

Introduction

You may also read a complete view of Future Things by downloading our paper, "A CHRONOLOGICAL STUDY OF REVELATION", that is posted on our website, <http://www.bayourouge.net> . It contains extra information that is not in this paper.

*" 1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who testifies to everything he saw-that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3 **Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it,** because the time is near." Revelation 1:1-3 (The New International Version).*

The Lord wants us to read about and to understand what He has said about the future. The book of Revelation describes the end of our journey which began when we went to God in prayer, asked Him to forgive our sins and asked that the payment of His Son's sacrifice on Calvary, pay the sin debt we owed. According to Revelation 21:1, our journey will end upon a New Earth.

"¹ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. " Revelation 21:1 (The King James Version).

Until He comes back for us, however, Jesus Christ expects us to be studying His Divine Word and growing spiritually. Just as some people mature faster and advance further in this life, so those who are born again spiritually have different rates of spiritual growth and maturity.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

" 1 Brothers, I could not talk to you as spiritual people, but as fleshly people, as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you milk, not solid food, because you were unable to take it. Indeed, you are

still not able, even now, 3 for you are still of the flesh." 1st Corinthians 3:1-3 (The New American Bible).

Our advancement in spiritual understanding is contingent many times upon our desire to grow in the service and knowledge of Christ's kingdom. Our advancement is also contingent upon our seeking out those who are able to share and increase our understanding of the deeper things of God's word and of God's plan for the future. When someone shares something about God's word, however, please make sure their teaching **agrees** with all the scriptures that discuss that particular subject.

Dear reader, I pray this series of papers on Future Things will prove helpful in your service to our Savior and that you have matured spiritually to the point that it is understandable. I suggest that before you examine this and the following papers on Future Things, you ask our Lord to bless you with the Spirit of Understanding (*Isaiah 11:2 printed below*) so you may understand God's word, God's will and God's way. If you would like to know more about the seven-fold power of the Holy Spirit including the Spirit of Understanding, you may read the paper "THE POWER OF THE SEVENFOLD SPIRIT OF GOD" on our website, <http://www.bayourouge.net>.

"¹ There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The Spirit of (1) the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of (2) Wisdom and (The Spirit of) (3) Understanding, The Spirit of (4) Counsel and (The Spirit of) (5) Might, The Spirit of (6) Knowledge and (The Spirit of) (7) the fear (Reverence) of the LORD. " Isaiah 11:1-2 (The New King James Version).

TOOLS FOR OUR STUDY

One of the most valuable tools you can have to aid you in your study is (1) A good concordance such as Strong's Exhaustive Concordance Of The Bible or Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible and/or (2) a good Bible software. Any of these will allow you to find out the meaning of the Hebrew or Greek word in the oldest copies that were translated into the different languages to compose a book that we call "the Bible".

However, we must always be aware that the book we hold in our hand is only a translation of a copy of a copy of a copy of a copy... of the original sixty-six books written by the original writers. Over a period of about 1,500 years, the Lord God, Jehovah Elohim (The Self

Existent, Eternal, Three Mighty Ones), through the leadership of His Holy Spirit (*2nd Peter 1:20-21* printed below) told approximately forty different writers what to write. He allowed them to use their own words and their own expressions and style of writing. But He looked over their shoulder, so to speak, to make sure they did not record any error. Those original books did not just contain the words of God, they **were** the inspired words of God.

"²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:20-21 (New International Version 2011).

Some of the books were written on animal skins and others were written on papyrus or other material. **THOSE BOOKS ARE NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE.** They deteriorated long ago. The translations into various native languages were translated from what we consider faithful copies. Those faithful copies were **supposed** to be compared with each other in order to establish their accuracy and then translated into the different languages. The approximately forty different writers of the original books were inspired by God. **THOSE WHO TRANSLATED THE BIBLE INTO NATIVE LANGUAGES WERE NOT INSPIRED.** Sometimes the translators allowed their personal religious beliefs to influence how they translated a particular verse or passage. Because of that, every translation has some error in it. Although some translations have less error than others, there has never been a perfect, errorless translation. Only the original books were perfect and without error. That is why a person should read all the scriptures dealing with a particular subject before they come to a conclusion about what they think God is teaching. It is also important that we are able to see what the Hebrew word or the Greek word really means in our own language today. That is the reason it is so important for you to have access to a good concordance or a good Bible software, if possible. I suggest that before you accept anything, including these papers, that you read **all** the scriptures dealing with the subject and then come to a conclusion about what God is saying. Be careful, as you read anything, to make sure the person writing is not propagating "the skin of truth stuffed with a lie."

THESE PAPERS ARE A WORK IN PROGRESS

It is our intend to continue to expand them and edit them until we have explained, according to the scriptures, the main events which will transpire from the Catching Up (the

Rapture) until the saved go into eternity on the New Earth and the lost will be banished to the Lake of Fire where they will pay their sin debt for eternity. We invite you to contact us frequently so you may receive regular updates as these papers progress and are expanded or edited.

Understanding the proper sequence of the events of future things is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle with some pieces which have been cut identically but have different colors or different shades of the same color or some pieces which share a side or two that have been cut identically. At first, a piece may fit well but as we attempt to add other pieces they reveal we have attempted to put the piece in the wrong place.

" 15 Be eager to present yourself as acceptable to God, a workman who causes no disgrace, imparting the word of truth without deviation." 2nd Timothy 2:15 (The New American Bible).

"¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2nd Timothy 3:16-17 (The New King James Version).

"⁴ For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4 (The King James Version).

CONDITIONS BEFORE THE CATCHING UP

Jesus Christ lists some of the conditions which will exist in the world just before the Catching Up (the Rapture). One of the outstanding conditions is listed in Matthew 24: 37-39. *"37 For as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 In (those) days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. 39 They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be (also) at the coming of the Son of Man."* (The New American Bible).

Jesus warned that people would be occupied with their daily lives and would be so busy trying to "survive" in the world around them that they would not give any thought to their future beyond this life. Those who are condemned to the Lake of Fire will never seek Christ's true plan

of salvation. Even most of those who come under conviction will be so impressed with the rituals and formality of the counterfeit religions around them that they will attempt to apply the salve of religion to their cancer of sin. It will not work, however, and one day in the future they will find that their participation in the rituals of their religion did not pay for the sin debt that each one of us owes the Living, Three Mighty Ones.

