

The Doctrine of Prophecy

I. The Rapture of the Church.

A. The meaning of the rapture.

The word rapture is from rapere, found in the expression "caught up" in the Latin translation of 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

B. An illustration of the rapture.

C. First mention of the rapture.

The first mention of the rapture in the Bible is found in John 14:1-3.

D. Two descriptions of the rapture.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17. These six verses present for us:

1. A realization (4:13).
2. A repose (4:14).
3. A revelation (4:15).
4. A return (4:16).
5. A resurrection (4:16).
6. A rapture (4:17).
7. A reunion (4:17).
8. A reassurance (4:18).

1 Corinthians 15:51-53. Observe some phrases from these verses:

1. "I shew you a mystery" (15:51).
2. "We shall all be changed..., in the twinkling of an eye" (15:51-52).
3. "For the trumpet shall sound" (15:52). (In the Old Testament the trumpet was used for two things--to summon to battle and to summon to worship.)
 - a. To angels the trumpet blast will mean "Prepare for battle!"
 - b. To all believers the trumpet blast will mean "Prepare to worship!"
4. "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (15:53).

E. Some false views of the rapture.

That the rapture and Second Coming are one and the same event. Although these two are inseparably linked together, they are not the same. In essence, the rapture introduces the great tribulation, while the Second Coming will conclude it. Other distinguishing features are:

1. The rapture.
 - a. Christ comes in the air (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
 - b. He comes for his saints (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
 - c. The rapture is a mystery, i.e., a truth unknown in Old Testament times (1 Cor. 15:51).
 - d. Christ's coming for his saints is never said to be preceded by signs in the heavens.
 - e. The rapture is identified with the day of Christ (1 Cor. 1:8; 2 Cor. 1:14; Phil. 1:6, 10).
 - f. The rapture is presented as a time of blessing (1 Thess. 4:18).
 - g. The rapture takes place in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (1 Cor. 15:52). This strongly implies that it will not be witnessed by the world.
 - h. The rapture seems to involve the church primarily (Jn. 14:1-4; 1 Cor. 15:51-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).
 - i. Christ comes as the bright and morning star (Rev. 22:16).
2. The Second Coming.
 - a. He comes to the earth (Zech. 14:4).
 - b. He comes with his saints (1 Thess. 3:13; Jude 14).
 - c. The revelation is not a mystery; it is the subject of many Old Testament prophecies (Ps. 72; Isa. 11; Zech. 14).
 - d. Christ's coming with his saints will be heralded by celestial portents (Mt. 24:29-30).
 - e. The revelation is identified with the day of the Lord (Acts 2:17-20; 2 Pet. 3:10).
 - f. The main emphasis of the revelation is on judgment (2 Thess. 2:8-12).
 - g. The revelation will be visible worldwide (Mt. 24:27; Rev. 1:7).
 - h. The revelation involves Israel primarily, then also the Gentile nations (Mt. 24-25).
 - i. Christ comes as the sun of righteousness with healing in his wings (Mal. 4:2).

That the rapture will include only "spiritual" Christians, leaving carnal believers behind to endure a seven-year "Protestant purgatory." The partial rapture theory is to be rejected for the following three reasons:

1. First, it confuses grace with rewards.
2. Second, it divides the bride of Christ.
3. Third, it ignores the clear scriptural teaching to the contrary (1 Thess. 1:9-10; 2:19; 4:14-16; 5:4-11; Rev. 22:12).

That the rapture will not occur until the middle of the tribulation, thus forcing the entire church to go through the first three and a half years of God's wrath. This theory is called mid-tribulationism. There are two serious problems connected with the mid-tribulation position:

1. First, it destroys the imminence of Christ's return.
2. Second, it creates a date-setting chronology (Mk. 13:32).

F. The challenges of the rapture.

Because of this glorious coming event the child of God is instructed to do many things:

1. He is to attend the services of the Lord regularly (Heb. 10:25).
2. He is to observe the Lord's Supper with the rapture in mind (1 Cor. 11:26).
3. He is to love believers and all men (1 Thess. 3:12-13).
4. He is to be patient (Jas. 5:8).
5. He is to live a separated life (1 Jn. 3:2-3).
6. He is to refrain from judging others (1 Cor. 4:5).
7. He is to preach the Word (2 Tim. 4:1-2).
8. He is to comfort the bereaved (1 Thess. 4:16, 18).
9. He is to win souls (Jude 21-23).
10. He is to be concerned with heaven (Col. 3:1-4).

G. The effects of the rapture.

Certainly the believers will be missed. It is evident from the Bible that the sudden disappearance of both Enoch and Elijah (two Old Testament types of the rapture) caused considerable confusion and alarm among their friends (Heb. 11:5; 2 Ki. 2:16-17).

H. The Old Testament foreshadowing of the rapture.

1. Seen in Enoch, who was taken from the world before the flood judgment (Gen. 5:24).
2. Seen in Lot, who was taken from Sodom before the fire judgment (Gen. 19:22-24).

II. The Bema Judgment Seat of Christ.

There are a number of biblical judgments, some already past, some going on at the present time, and others yet to occur.

A. Biblical judgments.

1. Past judgments:

- a. The Garden of Eden judgment (Gen. 3:14-19; Rom 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:22).
- b. The flood judgment (Gen. 6:5-7; 2 Pet. 3:1-6).
- c. The Calvary judgment (Mt. 27:33-37; Isa. 53:1-10; Ps. 22:1; Heb. 2:7; 1 Pet. 2:21-25; 3:18).
- d. The Israelite judgments (Lk. 21:24).

2. Present-day judgments:

- a. Upon local churches by the Savior (Rev. 2-3).
- b. Upon individual believers (1 Cor. 11:30-31; 1 Jn. 1:9; 5:16; Heb. 12:3-13; 1 Pet. 4:17; Acts 5:1-11).

3. Future judgments:

- a. The judgment seat (bema) of Christ (Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:9-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 22:12).
- b. The tribulational judgment (Rev. 6-19).
- c. The lamp and talent judgment--this refers to Israel (Eze. 20:33-38; Mt. 24:45-51; 25:1-30).
- d. The sheep and goat judgment--this refers to the Gentiles (Mt. 25:31-46).
- e. The judgment upon the antichrist and false prophet (Rev. 19:20).
- f. The judgment upon Satan (Rev. 20:10).
- g. The fallen angel judgment (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6).
- h. The great white throne judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

B. The meaning of the bema judgment.

"In the large Olympic arenas, there was an elevated seat on which the judge of the contest sat. After the contests were over, the successful competitors would assemble before the bema to receive their rewards or crowns. The bema was not a judicial bench where someone was condemned; it was a reward seat. Likewise, the Judgment Seat of Christ is not a judicial bench. The Christian life is a race, and the divine umpire is watching every contestant. After the church has run her course, he will gather every member before the bema for the purpose of examining each one and giving the proper reward to each." (Lehman Strauss, *God's Plan for the Future*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, p. 111. Used by permission).

