will replace the Harlot religion of tolerance with Antichrist worship. This new worldwide religion will be very strict (without any tolerance). All who refuse to worship the Antichrist will be killed (Rev. 13:4 – 18).
 - c. Satan’s purpose for the Harlot religious system will be to weaken the convictions of the people of the major world religions to prepare them for Antichrist worship. Instead of going from Christianity, Buddhism or Islam to Antichrist worship, they go

from the Harlot religion to worship the Antichrist. The one great enemy of the Harlot religion will be the saints of Jesus in the prophetic Church.

3. “The great harlot who sits over many waters”

- a. The Harlot will sit with authority and have control over many nations. She will have great influence and dominance over many nations.
- b. The “many waters” in Rev. 17:15 represent people, tongues and nations. She will have dominance and control over nations for a short season (both believers and unbelievers).
- c. The Harlot will, with supernatural powers based on sorcery, deceive the nations to follow her (Rev. 18:23).

F. The Seduction and Deception of the Harlot Babylon (Rev. 17:2)

“With whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

1. The Harlot’s system will deceive the inhabitants of the earth by offering them great benefits including humanitarian aid and a unified religion that offers peace and a prosperous world economy. The nations will rejoice in her “goodness” and get “drunk” with her “good promises and theology” that will be based on deceit.
2. “The kings of the earth committed fornication”
 - a. The Kings and rulers of nations will knowingly commit fornication with the Harlot Babylon. They will know that she is evil and yet will support her agenda in order to gain her wealth. In this way, they will knowingly prostitute themselves or commit fornication with her as they participate with her deceptive agenda for money.
 - b. Jesus and Paul warned about the love of money that will lead to all kinds of evil (1 Tim. 6:6 – 10; Matt. 6:21 – 24).
3. “The inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication”
 - a. Many people on earth (including believers) will be deceived by Harlot Babylon. Many will embrace her because they are legitimately deceived by her “goodness”.
 - b. The Harlot will be a religion of affirmation and tolerance without absolutes. It will be a counterfeit justice movement that will feed the poor, be involved in humanitarian projects, and will appear to be filled with compassion.
 - c. The nations will rejoice in the unity and world peace that this religion will seemingly bring. Since many military and economic conflicts are linked to religious differences, many are looking for a “religious solution” that will set the stage to accomplish world peace and prosperity (1 Thes. 5:3).
 - d. Today, many want to bring the three monotheistic religions together (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam). They seek to unify liberal “Christianity” (Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox) with moderate Islam and Judaism, together with Hinduism,

Buddhism, New Age, etc. Each group will be committed to moral and religious tolerance and will make many compromises to reach “unity.”

- e. The Harlot will deceive the nations by sorcery, which is a combination of drugs and demonic power (i.e. witchcraft). Her dark, supernatural powers will fascinate people and appear to be good. Her worship music will be powerful in that it will have a supernatural, demonic element to it.
3. Majority of the nations will be unaware of her seduction and deception but God will raise up His End-Time prophetic voice to warn His people and the nations (Rev. 10).

G. Dynamic Relationship between the Harlot Babylon and the Antichrist (Rev. 17:3)

“So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”

1. The Harlot is pictured as seated on the scarlet beast. Rev. 17:7 – 11 makes it clear that the Antichrist is the scarlet beast.
2. The Harlot will depend on the Antichrist who will carry her (i.e. provide resources and protection) (Rev. 17:3, 7).
 - a. The Antichrist will empower and raise up the Harlot religious network and the Babylon economic system.
 - b. Then the Harlot worldwide religion will be destroyed by the jealousy of the ten primary kings that serve the Antichrist. They will burn the Harlot in the middle of the final 7-year period (Dan. 7:7, 20 – 24; Rev. 17:12, 16).
 - c. In the middle of the final 7 years of this Age, the Antichrist will replace the Harlot religion of tolerance with Antichrist worship. He will also replace the Babylon economic system with the Mark-of-the-Beast economic system (Rev. 13:4 – 18).

H. Description of the Harlot Babylon (Rev. 17:4)

“The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.”

1. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet
 - a. The Harlot religion will have great prominence. She will have royal status before the nations, as she will be arrayed in purple and scarlet.
 - b. She will be greatly respected by the aristocracy or the elite financial leaders of the earth. The kings of the earth will honour her values and doctrines. They will pledge allegiance to her.
 - c. It will be a time of great confusion and great difficulty across the earth.

2. “Adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls”
The Harlot will have great wealth. It will be the wealthiest religious network in all history.
3. “Having in her hand a golden cup”
 - a. The Harlot will appear to be good in her appearance but she is totally dark and evil in reality. The golden cup is a symbol of a good thing but it only looks enticing and good on the outside.
 - b. The Harlot will have a golden cup in her hand in which she “serves” the people. She will offer the nations unprecedented humanitarian service through helping the poor. She will appear on the world scene uniting the world’s religions and providing peace to the world (1 Thes. 5:2 – 3).
 - c. The grid for measuring a mega-ministry is its message and the lifestyle it produces, not how fast it grows or how much money it has. Because serving the poor and walking in unity is foundational to preaching the gospel many will think that she is the one true religion. (Luke 16:15)
 - d. The prophetic Church will expose the Harlot for who she really is. The Church will be despised among the nations for this. The Lord will use this pressure to purify the End-Time Church. (Dan. 11:33 – 35)
4. “A golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication”
 - a. The Harlot is totally demonic and perverse. In reality her cup, or service, will be full of abomination and filth.
 - i. Abomination refers to being filled with demonic activity. In the OT, abominations refer to idolatrous (demonic) activity. She is so full of evil that she is repulsive to God.
 - ii. Filthiness points to being filled with moral perversions. She will lead the nations to the highest of perversions.
 - b. The Harlot will inspire the nations to new heights of sin and demonic activity. Sin will be allowed to reach its fullness in the End Times (Dan. 8:23).

I. The Root and Origin of the Harlot Babylon (Rev. 17:5)

On her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, the mother of Harlots and of the abominations of the earth.

1. “MYSTERY”
The Harlot’s name was a mystery. In other words, the angel gave John new information that had not yet been clearly revealed in Scripture. Her name surprised John.
2. “BABYLON THE GREAT”
 - a. The angel revealed her name as Babylon. This name links her to her origins that go back to the tower of Babel where Babylon began. This reveals her true nature to us, as we understand what happened at the tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1 – 8).

- b. Babel was the city in which the first organized religion in history developed, resulting in mankind's first organized rebellion and war against God.
- c. The residents of Babel sought to build a tower whose "*top is in the heavens*." This refers to reaching into the spirit realm and not to the actual height of the tower made of mud bricks (Gen. 11:4).
- d. In Gen. 1:28, the Lord told the people to multiply and fill the earth. The people of Babel wanted to stay together so they could accomplish more (Gen. 11:4).
- e. Nothing they set their heart to do will be withheld from them in terms of reaching their full potential in sin. NASV translates that nothing that they plan to do "*will be impossible for them*". This refers to their unity in sin that would have reached into the demonic realm (i.e. top is in the heavens) (Gen. 11:6).
- f. God was not referring to their architectural abilities having no limit, but to their progression in evil. This refers to their sin escalating faster than other issues in human history due to synergism amongst all of them.
- g. In Gen. 11, God confused their language to slow down the escalation of sin. God scattered the people of Babel so that man would not reach his full potential for evil until God's timing (Gen. 11:7 – 9).
- h. In Gen. 11:7 – 9, men sought to build a tower that reached heaven. They were not building a tall tower that reached to heaven but they were seeking to build a "gateway" to the spirit realm apart from God, so that they could gain access to the demonic realm.
- i. In the Babylonian language, Babel means the "gate of heaven" (in Hebrew it is "confusion"). The people of Babel were attempting to reach a demonic open heaven (Gen. 28:12; Jn. 1:51).
- j. Men were trying to counterfeit Jacob's ladder (Gen 28:10 – 13; John 1:15).
 - i. In his dream, Jacob saw a ladder that gave him access to the heavenly realm in the will of God. Jesus prophesied of Jacob's ladder where the angels would interact with the earthly realm (Gen. 28:12).
 - ii. In the Harlot church, there will be a "ladder of access" to the demonic realm, enabling the nations to escalate in their experience of sin and demons. The people of Babel sought this.
 - iii. Satan and billions of demons will be dislodged from their place in heaven and cast to earth. They will appear to people and interact with them at a level never seen before in history (Rev. 12:7 – 9).
- k. In the End Times, there will be an unprecedented interaction between the demonic and human realms that will lead to worldwide judgment. The time before Jesus' Second Coming is compared to the days of Noah, and includes the demonic realm touching the earth leading to murder etc (Matt. 24:37).

- l. The people in Gen. 6 walked in a “counterfeit” open heaven as demons interacted with humans in the natural realm in an evil way. At this time, there was an unprecedented connection between the natural and demonic realm. It resulted in great violence causing God to destroy the earth with the flood in Noah’s day (Gen. 6:4 – 11; 7:1 – 24; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6).
- m. God scattered the people of Babel so that they would not reach man’s full potential for evil until God’s timing. Sin will be allowed to reach its fullness in the End Times and not before (Gen. 11:8 – 9; Dan. 8:23).
 - i. Babel’s scattering of human resources, understanding, and energy resulted in the decrease in man’s potential to mature in evil. In Dan. 12:4, Daniel saw two things that would help reverse these dynamics.
 - ii. Daniel saw the development of communication, technology and travel. Technology allows us to share knowledge. What Daniel saw has both a positive and negative dimension.
 - iii. These will reverse the dynamics that occurred when men at Babel were scattered and given different languages so they could not work together. This will result in an unprecedented synergism of demonized people sinning together.
 - iv. Until this time, they could not bring their evil knowledge together so as to more quickly escalate in wickedness. Increasingly, the “masters of evil” can share their knowledge, which will cause sin to greatly increase as it is compounded. The result will be that several billion children will have full access to perversion and knowledge of the occult.
3. “Mother of Harlots and of the abominations of the earth”
John was surprised that the Harlot will be the mother of harlots. She is the source of all false religions throughout history as well as the primary source of false religion and abominations in the End Times. Her offspring (i.e. false religion throughout history) will crescendo and set the stage for the End Times.

J. The Nature of Harlot Babylon (Rev. 17:6)

“I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.”

1. The Harlot will have a murderous heart despite her humanitarian appearance. She will cause multitudes to be drunk or intoxicated with the blood of the saints who expose her. The more she kills, the bolder she will become in killing the saints.
2. The primary enemy of the Harlot religion will be the saints of Jesus in the prophetic, praying Church, who will expose her for who she really is. We must declare the seductive nature of her perversion and her inevitable judgment. The saints will be hated by all nations for doing this (Dan. 11:33; Matt. 24:9 – 11).

K. The Response of John (Rev. 17:6)

“And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.”

1. John marveled at this complex plan that had been hidden in God's heart throughout the ages. This mysterious plan will bring forth the salvation of Israel, as it purifies and empowers the Church to be used in the End-Time revival (Matt. 13:24 – 43; 25:32).
2. As we understand this prophecy, we will marvel like John as we feel the weightiness of what is in God's heart.

IHOP – One Thing Ministries

Who is Harlot Babylon?

(Rev. 17 – 18)

A. Introduction

1. One of the greatest challenges for the Church in the End Times is the falling away from the faith. The falling away is one of the main signs that will take place in the generation that the Lord returns (Matt. 24:9 – 13; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1 – 2; 2 Tim. 3:1 – 7; 4:3 – 5; 2 Peter 2:1 – 3).
2. In Rev. 17 – 18, an angel gave John one of the most significant prophecies related to the End Times because it gives us insight into Satan's strategy to seduce Israel and the nations while causing many Christians to fall away from the faith.
3. In Rev. 17 and 18, John saw a great Harlot that will arise across the whole earth during the End Times (Rev. 17:1 – 15).
 - a. It will be a worldwide religious network of great tolerance that will bring together the major world religions into one unified network and will teach that every road will lead to God and that everybody is good (Rev. 17).
 - b. It will also be a global economic network (Rev. 18).
4. The Harlot Babylon will be two separate and distinct institutions but will both operate under the same spirit of Babel from Gen. 11. She encompasses both the worldwide religious network and the worldwide economic network, which will be inextricably linked to each other in a complex manner. Thus, the precise identification of the Harlot and how she operates is difficult to grasp.
5. Currently, we do not have a full and complete picture of the Harlot Babylon. Therefore, we should not be dogmatic in our understanding but be diligent in setting our hearts to understand. We must challenge all our preconceived notions and continually evaluate all of our major premises related to the Harlot so as to make sure they line up with our growing understanding of what Scripture says about this End-Time mystery.
6. There is an unusually large amount of Scripture devoted to this vast and important subject because God wants us to know and understand this mystery (Gen. 10 – 11; Isa. 13 – 14; 21; 47; Jer. 50 – 51; Ezek. 16; 23; 26 – 28; Rev. 17 – 18).
 - a. It is essential to understand because its theme concerns the coming worldwide Harlot that will powerfully seduce and deceive Israel, the Church, and all the religions on earth.
 - b. We must function as forerunners that prepare the unprepared. Therefore, it will be necessary to wrestle and diligently work through what the Scripture says about the Harlot with much prayer with fasting, as Daniel did (Dan. 9 – 10).

- c. Our spirit must be “alarmed” by this prophecy and the reality of this coming Harlot Babylon just as John was alarmed by it in Rev. 17:6 – 7.

B. Overview of Rev. 17 – 18

1. The main theme of Rev 17 – 18 is the emergence of the powerful, evil, seductive and deceptive Harlot Babylon. She will be one of Satan’s strategies to deceive the Church, Israel and the nations during the End Times.
 - a. Rev. 17 focuses on the emergence and the eventual fall of the Harlot religious network.
 - b. Rev. 18 focuses on the emergence of the global Babylonian economic system that will be based in literal city of Babylon and its eventual fall.
2. There are three primary themes in Rev. 17:
 - a. The emergence of the Harlot Babylon (Rev. 17:1 – 6).
 - b. The emergence of the Antichrist (Rev. 17:7 – 11).
 - c. The emergence of the ten-nation confederation (Rev. 17:12 – 13).
3. Rev. 17:14 describes the plan of the Antichrist and his empire to war against Jesus and the saints.
4. Rev. 17:15 – 18 describe the first destruction of the Harlot Babylon.