"¹ But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of stress. ² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, fierce, haters of good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ holding the form of religion but denying the power of it. Avoid such people." 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (Revised Standard Version)

"²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6: 23 (New American Bible - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

"¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and one sitting upon it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away, and there was no place found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing in the presence of the throne, and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged by those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and hell gave up their dead that were in them; and they were judged every one according to their works. ¹⁴ And hell and death were cast into the pool of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life, was cast into the pool of fire." Revelation 20:11-15 (Douay-Rheims Version, New Catholic Edition)

Also, people will be so involved with their daily lives they will not be able to discern that the events transpiring around them are preparing the world to receive the soon coming Anti-Christ. As we shared in the paper "Decline Of The United States" on our web site, when Isaiah chapter three kicks into high gear, it will become a time of loss, affliction and trouble for the unrighteous. They will find those in government will be enacting laws and rules which restrict or deny their rights. Eventually they will see their wealth transferred to the government through taxes and inflation or transferred to others who are manipulating the economy. Even when they go to court because someone cheated them or stole their possessions or their wealth, they will get little or no "justice" from the judges who sit on the bench. If you are interested in some of the

main occurrences which will set the stage for the Tribulation, we invite you to read our paper entitled "Decline Of The United States" on this web site. Even most of the members of Christ's scriptural churches will have become so involved in their daily lives that they will spend little time in personal Bible study and consequently they will have to rely upon what someone else tells them that the Bible teaches. That will become very dangerous in the last days because those that teach them will repeat what someone they highly respect shared with them, because someone they highly respected shared it with them, because someone they highly respected shared it with them, because someone they highly respected shared it with them, because someone they highly respected shared it with them.

We have the privilege to be living in a marvelous time. The apostle Paul listed conditions which will exist just before the Catching Up and if we look around us, we can see a fulfillment of 2nd Thessalonians 2:9-12, as well as the fulfillment of other prophecy.

"⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2nd Thessalonians 2:9-12 New King James Version.

The truth of this scripture is based upon the foreknowledge of God. Since God knows all things that will happen in the future, He knows the names of everyone who will come to Him in prayer, repent of their sins and those who will ask that the payment the Messiah gave on the cross, pay the sin debt they owe.

"²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; ²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: ²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" Romans 3:20-23 (The King James Version).

"⁵ Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; ⁶ all of us have become like unclean men, all our good

deeds are like polluted rags; We have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind." Isaiah 64:5-6 (The New American Bible).

"¹⁰ And whosoever shall keep the whole law, but offend in one point, is become guilty of all." James 2:10 (The Douay-Rheims Version).

"²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23 (The King James Version).

"⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." Romans 10:8-11 (The New King James Version).

2nd Thessalonians 2:9-12 (which is printed above), says that in the last days God will allow those who He knows will never accept His Son as their Savior to be deluded. This is also confirmed in Revelation 13:4-9, " 4 They worshiped the dragon because it gave its authority to the beast; they also worshiped the beast and said, "Who can compare with the beast or who can fight against it?" 5 The beast was given a mouth uttering proud boasts and blasphemies, and it was given authority to act for forty-two months. 6 It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling and those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was also allowed to wage war against the holy ones and conquer them, and it was granted authority over every tribe, people, tongue, and nation. 8 All the inhabitants of the earth will worship it, all whose names were not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life, which belongs to the Lamb who was slain. 9 Whoever has ears ought to hear these words." (The New American Bible).

As a consequence of the strong delusion, they will believe any and every lie of Satan, his demons, his Anti-Christ and his false prophet. When the Anti-Christ is projected upon the scene many of those men and women will lend their support to help catapult the Anti-Christ to international prominence very quickly. Satan is methodically and successfully placing people in every media, every school (even our "Christian" schools and seminaries) and every government.

If he can, he even places them within churches. These people are either possessed or momentarily controlled by his demons.

I know we do not like to consider the possibility that the leaders within our churches, our seminaries and within our associations and conventions could, at times, embrace and proffer error. But even Jesus could not prevent the leaders of the church in Jerusalem from embracing and teaching error.

²³ *Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Matthew 16:23 (The New International Version).*

³ *Moreover, not even Titus, who was with me, although he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised, ⁴ but because of **the false brothers secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy on our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, that they might enslave us--** ⁵ to them we did not submit even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain intact for you. ⁶ But from those who were reputed to be important (what they once were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)--those of repute made me add nothing. ⁷ On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised (those who were not Jews), just as Peter to the circumcised (the Jews), ⁸ for the one who worked in Peter for an apostolate to the circumcised (the Jews) worked also in me for the Gentiles, ⁹ and when they recognized the grace bestowed upon me, James and Cephas (the apostle Peter) and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas their right hands in partnership, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised (the Jews). ¹⁰ Only, we were to be mindful of the poor, which is the very thing I was eager to do. ¹¹ **And when Cephas** (the apostle Peter) **came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he clearly was wrong.** ¹² For, until some people came from James (the pastor of the church in Jerusalem), he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to draw back and separated himself, because he was afraid of the circumcised (the Jews). ¹³ And the rest of the Jews (also) acted hypocritically along with him, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that they were not on the right road in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas (the apostle Peter) in front of all, "If you, though a Jew, are living like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?" Galatians 2:3-14 (The New American Bible)*

This explains why we have so many people in the world who are working so hard to not only deny God but to destroy all reference to Christ. It also explains why many of our churches and "Christian" schools and seminaries have begun to depart from the faith once entrusted to the saints.

"3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. 4 For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord." Jude 1:3-4 (The New International Version).

"1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them." 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (The New International Version).

"1 Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the last times some will turn away from the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and demonic instructions 2 through the hypocrisy of liars with branded consciences. 3 They forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected when received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is made holy by the invocation of God in prayer." 1st Timothy 4:1-5 (The New American Bible).

As we draw nearer to the Catching Up (the Rapture) we can see prophecy fulfilled before our eyes. One of the few prophecies left to be fulfilled is the establishment of the city of Babylon as a major world-wide trading center. By the time you read this paper, the city may have already been rebuilt. It will be destroyed during the Tribulation.

Saddam Hussein Abd al-Majid al-Tikriti was the fifth President of Iraq, serving in this capacity from July 16, 1979 until April 9, 2003. We know Saddam Hussein was rebuilding the city of Babylon for over twelve years before he was removed from power in Iraq. If the stock

market is ever moved from Baghdad in Iraq to Babylon in Iraq, the things listed below would be traded in the city or through the religion that was initiated in that city soon after Noah's flood.