C. The fact of the bema judgment.

Many New Testament verses speak of this (Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:11-13; 2 Cor. 5:10).

D. The purpose of the bema judgment.

1. Negative considerations.

- a. Not to determine whether a particular individual enters heaven.
- b. Not to punish believers for sins committed either before or after their salvation (Rom. 8:1).

2. Positive considerations.

- a. In the past, God dealt with us as sinners (Rom. 5:6-8; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 2:1-3).
- b. In the present, God deals with us as sons (Rom. 8:14; Heb. 12:5-11; 1 Jn. 3:1-2).
- c. In the future, God will deal with us (at the bema) as stewards.

E. The time of the bema.

The rewarding of the church must take place between the rapture and the return of Christ to the earth.

- F. The materials to be tested at the bema judgment (1 Cor. 3:10, 12-13).
From these verses it is apparent that God classifies the works of believer into one of the following six areas: gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble. Though it is difficult to know just what goes to make up a "golden work" or a "stubble work," we are nevertheless informed of certain general areas in which God is particularly interested.
1. How we treat other believers (Heb. 6:10; Mt. 10:41-42).
 2. How we exercise our authority over others (Heb. 13:17; Jas. 3:1).
 3. How we employ our God-given abilities (1 Cor. 12:4-11; 2 Tim. 1:6; 1 Pet. 4:10).
 4. How we use our money (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; 1 Tim. 6:17-19).
 5. How we spend our time (Ps. 90:12; Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5; 1 Pet. 1:17).
 6. How much we suffer for Jesus (Mt. 5:11-12; Mk. 10:29-30; Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17; 1 Pet. 4:12-13).
 7. How we run that particular race which God has chosen for us (1 Cor. 9:24; Phil 2:16; 3:13-14; Heb. 12:1).
 8. How effectively we control the old nature (1 Cor. 9:25-27).
 9. How many souls we witness to and win to Christ (Prov. 11:30; Dan. 12:3; 1 Thess. 2:19-20).
 10. How we react to temptation (Jas. 1:2-3; Rev. 2:10).
 11. How much the doctrine of the rapture means to us (2 Tim. 4:8).
 12. How faithful we are to the Word of God and the flock of God (Acts 20:26-28; 2 Tim. 4:1-2; 1 Pet. 5:2-4).
- G. The results of the bema judgment seat of Christ.
1. Some will receive rewards (1 Cor. 3:14). The Bible mentions at least five rewards.
 - a. The incorruptible crown--given to those who master the old nature (1 Cor. 9:25-27).
 - b. The crown of rejoicing--given to soul-winners (Prov. 11:30; Dan. 12:3; I Thess. 2:19-20).
 - c. The crown of life--given to those who successfully endure temptation (Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10).
 - d. The crown of righteousness--given to those who especially love the doctrine of the rapture (2 Tim. 4:8).
 - e. The crown of glory--given to faithful preachers and teachers (Acts 20:26-28; 2 Tim. 4:1-2; 1 Pet. 5:2-4).
 2. Some will suffer loss (1 Cor. 3:15).
- H. The Old Testament foreshadowing of the bema judgment seat of Christ (Ruth 2:11-12).

III. The Marriage of the Lamb.

- A. The fact of this marriage.
1. This marriage is described through the parables of Jesus (Mt. 22:2; 25:1; Lk. 12:35-36).
 2. This marriage is described through the vision of John (Rev. 19:7).
- B. The Host of the marriage (Lk. 14:16-23).
- C. The Bridegroom of the marriage.
The Father's beloved Son (Mt. 3:17; 17:5), the Lord Jesus Christ, is the bridegroom (Jn. 3:27-30; Lk. 5:32-35).
- D. The bride of the marriage.
In two key passages the Apostle Paul makes crystal clear the identity of the bride (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:22-32).
- E. The guests of the marriage (Lk. 14:16-23; Mt. 25; Jn. 3:27-30).
1. In general.
A group which would include all believing Gentiles who were converted prior to the beginning of the church or after the rapture.
 2. In particular.
A group which would include all saved Israelites everywhere (Mt. 25).
- F. The service schedule of the marriage.
The marriage of Christ to the church will follow the Oriental pattern of marriage as described for us in the new Testament. It consisted of three separate stages:
1. The betrothal stage. A New Testament example of this first step is the marriage of Mary and Joseph (Mt. 1:18). Thus the betrothal stage consisted of two steps: The selection of the bride and the payment of the dowry. With this in mind we can state that the marriage of the Lamb is still in its betrothal stage:
 - a. The bride had been selected (Eph. 1:3-4).
 - b. The dowry had been paid (1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).
 2. The presentation stage.
At the proper time the father would send servants to the house of the bride carrying the proper legal contract. The bride would then be led to the home of the groom's father. When all was ready, the father of the bride would place her hand in the hand of the groom's father. He would then place her hand in that of his son. Applying this background to the marriage of the Lamb, the church still awaits this second phase, the presentation stage, which we know as the rapture! The following verses speak of this presentation stage (Eph. 5:25, 27; Jude 24; Rev. 19:7-8). Then follow the events which comprise the second stage:
 - a. The Heavenly Father will send for the bride (Rev. 4:1).
 - b. The proper legal papers of marriage will be shown (2 Tim. 2:19).
 - c. The bride will be taken to the Father's home (Jn. 14:2-3).

3. The celebration stage.
After the private marriage service was completed, the public marriage supper would begin (Mt. 22:2-3; Lk. 12:35-37; Lk. 14:16-17).

G. The time of the marriage.
The wedding service (the presentation stage) will be privately conducted in heaven, perhaps shortly after the bema judgment seat of Christ. The wedding supper (the celebration stage) will be publicly conducted on earth shortly after the Second Coming of Christ.

H. The Old Testament foreshadowing of the marriage (Ps. 45:10-15).

I. The certainty of the marriage.

Earthly marriages may be prevented because of various unexpected problems.

1. In an earthly wedding there can be a last-minute refusal on the part of either the bride or groom. But not with the heavenly marriage.
 - a. The Bridegroom has already expressed his great love for his bride (Eph. 5:25), and he never changes (Acts 1:11; Heb. 13:8).
 - b. The bride has already been glorified and is sinless, and therefore cannot be tempted into changing her mind or losing her love for the Bridegroom (Eph. 5:27; Heb. 10:14).
2. In an earthly wedding a serious legal problem might arise, such as lack of age, or even that of a previous marriage--but not in the heavenly wedding (Rom. 8:33-39).
3. In an earthly wedding the tragedy of death might intervene, but not in the heavenly wedding.
 - a. The bride will never die (Jn. 11:26).
 - b. The Bridegroom will never die (Rev. 1:18).