C. Six Primary Premises of the Harlot Babylon

1. The Harlot Babylon is primarily a religion. Nowhere in Rev. 17 is Babylon actually called a religion. However, most agree that it is one.
 - a. Because 100% of the 90 references in the Old Testament that refer to national harlotry are about religion seeking provision through idolatry.
 - i. John is using the concept of spiritual harlotry in the way that is consistent with the Old Testament.
 - ii. Spiritual harlotry is always synonymous with idolatry and false religion. It always involves demon worship, immorality (i.e. orgies) and human and/or animal sacrifice (1 Cor. 10:20 – 21; 1 Chron. 5:25; Ezek. 23:37; Hosea 4:12 – 13).
 - b. Many believers who take a stand against Babylon will be martyred. They will be killed for taking the stand that Jesus is the only true God and that Babylon is demonic (Rev. 17:6).
 - i. The Harlot Babylon is more than an economic institution. Business networks do not kill those who take a stand on doctrinal issues.
 - ii. They do not legislate death for those who hold fast to biblical doctrines. Murder will be widespread in the Harlot Babylon system (Rev. 17: 6).

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- c. The Harlot Babylon is the mother of harlots. In other words, she produces other religious institutions like her. The original mother is found in Gen. 10 – 11 at the tower of Babel, which was the original Babylon which was profoundly religious.
 - d. Historically, Babylon has always been more dominant in religion than in its economic policies.
2. The Harlot Babylon is the emergence of a One-World Religion. What is currently happening around the world is a foreshadow of what is going to happen. Many religions are joining together. This is a reality that we can easily observe.
- a. 1 Thessalonians 5:3 describes a period of counterfeit world peace and safety before the return of Jesus. Most war and conflicts in history are linked to religious differences. Therefore many believe that world peace can only be accomplished through a “religious solution”.
 - b. In the Last Days, many will want to bring the three monotheistic religions together (i.e. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam). They seek to unify liberal “Christianity” (i.e. Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox) with moderate Islam and Judaism, together with Hinduism, Buddhism, New Age, etc. Each group will be committed to moral and religious tolerance and will make many compromises to reach “unity.”
3. Israel and the Church will be the core of the Harlot Babylon. The Harlot by definition must be one who was formerly in a covenant with God.
- a. Israel’s corporate harlotry in Scripture refers to spiritual harlotry that involves idolatry and making covenants with idolatrous nations instead of trusting the Lord. Money was always central to spiritual harlotry, either due to the fear of a lack of economic provision or the lust for great wealth.
 - b. Rev. 17:2 tells us that the heathen are made drunk by the Harlot. The name Harlot always refers to the counterfeit Bride of Christ in the Bible.
 - c. It is possible that the Church will form the core of the Harlot Babylon as many are already preaching the humanistic gospel, which emphasizes on temporal comforts and not the Gospel of the Kingdom, which emphasizes eternity and God’s holiness.
 - i. The true Gospel of the Kingdom preaches about the forgiveness of sin, repentance and the Kingdom of God (Acts 3:19 – 21).
 - ii. The humanistic gospel exalts the good and dignity of man on man’s terms (i.e. promises salvation, blessings, happiness and prosperity) without being in relationship with God (without repentance and without relationship with Jesus) and not based on sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:3 – 5).
4. The Harlot Babylon will be the “composite Harlot” that combines two vast global institutions based in two different cities working together to deceive the whole earth. Rev. 17 focuses on religious Babylon. Rev. 18 focuses on the literal city of Babylon where economic Babylon will be based.
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5. The Harlot Babylon will involve two different cities that will work very closely together for mutual benefit.
- a. It seems most likely that the Harlot worldwide religious network will be established in Jerusalem and will work with its counterpart, the Harlot worldwide economic network that will be established in the rebuilt city of Babylon on the Euphrates River (Isa. 1:21, 25 – 26).
 - b. Jerusalem is mentioned three times as a “great city” together with the city of Babylon in Revelation. This is a reference to the connection between Jerusalem and Babylon (Rev 11:8; 14:20; 16:19).
 - c. By the time he was in his 90s, John the Apostle had seen Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration and the visions recorded in the Book of Revelation. No man ever saw more than John and yet he was shocked by the harlot! The “mystery” may be the unification of Babylon and Jerusalem as the ultimate expression of harlotry!
 - d. Jerusalem could be the litmus test of a new international city with worldwide political and religious unity to see if people can come together as one
 - i. Jerusalem is significant to the three main monotheistic religions.
 - ii. The Antichrist will be the political and economic leader of much of Europe and the Middle East.
 - iii. Babylon will be the new “control centre” where much power will be based.
 - iv. The Antichrist will bring together political power, economic strength, and religious unity.
 - e. Jer. 50 – 51 refers to many Jewish people living in Babylon at the end of the age. They are in Babylon involved in commerce. The Lord warns His people in Babylon to flee (Rev. 18:4; Jer. 50:8, 28; 51:6, 9, 45, 50; Isa. 48:20 – 21; 52:11 – 12; Zech. 2:6 – 7).
 - f. It is possible that some apostate Jewish leaders will be in covenant with the Antichrist in Jerusalem and may be asked to relocate to Babylon as they are promoted to great positions in the worldwide economic system.
 - g. It is possible that some of the prominent Jewish leaders in the Harlot religious system in Jerusalem will be connected to Jewish economic leaders in Babylon; thus creating a strong relationship between the wicked apostate leaders of these two cities. This would be the ultimate harlot in all of human history!
 - h. The Abomination of Desolation will occur in Jerusalem, making it central to the Antichrist’s worldwide religion. In Rev. 11:8, Jerusalem is called the “great city” during the Great Tribulation. This is the first occurrence of the designation “the great city.” This is significant as it establishes a powerful precedent for the title before Rev. 17 – 18.
 - i. The next use of the title the “great city” is in Rev. 14:8 referring to Babylon the Harlot. Several verses later Jerusalem is referred to as “the city” without identifying it. In this passage, “great city” and Jerusalem are linked (Rev. 14:8, 19 – 20).
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- j. The next use of the title the “great city” is in Rev. 16:19, just before Rev. 17:1. It is in the context of the Seventh Bowl judgment. Jerusalem again is called the “great city” that was split into three parts (Rev. 16:19).
 - k. In the first three passages that mention the “great city” (Rev. 11:8; 14:8, 20; 16:19) we see Babylon and Jerusalem connected together. Each of these passages comes before Rev. 17 – 18, thus, establishing a consistency in the mind of John’s reader before the Harlot is revealed.
 - l. There are two great cities at the End-of-the-Age that are against God. They operate in a love-hate partnership as they deny God and serve the Antichrist as a harlot for financial gain.
 - m. The next reference to the great city is found in Rev. 17:16. John assumes his readers understand what the “great city” is because of previous references to it (Rev. 17:18).
 - n. In Rev. 18, the great city is referred to five times. It is the city of Babylon (Rev. 18:10 – 21).
 - o. The ultimate great city in God’s plan is the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:10).
6. There will be two destructions of the Harlot Babylon.
- a. The Harlot religious network in Jerusalem will be burned by the Antichrist at the time of the Abomination of Desolation, which also marks the beginning of the final 3½ years, to make way for the Antichrist worldwide religious network (Dan. 9:27; 6:1 – 3; 17:16).
 - b. The Harlot economic network in Babylon will transfer its loyalty and wealth over to support the Antichrist until he also destroys her near the end of the Tribulation, close to Jesus’ Second Coming (Rev. 13:16 – 18; 16:19; 18:2).

D. Chronology of the Rise and Fall of the Harlot Babylon

- 1. Satan’s End-Time Plan
 - a. A significant part of Satan’s End-Time plan is to be worshipped by all nations. He will raise up a worldwide Antichrist worship movement. This satanic worship movement will find expression in every nation and will be a counterfeit to Jesus’ true End-Time worship revival movement (Rev. 13:4 – 8).
 - b. There will be two stages in Satan’s plan to be worshipped by all nations.
 - i. He knows that it is too big a step for those with a religious heritage (Christian, Muslim, Jews, Hindu, etc.) to suddenly become devout Satan worshipers. Therefore, he will deceive them into joining a worldwide religion that preaches tolerance without absolutes, and which teaches that all religions lead to the same God and to salvation.
 - ii. By joining this harlot religion, their conscience will be greatly defiled. This will make it easy for them to break their affiliation with their religious heritage

(Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, etc). This will prepare the way for them to be Satan worshipers in the Antichrist worship movement (1 Tim. 4:1 – 2).

- iii. The voluntary Harlot Babylon religion will be replaced by a mandatory Antichrist religion. People will voluntarily join the Harlot Babylon One-World Religion of tolerance (Rev. 17). Suddenly, all will be forced to be Satan worshipers in the Antichrist religion (Rev. 13:4, 8, 15).
- c. The harlot religion will prepare the nations to receive the Antichrist.
 - i. It will be a religion of affirmation and tolerance without absolutes. It will be a counterfeit religious and humanitarian movement that will feed the poor, be involved in humanitarian projects, and appear to be filled with compassion.
 - ii. The nations will rejoice in the unity and world peace that this religion will seemingly bring. Since many military and economic conflicts are linked to religious differences, many are looking for a “religious solution” that will set the stage to accomplish world peace and prosperity (1 Thes. 5:3).
 - iii. She will deceive the nations through sorcery, which is a combination of drugs and demonic power (witchcraft). Her dark, supernatural power will fascinate people and appear to be good. Her worship music will be powerful in that it will have a supernatural, demonic element to it (Rev. 18:23).
- 2. The rise and fall of Harlot Babylon
 - a. The Harlot religion and Antichrist worship are two very different stages in Satan’s plans to deceive the nations into worshipping him.
 - i. Firstly, Satan will raise up a tolerant worldwide religious network that will be supported by a worldwide economic system based in the city of Babylon – the Harlot religious network in Rev. 17.
 - ii. Then Satan will raise up another worldwide religious movement that will be totally intolerant. It will also be supported by the same economic system based in Babylon – the Antichrist worship movement in Rev. 13.
 - b. In stage one, Satan will raise up the Harlot religion – a voluntary, tolerant, moderate, liberal, humanistic, worldwide religious network that will be supported by a worldwide economic system.
 - i. The Antichrist will sign a 7-year peace treaty with Israel and the nations that will usher in a period of counterfeit world peace and safety.
 - ii. This will happen during the final seven years of human history before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and as a result, set the stage for the rise of Harlot religion (Dan. 9:27).
 - iii. With the help of the Antichrist, all the main religions in the world will blend into a One-World Religion. The majority of the peoples of the earth will not perceive this religion as being demonic. It will be spiritually dangerous, causing many to deny the faith.
 - iv. The leaders of this religious network will be different from those who lead the economic system in Babylon. However, the same spirit of evil will inspire them.

- v. This religious network is described as sitting on many waters, which means that it greatly influences many nations. It will eventually become an official institution that will forcefully remove all who resist her. It will have the political and social backing to kill those who resist it (Rev. 17:1, 5).
 - vi. Satan will use the Harlot religion to weaken the conscience, conviction, and resolve of the people who believe in God so that they will more readily accept the Antichrist religion that comes next (Matt. 24:15 – 16).
- d. In stage two, Satan will raise up another worldwide religion. It will be the Antichrist's worship movement that will be totally intolerant and involuntary of any other religion. It will also be supported economically by the city of Babylon. This religion will have additional financial strength because of the mark-of-the-Beast economic monopoly (Rev. 13:4 – 8, 15 – 17).
- i. The Harlot religious network will be destroyed by the 10-nation confederation and the Antichrist in the middle of the 7-year peace treaty and at the beginning of the Great Tribulation (Rev. 17:16; 6:1 – 3; Dan. 9:27).
 - ii. Satan's second stage in his religious plan will be instituted after the Abomination of Desolation. This will include a speaking idol in the Jerusalem Temple and the mark of the Beast that forces all to obey.

IHOP – One Thing Ministries

The Rise of the Antichrist

(Rev. 13:1–10)

A. Introduction

1. Rev. 13 is primarily about the rise of the Antichrist during the final 3 ½ years of human history. It gives us a detailed description of who he is, his goal and agenda during the Great Tribulation, and his strategy.
2. Rev. 13 gives us the most complete picture of the Antichrist in the NT while Dan. 8:23 – 26 and Dan. 11:29 – 45 give us the most complete picture of the Antichrist in the OT.
3. The Antichrist is a real and literal person
 - a. The word “antichrist” comes from combining two Greek words, “anti” and “Christos”.
 - i. “Anti” is a preposition which can mean either “to substitute” (i.e. to be in place of) or “in opposition of” (i.e. to be against).
 - ii. “Christos” (i.e. Christ) which means the “anointed one”.
 - b. When put together, they form a new word, “antichrist” which describes people or religious systems that act as a “counterfeit of” and “in opposition to” Jesus, God’s Anointed One.
 - c. In Scripture, there are two applications of the antichrist:
 - i. It refers to people with a false anointing called the “spirit of the antichrist” that works in every generation to rally and influence people against Jesus (2 Thes. 2:7; 1 John 2:18; 4:3).
 - ii. It refers to a literal man in the End Times called “THE” Antichrist (Dan. 8; 11; 1 2 Thes. 2:8 – 9; John 2:22; Rev. 13).
 - d. John referred to many antichrists that have operated throughout history. But John also wrote of the Antichrist coming after the deaths of Antiochus (200 years after Antiochus’ death) and Nero (25 years after Nero’s death) (1 John 2:18; 2 John 7).
 - e. Some see the fulfilment of what the Scripture says about the Antichrist in the lives of past religious or political leaders. They limit their understanding of the Antichrist as referring only to the spirit of the antichrist. They do not believe he will be a literal worldwide leader.
 - f. We must not limit our understanding of antichrist to just being a spirit because the Bible teaches that there will be an emergence of a literal End-Time worldwide leader known as the Antichrist (1 John 2:18).
 - g. Paul taught that the emergence of this man as a world leader will be a major prophetic sign during the End Times (2 Thes. 2:1 – 3).