“¹After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. ²With a mighty voice he shouted: “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. ³For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.” ⁴Then I heard another voice from heaven say: “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; ⁵for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. ⁶Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup.

⁷Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, ‘I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.’ ⁸Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her. ⁹“When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. ¹⁰Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “‘Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!’ ¹¹“The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more—¹²cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; ¹³cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men. ¹⁴“They will say, ‘The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.’ ¹⁵The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn ¹⁶and cry out: “‘Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls! ¹⁷In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!’ “Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. ¹⁸When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city like this great

city?’ ¹⁹They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: “‘Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin! ²⁰Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you.’” ²¹Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: “With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. ²²The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. ²³The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world’s great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.²⁴In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth.” Revelation chapter 18 (The New International Version).

According to *Daniel 7:1-28 and Daniel 18:1-27*, the Antichrist will begin his dominion at the beginning of the Great Tribulation by setting up his headquarters in the city of Babylon. ¹ *In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream and told the sum of the matters.* ² *Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of heaven brake forth upon the great sea.* ³ *And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.* ⁴ *The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made to stand upon two feet as a man; and a man's heart was given to it.* ⁵ *And, behold, another beast, a second, like to a bear; and it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.* ⁶ *After this I beheld, and, lo, another, like a leopard, which had upon its back four wings of a bird; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.* ⁷ *After this I saw in the night-visions, and, behold, a fourth beast, terrible and powerful, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth; it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.* ⁸ *I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.* ⁹ *I beheld till thrones were placed, and one that was*

ancient of days did sit: his raiment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and the wheels thereof burning fire. ¹⁰ A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousands of thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. ¹¹ I beheld at that time because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake; I beheld even till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed, and it was given to be burned with fire. ¹² And as for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. ¹³ I saw in the night-visions, and, behold, there came with the clouds of heaven one like unto a son of man, and he came even to the ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. ¹⁴ And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. ¹⁵ As for me, Daniel, my spirit was grieved in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. ¹⁶ I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. ¹⁷ These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, that shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸ But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever. ¹⁹ Then I desired to know the truth concerning the fourth beast, which was diverse from all of them, exceeding terrible, whose teeth were of iron, and its nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet; ²⁰ and concerning the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, and before which three fell, even that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake great things, whose look was more stout than its fellows. ²¹ **I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;** ²² **until the ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High, and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.** ²³ Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all the kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. ²⁴ And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom shall ten kings arise: and another shall arise after them; and he shall be diverse from the former, and he shall put down three kings. ²⁵ And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time. ²⁶ But the judgment shall be set, and they shall

take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.²⁷ And the kingdom and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High: his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.²⁸ Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts much troubled me, and my countenance was changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart." Daniel 7:1-28 (American Standard Version)

Daniel continued in the next chapter, "¹ In the third year of King Belshazzar's reign, a vision appeared to me, Daniel, after the one that had appeared to me earlier.² I saw the vision, and as I watched, I was in the fortress city of Susa, in the province of Elam. I saw in the vision that I was beside the Ulai Canal.³ I looked up, and there was a ram standing beside the canal. He had two horns (**the Medo-Persian empire**). The two horns were long, but one was longer than the other, and the longer one came up last.⁴ I saw the ram charging to **the west, the north, and the south**. No animal could stand against him, and there was no rescue from his power. He did whatever he wanted and became great.⁵ As I was observing, a male goat appeared, coming from the west across the surface of the entire earth without touching the ground. The goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes (**the Grecian empire led by Alexandria the Great**).⁶ He came toward the two-horned ram I had seen standing beside the canal and rushed at him with savage fury.⁷ I saw him approaching the ram, and infuriated with him, he struck the ram, shattering his two horns, and the ram was not strong enough to stand against him. The goat threw him to the ground and trampled him, and there was no one to rescue the ram from his power.⁸ Then the male goat became very great, but when he became powerful, the large horn was shattered. Four conspicuous horns came up in its place, [pointing] toward the four winds of heaven (**the four generals who inherit the Grecian empire after Alexandria the Great dies**).⁹ From one of them a little horn emerged (**the Antichrist**) and grew extensively toward **the south** and **the east** and toward **the beautiful land**.¹⁰ It grew as high as the heavenly host, made some of the stars and some of the host fall to the earth, and trampled them.¹¹ It made itself great, even up to the Prince of the host; it removed His daily sacrifice and overthrew the place of His sanctuary.¹² Because of rebellion, a host, together with the daily sacrifice, will be given over. The horn will throw truth to the ground and will be successful in whatever it does.¹³ Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the speaker, "How long will [the events of] this vision last—the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that makes desolate, and the giving

over of the sanctuary and of the host to be trampled?" ¹⁴ He said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be restored." ¹⁵ While I, Daniel, was watching the vision and trying to understand it, there stood before me someone who appeared to be a man. ¹⁶ I heard a human voice calling from the middle of the Ulai: "Gabriel, explain the vision to this man." ¹⁷ So he approached where I was standing; when he came near, I was terrified and fell facedown. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision refers to the time of the end." ¹⁸ While he was speaking to me, I fell into a deep sleep, with my face [to the ground]. Then he touched me, made me stand up, ¹⁹ and said, "I am here to tell you what will happen at the conclusion of the time of wrath, because it refers to the appointed time of the end." ²⁰ The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia. ²¹ The shaggy goat represents the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes represents the first king. ²² The four horns that took the place of the shattered horn represent four kingdoms. They will rise from that nation, but without its power. ²³ Near the end of their kingdoms, when the rebels have reached the full measure of their sin, an insolent king, skilled in intrigue, will come to the throne. ²⁴ His power will be great, but it will not be his own. He will cause terrible destruction and succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the powerful along with the holy people. ²⁵ He will cause deceit to prosper through his cunning and by his influence, and in his own mind he will make himself great. He will destroy many in a time of peace; he will even stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be shattered—not by human hands. ²⁶ The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true. Now you must seal up the vision because it refers to many days [in the future]." ²⁷ I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was greatly disturbed by the vision and could not understand it." *Daniel 8:1-27 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)*

Please note that in the scripture printed above, *Daniel chapter 8*, when the Antichrist begins his dominion, he **does not** extend his territory to the north. We see that *Daniel 8:1-27* (printed above) ties in with *Revelation 18:1-24* (printed on pages 10-11). When the Antichrist begins his dominion, he will set up his headquarters in the city of Babylon. The Anti-Christ begins consolidating his power while he is headquartered in Babylon and he will move his capitol to Jerusalem about the middle of the Great Tribulation. But according to *Daniel 11:36-45*, the Antichrist will have problems with the nations to the south of Babylon, to the north of Babylon and to the east of Babylon during the entire seven years of the Great Tribulation. " ³⁶