IV. The Story of Two Songs.

A. Events leading up to the first song - The Creation Hymn (Rev. 4). John the apostle has been caught up into heaven (Rev. 4:1).

1. He sees the glory of the Father upon the throne (Rev. 4:2-3).
2. He sees a beautiful green rainbow around this throne (Rev. 4:3).
3. He sees twenty-four elders with golden crowns (Rev. 4:4).
4. He sees and hears lightnings and thunderings, which means that the awful storm of the great tribulation is about to unleash its fury (Rev. 4:5).
5. He sees a crystal sea of glass (Rev. 4:6).
6. He sees and hears the testimony of four special angelic creatures (Rev. 4:6-8).

B. Events leading up to the second song - The Redemption Hymn (Rev. 5).

1. The Proclamation (Rev. 5:1-2).
2. The Investigation (Rev. 5:3).
 - a. The search in heaven.
 - b. The search on earth.
 - c. The search under the earth (in Hades).
3. The Manifestation (Rev. 5:5-7).
4. The Song (Rev. 5:9-14).

V. The Great Tribulation.

A discouraged and despondent Job once exclaimed in despair, "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not" (Job 14:1-2).

Job's pessimistic description is tragically true for the unsaved man, apart from the grace of God. Throughout his tortured and sinful history he has been subjected to calamities, disasters, and plagues which have tracked him as a wolf would a rabbit.

A. Some of the tragic disasters.

1. Epidemics.
2. Volcanic action.
3. Earthquakes.
4. Fires.
5. Tornadoes.
6. Famines.
7. Floods.
8. Landslides.
9. Cyclones.

B. The names for this period.

1. The day of the Lord (Isa. 2:12; 13:6, 9; Eze. 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14; Amos 5:18, 20; Obad. 15; Zeph. 1:7, 14; Zech. 14:1; Mal. 4:5; Acts 2:20; 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10).
2. The indignation (Isa. 26:20; 34:2).
3. The day of God's vengeance (Isa. 34:8; 63:1-6).
4. The time of Jacob's trouble (Jer. 30:7).

5. The overspreading of abominations (Dan. 9:27).
 6. The time of trouble such as never was (Dan. 12:1).
 7. The seventieth week (Dan. 9:24-27).
 8. The time of the end (Dan. 12:9).
 9. The great day of his wrath (Rev. 6:17).
 10. The hour of his judgment (Rev. 14:7).
 11. The end of this world (Mt. 13:40, 49).
 12. The tribulation (Mt. 24:21, 29). The following passages aptly describe this future and fearful time (Isa. 13:6-7, 10-11; 2:19; 24:1, 19-20; 34:2-4; 63:3-4, 6; Jer. 25:32-33; Joel 2:1-2; Zeph. 1:14-15; Mt. 24:7, 11-12, 21-22; Lk. 21:25-26; 1 Thess. 5:2-3; Rev. 6:12-17).
- C. The length of the tribulation (Dan. 9:24-27).
1. To whom does this prophecy refer?
 2. What is meant by the term "seventy weeks"?
 3. When was the seventy-week period to begin?
 4. What are the three distinct time periods mentioned within the seventy-week prophecy and what was to happen during each period?
 5. Do the seventy weeks run continuously? That is to say, is there a gap somewhere between these 490 years, or do they run without pause until they are completed?
 6. Does the Bible offer any other examples of time gaps in divine programs?
- D. The purpose of the tribulation.
1. To harvest the crop that has been sown throughout the ages by God, Satan and mankind (Mt. 13:24-30).
 2. To prove the falseness of the devil's claim (Isa. 14:12-15).
 3. To prepare a great martyred multitude for heaven (Rev. 7:9, 14).
 4. To prepare a great living multitude for the millennium (Mt. 25:32-34).
 5. To punish the Gentiles (Rom. 1:18; 2 Thess. 2:11-12; Rev. 19:15).
 6. To purge Israel (Eze. 20:37-38; Zech. 13:8-9; Mal. 3:3).
 7. To prepare the earth itself for the millennium.

VI. The Personalities in the Tribulation.

As in a play, a number of actors will render their parts and say their lines during the earth's most sobering drama, the tribulation.

- A. The Holy Spirit (Rev. 7:9-17; Joel 2:28, 30-32; Rev. 11:11; 17:3).
- B. The devil (Rev. 12:12).
- C. Two special Old Testament witnesses (Rev. 11:3).
- D. The antichrist (2 Thess. 2:3-4, 9).
- E. The false prophet (Rev. 13:11).
- F. A multitude of specialized angels.
 1. An angel with the seal of the living God (Rev. 7:2).
 2. Seven angels with seven trumpets (Rev. 8-9, 11).
 3. An angel with a golden censer (Rev. 8:3).
 4. An angel with a little book and a measuring reed (Rev. 10:1-2; 11:1).
 5. An angel with the everlasting gospel (Rev. 14:6).
 6. An angel with a harvest sickle (Rev. 14:19).
 7. Seven angels with seven vials of wrath (Rev. 16).
 8. An angel with a message of doom (Rev. 18:1, 21).
 9. An angel with a strange invitation (Rev. 19:17).
 10. An angel with a key and a great chain (Rev. 20:1).
- G. One-hundred-forty-four-thousand Israelite preachers (Rev. 7:4).
- H. An army of locust-like demons from the bottomless pit (Rev. 9:2-3).
- I. An army of horse and rider demons from the Euphrates River (Rev. 9:16).
- J. Three evil spirits (Rev. 16:13-14).
- K. A cruel, power-mad ruler from the north (Eze. 38:1-3).
- L. Four symbolic women.
 1. A persecuted woman (Israel) (Rev. 12:1).
 2. A vile and bloody harlot (the false church) (Rev. 17:3-5).
 3. An arrogant queen (the world's political and economic systems) (Rev. 18:2, 7).
 4. A pure, chaste bride (the true church) (Rev. 19:7-8).
- M. A mighty warrior from heaven (Rev. 19:11, 16).

VII. The First Part of the Tribulation (Three-and-a-Half Years).

- A. The action of this seven-year period.
 1. The formal organization of the super harlot church (Rev. 17:5).

