

## The First Half Of The Tribulation

Our intent is to list, briefly, the events that usher the people of this world from the event we refer to as the catching up until the time we all go into eternity. Please remember that everyone will go into eternity as either rewarded children of God or as punished rebels who refuse to throw themselves at the feet of the Living God and to ask for salvation from eternal punishment.

We shared in the article entitled "The Catching Up Will Take Place Before The Tribulation", that after the end of the Church Age (Revelation 3:14-22), the saved members of Christ's local, scriptural churches are never mentioned again because they have been caught up. They have returned with Christ to the throne room of the Living God (the Third Heaven). Of course, there will still be religious assemblies left here on the earth after the catching up who will continue to call themselves a church just like religious assemblies refer to themselves as a church today.

*"<sup>21</sup> 'Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.'<sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?'<sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers'" Matthew 7:21-23 (The New International Version).*

*"<sup>13</sup> For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.<sup>14</sup> And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.<sup>15</sup> Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (The King James Version).*

There will also be people who will be left behind who thought they were saved because they thought that salvation lay in "joining" a church or in being "baptized". Perhaps they were "baptized" as an infant or perhaps they had gone down the aisle and told the church that they

wanted to be baptized. I personally know it can happen. When I was nine years old I attended a revival with my grandparents. Most of the boys in our church had joined our church and had been baptized when they were about nine years old. I thought that was what I was supposed to do when I was nine so I told my grandparents I was going to "join the church" that night. When the invitation was given I walked down the aisle and told the pastor I wanted to "join the church". The pastor never explained the Lord's glorious plan of salvation to me. He never asked me if I had asked Jesus Christ to pay my sin debt by His sacrifice on Calvary. He simply told the church that I had come forward on a profession of faith. The church members voted to accept me as a candidate for baptism and after baptism as a member of that church. Not one member ever explained the Lord's glorious plan of salvation to me. I went down into that baptismal pool a lost dry sinner under the sentence of condemnation and came back up a lost wet sinner under the sentence of condemnation. I did not accept Jesus Christ as my personal Savior until two years later. If I would have died during those two years, I would have ended up paying for my sin debt thorough eternity in the Lake of Fire.

*"<sup>16</sup> God loved the people of this world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who has faith in Him will have eternal life and never really die.  
<sup>17</sup> God did not send His Son into the world to condemn its people. He sent Him to save them!  
<sup>18</sup> No one who has faith in God's Son will be condemned. But everyone who doesn't have faith in Him has already been condemned for not having faith in God's only Son" John 3:16-18 (Contemporary English Version).*

So there will still be religious assemblies left here on the earth after the catching up who will continue to call themselves a church just like many religious assemblies refer to themselves as a church today. But every saved member of every scriptural church will have left with the rest of the Family of God and there is no one left here on this earth with scriptural authority to baptize anyone. Without scriptural baptism a scriptural, New Testament church cannot be organized.

*"<sup>1</sup> When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,<sup>2</sup> (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) <sup>3</sup> He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee." John 4:1-3 (The King James Version)*

*"<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven **disciples** went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. <sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" Matthew 28:16-20 (The King James Version).*

It does not matter how hard you beat a dead horse, it is impossible to get it to conceive and 11 months later give birth to a live foal. Dead is dead. Therefore, we see that the Church Age (which we are in right now) will end when God the Father sends His Son to retrieve the Bride of Christ as well as the rest of the Family of God.

Jesus Christ will bring us to the Throne Room in the Third Heaven where we will all be presented at the same time. *"<sup>14</sup> Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you." 2 Corinthians 4:14 (King James Version)*

In the book of Revelation, John sees a sealed book opened after he is taken to the Third Heaven at the beginning of chapter 4. The opening of that sealed book at the beginning of chapter 6 in the book of Revelation begins the seven years of tribulation on this present earth.

*"<sup>1</sup> And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. <sup>2</sup> And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. <sup>3</sup> And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. <sup>4</sup> And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. <sup>5</sup> And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. <sup>6</sup> And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine. <sup>7</sup> And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. <sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was*

*Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.* <sup>9</sup> *And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:* <sup>10</sup> *And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?* <sup>11</sup> *And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.* <sup>12</sup> *And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;* <sup>13</sup> *And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.* <sup>14</sup> *And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.* <sup>15</sup> *And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;* <sup>16</sup> *And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:* <sup>17</sup> *For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:1-17 (King James Version)*

The opening of the first seal of the sealed book will allow the Anti-Christ to be projected upon the scene. One of the first things the Anti-Christ will do is make a covenant with Israel. Why? Because the citizens of the nation of Israel know prophesies in the Old Testament such as Jeremiah 31:27-40 (printed below) say that the Messiah will make a covenant with Israel. Therefore, they are expecting their Messiah to do just that. If he did not, they would not accept him as their Messiah.