*“The king will do as he pleases, exalting himself and claiming to be greater than every god, even blaspheming the God of gods. He will succeed, but only until the time of wrath is completed. For what has been determined will surely take place.³⁷ He will have no respect for the gods of his ancestors, or for the god loved by women, or for any other god, for he will boast that he is greater than them all.³⁸ Instead of these, he will worship the god of fortresses—a god his ancestors never knew—and lavish on him gold, silver, precious stones, and expensive gifts.³⁹ Claiming this foreign god’s help, he will attack the strongest fortresses. He will honor those who submit to him, appointing them to positions of authority and dividing the land among them as their reward.⁴⁰ “Then at the time of the end, the king of the south will attack the king of the north. The king of the north will storm out with chariots, charioteers, and a vast navy. He will invade various lands and sweep through them like a flood.⁴¹ He will enter the glorious land of Israel, and many nations will fall, but Moab, Edom, and the best part of Ammon will escape.⁴² He will conquer many countries, and even Egypt will not escape.⁴³ He will gain control over the gold, silver, and treasures of Egypt, and the Libyans and Ethiopians will be his servants.⁴⁴ “But then news from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in great anger to destroy and obliterate many.⁴⁵ He will stop **between the glorious holy mountain and the sea and will pitch his royal tents**. But while he is there, his time will suddenly run out, and no one will help him.” Daniel 11:36-45 (New Living Translation)*

What is the major faith of the nations to the immediate south, north and east of Babylon? MUSLIM! There are several reasons why we believe the radical Muslims will reject and eventually declare war against the Antichrist while he is headquartered in Babylon. First the radical Muslims will reject him because he is a Jew. The Anti-Christ will be able to trace his lineage back to King David and because of this he will claim the right to sit on David’s throne in Jerusalem as the king of kings. Because of their cultural and religious background, many radical Muslims have been taught to hate the Jews and the other infidels who do not embrace their extremist religion. As such they could never accept a Jew as the hope of the world. You know how most of the people of the Muslim faith in the Middle East feel about the Jews.

Secondly, they will reject him because he will honor (promote) a trinity of gods, that is, God the Father, God the Son and the Queen of Heaven, Mother of God (the god of fortresses and the goddess of fortresses). A person of the Muslim faith is not going to worship a woman even if they are told she was the mother of God and the Queen of Heaven. Their religion is

monotheistic, that is, they believe that there is only one god, Allah, and Mohammad is his prophet. The Muslims do not believe in a Trinity.

Third they will hate him because he will use his authority to allow the Jews to tear down one of their mosques, the Mosque of Omar (the Dome of the Rock), in order to rebuild their Jewish temple during the Great Tribulation. The Mosque of Omar was built around the tip of the mountain that was part of the temple built by King Solomon. The Mosque of Omar (the Dome of the Rock) is one of the Muslim's sacred shrines and right now it occupies a prominent place on the present Jewish temple site. The Muslims believe it is the spot where Mohammad left the earth on his journey to visit their heaven.

We believe the Muslim nations to the south of Babylon, the Muslim nations to the north of Babylon and the Muslim nations to the east of Babylon are going to rebel against the rule of the Anti-Christ. Near the end of the Tribulation, the nations to the south of Babylon and to the east of Babylon will join the nations to the north of Babylon. We believe the Bible teaches that they will organize a large army and invade the Promised Land from the north with the intentions of overthrowing the Anti-Christ. If that is true, they will be led into battle by Iran (the land of the Medes, Isaiah chapter 13) and some of the weapons used will be nuclear. We know that the battle that is described in Zechariah 14 (printed below) is not the second battle of Armageddon that will be fought at the end of the Millennium. How do we know that the beginning of Zechariah 14 (printed below) does not describe a battle between Jesus Christ and His people when they are attacked in Jerusalem? Because Jesus Christ would not allow the saved in Jerusalem to be raped and their houses destroyed while He is on the Throne. He will be in control of everything. On the other hand, we know that many Jews will be in agreement with the Anti-Christ and will be part of the army of the Anti-Christ when the Muslims, led into battle by Iran (the Medes, Isaiah chapter 13), attack Jerusalem near the end of the Great Tribulation. So in that sense, you will have Jews who will be attacked at the end of the Great Tribulation but they will not be saved Jews who are fighting on the side of Jesus Christ. They will be lost Jews who have taken the "*mark of the Beast*" or aligned themselves with the Anti-Christ. They will be part of that group who will wring their hands in anguish when they see the King of Kings appear in the air. Zechariah 14:4 tells us that the King of Kings will stand on the Mount of Olives and the Mount of Olives will split in half. That will happen at the end of the Tribulation when the King

of Kings will come to destroy the army of the Anti-Christ and to destroy the army of the Muslims who are fighting the Anti-Christ.

"¹ The LORD will have his day. And when it comes, everything that was ever taken from Jerusalem will be returned and divided among its people. ² But first, he will bring many nations to attack Jerusalem—homes will be robbed, women raped, and half of the population dragged off, though the others will be allowed to remain. ³ The LORD will attack those nations like a warrior fighting in battle. ⁴ He will take his stand on the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem, and the mountain will split in half, forming a wide valley that runs from east to west." Zechariah 14:1-4 (Contemporary English Version)

Again, the land we call Iran today was originally the land of **the Medes**, who were part of the Medo-Persian empire. Arthur Custance, in his book, "Noah's Three Sons", tells us that after Noah's flood some of the descendents of Gog or Magog (Genesis 10:2) settled in the land we call Iran today and others settled westward as far as the British Isles. Based upon the description of the battle described in Zechariah 14, the battle will include the use of nuclear weapons. Do you suppose that is why the Lord is allowing Iran (the land of the Medes) to develop nuclear capabilities? Do you suppose that is why the Lord allowed certain people in the United States government to **secretly** fly **over** a BILLION dollars in United States currency to Iran one night? The money will no doubt be used to promote and to support terrorism across the world.