- a. The harlot viewed historically (Gen. 10:8-10; 11:1-9; Jer. 7:18, 44:25; Eze. 8:14).
 - b. The harlot viewed currently (2 Tim. 3:1-5; 4:3-4; 2 Pet. 2:1; Rev. 3:15-17).
 - c. The harlot viewed prophetically.
2. The appearance of the antichrist (Dan. 7:25; 11:36; 2 Thess. 2:3-4, 9; 1 Jn. 2:22; Rev. 6:2; 13:1-2, 6).
- a. Historical and modern attempts to identify the antichrist.
 - (1) Some believe he will be a Gentile.
 - (2) Others affirm he will be a Jew.
 - (3) There are also those who feel he will come from the tribe of Dan.
 - (4) A number of overzealous Bible students have claimed he could be personally identified.
 - (a) The antichrist is Judas Iscariot (Lk. 22:3; Jn. 6:70-71; 13:27; 17:12; 2 Thess. 2:3).
 - (b) The antichrist is Nero.
 - (c) The antichrist is Titus.
 - (d) The antichrist is Domitian.
 - (e) The antichrist is Constantine the Great.
 - (f) The antichrist is Mohammed.
 - (g) The antichrist is various Roman Catholic Popes.
 - (h) The antichrist is Napoleon.
 - (i) The antichrist is Benito Mussolini.
 - (j) The antichrist is Adolph Hitler.
 - (k) The antichrist is Henry Kissinger.
 - (l) The antichrist is whoever you don't especially like!
 - b. Worldly preparations for the antichrist.
 - c. The Old Testament forerunners of the antichrist.
 - (1) Cain--by his murder of the chosen seed (Gen. 4:5-14; Jude 11; 1 Jn. 3:12).
 - (2) Nimrod--by his creation of Babylon and the tower of Babel (Gen. 10-11).
 - (3) Pharaoh--by his oppression of God's people (Ex. 1:8-22).
 - (4) Korah--by his rebellion (Num. 16:1-3; Jude 11).
 - (5) Balaam--by his attempt to curse Israel (Num. 23-24; 2 Pet. 2:15; Jude 11; Rev. 2:14).
 - (6) Saul--by his intrusion into the office of the priesthood (1 Sam. 13:9-13).
 - (7) Goliath--by his proud boasting (1 Sam. 17).
 - (8) Absalom--by his attempt to steal the throne of David (2 Sam. 15:1-6).
 - (9) Jeroboam--by his substitute religion (1 Ki. 12:25-31).
 - (10) Sennacherib--by his efforts to destroy Jerusalem (2 Ki. 18:17).
 - (11) Nebuchadnezzar--by his golden statue (Dan. 3:1-7).
 - (12) Haman--by his plot to exterminate the Jews (Est. 3).
 - (13) Antiochus Epiphanes---by his defilement of the Temple (Dan. 11:21-35).
 - d. The personal characteristics of the antichrist.
 - (1) He will be an intellectual genius (Dan. 8:23).
 - (2) He will be an oratorical genius (Dan. 11:36).
 - (3) He will be a political genius (Rev. 17:11-12).
 - (4) He will be a commercial genius (Dan. 11:43; Rev. 13:16-17).
 - (5) He will be a military genius (Rev. 6:2; 13:2).
 - (6) He will be a religious genius (2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:8).
 - e. His rise to power.
 - (1) Through the power of Satan (2 Thess. 2:3, 9-12; Rev. 13:2).
 - (2) Through the permission of the Holy Spirit (Job 1-2; 2 Thess. 2:6-7).
 - (3) Through the formation of a ten-nation organization (Dan. 7:7; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:7, 12).
 - f. His activities.
 - (1) He begins by controlling the western power block (Rev. 17:12).
 - (2) He makes a seven-year covenant with Israel but breaks it after three-and-a-half years (Dan. 9:27).
 - (3) He gains absolute control over the Middle East after the Russian invasion (Eze. 38-39).
 - (4) He attempts to destroy all of Israel (Rev. 12).
 - (5) He destroys the false religious system, so that he may rule unhindered (Rev. 17:16-17).
 - (6) He thereupon sets himself up as God (Dan. 11:36-37; 2 Thess. 2:4, 11; Rev. 13:5).
 - (7) He briefly rules over all nations (Ps. 2; Dan. 11:36; Rev. 13:16).
 - (8) He is utterly crushed by the Lord Jesus Christ at the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19).
 - (9) He is the first creature to be thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20).
 - g. His ability to imitate.
 - (1) The antichrist comes in the very image of Satan, as Christ came in the image of God (2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:4; cf. Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3).

- (2) The antichrist is the second person in the hellish trinity, as Christ is in the heavenly Trinity (Rev. 16:13; cf. Mt. 28:19).
 - (3) The antichrist comes up from the abyss, while Christ comes down from heaven (Rev. 11:7; 17:8; cf. Jn. 6:38).
 - (4) The antichrist is a savage beast, while Christ is a sacrificial lamb (Rev. 13:2; cf. 5:6-9).
 - (5) The antichrist receives his power from Satan, as Christ received his power from his Father (Rev. 13:2; cf. Mt. 28:18).
 - (6) The antichrist will experience a resurrection (perhaps a fake one), just as Christ experienced a true one (Rev. 13:3, 12; cf. Rom. 1:4).
 - (7) The antichrist will receive the worship of all unbelievers, as Christ did of all believers (Jn. 5:43; Rev. 13:3-4, 8; cf. Mt. 2:11; Lk. 24:52; Jn. 20:28; Phil. 2:10-11).
 - (8) The antichrist will deliver mighty speeches, as did Christ (Dan. 7:8; Rev. 13:5; cf. Jn. 7:46). Satan will doubtless give to the antichrist his vast knowledge of philosophy, science and human wisdom accumulated through the centuries (Eze. 28:12).
 - (9) The greater part of the antichrist's ministry will last some three-and-a-half years, about the time span of Christ's ministry (Rev. 13:5; 12:6, 14; cf. Jn. 2:13; 6:4; 11:55).
 - (10) The antichrist will attempt (unsuccessfully) to combine the three Old Testament offices of prophet, priest and king, as someday Christ will successfully do.
 - (11) The antichrist's symbolic number is six, while the symbolic number of Christ is seven (Rev. 13:18; cf. 5:6, 12).
 - (12) The antichrist will someday kill his harlot wife, while Christ will someday glorify his holy bride (Rev. 17:16-17; cf. 21:1-2).
3. The false prophet (Rev. 13:11).
- a. His identity.
 - b. His activities.
 - (1) The Holy Spirit is the third person of the heavenly Trinity (Mt. 28:19), while the false prophet is the third person of the hellish trinity (Rev. 16:13).
 - (2) The Holy Spirit leads men into all truth (Jn. 16:13), while the false prophet seduces men into all error (Rev. 13:11-14).
 - (3) The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ (Jn. 16:13-14), while the false prophet glorifies the antichrist (Rev. 13:12).
 - (4) The Holy Spirit made fire to come down from heaven at Pentecost (Acts 2:3), while the false prophet will do likewise on earth in view of men (Rev. 13:13).
 - (5) The Holy Spirit gives life (Rom. 8:2), while the false prophet kills (Rev. 13:15).
 - (6) The Holy Spirit marks with a seal all those who belong to God (Eph. 1:13), while the false prophet marks those who worship Satan (Rev. 13:16-17).
 - c. His mark (Rev. 13:16-18).
4. The revival of the Roman Empire (Dan. 2:41; 7:7-8; Rev. 13:1; 17:12).
- a. The first period--the original Empire--from 300 B.C. to A.D. 476.
 - b. The second period--the intervening influence--from A.D. 476 to the present.
 - c. The third period--the revived Empire--from the rapture to Armageddon.
 - d. This revived Roman Empire will consist of ten nations.
 - e. The antichrist will personally unite these Western nations. Students of history will readily agree that the unity of any empire of nations depends upon three factors. These are the military, the economic, and the political. With this in mind, consider the following recent developments in Western Europe:
 - (1) The military aspect.
 - (2) The economic and political aspects.
5. The antichrist's seven-year covenant with Israel (Isa. 28:18; Dan. 9:27).
- a. The background of this covenant.
 - b. The betrayal of the covenant (Dan. 9:27).
6. The pouring out of the first six seal judgments (Mt. 24:4-8; Rev. 6:1-17).
- a. The first seal (Rev. 6:1-2).
 - b. The second seal (Rev. 6:3-4).
 - c. The third seal (Rev. 6:5-6).
 - d. The fourth seal (Rev. 6:7-8).
 - (1) The identity of these riders.
 - (2) The damage done by these riders.
 - e. The fifth seal (Rev. 6:9-11).
 These three verses are loaded with theological implications.
 - (1) They refute the false doctrine of soulsleep.
 - (2) They correct the error of one general resurrection.