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4. The Antichrist will be the final world ruler in this age. He will make war against God by oppressing Israel and the Church (Rev. 11:7; 12:7, 17; 13:4, 7; 17:14; 19:11, 19; Dan. 7:21; 9:26).
 - a. The Antichrist will be fully human and fully demonized. He will be a counterfeit to Jesus who is fully human and fully God. Satan will give him his authority. He will supernaturally ascend from the bottomless pit as Jesus descended from heaven (Rev. 13:2).
 - b. The Antichrist will claim to be God and will demand that the whole earth worship him as he seeks to be the King of kings over all nations. He will have authority and worshippers in all nations yet will not totally dominate all as seen by those who continually war against him (Dan. 11:40 – 45; Rev. 13:3, 8).
 - c. The Antichrist's political reign will last for at least seven years. He will first bring world peace then in the final 3½ years of human history, he will turn on Israel and all who refuse to worship him (Dan. 9:27).
 - d. The Antichrist will be the most powerful world leader in the history of mankind. His worldwide empire will include 4 main spheres:
 - i. Political authority to set policy and enact laws to kill his resisters (Rev. 13:1 – 2, 15; 17:16).
 - ii. Military force (Rev. 13:4, 7).
 - iii. Economic system to establish worldwide monopoly and oppress nations (Rev. 13:2, 15 – 17).
 - iv. Religious control that will allow him to establish a worldwide satanic worship movement (Rev. 13:4, 8 – 14).
 5. Why we must understand what Scripture says about the Antichrist?
 - a. The Bible makes it clear that God wants us to develop an understanding of this man. Daniel prophesied that the wise would understand in the End Times. Understanding will be an issue of life and death (Dan. 12:10).
 - i. It will give us correct expectations so we are adequately braced for what is to come, to prepare to walk in God's glory and to endure great pressures.
 - ii. Those with understanding will have discernment to know what to avoid or what not to do. For example, they will refuse "convincing persuasions" to take the Mark of the Beast, or to participate in the prosperous economic and religious enterprises of Babylon the Great Harlot.
 - iii. Those with understanding will be in peace instead of fear and offense towards God. They will have confidence that God is fully in control of the End-Time crisis and is never surprised (2 Peter 3:10, 14).
 - iv. Those with understanding of the End-Time Scriptures will intercede in a way that minimizes evil and increases victory in specific areas. Our prayers will change history and lead many to salvation and protection (Joel 2:12 – 18).
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- v. Those with understanding about the inevitability of the rise of the Antichrist's reign of terror will urgently cultivate spiritual depth in God now before the time when the pressure fully escalates (1 Thes. 5:2 – 3).
- vi. We must have understanding about the Antichrist so we are not deceived into worshipping him (Rev. 14:9 – 11).
- b. The Bible provides many details about the Antichrist.
 - i. The Antichrist is the second most mentioned person in the Bible pertaining to End-Time prophecy and the rise of the Antichrist is the second most emphasized event pertaining to the End Times.
 - ii. The two most emphasized End-Time prophetic themes in Scripture are Jesus' return to establish His worldwide Millennial Kingdom and the Antichrist's counterfeit evil worldwide empire. This shows us how important these two themes are to God and thus, to the Church.
 - iii. There are eleven major passages of Scripture pertaining to the Antichrist (Dan. 2:40 – 44; 7:7 – 8, 19 – 27; 8:23 – 26; 9:26 – 27; 11:29 – 43; Ezek. 38 – 39; Zech. 11:15 – 17; 2 Thes. 2:3 – 9; Rev. 6:1 – 2; 13; 17:7 – 14).

B. Overview of Revelation 13

1. Rev. 12 sets the context of what happens in Rev. 13. It gives us the reason for the rise of the Antichrist, the False Prophet and the introduction of the Mark of the Beast economic system.
 - a. The ultimate goal of Satan is to be worshipped by the nations. This resulted in his fall. Satan's fall resulted in the spiritual conflict that has existed since the beginning of time (Isa. 14:12 – 15; Ezek. 28:11 – 19).
 - b. Rev. 12 gives us an overview of this spiritual conflict through the Ages – war in the heavens, war between God and Satan, and war between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness.
 - c. This war will continue to escalate and reach its crescendo in the final years of human history – the Great Tribulation.
2. Rev. 12 – 13 tells us of Satan's two main goals in His war against God's people.
 - a. To raise up a worldwide worship movement.
 - i. Satan and the Antichrist will be worshipped by the nations of the earth as well as the Antichrist. Satan gives his authority to the Antichrist to empower him to lead a worldwide worship movement (Rev. 13:4, 8, 12, 15).
 - ii. Worship has always been Satan's ultimate goal (Matt. 4:9; Isa. 14:12 – 14).
 - b. The annihilation of the Jewish people so that the remnant of Israel cannot invite Jesus back to Jerusalem for Him to rule them as their Messiah King (Matt. 23:37 – 39; Rev. 12:13 – 17).
 - i. Rev. 12:1 – 6 give us an overview Satan's goal to totally annihilate Israel.

- ii. Rev. 12:13 – 17 give us an overview of Satan's total and final effort to destroy Israel in the End Times.
- iii. Rev. 12:17 tells us that Satan also seeks to attack and destroy the Church because the Church will stand and pray for Israel.
- c. Satan's main strategy and weapon is to raise up the Antichrist and False Prophet to war against the people of God.
 - i. Rev. 13 is the earthly manifestation of what happens in Rev. 12.
 - ii. Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet will form the counterfeit trinity. The Dragon will empower the first beast (i.e. Antichrist) and the second beast (i.e. False Prophet).
- 3. Rev. 13 reveals the nature, power, goal and strategies of the Antichrist. Rev. 13:1 – 10 reveals the Antichrist and Rev. 13:11 – 18 reveals the False Prophet.
- 4. Outline of Rev. 13:
 - a. Rev. 13:1 – 2: The nature, origin and power of the Antichrist.
 - b. Rev. 13:3: The dramatic rise of the Antichrist.
 - c. Rev. 13:4: The ultimate goal of the Antichrist.
 - d. Rev. 13:5 – 7: The agenda and activities of the Antichrist.
 - e. Rev. 13:8 – 10: Warning and exhortation to the saints of God.
 - f. Rev. 13:11 – 14a: The nature, origin, power and agenda of the False Prophet.
 - g. Rev. 13:14b – 15: The image of the Beast.
 - h. Rev. 13:16 – 17: The Mark of the Beast.
 - i. Rev. 13:18: The call to develop understanding.

C. The nature, character, origin and power of the Antichrist (Rev. 13:1 – 2)

"I saw a Beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the Beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority."

- 1. "A Beast"
 - a. The Antichrist's character is like a beast i.e., wild and unreasonable, ferocious and cruel, brutal and murderous.
 - b. The Antichrist will be a hostile and dangerous man without reason or mercy, like a wild animal.

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- c. The term “Beast” is used 36 times in Revelation to describe the Antichrist (Rev 11:7; 13:1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2, 10, 13; 17:3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 17; 19:19, 20; 20:4, 10).
- d. In the Bible, the Antichrist is given eight names that describe his nature and character – Gog (Ezek. 38), the little horn (Dan. 7 and 8), foolish shepherd (Zech. 11:15), man of sin (2 Thes. 2:3), son of perdition (2 Thes. 2:3), the lawless one (2 Thes. 2:8), the Antichrist (1 John 2:18), the Beast (Rev. 11:7; 13:1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2, 10, 13; 17:3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 17; 19:19; 20:4, 10).
2. “Rising up out of the sea”
- a. The rise of the Antichrist will be sudden and will surprise many. He is the little horn in Dan. 7:8. No one will pay attention to him at the beginning and no one will take him seriously.
- b. “Rising out of the sea” also means that this man will arise out of the nations in the political arena. He will have the support of multitudes of people.
3. “Having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns”
- a. The source of the power and influence of the Antichrist will embody all the spirits and evil characteristics of the seven ancient anti-Semitic empires. He will also be supported by the ten-nation confederation with each nation’s political, military and economic resources.
- b. “Seven heads” (Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:7 – 11)
- i. The seven heads of the Antichrist’s kingdom – Seven anti-Semitic Gentile empires (Rev. 13:1 – 2).
- The wild beasts of Dan. 7 – like a leopard (i.e. speed and brilliance of Alexander the Great of Greece), his feet were like the feet of a bear (i.e. the strength, brutality and tenacious resolve of Persia), and his mouth like the mouth of a lion (i.e. majesty and terror of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon). The dragon (i.e. Satan) gives him his power, his throne, and great authority.
 - The characteristics of the End-Time empire and its individual world leader are like a leopard, bear and lion with a blasphemous name over it. Daniel prophesied of four empires that he saw as a lion, bear, leopard, and a terrifying beast (Daniel 7:1 – 7).
 - The Antichrist’s End-Time empire will embody all the beastly characteristics noted by Daniel (John sees them in reverse order – leopard, bear, lion).
 - The power of the Antichrist’s kingdom is based in history – the seven heads (historic empires).
 - The Antichrist’s worldwide evil empire will have its political roots in past European and Middle East empires. The revived Roman Empire is the
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eight empire that is built on seven previous empires (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, Nazi Third Reich?).

- In other words, the strengths, traditions and credibility of these historical kingdoms are all behind the Antichrist's empire.
- The historical root system legitimizes it by identifying it with the famous military heroes and esteemed religious leaders from their history. The historical root system empowers it by glorifying the evil people and practices from its past empires. Thus, it sets a precedent (endorsement) for the accumulated evil to be expressed again in fullness in the Antichrist's empire.
- The angel wants John to know that there is a historical root system behind the final evil empire of the Antichrist. The root system gives us urgency about the seriousness of the coming crisis. It will not just go away.

c. *"The ten horns"*

- i. This speaks of the ten-nation confederation. The Antichrist's kingdom will be backed by the power of the unified resources of ten nations.
 - ii. In other words, the economic, political and military unity of these ten unified nations will threaten all other nations. It will have a scope of influence and natural power beyond any other empire in history.
4. The Antichrist's support system will comprise political, military and spiritual forces from the past and present on a worldwide scale, backed up by unprecedented demonic power (i.e. miracles, occult, deception, etc.) and the False Prophet. The four components of the Antichrist's empire are political authority, military force, economic and religious control (Dan. 11:36 – 45).
5. *"A blasphemous name"*
The name describes his evil and wicked nature. He will totally oppose God and lead the nations into the highest level of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.
6. *"The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority"*
- a. The Antichrist's kingdom will be empowered by Satan with unprecedented spiritual power.
 - b. Satan will give the Antichrist his power and ability to work miracles, his throne or access to command the demon hierarchy (Eph. 6:12; 2 Thes. 2:9).
 - c. Satan will give the Antichrist his authority or right to control the main political, military and economic areas of the earth plus the popular support of the False Prophet who will give him great credibility (Rev. 13:7, 11).

D. The dramatic rise of the Antichrist (Rev. 13:3)

"I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. All the world marveled and followed the Beast."

1. There will be a dramatic global event that serves as a catalyst to launch the Antichrist into world prominence. The event is described as a head wound that is healed before the whole world.
2. There are two dimensions to this miracle:
 - a. The Antichrist himself is seemingly killed and healed, causing the nations to worship him. John does not say he is "*raised from the dead*" but that "*the fatal wound will be healed*." The Antichrist's death and healing will be an imitation of Jesus' resurrection.
 - b. A part of the Antichrist's empire suffers a fatal wound and then recovers. The wounding occurred on "*one of the seven heads*" (i.e. historic empires).
 - i. The question is which of the seven historic empires will be raised up again. All seven empires were conquered; therefore, they all qualify as having politically suffered a "fatal head wound."
 - ii. The sixth head (Roman Empire ended as a world empire in AD 476), the Nazi Reich (ended in 1945) and the former Soviet Union (ended in 1989) all figuratively suffered fatal head wounds that could possibly be miraculously healed.
 - iii. However to qualify as the kingdom that fulfils Rev. 13:3, the whole world must be amazed by it. It may become the core nation of the Antichrist's End-Time empire.

E. The ultimate goal of the Antichrist (Rev. 13:4)

"They worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the Beast; and they worshiped the Beast, saying, 'Who is like the Beast? Who is able to make war with him?'"

1. The ultimate goal of the Antichrist is to be worshipped by the nations. Many nations will follow and worship the Antichrist because of fascination and intimidation.
2. "Who is like the Beast?" – Worship through being awestruck
 - a. The military conqueror will suddenly turn into a religious leader. The nations will be surprised to see that his spiritual agendas are more ambitious than his military and political ones.
 - b. Nations will be awestruck and fascinated by the miraculous healing of the beast.
3. "Who is able to make war with him?" – Non-resistance through intimidation
He will look invincible to unbelievers. This is intimidating to the nations. All will ask, "Who can resist or war against the Antichrist?" Seemingly the only way to survive this time will be to serve the Antichrist as the Church is driven underground.

F. Four main goals and activities of the Antichrist (Rev. 13:5 – 7)

“He was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for 42 months. He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and overcome them. Authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.”

1. “A mouth speaking great things”

- a. The Antichrist will deceive the nations into following him through his speech. He will be eloquent, impressive and convincing.
- b. He will be able to give demonically anointed messages that will be confirmed by demonic signs and wonders. Many will be moved by his speech and will follow him fanatically (2 Thes. 2:9 – 10).