<sup>27</sup> *"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will plant the kingdoms of Israel and Judah with the offspring of people and of animals.* <sup>28</sup> *Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant," declares the LORD.* <sup>29</sup> *"In those days people will no longer say, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.'* <sup>30</sup> *Instead, everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—their own teeth will be set on edge.* <sup>31</sup> *"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when **I will make a new covenant with the people of***

**Israel and with the people of Judah.** <sup>32</sup> *It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though **I was a husband to them.*** declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup> *“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.* <sup>34</sup> *No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”* <sup>35</sup> *This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD Almighty is his name:* <sup>36</sup> *“Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,” declares the LORD, “will Israel ever cease being a nation before me.”* <sup>37</sup> *This is what the LORD says: “Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done,” declares the LORD.* <sup>38</sup> *“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when this city will be rebuilt for me from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. <sup>39</sup> The measuring line will stretch from there straight to the hill of Gareb and then turn to Goah. <sup>40</sup> The whole valley where dead bodies and ashes are thrown, and all the terraces out to the Kidron Valley on the east as far as the corner of the Horse Gate, will be holy to the LORD. The city will never again be uprooted or demolished.”* Jeremiah 31:27-40 (The New International Version).

Again, the nation of Israel expect their Messiah to make a covenant with them because they know about prophecies in the Old Testament such Jeremiah 31:27-40. What Israel does not recognize today is that the Lord would have made a new covenant with the nation of Israel and He would have restored them as His priests again if they would have accepted Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the promised Messiah. BUT THEY REFUSED! " <sup>11</sup> *He came unto his own, and they that were his own received him not.* <sup>12</sup> *But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on his name:* <sup>13</sup> *who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.* <sup>14</sup> *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth. John 1:11-14 (American Standard Version)*

In order to fully understand the seriousness of the Jews, as a nation, refusing to accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the promised Messiah, we should look at Mark 4:10-12, "<sup>10</sup> *And when he was alone, those present along with the Twelve questioned him about the parables.* <sup>11</sup> *He answered them, "The mystery of the kingdom of God has been granted to you. But to those outside everything comes in parables,* <sup>12</sup> *so that 'they may look and see but not perceive, and hear and listen but not understand, in order that they may not be converted and be forgiven.'* " *Mark 4:10-12 (The New American Bible)*

Was Christ saying that it was not possible for an individual Israelite to be converted and that it was impossible for their sins to be forgiven? NO! Although we covered this in more detail in the paper on this website entitled "Decline Of The United States", we will answer the question briefly in this paper also. During the ministry of the prophet Isaiah, the Living God had reached the place where He could not put up with the sinfulness and the unfaithfulness of the citizens of the nation of Israel. He had declared that He would remove the power of the sevenfold Spirit of God from the citizens of the nation of Israel. (If you have not read the paper on this website titled "THE POWER OF THE SEVENFOLD SPIRIT OF GOD", it would be helpful for you to take time to do so right now).

One of the empowering gifts of the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Understanding (Isaiah 11:1-2). The Spirit of Understanding gives us the ability to understand God's Word, God's will and God's way. We know that the citizens of the nation of Israel lost this gift because of what is recorded in Isaiah 6:9-12, "<sup>9</sup> *And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.* <sup>10</sup> *Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.* <sup>11</sup> *Then said I, Lord, how long?* *And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,* <sup>12</sup> *And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.* <sup>13</sup> *But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof."* *Isaiah 6:9-13 (KJV)*

As we shared earlier, the nation of Israel could have been forgiven (of this national sin of leaving the service of the Living God) if they would have accepted Jesus Christ as the Son of

God, the promised Messiah. But they *"received Him not"*. Consequently, they will not be forgiven of this national sin and they will not be restored (as a nation) until they come back to the Living God during the Great Tribulation. That is the reason Jesus Christ had to speak to them in parables. We find that Jesus said to **His** disciples," <sup>13</sup> *Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.* <sup>14</sup> *And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:* <sup>15</sup> *For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.* <sup>16</sup> *But blessed are **your** eyes, for they see: and **your** ears, for they hear.* <sup>17</sup> *For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which **ye** see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which **ye** hear, and have not heard them. Matthew 13:13-17 (The King James Version)*

Yes, the Living God will, indeed, made a new covenant with the nation of Israel but it will not be made until the nation of Israel comes back to Him during the Great Tribulation. In the meantime, most of the citizens of the nation of Israel are operating without the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit (called "the glory of the Lord" in Ezekiel chapters 8, 9, 10 and 11). Because they can no longer accurately understand God's word, God's will and God's way, they are still looking for the Messiah and when the Anti-Christ is projected upon the scene, they will readily accept him. They will put their money and political influence behind him and he will quickly catapult into a position of worldwide power.