- (3) They suggest the possibilities of an intermediate body (2 Cor. 5:1-3).
- f. The sixth seal (Rev. 6:12-17). As it can be seen, this fearful judgment ushers in:
 - (1) The greatest earthquake in history (Rev. 6:12, 14).
 - (2) The greatest cosmic disturbances in history (Rev. 6:12-14).
 - (3) The greatest prayer meeting in history (Rev. 6:15-17).
- g. Interlude (Rev. 7:1-17).
 - Between the sixth and seventh seal judgments, God calls a divine time-out.
 - During this pause two significant events take place:
 - (1) The conversion and call of the 144,000 (Rev. 7:1-8).
 - (2) The conversion of "a great multitude" (Rev. 7:9-17).
- 7. The mass return of the Jews to Palestine (Eze. 37:1-14; 34:11-13; 36:24; Isa. 43:5-6).
- 8. The rebuilding of the Jewish Temple (Dan. 9:27; 12:11; Mt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 11:2; 13:14-15).
 - The history of Israel can be aptly summarized by simply studying their three holy buildings. These include a tabernacle and two Temples.
 - a. The Tabernacle of Moses.
 - (1) The instructions were given to Moses by God on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 25:9).
 - (2) Was to be patterned after the heavenly tabernacle (Ex. 25:9, 20; Isa. 6:1-8; Heb. 8:2, 5; 9:24; Rev. 11:9; 14:15, 17; 16:1, 7).
 - (3) Time of construction--six months.
 - (4) Date of completion--April, 1444 B.C. (Ex. 40).
 - (5) Description and size.
 - (6) Furniture.
 - (7) The tabernacle lasted for approximately 400 years.
 - (8) It was set up at Shiloh (Josh. 18:1; 19:51; Jdg. 18:31; 1 Sam. 1:9; 3:3).
 - (9) It was eventually destroyed by the Philistines (1 Sam. 4; Ps. 78:60; Jer. 7:12-14; 26:6).
 - b. The first Temple.
 - (1) Construction began under Solomon in April, 966 B.C. (2 Chron. 2-7; 1 Ki. 5-8).
 - (2) God had given the blueprints to David.
 - (3) Construction crew.
 - (4) David began gathering vast materials for the Temple while Solomon was still a boy (1 Chron. 22:5).
 - (5) David himself personally gave 3,000 talents of gold and 7,000 talents of silver.
 - (6) At the dedication, 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep and goats were sacrificed (1 Ki. 8:62-66).
 - (7) The Temple proper was ninety feet long, twenty feet wide and forty-five feet high (1 Ki. 6:2).
 - (8) It was built of blocks of stone quarried in the nearby hills.
 - (9) It had ten lampstands and ten tables of shewbread (2 Chron. 4:7-8).
 - (10) The altar of bronze was thirty feet long by fifteen feet high, with a circumference of thirty feet (2 Chron. 4:1).
 - (11) The laver measured fifteen feet across, seven and a half feet deep, with a circumference of forty-five feet (2 Chron. 4:2-5).
 - (12) Two huge pillars stood at the entrance of the Temple.
 - (13) Both Isaiah (64:10-11) and Jeremiah (7:11-15; 26:6-9) predicted the destruction of the Temple because of Judah's sin.
 - (14) Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the Temple on the ninth of Av, 586 B.C. (2 Chron. 36:16-19; 2 Ki. 24:13-14). It had lasted 373 years.
 - c. The second Temple.
 - (1) Construction was begun by Zerubbabel in June, 535 B.C.
 - (2) It was completed in February, 516 B.C.
 - (3) Its dimensions were ninety feet long by ninety feet high (Ezra 6:3).
 - (4) Herod the Great began rebuilding and adding to the Temple in 20 B.C.
 - (5) Construction continued after his death.
 - (6) It was finally completed in A.D. 64.
 - (7) On the ninth of Av, A.D. 70, Titus totally destroyed it.
 - (8) The glory cloud of God did not fill this Temple as it had the tabernacle and Solomonic Temple (Ex. 40:34-38; 1 Ki. 8:10-11; 2 Chron. 5:13-14).
 - (9) The dimensions of Herod's Temple proper was 150 feet by 150 feet.
 - (10) The Temple history between Zerubbabel and Christ.
 - (11) The Temple in the time of Jesus.
 - (12) The Temple personnel.
 - (13) Christ and the Temple.

- (14) The apostles and the Temple.
- d. The third Temple (Dan. 9:27; Mt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 11:1).
 - (1) Several questions may be raised at this point. Where will the third temple be built? There seems little doubt it will be constructed on the same spot where the first and second temples once stood--Mount Moriah.
 - (2) What will cause the Jews to rebuild the third temple? It is obvious that the desire in the hearts of many Jews is burning brightly concerning the rebuilding of the third temple. But what will trigger the actual project itself? Of course, no one knows, but it may well be connected with that mysterious and missing box known as the Ark of the Covenant.
 - (a) Description.
 - (b) History.
 - (c) Theories concerning its whereabouts: Here it may be asked just what all this has to do with the building of the third temple. Simply, it is this. When David became king over all Israel in 1004 B.C., he did two significant things. First, he captured Jerusalem from pagan Jebusites (1 Chron. 11:4-9). The second thing he did was to locate the Ark of the Covenant and bring it into Jerusalem (1 Chron. 13). David then decided to build a Temple to house the ark. Of course, as things turned out, God appointed Solomon (David's son) to erect the Temple rather than David. But the point to be made here is that the taking of Jerusalem and the location of the ark resulted in the building of the first Temple!