2. “He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven”

- a. Blasphemes God (Rev. 13:1, 6; 17:3; Dan. 7:8, 11, 20, 25; 11:36)
 - i. The Antichrist is full of blasphemous names and shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High.
 - ii. The entire empire will have a blasphemous name over it. The Antichrist will be full of pride in his speech. He will accuse God of many things, speaking great things against God; in other words, things that have never been spoken by a man (Rev. 13:1).
- b. He will accuse or blaspheme God in four things.
 - i. Blasphemy against God – He will reverse the roles of God and Satan, claiming that God is the great deceiver and that He will be defeated by Satan.
 - ii. Blasphemy of His name – He will accuse God’s nature and character – that Jesus is a liar and is responsible for all the pain in history.
 - iii. Blasphemy of His tabernacle – The Tabernacle is the place of worship and where God’s judgments are issued. He will accuse that God is not worthy of worship and that God’s judgment is unfair and unjust.
 - iv. Blasphemy against those who dwell in heaven – He will accuse the martyrs of having wasted their lives and proclaim that it is not worth it to love God, to pay the price and to die for the faith.

3. “42 Months”

- a. The Antichrist will be given authority by God for 42 months or 3½ years to make war against the saints and to prevail against them by killing believers (Rev. 13:7; Dan. 7:22, 25; 8:24).
- b. This period will end with the Second Coming of Jesus. The Antichrist's reign begins when the Two Witnesses begin their ministry which will last 42 months (Rev. 11:3 – 6).

4. *"It was granted to him to make war with the saints and overcome them."*
 - a. The Antichrist will make war with the people of God and overcome them (Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; 11:33 – 35; 12:7, 10; Rev. 6:9 – 11; 7:9, 14; 9:21; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 16:5 – 7; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2; Matt. 10:21 – 22, 28; 24:9; Luke 12:4 – 7; 21:16 – 19; John 15:18 – 16:4).
 - b. One of the major agendas of the Antichrist is to persecute and kill Christians. Many Christians will be captured, humiliated, tortured and killed. Many will deny Jesus in the face of pressure. Others will arise without fear and prevail in faith, being unafraid of death (Rev. 12:11).

G. The Warning of God (Rev. 13:8)

"All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb..."

1. *"All...will worship him"*
 - a. This is an emphasis that the vast majority of the world will follow and worship Antichrist. It means *"all the nations of the earth will have people who worship the Antichrist."*
 - b. However, not all will worship and follow the Antichrist as Scripture is clear that many unbelievers will resist worshipping the Beast and resist taking the Mark of the Beast.
2. *"Whose names have not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb"*

This is a grave warning to those who follow and worship the Beast. They will not receive the eternal life of God but be cast to the lake of fire (Rev. 14:9 – 11).

H. Our resistance – patience and faith (Rev. 13:9)

"If anyone has an ear, let him hear. He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."

1. *"He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword"* – Two-fold promise and assurance of God: He will repay and He will vindicate (Rom. 12:19).
2. *"Here is the patience and the faith of the saints"* – The key to overcome
 - a. Patience – To cultivate endurance so as to keep us faithful and steady until the end (Rev 12:11)
 - b. Faith – To cultivate confidence in God so as to overcome fear resulting from accusations by the Antichrist.

I. The rise of the False Prophet (Rev. 13:11 – 18)

1. The Antichrist's primary strategy is to raise up the False Prophet, who will use Satan's great power to operate a three-fold strategy (Rev. 13:11 – 18).
 - a. To use demonic miracles to deceive nations into worshipping the Antichrist (Rev. 13:11 – 13).
 - b. To establish a counterfeit worldwide worship and prayer movement (Rev. 13:14 – 15).
 - c. To establish an oppressive Mark-of-the-Beast economic system to control the world (Rev. 13:16 – 17).
2. All these strategies will be used to establish a worldwide worship movement. They have the ability to deceive and give the legal right to kill (Rev. 13:2, 4, 7, 12 – 17).
3. False Prophet's two methods – influence and use of force by legislation. The False Prophet functions with a counterfeit spirit of Elijah like the Two Witnesses.

J. God will expose the Antichrist's deception (Rev. 13:9, 18)

The Holy Spirit will pour out supernatural revelation to all who seek it. Daniel prophesied that messengers who have deep experience and revelation of God's power and heart will teach the multitudes in the nations (Dan. 11:32 – 35; 12:10).

Chapter 6d

The Antichrist — His Personality, Power and Role in the End Times

A. Introduction

1. Rev. 13 gives us detailed descriptions of the nature, origin, source of power and agenda of the Antichrist during the End Times.
2. Scripture emphasizes two events in End-Time prophecy above all other prophetic themes. They are Jesus' worldwide leadership in the Millennial Kingdom and the Antichrist's role in his global evil empire in the End Times.
3. Scripture gives us more information about the Millennial Kingdom and the Antichrist than all other End-Time events. This shows us how important this theme is and how serious God is for the Church to understand it. It is urgent and necessary for the End-Time Church to understand it (Dan. 11:33; 12:10; Rev. 13:18).
 - a. Both events provide the major theological framework for all other End-Time events.
 - b. Both events are central to the understanding all other End-Time events – the great harvest at the End-of-the-Age, the outpouring of Holy Spirit in Joel 2, the Great Tribulation, the rapture of the saints, the salvation of Israel, etc.

B. Basic overview of the Antichrist

1. The term “Antichrist” is mentioned four times in the Bible. All four specific references are made by the Apostle John (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7).
2. “Antichrist” basically refers to a person or a religious system that is a counterfeit of Jesus or in opposition to Jesus.
3. In Scripture, there are three applications of the Antichrist:
 - a. A religious spirit called “spirit of antichrist” that works in every generation to rally and influence people against Jesus (2 Thes 2:7; 1 John 4:3).
 - b. People throughout history with “false anointing” who rally and influence people against Jesus – e.g. Antiochus Epiphanes (175-164 BC), Adolf Hitler (World War II), etc (1 John 2:18; Matt 24:24; Mark 13:22).
 - c. The Antichrist as the final world ruler who will arise before the Second Coming of Jesus. He is a literal person who will persecute and attack Israel and the people of God (1 John 2:18; 2 Thes. 2:3).

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4. Scripture reveals five characteristics of the Antichrist:
- a. He will be the most brilliant, most powerful and most evil political leader in all human history. The Bible describes seven aspects of his brilliance:
 - i. A military genius – a man of war (Rev. 6:2; 13:2, 16; Dan. 8:24 – 25; 11:38 – 39).
 - ii. An oratorical genius – his speech will convince and move masses (Dan. 11:32, 36; 8:23).
 - iii. A political genius – he will form alliances and many will swear allegiance to him (Rev. 13:8, 12; 17:11 – 12; 2 Thes. 2:4; Dan. 7:23).
 - iv. A business/commercial genius (Dan. 8:9, 25; 11:36, 43; Rev. 13:16 - 17).
 - v. A religious genius – well-versed in doctrines to rally the world religions together (2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 13:4, 8, 12).
 - vi. An intellectual genius (Dan. 8:23; 7:25).
 - vii. An occult genius – he will understand the spirit realm (Dan. 8:24; 11:39; Rev. 13).
 - b. The Antichrist is given nine different titles in the Bible that describe his nature, origin and character.
 - i. The Antichrist – One who opposes Jesus as Messiah (1 John 2:18, 22, 4:3; 2 John 7).
 - ii. The Beast – this is his most prominent name in Scripture and is mentioned 36 times in the book of Revelation. It describes his brutal and cruel nature. He will also have a murderous nature, like a beast with no mercy.
 - iii. Little horn – A political and military leader who will be small and insignificant initially and whom no one will take seriously at first. (Dan. 7:8)
 - iv. A king - A prophet and world leader (Dan. 8:23; 11:36).
 - v. Worthless shepherd - One who has no regard for his people and is a dictator with his own agenda (Zech. 11:16 – 17).
 - vi. Gog of Magog – It describes the origin and root of the Antichrist (Ezek. 38:1, 3, 39:1).
 - vii. Man of sin – He will sin to the greatest capacity that is possible for any man and will cause the world to reach the fullness of iniquity (Dan. 8:23; 2 Thes. 2:3).
 - viii. Man of perdition – He is destined to be condemned to the lake of fire. (2 Thes. 2:3)
 - ix. The lawless one – He will have no regard for the law of God and will lead nations to rebel against God (Ps. 2:1 – 3; 2 Thes. 2:8).
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- c. The Antichrist will be fully human yet fully demonized. He will be a counterfeit of Jesus who is fully human and fully God. Satan will give him his authority. He will supernaturally ascend from the bottomless pit just as Jesus descended from heaven (Rev. 11:7; 13:2; 17:8).
 - d. The Antichrist's reign will last for seven years with six primary activities before the Second Coming of Jesus.
 - i. He will make a political covenant with Israel, the Middle Eastern nations and the world for seven years (Dan. 9:27) (a peace treaty)
 - This will usher in 3½ years of counterfeit worldwide peace and safety (1 Thes. 5:1 – 3).
 - He will raise up the Harlot Babylon (Rev. 17:3).
 - ii. He will break the peace treaty after 3½ years which will begin the Great Tribulation (Dan. 9:27; Rev. 6:1 – 2).
 - iii. He will set up the Abomination of Desolation (Dan. 9:27; 8:11 – 13; Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14).
 - iv. He will establish a worldwide worship movement for Satan and the Beast (Rev. 13:4, 14, 15).
 - v. He will establish a worldwide Mark-of-the-Beast Economic System (Rev. 13:16 – 18).
 - vi. He will fiercely persecute and seek to totally annihilate Israel and the Church (Dan. 7:21, 23; 8:24; 11:33 – 35; 12:7, 10; Rev. 6:9 – 11; 9:21; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 16:5 – 7; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2).
 - e. God will raise up the Antichrist.
 - i. Scripture makes it clear that God will raise up the Antichrist. While Satan does fully participate, it is ultimately only by God's decree that the Antichrist will be given a reign of terror for 3½ years on the earth. The Antichrist will be granted the 3½ years of his reign by God (Matt. 28:18; Rom. 13:1 – 2; Zech. 11:16 – 17; Dan. 7:25 – 27; Rev. 13:7, 15).
 - ii. There are two biblical precedents for this – God raised up Nebuchadnezzar to discipline Israel in 586 BC (Joel 2:1 – 11; Hab. 1 – 3) and also Antiochus Epiphanes in 175 BC (Dan 8:12).
5. Why would God raise up the Antichrist?
- a. To purify the Church so that she will arise as the Bride (Dan. 11:33 – 35; 12:10; Rev. 15:2; 19:7).
 - i. The Church needs an adversary to resist as part of the process to become whole-hearted.
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- ii. The combination of the Antichrist's persecution and God's End-Time judgments on his empire provides the optimum setting for spiritual resistance and warfare that is necessary to prepare the Church in glory.
- b. To usher in the greatest ingathering of souls – The Tribulation provides the optimum setting to bring in the Great Harvest (Rev. 7:9 – 14; 14:14 – 16).
- c. To bring in the fullness of Israel's salvation (Rom. 11:26; Zech. 12:1 – 3; 13:7 – 9).

C. The Antichrist in the book of Daniel

1. The book of Daniel gives us the greatest amount of information on the Antichrist in the OT through Daniel's four visions (Dan. 7:1 – 28; 8:1 – 27; 9:24 – 27; 11:1 – 12:13).
2. The Antichrist's great power, personality, agenda and activities in the End Times, and his eventual and certain defeat by God are central to all four visions.
 - a. It is wise for God's people (especially the End-Time Church) to feed on Daniel's revelation before the emergence of the Antichrist.
 - b. The promise of God to raise up forerunners is also in the context of understanding the Antichrist (Dan. 11:33).
3. Dan. 8 and 11 give us two of the most detailed prophecies about the Antichrist in the OT. They are parallel to Rev. 13, which is the most detailed NT prophecy about the Antichrist.
 - a. Dan. 8 focuses on the personality and power of the Antichrist.
 - b. Dan. 11 describes the religious and military activities of the Antichrist.
4. In both Dan. 8 and 11, the actions of Antiochus Epiphanes give us a prophetic picture of the Antichrist.
 - a. Antiochus Epiphanes was a Greek King who reigned mainly in Syria and Babylon (175 – 164 BC).
 - b. God's discipline of Israel through Antiochus Epiphanes is a prophetic picture of God's discipline through the Antichrist during the End Times.
 - c. Antiochus Epiphanes was an antichrist of his period and he prefigures the Antichrist of the last days. In his vision, Daniel sees the Persian and Greek empires as the stage from which a ruler would arise from the latter empire.
5. God has a surprising script for introducing the Antichrist in Scripture and history as seen in Dan. 8 and Dan. 11.
 - a. The mighty Persian Empire is suddenly overthrown by Alexander the Great and the Greeks. Alexander dies suddenly and four of his generals divide his kingdom up into four separate kingdoms.
 - b. Out of one of them Antiochus Epiphanes emerges. His political and military activities provide us with a prophetic picture of the End-Time Antichrist.

6. All the events in Dan. 8 and 11 were only partially fulfilled in the life of Antiochus Epiphanes but they will be fully fulfilled in the life of the Antichrist.

D. The role of the Antichrist (Dan. 8:1 – 14)

1. The context of Daniel's second vision (Dan. 8:1 – 2)
 - a. Daniel received this vision during the third year of the reign of Belshazzar, the king of Babylon (551BC).
 - b. Daniel was about 70 years old when he received this vision. This was two years after his vision in Dan. 7 and 12 years before Belshazzar's famous feast in Dan. 5.
 - c. In this vision, Daniel travelled in the Spirit to another country like Ezekiel did (Ezek. 8:3; 40:1).
2. The vision of a ram with two horns (Dan. 8:3 – 4)

This refers to the Medes-Persian Empire that would conquer nations and rule for about 200 years.
3. The vision of a goat with one horn (Dan. 8:5 – 8)
 - a. This refers to the Greek Empire led by Alexander the Great who would defeat the Persian Empire in 334 BC.
 - b. Alexander the Great would die suddenly at the age of 33 and as a result, the Greek Empire would be divided into four regions, each led by a different king.
4. The vision of the rise of the little horn (Dan. 8:9 – 14)
 - a. The little horn in Dan. 8:9 – 14 gives us a prophetic picture of the Antichrist through the actions of Antiochus Epiphanes. Who is Antiochus Epiphanes?
 - i. He was the Greek King that ruled Syria between 175 – 164 BC (i.e. of the Seleucid Empire). He was also known as Antiochus IV in history.
 - ii. He was a very cruel man who was one of Israel's greatest persecutors. He desolated the Temple of Jerusalem by offering a pig on the altar. Judas Maccabaeus led a revolt against him in 167 BC.
 - iii. Antiochus Epiphanes is a foreshadow of the Antichrist. God's discipline through Antiochus is a powerful picture of God's discipline of Israel through the Antichrist during the End Times (Dan. 8:12; Zech. 12:1 – 3; 13:7 – 11).
 - b. Out of one of them came a little horn (Dan. 8:9)
 - i. The little horn was first mentioned in the Dan. 7 vision. It speaks of a political and military leader who starts out in a small and insignificant way as a regional leader (Dan. 7:8, 11, 20, 21).
 - ii. The Antichrist will start out in a small and insignificant way as a political leader. No one will take him seriously.