Again, the Anti-Christ begins consolidating his power while he is headquartered in Babylon and he moves his capitol to Jerusalem about the middle of the Great Tribulation. *"⁴¹ He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. ⁴² He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries; and the land of Egypt shall not escape. ⁴³ But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. ⁴⁴ But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him; and he shall go forth with great fury to destroy and utterly to sweep away many. ⁴⁵ **And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the sea and the glorious holy mountain;** yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him." Daniel 11:41-45 (American Standard Version)*

So when we compare what we are told in Daniel 11 (printed above) with what we are told in the 13th chapter of Isaiah (printed below), it seems that an army will attack the Antichrist in

Babylon first. Babylon by that time will be a trading metropolis where the Antichrist will have set up his headquarters. The Antichrist and the inhabitants of the city of Babylon will eventually suffer a humiliating defeat near the middle of the Great Tribulation and they will be forced to flee to Jerusalem to escape the Muslim army. One of the important facts to note, however, is that the city of Babylon, at the time the Antichrist will be forced to flee to Jerusalem, will be completely destroyed and will never be inhabited again. " ¹ *And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.* ² *And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, **Babylon the great is fallen**, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.* ³ *For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.* ⁴ *And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.* ⁵ *For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.* ⁶ *Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled, fill to her double.* ⁷ *How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.* ⁸ *Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.* ⁹ *And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,* ¹⁰ *Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.* ¹¹ *And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:* ¹² *The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,* ¹³ *And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.* ¹⁴ *And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.* ¹⁵ *The merchants of these things,*

*which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,¹⁶ And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!¹⁷ For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,¹⁸ And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!¹⁹ And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.²⁰ Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.²¹ And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and **shall be found no more at all.**²² And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;²³ And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.²⁴ And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth." Revelation 18:1-24 (King James Version)*

Also, it seems that the invading army that will totally destroy Babylon will eventually attack the Anti-Christ and his army in Jerusalem near the end of the Great Tribulation. If we examine the 13th chapter of Isaiah carefully, we will see that chapter 13 **was written to Babylon** and predicted that the city of Babylon would be totally destroyed BY THE MEDES. This agrees with Revelation, chapter 18, printed above.

Second, if we examine Isaiah chapter 13 (printed below), carefully, we will see that the world events that are described in Isaiah, chapter 13, will happen during the Great Tribulation. **"¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine.**¹¹ "I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.¹² I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold, A man more than the golden wedge of Ophir.¹³ Therefore **I will shake the heavens, And the earth**

will move out of her place, In the wrath of the LORD of hosts And in the day of His fierce anger." Isaiah 13:10-13

"¹ And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. He had 10 horns and seven heads. On his horns were 10 diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. ² The beast I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like a bear's, and his mouth was like a lion's mouth. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. ³ One of his heads appeared to be fatally wounded, but his fatal wound was healed. The whole earth was amazed and followed the beast. ⁴ They worshiped the dragon because he gave authority to the beast. And they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to wage war against him?" Revelation 13:1-4 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

ISAIAH 13

"¹ The burden **against Babylon** which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw. ² Lift up a banner on the high mountain, Raise your voice to them; Wave your hand, that they may enter the gates of the nobles. ³ I have commanded My sanctified ones; I have also called My mighty ones for My anger-- Those who rejoice in My exaltation. ⁴ The noise of a multitude in the mountains, Like that of many people! A tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together! The LORD of hosts musters The army for battle. ⁵ They come from a far country, From the end of heaven-- The LORD and His weapons of indignation, To destroy the whole land. ⁶ Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. ⁷ Therefore all hands will be limp, Every man's heart will melt, ⁸ And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces will be like flames. ⁹ Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. ¹⁰ **For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine.** ¹¹ I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. ¹² I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold, A man more than the golden wedge of Ophir. ¹³ Therefore **I will shake the heavens, And the earth will move out of her place**, In the wrath of the LORD of hosts And in the day of His fierce anger. ¹⁴ It shall be as the hunted gazelle, And as a sheep that no man takes up; Every man will turn to his own

people, And everyone will flee to his own land. ¹⁵ Everyone who is found will be thrust through, And everyone who is captured will fall by the sword. ¹⁶ Their children also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; Their houses will be plundered And their wives ravished. ¹⁷ "**Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them**, Who will not regard silver; And as for gold, they will not delight in it. ¹⁸ Also their bows will dash the young men to pieces, And they will have no pity on the fruit of the womb; Their eye will not spare children. ¹⁹ **And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.** ²⁰ **It will never be inhabited, Nor will it be settled from generation to generation;** Nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, Nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there. ²¹ But wild beasts of the desert will lie there, And their houses will be full of owls; Ostriches will dwell there, And wild goats will caper there. ²² The hyenas will howl in their citadels, And jackals in their pleasant palaces. Her time is near to come, And her days will not be prolonged." Isaiah 13:1-22 (New King James Version)

Again, we believe the radical Muslims and their armies will first attack the Antichrist and his army in Babylon near the middle part of the Great Tribulation. According to Daniel 11:45 the Antichrist will then move his headquarters to Jerusalem near the middle of the Great Tribulation after having armed conflicts with the nations to the south of Babylon, the nations to the east of Babylon and the nations to the north of Babylon. " ³⁶ "And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done. ³⁷ He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all. ³⁸ He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. ³⁹ He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price. ⁴⁰ "At the time of the end, the **king of the south** shall attack him, but the **king of the north** shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. ⁴¹ **He shall come into the glorious land.** And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites. ⁴² He shall stretch out his hand against the countries,

and **the land of Egypt** shall not escape. ⁴³ He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of **Egypt**, and **the Libyans** and **the Cushites** shall follow in his train. ⁴⁴ But news from **the east** and **the north** shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction. ⁴⁵ And he shall pitch his palatial tents between **the sea and the glorious holy mountain**. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him." Daniel 11:36-45 (English Standard Version)

We believe that in one of those armed conflicts, the Antichrist will receive a "deadly wound" **before** " he shall pitch his palatial tents between **the sea and the glorious holy mountain**". But the Muslim nations will continue to seek a way to destroy the Antichrist. After the Antichrist flees to Jerusalem, the radical Muslims and their armies will attack the Antichrist and his army very near the end of the Great Tribulation. We furnish more detail and scripture in chapter 6, of the paper entitled "A Chronological Study Of The Book Of Revelation" on our website, <http://www.bayourouge.net>. But suffice it to say at this point in our study, the Anti-Christ will have many problems by the time he reaches the middle of the Tribulation even though he will be operating through the power of Satan. In addition to the wars, the natural disasters and the unnatural disasters that are taking place, we strongly suspect that radical Muslims will initiate world-wide terrorism on a scale that the people of this world have never seen before.