VIII. The Middle Part of the Tribulation.

We have already suggested that the seven-year tribulation may be broken up into three sections. The first part is three and a half years, the middle perhaps just a few days, and the last again three-and-a-half years. We shall now observe five important events which may, with some degree of certainty, be placed in this brief middle period.

A. The five events.

1. The Gog and Magog invasion into Palestine (Eze. 38-39).
 - a. The identity of the invaders (Russia).
 - (1) Geographical proof.
 - (2) Historical proof.
 - (3) Linguistic proof.
 - b. The allies in the invasion.
Ezekiel lists five nations who will join Russia during her invasion.
 - (1) Persia--modern Iran.
 - (2) Ethiopia--Black African nations (South Africa).
 - (3) Libya--Arabic African nations (North Africa).
 - (4) Gomer--East Germany.
 - (5) Togarmah--Southern Russia and the Cossacks, or perhaps Turkey.
 - c. The reasons for the invasion.
 - (1) To cash in on the riches of Palestine (Eze. 38:11-12).
 - (2) To control the Middle East.
 - (3) To challenge the authority of the antichrist (Dan. 11:40-44).
 - d. The chronology of the invasion.
 - e. The results of the invasion.
 - (1) Five sixths (83 percent) of the Russian soldiers are destroyed (Eze 39:2).
 - (2) The last grisly feast of God begins (Eze. 39:4, 17-20).
 - (3) The communist threat will cease forever.
 - (4) Seven months will be spent in burying the dead (Eze. 39:11-15).
 - (5) Seven years will be spent in burning the weapons of war (Eze. 39:9-10).
2. The ministry and martyrdom of the two witnesses (Rev. 11:3).
 - a. Their identity.
Some hold that they are Elijah and Enoch. Some hold that they are Elijah and Moses.
 - b. Their ministry.
 - c. Their death.
 - d. Their resurrection (Rev. 11:12).
3. The martyrdom of the 144,000 Hebrew evangelists (Rev. 14:1-5).
4. The casting out of heaven's monster (Rev. 12:3-15).
 - a. The identity of this monster.
 - b. The location of this monster.
 - c. The activities of this monster.
5. The destruction of the false church (Rev. 17:16).

- IX. The Last Part of the Tribulation (Three-and-a Half Years).
 - A. The full manifestation of the antichrist.
 - B. The worldwide persecution of Israel (Rev. 12:1).
 - 1. Identification of this woman.
 - a. She is not Mary.
 - b. She is not the church.
 - c. She is Israel.
 - 2. Persecution of this woman.
 - a. Persecution in the past.
 - b. Persecution in the future.
 - At this point the Jews of the world will travel down one of three roads:
 - (1) Many Israelites will be killed by the antichrist (Zech. 13:8).
 - (2) Some Israelites will follow the antichrist (Mt. 24:10-12).
 - (3) A remnant of Israel will be saved (Rev. 12.14; Zech. 13:9).
 - C. The pouring out of the last seal judgment (Rev. 8-9; 11:15-19).
 - “And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour” (Rev. 8:1).
 - 1. The purpose of the silence.
 - 2. The duration of the silence.
 - 3. The first trumpet (Rev. 8:7).
 - 4. The second trumpet (Rev. 8:8-9).
 - 5. The third trumpet (Rev. 8:10-11).
 - 6. The fourth trumpet (Rev. 8:12-13).
 - 7. The fifth trumpet (Rev. 9:1-12).
 - a. The location of these demons (Rev. 9:1-2).
 - b. The identity of these demons.
 - c. The one who releases these demons.
 - d. The torment of these demons (Rev. 9:3-4).
 - e. The duration of these demons (Rev. 9:5-6).
 - f. The description of these demons (Rev. 9:7-10).
 - g. The king of these demons (Rev. 9:11).
 - 8. The sixth trumpet (Rev. 9:13-21).
 - a. The leaders of this invasion (Rev. 9:13-14).
 - b. The armies of this invasion.
 - c. The source of this invasion.
 - d. The duration of this invasion.
 - e. The damage wrought by this invasion (Rev. 9:18-19).
 - f. The results of this invasion (Rev. 9:20-21).
 - 9. Interlude (Rev. 10:1--11:2).
 - During this pause two significant events take place:
 - a. The message of the angel of God (Rev. 10:1-7).
 - b. The measuring of the Temple of God (Rev. 11:1-2).
 - 10. The seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15-19).
 - D. The pouring out of the seven vial (bowl) judgments (Rev. 14-16).
 - 1. Those events preceding the vial judgments (Rev. 14-15).
 - a. The song of the 144,000 (Rev. 14:1-5).
 - b. The messages from three special angels (Rev. 14:6-12).
 - (1) The first message (Rev. 14:6-7).
 - (2) The second message (Rev. 14:8).
 - (3) The third message (Rev. 14:9-11).
 - c. The message from the Holy Spirit (Rev. 14:13).
 - d. The first announcement of Armageddon (Rev. 14:14-20).
 - e. The sights and sounds of the Temple in heaven (Rev. 15:2-4).
 - 2. Those events accompanying the vial judgments (Rev. 16).
 - a. The first vial judgment (Rev. 16:1-2).
 - b. The second vial judgment (Rev. 16:3).
 - c. The third vial judgment (Rev. 16:4-7).
 - d. The fourth vial judgment (Rev. 8-9).
 - e. The fifth vial judgment (Rev. 16:10-11).
 - f. The sixth vial judgment (Rev. 16:12-16).
 - g. The seventh vial judgment (Rev. 16:17-21).
 - (1) The world's greatest earthquake takes place (Rev. 16:18-20).
 - (2) The world's greatest shower of hailstones comes crashing down on mankind

(Rev. 16:21).