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- c. Grew exceedingly great toward the south... east and Glorious Land (Dan. 8:9)
The Antichrist will become more and more powerful. He will eventually attack Egypt (i.e. south), Babylon (i.e. East) and Israel (i.e. Glorious Land).
- d. It grew up to the host of heaven (Dan. 8:10)
- i. This may mean that the Antichrist's influence will increase to such a degree that he affects a chain reaction in the spirit realm in a dramatic way so that demons are cast down to the earth in the fierceness of the spiritual warfare that ensues.
 - ii. Dan. 8:25 speaks of the hosts being trampled. Is this the demon host or the armies of Israel? Some see the host of heaven and the stars as synonymous, thus translating it as "*the host even the stars*" in Dan. 8:13.
- e. Four things are trampled and cast to the ground by Antichrist (Dan. 8:10, 11, 12).
- i. Some of the host (v.10)
Satan and his demons will be cast down as a result of fierce spiritual warfare (Rev. 12:7 – 9).
 - ii. Some of the stars (v.10)
 - The stars refer to the faithful in Israel who will be as numerous as the stars of heaven. The Little Horn will cast the stars to the ground to trample them signifying the persecution of the Jewish people (Gen. 15:5; 22:17; 37:9 – 10; Jer. 33:22).
 - Antiochus killed over 100,000 Jews. The Antichrist will participate in 2/3 of the Jews being killed. This will number in the millions (Zech. 13:8).
 - iii. Sanctuary (v.11, 13)
Abomination of Desolation – He will desolate the Temple worship and demand that he himself be worshipped (Dan. 9:27; Rev. 13:11 – 13).
 - iv. Truths (v.12)
He will have no regard for the truth and law of God. He will be defiant towards God.
- f. He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of host (Dan. 8:11)
- i. The little horn will claim to be equal with God. This is a reference to God.
 - ii. There is no evidence that Antiochus Epiphanes magnified himself to be equal with the God of Israel. Antiochus took the name "Epiphanes," which means "*divine manifestation*". The Jews mocked this by changing his name to Epimanes, which translates into "madman".
 - iii. The Antichrist will claim to be God and will demand the nations to worship Him (2 Thes. 2:3 – 4).
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- g. Because of transgressions, an army was given over to him... (Dan. 8:12)
 - i. God used Antiochus as His tool to discipline Israel and will use the Antichrist in the End Times.
 - ii. Because of Israel's "*transgression*" (i.e. rebellion against God), God will give an army to the Antichrist to use against Israel and will give Israel's armies over in defeat to the Antichrist resulting in the cessation of Israel's daily sacrifices.
- h. And he said to me, "For 2,300 days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed." (Dan. 8:14)
 - i. The duration of Temple Worship and the Abomination of Desolation before the Second Coming of Jesus will be 2300 days.
 - ii. The Antichrist will sign a peace treaty for seven years (i.e. 2520 days) and he will break the treaty and desolate the Temple in the middle of seven years (i.e. 1260 days after signing the treaty) (Dan. 8:13; 9:27).
 - iii. After signing the treaty, it will take 220 days to build Temple, after which Temple Worship will be reinstituted for 1040 days before the Abomination of Desolation that will last the final 1260 days.

E. The Personality and Power of the Antichrist (Dan. 8:23 – 25)

1. Dan. 8:23 – 25 gives us the clearest description of the Antichrist's personality and power in the entire Bible.
2. In the latter time of their kingdom (Dan 8:23a)
This prophecy is specifically about the Antichrist during the End Times. It is not about Antiochus Epiphanes.
3. When transgressors have reached their fullness (Dan. 8:23b)
When the Antichrist arises, sin will reach its greatest heights and it's fullness in all of human history.
4. A king shall arise (Dan. 8:23c)
The Antichrist will arise as a political leader.
5. Fierce features (Dan. 8:23d)
The Antichrist will have a strong countenance: he will be cruel without compassion or mercy. The Antichrist is called a beast 36 times in the Book of Revelation because he will be so cruel that it will be impossible to reason with him or to receive mercy from him.
6. Understands sinister schemes (Dan. 23e)
He will understand complex matters in the spiritual realm. He will be the master of the occult. He will also be the master of manipulation in the natural realm of politics, war and economics, etc.

7. *His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power* (Dan. 8:24a)
The Antichrist's source of power will be satanic. It will be more than mere human power (Rev. 13:2).
8. *Shall destroy fearfully* (Dan. 8:24b)
He will come up with unique ways to kill in a way that will cause fear. For example, the use of gas chambers by Hitler in the holocaust was unique and terrifying.
9. *Shall prosper and thrive* (Dan. 8:24c)
He will have control over political and military power. He will also control the world's wealth and economy.
10. *Shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people* (Dan. 8:24d)
He will kill many world leaders and the remnant of Israel.
11. *Cunning* (Dan. 8:25a)
The Antichrist will deceive many with convincing lies that will be backed up by demonic signs. (2 Thes. 2:9)
12. *Shall exalt himself in his heart* (Dan. 8:25b)
He shall be full of pride and arrogance. He will have no regard for anyone but will see his agenda as the only one that matters.
13. *Shall destroy many in their prosperity* (Dan. 8:25c)
He will not be intimidated by the rich but he shall conquer the business world.
14. *Shall even rise above the Prince* (Dan. 8:25d)
He shall exalt himself above Jesus Christ and will also declare war against Him.
15. *Shall be broken without human means* (Dan. 8:25e)
He will not be overcome by any human means but Jesus will descend from heaven to destroy him (2 Thes. 2:8; Rev. 19:20).

F. The Antichrist's Primary Activities during the End Times (Dan. 11:36 – 12:3)

1. Dan 11:1 – 12:3 is the most detailed prophecy in the Bible. It tells of the conflict in the Middle East from Daniel's time until the time of the Antichrist.
2. There are three sections in Dan. 11:
 - a. Dan. 11:1 – 20 is a history of the region from Daniel's generation until Antiochus Epiphanes.
 - b. Dan. 11:21 – 35 gives us details that have double fulfilment in the lives of both Antiochus and the Antichrist.
 - c. Dan. 11:36 – 12:3 gives us insight into the Antichrist as a king. Antiochus Epiphanes is not referred to at all in this section.

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3. There are three parts to Dan. 11:36 – 12:3:
 - a. The Antichrist's religious attitudes (Dan. 11:36 – 39).
 - b. The Antichrist's military activities (Dan. 11:40 – 45).
 - c. The victory of God's people over the Antichrist (Dan. 12:1 – 3).
 4. The two most informative chapters in Scripture on the Antichrist are Dan. 11 and Rev. 13. They each have a different emphasis.
 - a. In Dan. 11:36 – 39, we see the Antichrist's inner thoughts about religion. Only in Rev. 13 do we understand his plan to be the only religion on earth.
 - b. In Dan. 11:40 – 45, we see his regional military conflicts in the Middle East. In Rev. 13:11 – 18, we see his miracles, economic sanctions, and legislative powers to kill all who resist him.
 5. The Antichrist's religious attitude: His arrogance (Dan. 11:36 – 37)
 - a. The king (v. 36)
 - i. The Antichrist will be a political leader who will live in the End Times just before Jesus' Second Coming and just before Israel is completely delivered (Dan. 11:40; 12:1 – 3, 10:14).
 - ii. This king was referred to earlier as the "*little horn*" (Dan. 7:8), "*another king*" (Dan. 7:24) and the "*prince to come*" (Dan. 9:26).
 - iii. Some view Antiochus IV as the king in Dan. 11:36 – 45. However, the historical facts of Antiochus's life and military career do not fit this passage.
 - iv. For example, Antiochus did not exalt himself above every god (Dan. 11:36-37), nor did he reject "*the gods of his fathers*", nor worship "*a god unknown to his fathers*" (Dan. 11:38). Rather he worshipped the Greek pantheon that his fathers did and built an altar to Zeus in the Jerusalem temple.
 - v. Antiochus IV did not die or "*come to his end*" in Israel (Dan. 11:45). He died at Tabae in Persia.
 - b. The king shall do according to his own will (v. 36)
 - i. The Antichrist's arrogance causes him to carry out his own will without fear of consequence from God or man.
 - ii. The Antichrist seeking to do his own will counterfeits what only the God of Israel can do. God alone can act as He pleases without being eventually judged and destroyed (Dan. 4:35).
 - c. He shall exalt and magnify himself above every god (v. 36)

The Antichrist's unique political, military, economic and religious power, together with intelligence will fill him with pride as he claims deity (2 Thes. 2:3 – 4).
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- d. He shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods (v. 36)
He will claim things about himself that are shocking as he speaks with terrible boldness against God (Dan. 7:8, 11, 20, 25; 2 Thes. 2:4).
 - e. He shall prosper (v. 36)
The Antichrist will appear to deliver the world from its global political, economic, spiritual and military crisis (Matt. 24:7 – 8; Rev. 13:4).
 - f. He shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done (v. 36)
He will seem to be invincible as he prospers until God suddenly stops him. He is only a tool of God's judgment on apostate Israel and on the wickedness of the nations.
 - g. He shall not regard the God of his fathers (v. 37)
 - i. The Antichrist shall despise the religious heritage under which he grew up. The phrase the "God of his fathers" can be singular or plural.
 - ii. In the singular as "the God of your fathers" it is specifically a biblical phrase for those of a devout Jewish heritage. This verse causes some to conclude that the Antichrist will grow up in a Jewish home.
 - h. He shall not regard the desire of women (v. 37)
Some translate this as the "desire for women" meaning that he will have no regard for Jesus Christ. "Desire" is the same word being used in Haggai 2:7. Jesus will be the "Desire of all nations" and the "desire of all women".
 - i. He shall not regard any god (v. 37)
The Antichrist will be anti-God because he will require all to worship him at the cost of their lives. There is no evidence that Antiochus resisted all religion. (Rev. 13:15)
 - j. He shall exalt himself above them all (v. 37)
He will view himself as more important and powerful than the concerns of women and religion.
6. The Antichrist's religious attitude: worship of war (Dan. 11:38 – 39)
- a. He shall honour a god of fortresses... (v.38a)
 - i. Instead of regarding or worshipping the gods (or "God") of his fathers, all other gods and women, he shall honour a god of fortresses or the god of military power, unknown by his fathers, with gold and silver.
 - ii. The god of fortresses refers to demons that work to promote war. His god will be war or military conquest (Dan. 11:40 – 45; 7:8, 24; Rev. 13:4; 16:13 – 16).
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- b. He shall honour with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. (v.38)
 - i. The Antichrist will honour the god of military strength by spending unprecedented amounts of money on developing his military power (with gold and silver, precious stones, etc).
 - ii. The combination of military and demonic power will be "foreign" or unknown to his family heritage. His family line will not have any history with the military or with Satanic worship.
 - c. He shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god... (v.39)

The Antichrist shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge. The Antichrist will trust Satan to help him overcome the strongest fortresses or military alliances on earth.
 - d. He shall acknowledge, and advance its glory (v.39)

The foreign god he acknowledges is Satan and his demonic hosts. He will advance the glory of the demonic realm by only promoting leaders with zeal for Satan and are thus demon possessed (Rev. 13:2 – 4).
 - e. He shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain. (v.39)

He will use bribes to gain the cooperation of the nations. He will promote leaders by giving them land and properties.
7. The Antichrist's military activity: attacked from the north and south (Dan. 11:40)
- a. The king of the South (i.e. Egypt) and the king of the North (i.e. Syria) shall attack the Antichrist.
 - b. The north and south in Scripture is determined by Israel. Throughout Dan. 11, the king of the South refers to the king of Egypt and the king of the North refers to the king of Syria.
 - c. They may have a coalition of nations working with them because without the help of others, Syria and Egypt could not threaten the Antichrist's empire.
 - d. The king of the North (Arab Federation led by Syria) shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships. (v. 40c)
 - e. The king of the South (Arab Federation led by Egypt) will attack the Antichrist's far northern coalition. These attacks will probably be pre-emptive strikes against the Antichrist before he invades Israel (Dan. 11:41, 45; Ezek. 38 – 39).
8. The Antichrist's military activity: attacking many nations (Dan. 11:41)
- a. He shall invade the Glorious Land of Israel and occupy it (Dan. 8:9; 11:16; Zech. 11:16).
 - b. The Antichrist will eventually invade Israel. The Antichrist will use the covenant of Dan. 9:27 to gain a stronghold in the land of Israel. He will plant part of his headquarters there (Dan. 11:45).
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- c. The "*glorious holy mountain*" is in Jerusalem (i.e. site of the Temple). The "*seas*" on the two sides of Jerusalem and the Temple are the Mediterranean Sea (west) and the Dead Sea (east).
 - d. Many countries shall be overthrown. Edom, Moab, and the prominent people (i.e. leaders) of Ammon shall escape from his hand (v. 40c). These nations refer to present day Jordan. They will be spared probably because they will help him. They will be judged by God later (Isa. 63:1 – 6; Hab. 3:3).
9. The Antichrist's military activity: attack on Egypt (Dan. 11:42 – 43)
- a. The Antichrist shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt (v. 43a).
 - b. The riches of Egypt may be the oil wells of the Middle East. This would be precious and sought after in the midst of the outpouring of God's wrath which will destroy fuel supplies.
 - c. The Libyans (i.e. North Africa) and Ethiopians (i.e. Sudan and/or East Africa) shall follow at the Antichrist's heels. The Ethiopians (i.e. Nubians) points to Ethiopia and Sudan (v.43a).
10. The Antichrist's military activity: attacked from the east and north (Dan. 11:44)
- a. The Antichrist will hear troubling news from the east – Asia. The Antichrist will hear troubling news from the far north – his home front (not the king of Syria or the King of the North) (Rev. 16:12 – 14).
 - b. It may be news of treason and division in his ranks and/or news of great crises related to the seals, trumpets, and bowls destroying his resources (Dan. 2:41 – 43).
 - c. Upon hearing this news, the Antichrist shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. He will act in great anger to annihilate the men and nations who will act against him (v.44c).