" ¹ "Son of man, prophesy against Gog and say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshek and Tubal. ² I will turn you around and drag you along. I will bring you from the far north and send you against the mountains of Israel. ³ Then I will strike your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand. ⁴ On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you. I will give you as food to all kinds of carrion birds and to the wild animals. ⁵ You will fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD. ⁶ I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in safety in the coastlands, and they will know that I am the LORD. ⁷ " 'I will make known my holy name among my people Israel. I will no longer let my holy name be profaned, and the nations will know that I the LORD am the Holy One in Israel. ⁸ It is coming! It will surely take place, declares the Sovereign LORD. This is the day I have spoken of. ⁹ " 'Then those who live in the towns of Israel will go out and use the weapons for fuel and burn them up—the small and large shields, the bows and arrows, the war clubs and spears. For seven years they will use them for fuel. ¹⁰ They will not need to gather wood from the fields or cut it from the

forests, because they will use the weapons for fuel. And they will plunder those who plundered them and loot those who looted them, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹¹ “ ‘On that day I will give Gog a burial place in Israel, in the valley of those who travel east of the Sea. It will block the way of travelers, because Gog and all his hordes will be buried there. So it will be called the Valley of Hamon Gog. ¹² “ ‘For seven months the Israelites will be burying them in order to cleanse the land. ¹³ All the people of the land will bury them, and the day I display my glory will be a memorable day for them, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁴ People will be continually employed in cleansing the land. They will spread out across the land and, along with others, they will bury any bodies that are lying on the ground. “ ‘After the seven months they will carry out a more detailed search. ¹⁵ As they go through the land, anyone who sees a human bone will leave a marker beside it until the gravediggers bury it in the Valley of Hamon Gog, ¹⁶ near a town called Hamonah. And so they will cleanse the land.’ ¹⁷ “Son of man, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Call out to every kind of bird and all the wild animals: ‘Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. There you will eat flesh and drink blood. ¹⁸ You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth as if they were rams and lambs, goats and bulls—all of them fattened animals from Bashan. ¹⁹ At the sacrifice I am preparing for you, you will eat fat till you are gluttoned and drink blood till you are drunk. ²⁰ At my table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, mighty men and soldiers of every kind,’ declares the Sovereign LORD. ²¹ “I will display my glory among the nations, and all the nations will see the punishment I inflict and the hand I lay on them. ²² From that day forward the people of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God. ²³ And the nations will know that the people of Israel went into exile for their sin, because they were unfaithful to me. So I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. ²⁴ I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their offenses, and I hid my face from them. ²⁵ “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will now restore the fortunes of Jacob and will have compassion on all the people of Israel, and I will be zealous for my holy name. ²⁶ They will forget their shame and all the unfaithfulness they showed toward me when they lived in safety in their land with no one to make them afraid. ²⁷ When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will be proved holy through them in the sight of many nations. ²⁸ Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, for though I sent them into exile

among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. ²⁹ I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the people of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD." Ezekiel 39:1-29 (New International Version)

HOW DO WE KNOW THE CATCHING UP TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE TRIBULATION AND THE TRIBULATION TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE MILLENNIUM?

We shared in the beginning that understanding the proper sequence of the events of future things is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle with some pieces which have been cut identically but have different colors or different shades of the same color or some pieces which share a side or two that have been cut identically. At first, a piece may fit well but as we attempt to add other pieces they reveal we have attempted to put the piece in the wrong place.

According to the testimony of Paul (2nd Thessalonians chapters 1 & 2), Christ will not come to set up His Millennial Kingdom until two major things take place.

FIRST, THERE WILL BE A FALLING AWAY.

"³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." 2nd Thessalonians 2:3-4 (The King James Version).

¹ But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. ⁶ They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, ⁷ always learning but never able to

come to a knowledge of the truth.⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.⁹ But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,¹¹ persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,¹⁶ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2nd Timothy 3:1-17 (The New International Version).

THE ANTI-CHRIST MOVES TO JERUSALEM

Another major event that will take place before Christ will come to set up His Millennial Kingdom is the Anti-Christ will set himself up in the temple of God in Jerusalem.

"¹ We ask you, brothers, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling with him,² not to be shaken out of your minds suddenly, or to be alarmed either by a "spirit," or by an oral statement, or by a letter allegedly from us to the effect that the day of the Lord is at hand.³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For unless the apostasy comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one doomed to perdition,⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god and object of worship, so as to seat himself in the temple of God, claiming that he is a god..." 2nd Thessalonians 2:1-4 (The New American Bible).

"⁴³ He shall control the riches of gold and silver and all the treasures of Egypt; Libya and Ethiopia shall be in his train. ⁴⁴ When news from the east and the north terrifies him, he shall set out with great fury to slay and to doom many. ⁴⁵ He shall pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the sea and the glorious holy mountain, but he shall come to his end with none to help him." Daniel 11:43-45) . (The New American Bible).

THREE QUESTIONS

We find in Matthew 24:1-3, that Jesus Christ was asked three questions. "" ¹ *Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.* ² *"Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down."* ³ *As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"*"" *Matthew 24:1-3 (New International Version)*

Those three questions were:

1-When will Herod's Temple be completely torn down so no stone will be left upon another?

2-What shall be the sign of your coming? This is the same Greek word translated "coming" in Matthew 24:27. " ²⁷ *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*" (King James Version) .

3-What shall be the sign of the end of the world (completion of this course or age or period)?

Jesus answered those three questions in Matthew chapters 24 and 25. It is a clear outline that begins with the events which will happen just prior to the Catching Up (the Rapture). It spans the period of time we call the Great Tribulation and ends with the judgment of every person who will still be alive when Jesus Christ returns to this earth to set up His 1,000 year reign. Jesus even assures us that after the Catching Up, many of those who have not secured the Holy Spirit as their companion through salvation will do so after they realize they have been left behind. That is one of the reasons you and I should continue to explain God's glorious plan of salvation. We may not see a great result right now but the Spirit of the Living God needs us to explain His plan so that He can bring our witness to their mind when they realize they have been left behind. Please remember that since God knows all things that will happen in the future, He knows the names of everyone who will come to Him in prayer, repent of their sins and those who will ask that the payment the Messiah gave on the cross, pay the sin debt they owe. Therefore, the Holy Spirit will continue to convict and call to the lost who He knows will respond to His call and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.