- E. The destruction of economic and political Babylon (Rev. 18).
 - 1. Old Testament history of the city of Babylon (Gen. 11:1-9; Dan. 5:26-28).
 - 2. New Testament prophecies concerning the city (Rev. 14:8; 16:19; 17:1-6; 18:1-7).
 - 3. Reasons for rebuilding the city.
 - 4. The description of the city.
 - a. It had become the habitation of demons and false doctrines (Rev. 18:2; Mt. 13:32).
 - b. Both rulers and merchants had worshiped at her shrine of silver (Rev. 18:3).
 - c. Her sins had reached into the heavens (Rev. 18:5).
 - d. She had lived in sinful pleasure and luxury (Rev. 18:7).
 - e. Her prosperity had blinded her to the judgment of God (Rev. 18:7).
 - f. She had deceived all nations with her sorceries (Rev. 18:23).
 - g. She was covered with the blood of many of God's saints (Rev. 18:24).
 - 5. The destruction of the city.
 - a. The source of her destruction (Rev. 18:8, 20).
 - b. The reaction to her destruction.
 - (1) By those on earth (Rev. 18:11, 19).
 - (2) By those in heaven (Rev. 18:20).
 - c. The reasons for her destruction.
 - (1) The city will become the headquarters of all demonic activity during the tribulation (Rev. 18:2).
 - (2) Her devilish pride (Rev. 18:7).
 - (3) Her gross materialism. This wicked city will import and export twenty-eight principal items of merchandise, beginning with gold and ending with the bodies of men (Rev. 18:12-13).
 - (4) Her drug activities (Rev. 18:23).
 - (5) Her bloodshedding (Rev. 18:24).
 - d. The Old Testament foreshadows her destruction (Dan. 5:26-28).
- F. The bloodbath at Armageddon (Rev. 19).
 - 1. The glory feast in heaven. Introducing a bride (Rev. 19:1-10).
 - 2. The gory feast on earth. Introducing a battle (Rev. 19:11-21).

The Holy Spirit of God has chosen five capable authors to describe for us in clear and chilling language that culmination of all battles--Armageddon! These five authors include David, Isaiah, Joel, Zechariah and John (Ps. 2:1-5, 9; Isa. 34:1-6; 63:3-4, 6; Joel 3:2, 9-16; Zech. 12:2; 14:2-3, 12; Rev. 14:14-20; 16:16; 19:11-21). We shall now consider the negative and positive elements of this war.

Negative.

 - a. Armageddon is not the same as the Russian invasion of Ezekiel 38.
 - b. Armageddon is not the final war in the Bible.

Positive.

 - a. The location of the battle.
 - b. The reasons for the battle.
 - (1) Because of the sovereignty of God (Isa. 34:2; Joel 3:2; Zech. 14:2-4, 8; Rev. 16:16).
 - (2) Because of the deception of Satan (Rev. 16:13-14).
 - (3) Because of the hatred of the nations for Christ (Ps. 2:1-3; Rev. 11:18).
 - c. The chronology of the battle.
 - (1) The drying up of the Euphrates River (Rev. 16:12).
 - (2) The destruction of Jerusalem (Zech. 12:2; 14:2; Lk. 21:20).
- X. The Second Coming of Christ.
 - A. The chronology of the Second Coming of Christ.
 - 1. It begins with fearful manifestations in the skies (Mt. 24:29; Lk. 21:25-26).
 - 2. In the midst of this, the heavens open and Jesus comes forth (Mt. 24:30; 2 Thess. 1:7; Rev. 1:7; 19:11).
 - 3. The returning Savior touches down upon the Mount of Olives, causing a great earthquake (Zech. 14:4, 8).
 - 4. After touching down on the Mount of Olives, Christ proceeds to Petra and Bozrah, two chief cities in Edom (Isa. 34:6; 63:1).
 - B. The purpose of the Second Coming of Christ.
 - 1. To defeat the antichrist and the world's nations assembled at Armageddon (Rev. 19:17-21).
 - 2. To regather, regenerate and restore faithful Israel (Isa. 43:5-6; Jer. 24:6; Eze. 11:17; 36:28; Amos 9:14-15; Micah 7:18-19; Mt. 24:31).

Thus will our Lord gather Israel when he comes again and, as we have already observed, he will begin by appearing to the remnant hiding in Petra. Here we note:

 - a. Their temporary sorrow (Zech. 12:10-12; 13:6; Rev. 1:7).

- b. Their ultimate joy (Isa. 25:8-9; 30:26; 40:11, 43:25; 49:15; 51:3; 55:12).
 - 3. To judge and punish faithless Israel (Eze. 11:21; 20:38).
 - a. Her sins against the Father.
 - b. Her sins against the Son.
 - c. Her sins against the Holy Spirit.
 - d. Her sins against the kingdom.
 - e. Her sins against her own people.
 - f. Her sins against the world.
 - g. Her sins against the gospel.
 - 4. To separate the sheep from the goats (Mt. 25:31-46).
 - a. The false views of this judgment.
 - b. The basis of this judgment.
 - 5. To bind Satan (Rom. 16:20; Rev. 20:1-3).
 - 6. To resurrect Old Testament and tribulational saints.
 - a. The fact of this resurrection (Job 19:25-26; Ps. 49:15; Isa. 25:8; 26:19; Dan. 12:2; Hos.13:14; Jn. 5:28-29; Heb. 11:35; Rev. 20:4-5).
 - b. The order of this resurrection.
 - This is the third of four major biblical resurrections. These are:
 - (1) The resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 15:23).
 - (2) The resurrection of believers at the rapture (1 Thess. 4:16; 1 Cor. 15:51-53).
 - (3) The resurrection of Old Testament and tribulational saints (Rev. 20:4-5).
 - (4) The resurrection of the unsaved (Rev. 20:5, 11-14).
 - 7. To judge fallen angels (1 Cor. 6:3).
 - a. Unchained fallen angels (Lk. 8:30-31; Mk. 1:23-24; Eph. 6:12).
 - b. Chained fallen angels (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6).
- C. The time element involved in the Second Coming of Christ (Dan. 12:11-12).

XI. The Millennium--The Thousand-Year Reign of Christ.

- A. The fact of the millennium (Rev. 20:4).
 - Three major views about the millennium:
 - 1. Postmillennialism.
 - 2. Amillennialism.
 - 3. Premillennialism.
- B. The purpose of the millennium (Rev. 20:4).
 - 1. To reward the saints of God (Ps. 58:11; Prov. 11:18; Isa. 40:10; Mt. 5:12; 16:27; 25:34; Col. 3:24; Rev. 22:12).
 - 2. To answer the oft-prayed model prayer (Mt. 6:9-13).
 - 3. To redeem creation (Rom. 8:19-22).
 - 4. To fulfill three important Old Testament covenants.
 - a. The Abrahamic Covenant.
 - God promised Abraham two basic things:
 - (1) That his seed (Israel) would become a mighty nation (Gen. 12:1-3; 13:16; 15:5; 17:7; 22:17-18).
 - (2) That his seed (Israel) would someday own Palestine forever (Gen. 12:7; 13:14-15, 17; 15:7, 18-21; 17:8).
 - b. The Davidic Covenant (2 Chron. 13:5; 2 Sam. 7:12-16; 23:5).
 - Here the promise was threefold:
 - (1) That from David would come an everlasting throne.
 - (2) That from David would come an everlasting kingdom.
 - (3) That from David would come an everlasting King.
 - c. The new covenant (Jer. 31:31-34; Isa. 42:6; Heb. 8:7-12).
 - This promise was also threefold:
 - (1) That he would forgive their iniquity and forget their sin.
 - (2) That he would give them new hearts.
 - (3) That he would use Israel to reach and teach the Gentiles.
 - 5. To prove a point.
 - 6. To fulfill the main burden of biblical prophecy. All Bible prophecy concerning the Lord Jesus Christ is summarized in one tiny verse by the Apostle Peter: "... the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow" (1 Pet. 1:11).
 - Here Peter connects Christ's last coming (the sufferings) with his Second Coming (the glory). This in a nutshell is a panorama of the purpose, plan and program of Almighty Jehovah God.
- C. The titles of the millennium.