Chapter 7a

The Forerunner Ministry — Preparing the Way of the Lord

A. Biblical Promises of the Forerunners

1. Three times in the book of Isaiah: Isaiah 40:1 – 5, 57:14 – 15, 62:10 – 12
2. Once in the book of Micah: Micah 2:12 – 13
3. Once in the book of Zechariah: Zechariah 4:1 – 14
4. Two times in the book of Malachi: Malachi 3:1 – 6, 4:1 – 6
5. The Bible gives clear descriptions of the Forerunner Ministry that will arise at the End of the Age. Most of the Forerunner prophecies refer to the glory of God being released in a global dimension. The context of the Forerunner Ministry is to touch all the nations of the earth with the glory of God.

B. The Purpose of the Forerunner Ministry

1. The Forerunner Ministry is a PROCLAMATION MINISTRY
 - a. The Forerunners function is just one short step ahead of many in the Body of Christ to prepare the way of the LORD!
 - b. They are called to prepare and make ready the people of the LORD before His 2nd Coming.
2. The Forerunners proclaim God's Word and His truths in order to MAKE SENSE of things before they happen. They will declare and announce what is unprecedented and uncommon in this generation.
3. The Forerunners bring NEW UNDERSTANDING and provide NEW PARADIGMS of God and His End-Time activities to the Church.

Examples: Jesus as a Bridegroom and the Romance of the Gospel.

4. John the Baptist is a model of the Forerunner Ministry. John's life is important because he models the ministry for the End-Time Church.
5. In short, the Forerunners are the VOICE of God!

C. Five Major Forerunner Periods in Redemptive History

1. The generation of Noah – this is the first major period in redemptive history in which God raised up a forerunner ministry (Isa. 54:9; Ezek 14:14,20 ; Matt. 24:37 – 38; Luke 17:26 – 27; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5).
2. The generation of Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 17 – 2 Kings 9).
3. The generation of Isaiah – Isaiah is the premiere model of a forerunner ministry.
4. The generation of John the Baptist – God raised up His voice before Jesus' 1st Coming.
5. The generation that the Lord Jesus returns – the Bible prophesizes on the rise of the forerunner ministry in the Last Days!

D. Isaiah 40

1. John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Luke 1:17).
 - a. The spirit of Elijah speaks of the purpose of Elijah – He confronted the religious system of his day with courage, especially when he confronted the spirit of Jezebel.
 - b. The power of Elijah is the demonstration of signs and wonders – Elijah was used by God in power to turn the heart of people back to God through a supernatural unction of the Holy Spirit.
2. Isaiah gives us eight functions of the forerunner ministry that fulfill the spirit of Elijah. He gives us four functions in Isaiah 40:3 – 5 and then another four functions in Isaiah 62:10 – 12.

E. Brief Outline of Isaiah 40

1. Isaiah 40:1 – 5 gives us the promise of the forerunner and then the four functions of forerunner ministry.
2. Isaiah 40:6 – 26 is the forerunner message. It is the message that a forerunner should preach on.
3. Isaiah 40:27 – 30 is the life preparation that is necessary for the forerunner. This passage highlights the priority of waiting upon the LORD.

F. Four Unique Functions of the Forerunner Ministry as seen in Isaiah 40:1 – 5**1. A COMFORTING Ministry (v.1 – 2)**

- a. Notice that the very first word of the forerunner is to comfort the people of God.
- b. We do not think of John the Baptist as a comfort ministry but he was first sent as a ministry of comfort.

2. PREPARE the WAY of the LORD (v.3)

The purpose of the Forerunner Ministry is to prepare the Church in 3-fold areas:

a. Preparing our MIND with:

- i. *New ideas about God*
- ii. *The activity of the Holy Spirit in the Last Days*
- iii. The understanding of the *End Times*

b. Preparing our HEARTS with new lifestyle that we might live:

- i. Wholeheartedly for God
- ii. In Holiness and the Fear of God
- iii. A Fasted Lifestyle

c. Preparing our MINISTRY with a *new focus*: the Kingdom of God.**3. RESTORATION Ministry (v.4)**

The four descriptions focus on the emotional restoration of individuals

- a. *“Every valley shall be exalted”* – this speaks of the restoration of individual hearts. In other words, areas of emotional brokenness such as fear, intimidation, inferiority and low self-esteem, etc. God will lift these valleys up.
- b. *“Every mountain and hill shall be brought low”* – the exaggerated areas and pride are humbled. The mountain areas of pride have to be brought low.
- c. *“The crooked places shall be made straight”* – the areas of perversion in our lives and truths.
- d. *“The rough places are made smooth”* – the areas of religious harshness. The Pharisees were a picture of religious harshness. Jesus wants tenderness in the heart of believers.

4. Isaiah 40:5 speaks about the GLOBAL CONTEXT of the forerunner ministry.

G. The Forerunner's Message as seen in Isaiah 40:6 – 26

1. In verse 6, a voice from the throne of God asked a vital question, "What shall I cry?" This is referring to the cry of what message a forerunner should proclaim.
2. The LORD gives a very clear answer in Isaiah 40:6 – 26:
 - a. The weakness and futility of man's glory (v.6 – 8) – Recognition of the fragility of man without God.
 - b. The majesty and beauty of God (v.9 – 26) – The answer to man in the time of global shaking. When Job was struggling, God revealed His majesty to him.

H. The Forerunner's Preparation as seen in Isaiah 40:27 – 31

1. Fear is being addressed in verse 27 – 28. This is one of the most common emotions during the End Times (Luke 21:26). This fear is being voiced by the people of God as they face international and world crisis.
2. In verse 29 – 30, Isaiah speaks of the issue of disqualification in our lives. These forerunners are those who stumbled and fell in their weakness and sinful ways.
3. In verse 31, Isaiah exhorts the weak forerunners to wait upon the LORD.

I. Brief Outline of Isaiah 61 – 63

1. Isaiah 61 – 63:6 describe the OT doctrine of redemption. Isaiah 63:7 – 64:12 is the prayers of Isaiah.
2. Isaiah 61:1 – 3 is the declaration of Jesus about His mandate as a Messiah. This is only partially fulfilled in His 1st Coming and will only be fully fulfilled in His 2nd Coming at the end of the age.
3. Isaiah 61:10 – 11 speak of the praises of Isaiah and it reveals the global dimension and magnitude of the mandate of Jesus in verse 11.
4. Isaiah 62:1 – 12 is the declaration of the Father on what is on His heart and mind at the end of the age.
 - a. The Father declares three times of His commitment to "perform" certain promises (v.1 and 6).
 - b. Three promises of God:
 - i. Introducing the Bridal Paradigm to the Body of believers (v.2c, d).
 - ii. Setting up the House of Prayer (v.6 – 7).
 - iii. Raising the Forerunner Ministry to prepare the Church (v.10).
5. Isaiah 63:1 – 6 is the cry of Jesus as the righteous Judge for partnership in releasing judgment at the End of the Age.

J. Four Functions of the forerunner ministry as seen in Isaiah 62:10 – 12

1. *“Go through, go through the gates!”* – The function of the forerunner ministry in a corporate dimension.
 - a. “Gate” is the place of authority of people of God as a corporate family. The gate also speaks of the authority structure.
 - b. The forerunner’s first function is to prepare the Church:
 - i. The ways of the LORD
 - ii. The unprecedented activities from the LORD
 - iii. The new standards of righteousness from the LORD.
2. *“Build up a highway”* – The forerunners build up the highway by preparing the people of God conceptually and spiritually, to come into agreement with God!
 - a. The highway in the ancient world was built so that a king could visit.
 - b. It was a challenging work to build a highway because one had to work through all the valleys, mountains, crooked and rough places, as mentioned in Isaiah 40:3.
 - c. The highway of holiness is more fully developed in Isaiah 35.
3. *“Take out the stones”* – These are the accusations against God and against ourselves.
 - a. The stones are the lies that we accept.
 - b. They are like stones that accuse and cause offense in our heart against God.
4. *“Lift up a banner”* – God’s message to all nations
 - a. It is a banner of hope! The forerunners speak with clarity under the anointing.
 - b. The forerunners speak of things yet to come. It is a banner of hope and confidence in order to create understanding.

K. Conclusion

1. God will release the Micah 2:12 – 13 breakers’ anointing upon the forerunners to empower them.

IHOP – One Thing Ministries

The Role of the End-Time Church

A. God is raising up a new generation of people in the Last Days

1. Daniel 11:32 – 33
 - a. People who KNOW their God – the Davids.
 - b. People who are STRONG (Luke 1:80, 2:49; Ephesians 6:10).
 - c. People who do GREAT EXPLOITS (John 14:12).
 - d. People who have UNDERSTANDING and INSTRUCT many – the Voice of God (Isaiah 40:3 – 5; 1 Chronicles 12:32).
2. Shepherds who are after God's own heart (Jeremiah 3:15).
 - a. Committed to obey God's command.
 - b. Understand and know the heart of God (Jeremiah 9:23, 24).
 - c. Contending for the release of the fullness of His purpose and power.
3. Apostolic Christianity (Ephesians 4:11 – 13)
 - a. This speaks of a community of His people who has the same expression as the NT Church – vision, values, lifestyle, perseverance (in suffering), doctrine (including the End Times) and power.
 - b. This speaks of a Church that is UNITED, MATURED and INTIMATE with the LORD as described in Ephesians 4:11 – 13.
4. The End-Time Church (Revelation 22:17)
 - a. Revelation 22:17 gives us one of the most significant prophetic description from the Scripture of an End-Time Church.
 - b. 4 descriptions of the End-Time Church:
 - i. A Church that is fully engaged in PARTNERSHIP with the Holy Spirit (Rev. 22:17, "...the Spirit and the bride...").
 - ii. A Church that is fully established in the BRIDAL IDENTITY (Rev. 22:17, "...the bride...").
 - iii. A Church that is fully engaged in INTERCESSION (Rev. 22:17, "...the bride says, 'Come!' ...").
 - iv. A Church that is fully effective in the GREAT COMMISSION – through intercession and proclaiming of the Gospel (Rev. 22:17, "...And let him who hears say, 'Come!'").

B. Raising Up an End-Time Army

1. *A people PASSIONATE after God* (Psalm 27:4; Daniel 11:32b; Philippians 3:7 – 11)
 - a. A people who know Him INTIMATELY.
 - b. A people who live with a RADICAL COMMITMENT and RECKLESS ADANDONMENT for the LORD.
2. *A people whose CONFIDENCE is in the LORD* (Psalm 27; Daniel 11:32; Ephesians 6:10)
 - a. A people who has a HISTORY with God.
 - b. A people who is MIGHTY and STRONG in the spirit.
 - c. A people who will OVERCOME offence (Matthew 24:10).
3. *Those who UNDERSTAND the signs of times and urgency of the hour* (1 Chronicles 12:32; Daniel 11:33; Matthew 24:32 – 33)
 - a. Understand God's purpose for Israel.
 - b. Understands God's time-table in the Last Days.
4. *To be the VOICE of God* (Isaiah 40:3 – 5; Daniel 11:33).
5. *To live with an ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE* (Philippians 1:19 – 21, 3:20)
 - a. A fasted lifestyle.
 - b. Wholeheartedness and holiness unto the LORD.
 - c. Embrace the cross and suffering.
 - d. Remember the poor.
 - e. For many of us, prosperity has become the priority; comfort has replaced the Cross and earthly focus has substituted the eternal perspective!
6. *CONTEND for the fullness of God's purposes and power for our lives* (Esther 4:16; Acts 2:17 – 21, 13:36)
 - a. It is not good enough!
 - b. More love! More power!
 - c. If I perish, I perish!
7. *Community-CENTERED* (Acts 2:42 – 47; Hebrews 10:24 – 25)

God is establishing His people to be with a deep community spirit – love and unity. The NT Church does not present salvation that results in individualism, rather in a community that walks in love and unity.

C. Prophecy of the End-Time Army – Paul Cain (1984)

"God is going to raise up an army. This army is not a destructive army but a deliverance army. God is not going to work in a major way through superstar Christians any more, but through ordinary soldiers of Christ who will hear the voice of the Spirit of God. These soldiers will be genuine "Jesus" people.

The LORD is raising up a new breed of Christians who will not be looking for their own glory. A new breed of leaders, preachers and teachers is coming – Joel's army – who will be working for the glory of God.

In the days to come, when the blind see, the deaf hear and the lame walk, the people will no longer say, 'Kathryn Kuhlman passed this way today' or 'Reinhardt Bonnke passed this way today'. No, they will say, 'Jesus passed this way today!' There will be no other footprints, only the footprints of Jesus who alone will have all the glory!"

D. How do we enter into the Promise?

1. PARTNERSHIP – say “YES” to the LORD’s invitation. (Jeremiah 20:7 – 9)
2. PRAYER (Isaiah 40:30 – 31; Joel 2:15 – 17)
3. PREPARE (Matthew 24:36 – 44, 25:1 – 13)
4. POSITION your heart, prioritize and focus!

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Chapter 8

Extreme Times Require Extreme Measures: How Then Shall We Live?