"¹ *"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.* ² *Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.* ³ *Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,* ⁴ *but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.* ⁵ *But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.* ⁶ *And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'* ⁷ *Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.* ⁸ *And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'* ⁹ *But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'* ¹⁰ *And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.* ¹¹ *Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'* ¹² *But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'* ¹³ *Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."*
Matthew 25:1-13 (The New King James Version).

Please note that according to Matthew 25:1-13, it was not too late for the foolish virgins to obtain the oil (a type or picture of the Holy Spirit). It was too late for them to seek and secure scriptural baptism after their salvation and thus qualify as a member of the Bride of Christ. If those who are saved during the Great Tribulation lose their life before the marriage supper takes place, they will, however, attend the marriage supper in the Throne Room in Heaven. They will attend the marriage supper with John the Baptist as a wedding guest. They will not attend as a part of the Bride. "⁷ *And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?* ⁸ *But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.* ⁹ *But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.* ¹⁰ *For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.* ¹¹ *Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: **notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*** " *Matthew 11:7-11 (King James Version)*

The kingdom that Jesus Christ referred to in Matthew 11:11 and Luke 7:24-28 was not the kingdom of the saved, the Family of God. If that were so, Jesus Christ said that John the Baptist was not a member of the kingdom of the saved. The kingdom Jesus Christ referred to in Matthew 11:11 and Luke 7:24-28 was the executive phase of His kingdom. The executive phase

of His kingdom were those He left as His executives to carry out the Great Commission when He ascended back to Heaven forty-three days after His crucifixion. " ⁴ *While He was together with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise. "This," [He said, "is what] you heard from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with (immersed by) the Holy Spirit not many days from now."* ⁶ *So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, are You restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?"* ⁷ *He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority. ⁸ But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. "* ⁹ *After He had said this, He was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While He was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen Him going into heaven."* Acts 1:4-11 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

According to Acts 19:1-6 (printed below), the saved who remained disciples of John the Baptist and the saved who abandoned Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry, were not part of that executive phase and they did not receive the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Otherwise, why was it necessary for those twelve men to be baptized by Paul before they received any of the temporary gifts that the Holy Spirit gave in the beginning of the Church Age? " ¹ *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which **at the first** began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, ⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?* Hebrews 2:1-4 (New King James Version)

If you would like to know more about the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit, please read "THE POWER OF THE SEVENFOLD SPIRIT OF GOD " on this website.

Again, according to Acts 19:1-6, the saved who remained disciples of John the Baptist and the saved who abandoned Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry, were not part of that executive phase and they did not receive the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit on the day of

Pentecost. ¹ *While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ² and asked them, "Did you receive Holy Spirit power (there is no Greek definite article - see "THE POWER OF THE SEVENFOLD SPIRIT OF GOD " on this website) when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³ So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. ⁴ Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus (by the authority of the Lord Jesus). ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all. " Acts 19:1-7 (New International Version)*

In the beginning, there were only two people who were given the authority to baptize. One was John the Baptist and the other was Jesus Christ. Those twelve men mentioned in Acts 19:1-7, must have been baptized by disciples of John the Baptist even though they did not have the authority to do so. John the Baptist could not pass his authority down to his disciples. Jesus Christ, on the other hand, could and did pass His authority down to His disciples (members of the local church in Jerusalem) which they were to pass down to their disciples (local churches that were established through their missionary effort). They then passed their authority down to their disciples (local churches that were established through their missionary effort). They then passed their authority down to their disciples (local churches that were established through their missionary effort) down to this present day. ¹ *Now when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John ² (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), ³ he left Judea and departed again to Galilee. " John 4:1-3 (Revised Standard Version)*

Again, please note that according to Matthew 25:1-13, it was not too late for the foolish virgins to obtain the oil (a type or picture of the Holy Spirit). It was too late for them to seek and secure scriptural baptism after their salvation and thus qualify as a member of the Bride of Christ. Being a member of the Bride of Christ is based upon scriptural baptism authorized by a scriptural church. That is why Christ told His local, scriptural churches that whoever they bound into their membership here on this earth (the executive phase of His kingdom), He would recognize as being bound into the membership of this special group, the Bride of Christ, in Heaven.

"¹⁵ Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. ¹⁷ And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church (the executive phase of His kingdom), let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. ¹⁸ Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth (bind into the membership of the executive phase of His kingdom) shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth (loose from membership in the executive phase of His kingdom) shall be loosed in heaven." *Matthew 18:15-18 (King James Version)*

"¹³ When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? ¹⁴ And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. ¹⁵ He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? ¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God. ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon (Σίμων- pronounced in English "see'-mone") Barjona (Βαριωνᾶς- pronounced in English "bar-ee-oo-nas"): for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter (Πέτρος- pronounced in English "pet'-ros" and meaning, according to Strongs Concordance, a piece of rock), and upon this rock (πέτρα - pronounced in English "pet'-ra" and meaning, according to Strongs Concordance, a mass of rock) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give unto thee (the institution of my church) the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." *Matthew 16:13-19 (King James Version)*

"¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive Holy Spirit power (there is no Greek definite article - see "THE POWER OF THE SEVENFOLD SPIRIT OF GOD " on this website). ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." *John 20:19-23 (New International Version)*

¹ *It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.* ² *And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.* ³ *For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing.* ⁴ *When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus,* ⁵ *you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord." 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 (English Standard Version)*

WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST A MEMBER OF THE BRIDE OF CHRIST?

There are many saved people mentioned in the Bible. But there is not one single saved person mentioned in the Bible who is referred to as a member of the Bride of Christ who did not have scriptural baptism. The bottom line is that although John the Baptist baptized others, he never received scriptural baptism. John the Baptist was killed before the local church in Jerusalem had an opportunity to baptize him. That is why John the Baptist said he was a friend of the Bridegroom but he was not a member of the Bride of Christ. " ²⁹ *The bridegroom is the one to whom the bride belongs; but the bridegroom's friend, who stands by and listens, is glad when he hears the bridegroom's voice. This is how my own happiness is made complete.* ³⁰ *He must become more important while I become less important." John 3:29-30 (Today's English Version)*