1. The world to come (Heb. 2:5).
 2. The kingdom of heaven (Mt. 5:10).
 3. The kingdom of God (Mk. 1:14).
 4. The last day (Jn. 6:40).
 5. The regeneration (Mt. 19:28).
 6. The times of refreshing (Acts 3:19).
 7. The restitution of all things (Acts 3:21).
 8. The day of Christ (1 Cor. 1:8; 5:5; 2 Cor. 1:14; Phil. 1:6; 2:16).
- D. Old Testament examples of the millennium.
1. The Sabbath.
 2. The jubilee year (Lev. 25:10-12).
 3. The tabernacle--because God's glory dwelt in the Holy of Holies (Ex. 25:8; 29:42-46; 40:34).
 4. The feast of tabernacles (Lev. 23:34-42).
 5. The Promised Land (Deut. 6:3; Heb. 4:8-10).
 6. The reign of Solomon.
- E. The nature of the millennium.
1. Peace.
 2. Joy.
 3. Holiness.
 4. Glory.
 5. Comfort.
 6. Justice.
 7. Full knowledge.
 8. Instruction.
 9. The removal of the curse.
 10. Sickness removed.
 11. Healing of the deformed.
 12. Protection.
 13. Freedom from oppression.
 14. No immaturity.
 15. Reproduction by the living people.
 16. Labor.
 17. Economic prosperity.
 18. Increase of light.
 19. Unified language.
 20. Unified worship.
 21. The manifest presence of God.
 22. The fullness of the Spirit.
 23. The perpetuity of the millennial state.
- F. The citizens of the millennium.
1. Considered negatively.
 2. Considered positively.
 - a. Saved Israel.
 - b. Saved Old Testament and tribulation Gentiles (Rev. 5:9-10; 14:1-4; 20:4-6; Isa. 2:4; 11:12; Zech. 3:17).
 - c. The church (1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 1:6; 2:26-27; 3:21).
 - d. The elect angels (Heb. 12:22).
- G. The King of the millennium. (Jer. 30:9; Eze. 34:23; 37:24; Hos. 3:5).
1. The church (1 Cor. 6:3).
 2. The apostles (Mt. 19:38).
 3. Nobles (Jer. 30:21).
 4. Princes (Isa. 32:1; Eze. 45:8-9).
 5. Judges (Zech. 3:7; Isa. 1:26).
- H. The geography of the millennium.
1. Palestine.
 - a. To be greatly enlarged and changed (Isa.26:15; Obad. 1:17-21).
 - b. A great fertile plain to replace the mountainous terrain (Joel 3:18).
 - c. A river to flow east-west from the Mount of Olives into both the Mediterranean and the Dead Seas (Zech. 14:4, 8, 10; Joel 3:18; Eze. 47:8-9, 12).
 2. Jerusalem.
 - a. The city will become the worship center of the world (Micah 4:1-2).
 - b. The city will occupy an elevated site (Zech. 14:10).

- c. The city will be six miles in circumference (Eze. 48:35).
- d. The city will be named "Jehovah-Shammah," meaning "the Lord is there" (Eze. 48:35), and "Jehovah Isidkenu," meaning "the Lord our righteousness" (Jer. 23:6; 33:16).

I. The temple in the millennium.

- 1. Its biblical order.
The millennial temple is the last of seven great scriptural temples. These are:
 - a. The tabernacle of Moses, 1500-1000 B.C. (Ex. 40).
 - b. The Temple of Solomon, 1000-586 B.C. (1 Ki. 8).
 - c. The Temple of Zerubbabel (rebuilt later by Herod), 516 B.C. to A.D. 70 (Ezra 6; Jn. 2).
 - d. The temple of the body of Jesus, 4 B.C. to A.D. 30 (Jn. 2:21).
 - e. The spiritual temple, the church, from Matt 16:18 till the rapture (1 Thess. 4).
 - (1) The whole church (Eph. 2:19-22).
 - (2) The local church (1 Cor. 3:16-17).
 - (3) The individual Christian (1 Cor. 6:19).
 - f. The tribulational temple, from the rapture till Armageddon (Rev. 11).
 - g. The millennial temple (Isa. 2:3; 60:13; Eze. 40:48; Dan. 9:24; Joel 3:18; Hag. 2:7, 9).
- 2. Its holy oblation.
- 3. Its priesthood.
- 4. Its prince.
- 5. Its negative aspects.
 - a. There will be no veil.
 - b. There will be no table of shewbread.
 - c. There will be no lampstands.
 - d. There will be no Ark of the Covenant.
 - e. The east gate will be closed.
- 6. Its sacrifices (Isa. 56:6-7; 60:7; Jer. 33:10; Zech. 14:16-21).
 - a. A reminder to all of the necessity of the new birth.
 - b. An object lesson of the costliness of salvation.
 - c. An example of the awfulness of sin.
 - d. An illustration of the holiness of God.

XII. The Final Revolt of Satan (Rev. 20:7-10).

XIII. The Great White Throne Judgment.

- A. The fact of this throne (Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:11-15; Dan. 7:9-10).
- B. The Judge of this throne--Christ himself (Jn. 5:22, 27; Acts 10:40, 42; 2 Tim. 4:1).
- C. The jury at this throne--five sets of books.
 - 1. The book of conscience (Rom. 2:15).
 - 2. The book of words (Mt. 12:36-37; Jn. 12:48).
 - 3. The book of secret works (Rom. 2:16; Eccles. 12:14).
 - 4. The book of public works (2 Cor. 11:15).
 - 5. The book of life (Rev. 20:12).
- D. The judged at this throne (Ps. 9:17).
- E. The judgment at this throne.
The eternal lake of fire (Rev. 20:14-15; Mt. 25:41, 46).

XIV. The Destruction of This Present Earth and Heavens.

- A. The fact of this destruction. (Mt. 24:35; Heb. 1:10-12; 2 Pet. 3:10-11).
- B. The reason for this destruction.

XV. New Creation of Heaven and Earth (Isa. 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1).