A. Introduction

“Hear this, you elders, and give ear, all you inhabitants of the land! Has anything like this happened in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? Tell your children about it, let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.” (Joel 1:2 – 3)

1. The first exhortation in the book of Joel is “hear and give ear”. This means to pay close attention and learn by what happened to Israel in times of God’s judgments (Joel 1:1 – 2:9).
2. The call to “hear and give ear” is to learn from history and to hear what Joel said. In our context, we do this by studying the book of Joel. It is a call to hear God’s heart as we prepare for future glory and crisis.
3. Joel’s challenge to us is to hear, which includes embracing a Joel 2 lifestyle that is being presented in Joel 2:12 – 17.
4. We must realize that this hearing does not come automatically just because we are Christians. It requires an intentional and deliberate cultivating of understanding of the book of Joel and living out the lifestyle.

B. Four Contributing Factors to Global Crisis during the End Times

1. Fullness of man’s sin (Rev. 9:21, 14:18, 17:5; Dan. 8:23, 12:10)
2. Fullness of Satan’s rage (Rev. 12:12, 9:21; Dan. 7:21,25)
3. Fullness of God’s judgment (Rev. 14:10, 15:7)
4. Fullness of creation’s groan (Rom. 8:19-24)

C. The Response that God requires (Joel 2:12 – 17)

1. In Joel 2:12 – 17, the LORD tells us exactly what we are to do to receive His mercy and deliverance in a time of crisis. We are to gather in solemn / sacred assemblies. This involves the leaders and people – joining together to fast, pray and repent for our sin and ask God to release His favor on our behalf.

2. This is God's primary call to a people in crisis. It is the most practical thing we can do before and during a crisis. God releases His favor and protection in response to prayer and repentance.
3. This is the clearest passage in the Scripture that describes what God desires of us in times of crisis. As the global drama unfolds at the End of the Age, the Body of Christ has a plain roadmap. God is asking His people for a specific response.
4. The LORD does not leave us guessing what He desires from us. We can act with certainty in times of crisis. God will shake all that can be shaken. This will cause desperation so that there is no solution except in God. He will remove all our false hopes so that we hope only in Him.

D. 5-fold response that God requires in Joel 2:12 – 17

1. Develop an understanding of the severity of the End Times (v.1 and 11).
2. Turning to God with wholeheartedness (v.12)
 - a. God wants our heart more than anything else. He wants all of our love (Matt. 22:37). This reveals His heart for us - He requires us to respond to His love for us, by loving Him in return.
 - b. What is it like to turn to Him with all our heart? We are to turn from sin and flee from all that are contrary to what He wants. Turning to God with all our heart involves repenting, fasting and praying. When we turn to Him, we position ourselves to receive His favor.
 - c. The place of immunity from God's judgment is in corporate, long-term wholeheartedness for God. The only place of safety is in the midst of God's people living in obedience to Him. In this way, we receive God's favor and are kept in a place of safety from the primary cause of pressure. This is God's zeal for His people.
3. Rend your heart and not your garment (v.13a)
 - a. Traditionally, the people would tear their garments to show their grief and desperation. To rend means to tear something violently or forcibly.
 - b. What God desires is the rending of the heart which speaks of dealing radically with the matters of our heart. This is the most challenging aspect of Joel's exhortation. We must separate ourselves from anything that displeases God.
 - c. We must tear our heart away from sin. Jesus speaks symbolically of this radical tearing in Matthew 5:29. He was talking about a radical pursuit of obedience that painfully tears the heart in the process. In other words, forsake all compromise!
 - d. It can be painful when we are confronted with the root systems that support sinful bondage in our lives. Sometimes, it hurts to press through until we get a breakthrough, yet this is the way to freedom. This tearing of the heart is typically the part that is most overlooked in the process.

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- e. We cannot pursue wholeheartedness in a causal way. Sometimes, we hope for a wholeheartedness that is gentle, easy and tame. It can be painful but the LORD will help us and He will empower us!
4. Repenting with Confidence because of God's tender heart – 5 fold revelation (v.13b – 14)
- a. Joel summons the people to return to the LORD. He gave 5 reasons why this is wise. We must know that the LORD desires to make a way of deliverance for us. The knowledge of God's heart for us gives us confidence to tear our hearts in repentance. If we take one step toward Him, He will take ten steps towards us.
- b. Five-fold revelation of God
- i. The LORD is gracious
- God is gracious in that He evaluates us differently from anyone else. He remembers our frailty and that we are but dust. (Ps. 103:14)
 - God is not a harsh military leader or an angry coach who rejects any form of weakness. His requirements are within the reach of the weak. He will make a way of deliverance for us. (Ps. 103:10)
- ii. The LORD is merciful
- God delights in showing mercy. He delights in watching the heart responses of His people as we encounter His relentless mercy. (Mic. 7:18)
 - God enjoys what is awakened in us when we understand that He gives us a new start after each failure. (Luke 15:1 – 24)
- iii. The LORD is slow to anger
- God is slow to anger. Jesus spoke of this to the Church in Thyatira in Rev. 2. He gave them time to repent of their immorality (Rev. 2:20 – 22).
 - God is never quick to judge but gives time for people to repent. He is patient and often gives us ample time and warning to turn from our wicked ways (e.g. read the book of Jeremiah).
- iv. The LORD is of great kindness
- When we know that He is of great kindness, then we have the confidence to press through the hindrances and repent fully. (Eph. 2:12; Heb. 4:16; Jer. 9:24)
 - Knowing that He is of great kindness will give us courage to tear our hearts because we know that God desires to restore our fellowship with Him.
- v. The LORD relents from doing harm
- This does not mean that God randomly changes His mind. Rather, He honors the free will of man without violating His justice.
 - God is willing to relent or to cancel the decree of judgment, instead of issuing it over a nation. Judgment comes because people refuse to change
-

or repent. When people repent and turn to God, He will relent. Instead of releasing the judgment which they deserve, He sends blessing!

5. *Gather the people to pray and sanctify the congregation* (v.15 – 17)
 - a. We are to blow the trumpet and call a sacred assembly. The elders assemble and gather the people; even the children are to be part of this gathering. Since no one will be exempted from this coming crisis and judgment, no one is exempted from crying out to God for mercy.
 - b. We are to consecrate a fast. Fasting positions our hearts to experience the grace of God in a greater way.
 - c. **Blow the trumpet** – boldly proclaim the coming judgment and the sacred assembly.
 - d. **Consecrate a fast** – put fasting on the schedule and take it seriously.
 - e. **Call a sacred assembly** – gatherings that are sacred in their priority in seeking the LORD.
 - f. **Gather the people and sanctify the congregation** – leaders sanctify the people under their care, by laying aside ministry programs to make seeking God the top priority in terms of their time.
6. Joel describes the wholehearted response that God desires by emphasizing necessity of earnest prayer. We are to cry out for His visitation of mercy with earnestness (Joel 2:17).

E. Conclusion

1. We are entering a new season on the divine calendar. His glory and judgment will shake everything that can be shaken. We are in a unique period in which we have no frame of reference for. Noah is an example of embracing a prophetic message that was unfamiliar to him.
2. God wants a holy spiritual environment of faith and revelation to be established in the Church. Prayer with fasting and wholeheartedness must be an integral part of the spiritual culture of the End-Time Church.

Chapter 9

Who is Jesus When He Returns?

(Rev. 19)

A. Introduction

1. One of the foundational issues of the early apostles concerned what they understood about Jesus. The same issue will be emphasized by the Holy Spirit to the End-Time Church (Matt. 16:13 – 20).
2. One of the great battles during the End Times is the battle of truth about who Jesus is at His Second Coming. The ultimate question for the End-Time Church is the issue of who Jesus is – “who do you say that I am?” (Matt. 16:15).
3. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus will only return in the context of a mature Bride who fully understands who He is and fully agrees with what is in His heart.
4. Rev. 19:1 – 10 gives us the clearest picture of the mature End-Time Church which fully agrees with His judgments (v.1 – 3), fully yields to His kingship (v.6) and fully longs for His return (v.7).
5. One of the strategies of Satan is to distort and confuse the truth of who Jesus is at His Second Coming.
 - a. The lack of understanding of who Jesus is will cause the End-Time Church to be vulnerable to fear (Luke 21:26), confusion (Luke 21:25), offense (Matt. 24:10), compromise (Matt. 24:12) and deception (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:3 – 4).
 - b. Those who misunderstand God’s judgments will be tempted to be offended by or become angry with Jesus. As God’s judgments unfold, many will lose their perspective and objectivity in seeing God’s love and wisdom.
 - c. Thus, they need understanding from a biblical perspective so that they might rightly interpret the events as expressions of God’s love and wisdom. The purpose of God’s End-Time judgments against the Antichrist’s empire is to remove all that hinders love and to stop oppression.
6. The Holy Spirit is preparing the Church by raising up forerunners to make sense of who Jesus is at His Second Coming and to prepare the people of God to respond rightly by giving understanding of Jesus’ heart and plan in the Last Days (Isa. 40:3 – 5; 62:10).
7. The central message of the forerunners is to proclaim who Jesus is at the His Second Coming and to proclaim from the Scriptures what will happen before it occurs so that the people of God will understand and will agree with what Jesus is doing in that hour instead of resisting Him.

B. Jesus of Armageddon

1. The Word and Spirit emphasize Jesus as the Bridegroom, King, and Judge at the End of the Age.
 - a. Passionate Bridegroom
Jesus is revealed as the One with burning desire for His people. The Holy Spirit will restore the first commandment to first place in the Church.
 - b. Sovereign King
Jesus is revealed as the One who possesses all power and authority, causing His people to experience the supernatural power of God in their lives and ministries. As King, Jesus will restore individual lives, all the nations and the earth (i.e. atmosphere, agriculture, and animals, etc.).
 - c. Righteous Judge:
 - i. Jesus is revealed as the One with great zeal to intervene to remove everything that hinders love as He confronts all oppression instead of ignoring it (Zech. 1:14; 8:2; Ezek. 38:18 – 19; Rev. 19:2).
 - ii. Jesus is the only man worthy to judge the nations because as the Creator, He understands the design of the human spirit and because He humbled Himself to become a man (2 Cor. 8:9). He alone understands God's plans or storyline for history.
2. Jesus as the Bridegroom, King and Judge is not the full revelation of who Jesus is in the Bible (there are more than 300 titles and attributes of Jesus) but it is the most prominent concerning His Second Coming and the pre-eminent facet of who He is when He returns.
3. Jesus as the Bridegroom, King and Judge reveals His personality, power and action plan at the End of the Age.
4. I describe Jesus at His Second Coming as the Jesus of Armageddon because He is coming in the context of:
 - a. The greatest military conflict in human history – the Battle of Jerusalem (Zech. 12 – 14; Joel 3; Rev. 19:17 – 21).
 - b. The greatest justice movement where He will enforce justice and bring forth vengeance to the earth (Isa. 42:1 – 9; 61:2; Luke 18:7 – 8).
 - c. The Wedding Day (Rev. 19:7).
5. Many Scriptures emphasize these aspects of Jesus at the Second Coming:
 - a. Isaiah 61 – 63
This is clearest Old Testament description of the ministry of the Spirit in the generation that the Lord returns, revealing the Messianic Redeemer as a Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

b. Psalm 2:10 – 12

A powerful messianic Psalm where David exhorts the End-Time generation to cultivate an understanding of Jesus as the Bridegroom, King and Judge and follow through with a three-fold response:

- i. Serve the LORD with fear: the response of total submission and obedience in seeing the fullness of power of our sovereign King.
- ii. Rejoicing with trembling: the response of awe in the midst of fierce judgments and joy of seeing the manifestation of justice by our righteous Judge.
- iii. Kiss the Son: the response of extravagant devotion and loving obedience to our Bridegroom God.

c. Psalm 45

The great song of love that describes the Messiah as the Bridegroom, King and Judge.

d. Matthew 3:1 – 12 and John 3:29 – 31

John the Baptist was the first man in the New Testament to bring together the revelation of Jesus as the Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

e. Matthew 22:1 – 14

In Jesus' last public message to Israel, He emphasized the revelation of God as Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

f. Matthew 25

In Jesus' last message before the upper room discourse, He revealed Himself as Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

g. Revelation 19 – 22

The revelation in the Word reveals Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

C. Why do we need to know this three-fold revelation of Jesus?

1. There is no contradiction in Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge. It is one reality.
 - a. The King uses His great power to express His burning desire for His people and deliver them from everything that hinders love.
 - b. The same overwhelming furnace of desire for God's people is turned on the oppressors of God's people.
 - c. In the last days, the Spirit will give increased revelation of God's loving purposes in judgment (Jer. 23:20).
2. We must not neglect these truths. To neglect any one of these truths is to diminish the others.
 - a. There are different camps in the Church that refuse or emphasize one of these truths over the other two. They feed their spirits primarily on one of these truths about Jesus to the exclusion of the others.

- b. To understand Jesus as the Bridegroom without seeing Him as the King and Judge may lead to sentimentality without obedience and understanding of His End-Time plans.
 - c. To understand Jesus as the King without seeing Him as the Bridegroom and Judge may lead to an authoritarian view of God or to a misunderstanding of why God releases His power through us. He releases His power not only to reveal love to us, but to awaken love in us for God. The Spirit will restore the first commandment to first place in the Church.
 - d. To understand Jesus as the Judge without seeing Him as the Bridegroom King may lead to a harsh view of God or to a misunderstanding of why God releases His judgments. If we preach about God's judgments without encountering Him as the Bridegroom King, we will be tempted to operate in a wrong spirit (Luke 9:53-56).
3. Jesus as the passionate Bridegroom
Jesus is revealed as One with burning desire for His people. More than saving us from hell's fire, He has a deep desire and longing for us. For He is looking for an equally yoked partner and His delight is in deep interaction with us (1 Cor. 2:9 – 10).
4. Jesus as the sovereign, transcendent and conquering King
Jesus is revealed as the One who possesses all power and authority (Matt. 28:18). He will rule and reign over all the earth during the Millennium, where when He will restore individual lives, restore nations and rebuild the earth.
5. Jesus as the righteous Judge
- a. Jesus is revealed as the One with great zeal to intervene and confront oppression, sin and evil. He will remove everything that hinders love and will bring forth full justice on the earth.
 - b. This is the most uncomfortable and most unfamiliar aspect of who Jesus is at His Second Coming.
 - c. The Greatest Crisis of the Church will occur when God manifests His judgment. Our lack of understanding and perspective about His judgment will cause many to be offended and angry at Jesus the Judge.