Since all the members of Christ's local, scriptural churches will be caught up with the rest of the Family of God, there will not be any scriptural churches left here on earth to administer scriptural baptism. When the Catching Up takes place, the only people left behind are lost people and they do not have the authority to establish a scriptural church. The lost members of the unscriptural churches will probably continue to practice baptism but they will not have any authority to administer scriptural baptism. If those who are saved during the Great Tribulation lose their life prior to the marriage supper, they will, however, attend the marriage supper mentioned in Revelation 19:5-9. They will attend the marriage supper with John the Baptist as a wedding guest. They will not attend as a part of the Bride. " ⁶ *Then I heard what sounded like the voice of a large crowd, like the sound of raging waters, and like the sound of powerful*

thunderclaps, saying, "Hallelujah! The Lord our God, the Almighty, is reigning.⁷ Let us rejoice, be glad, and give him glory, because the marriage of the lamb has come and his bride has made herself ready.⁸ She has been given the privilege of wearing fine linen, dazzling and pure." (The fine linen represents the righteous deeds of the saints.)⁹ Then the angel said to me, "Write this: 'How blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the lamb!'" He also told me, "These are the true words of God." Revelation 19:6-9 (International Standard Version)

Jesus Christ taught about that marriage supper. "¹⁵ And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.¹⁶ But he said unto him, A certain man made a great supper; and he bade many:¹⁷ and he sent forth his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.¹⁸ And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a field, and I must needs go out and see it; I pray thee have me excused.¹⁹ And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them; I pray thee have me excused.²⁰ And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.²¹ And the servant came, and told his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor and maimed and blind and lame.²² And the servant said, Lord, what thou didst command is done, and yet there is room.²³ And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and constrain them to come in, that my house may be filled.²⁴ For I say unto you, that none of those men that were bidden shall taste of my supper." Luke 14:15-24 (American Standard Version)

"¹Again Jesus spoke to them in parables. He said,² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.³ He sent his servants to call those who had been invited to the wedding, but they refused to come.⁴ So he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited, "Look, I've prepared my dinner. My oxen and fattened calves have been slaughtered. Everything is ready. Come to the wedding!'"⁵ But they paid no attention to this and went away, one to his farm, another to his business.⁶ The rest grabbed the king's servants, treated them brutally, and then killed them.⁷ Then the king became outraged. He sent his troops, and they destroyed those murderers and burned their city.⁸ "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.⁹ So go into the roads leading out of town and invite as many people as you can find to the wedding.'¹⁰ Those

servants went out into the streets and brought in all the people they found, evil and good alike, and the wedding hall was packed with guests. ¹¹ *"When the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.* ¹² *He said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' But the man was speechless.* ¹³ *Then the king told his servants, 'Tie his hands and feet, and throw him into the outer darkness! In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'* ¹⁴ *For many are invited, but few are chosen." Matthew 22:1-14 (International Standard Version)*

Please note those that Jesus Christ taught will be at the Marriage Supper.

- 1- A father
- 2- A groom
- 3- A bride
- 4- Servants (angels)
- 5- Wedding guests

It will not be too late for people to be saved after the Catching Up but it will be too late for them to leave with the rest of us. Instead of going to the marriage supper they will have to go through the Tribulation. Many will suffer when the wrath of God comes upon this earth and many will lose their lives. *"If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened."* Matthew 24:22 (The New International Version).

" 6 Then I heard something like the sound of a great multitude or the sound of rushing water or mighty peals of thunder, as they said: "Alleluia! The Lord has established his reign, (our) God, the almighty. 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory. For the wedding day of the Lamb has come, his bride has made herself ready. 8 She was allowed to wear a bright, clean linen garment." (The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.) 9 Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These words are true; they come from God." Revelation 19:6-9 (The New American Bible).

John relates that there will be so many saved during the Great Tribulation that he was not able to count them. *"⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.* ¹⁰ *And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the*

throne, and to the Lamb.”¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,¹² saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen!”¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”¹⁴ I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great Tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” Revelation 7:9-14 (The New International Version).

WILL THE HOLY SPIRIT LEAVE THIS EARTH AT THE CATCHING UP?

We find 2nd Thessalonians 2:4 reveals, “For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.”

This does not mean the Holy Spirit will leave the earth. The Holy Spirit has always been on this earth. ¹ “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” Genesis 1:1-2 (The New King James Version).

³ “And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.” Genesis 6:3 (The King James Version).

¹⁰ “When they were going from there to Gibeah, a band of prophets met him, and the spirit of God rushed upon him, so that he joined them in their prophetic state.” 1st Samuel 10:10 (The New American Bible).

²⁴ The Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the exiles in Babylonia in the vision given by the Spirit of God. Then the vision I had seen went up from me,... Ezekiel 11:24 (The New International Version).

³¹ He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. ³² And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. ³³ He that hath received his

testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. ³⁴ *For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him."* John 3:31-34 (The King James Version).

If the Holy Spirit leaves this earth at the Catching Up (the Rapture), who will convict mankind of sin and how will the Father draw that great multitude who will wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb?

⁴³ *Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."* John 6:43-44 (The King James Version).

⁹ *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.* ¹⁰ *And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."* ¹¹ *All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,* ¹² *saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen!"* ¹³ *Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"* ¹⁴ *I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great Tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."* ¹⁵ *Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.* ¹⁶ *'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat.* ¹⁷ *For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"* Revelation 7:9-17 (The New International Version).

If the Holy Spirit remains on this earth after the Catching Up (the Rapture), what is taken away? We will answer that question later in our paper "The Indwelling And The Sevenfold Power Of The Holy Spirit" which is part of this series explaining future things.

¹³ *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.* ¹⁴ *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose*

again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (The New King James Version).

A TIME OF LOSS, AFFLICTION AND TROUBLE

The last days before the Catching Up will become a time of loss, affliction and trouble for most of the people living on this earth. In the paper "Decline Of The United States" posted on this web site, we detail how the Lord will bring this about. The procedure is listed in the third chapter of the book of Isaiah. When the third chapter of the book of Isaiah kicks into high gear, the unrighteous will find those in government will be enacting laws, rules and executive orders which restrict or deny their rights. Eventually they will see their wealth transferred to the government through taxes and/or inflation or will be transferred to others who are manipulating the economy. Even when they go to court because someone cheated them or stole their possessions or stole their wealth, they will get little or no justice from the judges who sit on the bench. One calamity will follow another as the Lord takes away the things listed in the third chapter of Isaiah and the people will not be able to understand why everything is falling apart. They will not discern that what is happening to them is recompense for their own actions.

"¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; ¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of

hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.' ¹⁶ "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; ¹⁷ for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it." Matthew 13:10-17 (The New King James Version).

I implore you to seek the knowledge of the kingdoms of God now while you can still see and you can still hear and you can still understand because if you do not, the time will come when even the little knowledge that you have about the kingdoms of God will be taken away from you (please see Matthew 13:10-17 quoted above).

⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:7-9 (The King James Version).