D. Conclusion

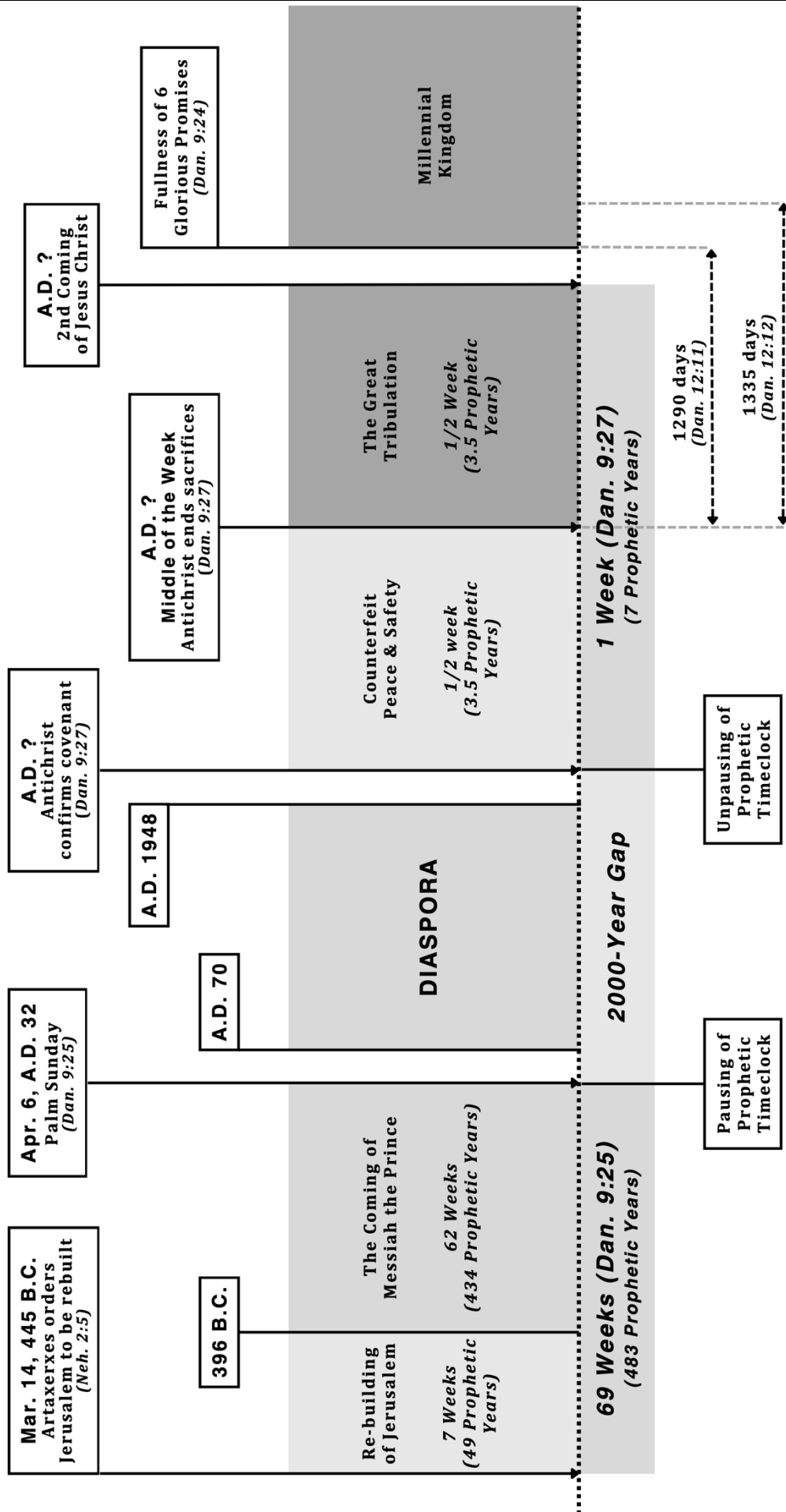
1. The importance of this three-fold revelation of Jesus is that it expresses God's heart and personality. It is the way natural history ends as seen in Revelation 19 and it reflects how Jesus created the human spirit.
2. The Lord is calling us to embrace a season of rigorous preparation to equip ourselves to understand so that we will not be offended in the midst of the coming pressures.
3. We are to prepare ourselves by going deep in God through studying the Scripture with prayer and fasting, walking in purity, ministering to people, and learning to flow in the Spirit's power.

IHOP – One Thing Ministries

CHART NOT TO SCALE

THE 70 WEEKS OF DANIEL

DANIEL 9:24-27 — A BROAD OUTLINE OF GOD'S PROPHETIC TIMETABLE



Overview of End-Time Events

www.OneThingMinistries.net

One Generation (Around 70 – 100 years)

(One generation — Gen. 15:13, 16; Ps. 90:10; Matt. 1:1–6, 17)

Israel returns as a nation (1948) /
Reunification of Jerusalem (1967)

Beginning of Birth Pangs

Matt. 24:4–8; Mk. 13:5–8; Lk. 21:7–11

1. False Christ
2. Wars and rumors of wars
3. Ethnic Conflict (nation vs nation)
4. Economic Warfare
5. Famine
6. Pestilence (diseases)
7. Earthquakes
8. Commotions
9. Fearful Sights
10. Great Signs from Heaven
11. Troubles/Distress in the nations
12. Persecution

Increase in labor pains

Things that will take place during this period:

1. Counterfeit Worldwide Peace & Safety (1Thes. 5:3; Matt. 24:37–39)
2. Great Falling Away (2Thes. 2:3; Matt. 24:10–12)
3. Great Harvest (Matt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9, 14; 14:15)
4. Persecution on the Church (Rev. 17:6)

The Great Tribulation

(Rev. 6–19; Matt. 24:21; Dan. 12:1)

Other terms used for Great Tribulation:

- Broad Day of the Lord
- 42 months or 1260 days (Rev. 11:2; 11:3; 12:6; 13:5)
- Time, Times & 1/2 a Time (Dan. 7:25; 12:7; Rev. 12:14)
- Jacob's Trouble (Jer. 30:6–7)
- Satan intensely persecutes Israel and the followers of Jesus (Rev. 12:13–17)

7 Seals (Rev. 6)

1st to 6th seal

7th seal

7 Trumpets (Rev. 8–9)

KEY EVENTS that signify the beginning of the Great Tribulation

1. Abomination of Desolation will happen at middle of seven years (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15; 2Thes. 2:2–4)
2. Antichrist reveals himself (Rev. 6:2; 13:1)
3. First fall of Harlot Babylon (Rev. 17:16)
4. Antichrist demands mandatory worldwide worship & implements Mark of the Beast system. (Rev. 13:11–18)
5. All nations gather against Jerusalem (Zech. 12:3; 14:2)
6. Global economic centre established in City of Babylon (Zech. 5:5–11; Rev. 17–18)

KEY EVENTS that signify the beginning of the final 7 years of human history

1. Antichrist comes as a counterfeit man of peace (1Thes. 5:1–3)
2. The Antichrist confirms a peace treaty with Israel and Middle East nations (Dan. 8:23, 25; 9:27; 11:21–24)
3. Forming of evil 10-nation Confederation (Ezek. 38:1–6; Rev. 17:3, 12)
4. Arising of the False Prophet (Rev. 13:11–18)
5. The rise of the Harlot Babylon (Rev. 17–18)
6. Rebuilding of Jerusalem Temple (Dan. 9:27; Rev. 11:1–2)

Second Coming & the Rapture

Sounding of the last trumpet (Matt. 24:29–31; 1Thes. 4:16; 1Cor. 15:52; Rev. 11:15; 15)

Jesus' Coronation & Judgment of Gentile Nations
Ps. 24:7–10; Matt. 25:31–32; Isa. 2:4; 24:21

2nd Coming

30 days

Dan. 12:11
Narrow Day of the Lord

3 Types of Mourning

1. Salvation (Rom. 11:26; Zech. 2:11)
2. Israel (Zech. 12:10)
3. All Nations (Rev. 1:7)

2nd Coming

45 days

Dan. 12:12

Millennium

1000 years

Rev. 20:1–6

At the end of the Millennium

1. One more final battle (Rev. 20:7–10) where Satan is released to deceive the nations.
2. Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11–15)
3. Cleansing of present earth (2Pet. 3:10–13; Rev. 21:1)

Final Fall of Harlot Babylon at the end of the bowl judgment –

World-wide economy network and the city are destroyed (Rev. 18)

7th Trumpet begins the 2nd Coming Procession

1. Sky (Matt. 24:30–31; Rev. 1:7)
2. Land (Isa. 63:1–6; Rev. 19:11–16; Hab. 3:3–18; Ps. 110:5–6)
3. Jerusalem (Matt. 23:39; Ps. 24:7–10; Zech. 14:4)

New Heaven & New Earth
The Father comes down on earth to tabernacle with man forever (Rev. 21–22)

Millennium

1000 years

Rev. 20:1–6

At the end of the Millennium

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3. Jerusalem (Matt. 23:39; Ps. 24:7–10; Zech. 14:4)

IHOP – One Thing Ministries

About IHOP – One Thing Ministries

The Heart of our Vision

“John the Baptist said...the friend of the Bridegroom...rejoices because of the Bridegroom’s voice.” (John 3:29)

“Anna...did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day...and she spoke of Jesus to all...” (Luke 2:37 – 38)

“Pray that the Lord of the Harvest would send out laborers into His Harvest... therefore go to all nations and make disciples.” (Matthew 9:38; 28:19)

“...for My House shall be called a House of prayer for all nations.” (Isaiah 56:7)

Our Mission and Mandate

At the International House of Prayer – One Thing Ministries, we are committed to Prayer with Worship, the Prophetic and the Great Commission.

We embrace and seek to live out the following four heart standards (embodied in the acronym “IHOP”), in order to be a people who will partner with God in these Last Days:

- **Intercession:** a people of prayer, expressed corporately through night and day prayer and worship;
- **Holiness:** a people who have set ourselves apart for intimacy with God, and who live out the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle;
- **Offering:** a people who give extravagantly to God for the advancement of His Kingdom, and who live a fasted lifestyle (ie. living simply for ourselves);
- **Prophetic:** a people who stand boldly in faith, move in the power of God and have confidence in His provision, protection and direction.

As a **missions base**, we seek to equip and send missionaries as dedicated intercessors and evangelists with a forerunner spirit who will labour to see revival and a great harvest all over Asia.

The **heart of our missions base** is 24/7 worship and prayer; thus, we seek to establish a 24/7 House of Prayer in Singapore – a perpetual sacred assembly gathering corporately to fast and pray in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David.

Two historical figures from the Bible who inspire us are Anna, the first evangelist and forerunner in the New Testament, and King David from the Old Testament. Anna prayed and fasted for over sixty years before Jesus’ first coming (Luke 2:37), and King David organized and paid 4,000 musicians and 288 singers to worship God night and day (1 Chron. 23:1 – 25:31).

Our **mandate** is to train believers, from this place of night and day prayer, to love Jesus and people wholeheartedly as they go forth to preach the Word, heal the sick, serve the poor, plant Houses of Prayer and proclaim the return of Jesus across the earth.

THE CALL AND INVITATION TO BUILD THE HOUSE OF PRAYER

My heart burns as I invite you to partner in the vision that the LORD gave us to equip people from all over the world to live lives overflowing with passion for Jesus and compassion for people. John the Baptist described himself as a “friend of the Bridegroom” as he prepared the people for the first coming of the LORD. Today, the Holy Spirit is raising up “friends of the Bridegroom” type ministries like John, with the “forerunner spirit” to prepare His Bride for Jesus’ Second Coming.

After being a pastor for more than 15 years, my ministry has changed significantly. I now devote all my energy to establish a ministry that embraces fervent intercessory prayer and worship with daily fasting as a foundation for effective outreach and world evangelization. I deeply believe that unceasing intercession, worship and fasting are the vital keys to the completion of the Great Commission.

One Thing Ministries is committed to Prayer (i.e. intercession, worship, healing, prophecy, etc.), Fasting (i.e. covering 365 days a year), the Forerunner Spirit (i.e. preparing the Church as a Bride for the unique dynamics in the End-Times), and the Great Commission (i.e. proclaiming Jesus to all nations). We are consumed with the mandate to train believers to love Jesus and others wholeheartedly as they go forth to preach the Word, heal the sick, serve the poor and plant Houses of Prayer across Asia.

However, at the heart of our ministries is the 24-hour a day prayer with worship. Our original inspiration came from Anna in Luke 2:37 – 38, the first evangelist and forerunner in the New Testament who prayed and fasted for 60 years before Jesus’ first coming. We were also inspired by King David, who organized 4,000 musicians and 288 singers to worship God 24 hours a day (1 Chron. 23 – 25).

On September 6, 2003, I gathered together a few people with the burden to establish a House of Prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David. We know that it is the heart of God to establish a House of Prayer where “the fire on the altar shall never go out” in the land of Singapore. We trusted that people would come from all over the island – musicians, worship leaders and singers would come; finances would be provided; etc.

In 1722, an “Intercessory Missions Base” was established Germany by Count Nicholas Ludwig Von Zinzendorf. They named their settlement Herrnhut, which means “The Watch of the LORD” and they began prayer meetings that continued 24 hours a day for over 100 years resulting in the first Protestant missions movement in history known as the Moravians. To this we say, “Yes LORD, do this in Singapore even in our day!”

Leviticus 6:13 says that “the fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.” It is our goal also to keep the fire burning that it may never go out! **We are calling out to all the worship leaders, musicians, singers, intercessors, etc.** who have the heart to establish this House for the LORD to join us to keep this fire burning continuously!

“So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God.” (Haggai 1:14)

Kay-Chong Yeo
Director, IHOP- One Thing Ministries