Arthur Pink, in his book "The Antichrist" was concise in his summation of the career of the Anti-Christ except for his references to the Holy Spirit leaving the earth after the catching up. Apparently Arthur Pink did not understand the difference between the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the seven-fold power of the Holy Spirit that was given to Christ's local, scriptural churches on the day of Pentecost. If you would like to know more about the difference you may read the paper "07-Future Things-The Indwelling And The Sevenfold Power Of The Holy Spirit" on this website.

I have inserted my comments (enclosed in parentheses and printed in italics) at the junctures where Arthur Pink refers to the Holy Spirit leaving the earth after the catching up of

the saved. I quote a portion of his observations in the indented paragraphs below for those who may not be able to obtain his book. As you read Arthur Pink's comments about why he believed the "Little Horn" of Daniel (chapters 7 & 8) will spring from Syria, please bear in mind that at the time Daniel wrote the book of Daniel, Syria covered a much larger region including Asia Minor, Iran, and Iraq as well as the area presently comprising Syria today.

"We now come to the most interesting and yet the most difficult part of our subject. When will the Antichrist be manifested? where will he appear? what will he do? These are questions which readily occur to all who have given any thought to the matter. It is not our purpose to seek to satisfy the idly curious, still less is it to gratify those who love the sensational. We are well aware that our present theme is one that appeals strongly to the curiously inclined, and were it not for the importance of our inquiry we would leave it alone. But without due regard to the person and place of the coming Superman, it is impossible to understand the eschatology of either the Old or New Testaments.

The chief difficulty is to arrange in chronological sequence the many passages which treat of the Antichrist. It is by no means easy to discover the precise order in which the prophecies which deal with the Man of Sin will receive their fulfillment. There is great need for much prayerful study along this line. We can only write according to the light we now have, and our readers must examine for themselves what we say in the light of the Scriptures. It ill becomes any one to be dogmatic where the Word itself does not plainly state the exact time when certain prophecies are to be fulfilled.

In this chapter we are placed somewhat at a disadvantage, because we shall be obliged to give brief expositions of many scriptures where it will be impossible for us to pause and furnish proofs or reasons for each interpretation. For example, it is our firm conviction that the Assyrian of Isaiah 10, the king of Babylon of Isaiah 14, the Little Horn of



Daniel 7, the Little Horn of Daniel 8, and the first Beast of Revelation 13, each and all view the Antichrist himself in different relationships. There are some Bible students who may take issue with us on these points, and complain because that in this chapter we make assertions without endeavoring to prove them. We regret this, but would ask all to bear with us patiently. In the later chapters of this book we shall devote separate studies to the Antichrist in the Psalms, in the Prophets, in the Gospels and Epistles, and in the Apocalypse; when we shall endeavor to examine each passage separately and attempt to give scriptural proofs for every interpretation adopted.

While it is admittedly difficult, and perhaps impossible, to fit each prophecy concerning the Antichrist into its proper chronological place, we are able to determine the relative position of most of them. The career of the Antichrist is divided into two distinct parts, and there is a clearly defined dividing line between them. In previous chapters we have pointed out how that the name "Antichrist" has a double meaning, signifying one who imitates Christ, and one who is opposed to Christ. This double meaning to his name corresponds exactly with the two chief parts in his career. **In the first**, he poses as the true Christ, claiming to be indeed the Messiah of Israel. This claim will be backed up with the most imposing credentials, and all excepting God's elect will be deceived. He will sit in the Temple (a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem) showing himself forth to be God, and Divine honors will be paid him. But at a later stage he will throw off his mask, and appear in his true character as the opponent of Christ and the defier of God. Then, instead of befriending the Jews, he will turn against them and seek to exterminate them from the earth. Thus, with many of the scriptures which describe the person and career of the Antichrist it is a comparatively easy matter to decide whether they belong to the first or to the second stage of his history.

We shall now consider, first the time of Antichrist's appearing. It is hardly necessary for us to enter into a lengthy argument to show that the Antichrist (as such) has not already appeared. Many antichrists have already come and gone, and some are in the world even now; the same is equally true of the many false prophets foretold in Scripture; but all of these are but the forecasts and foreshadowing of the Antichrist and the False Prophet, who are yet to be revealed, and who will receive their final overthrow by the Lord Jesus at His return to the earth.

Before the Antichrist can appear, the Holy Spirit must be "taken out of the way" -2 Thess. 2:7- (*What Arthur Pink should have written was, the seven-fold power of the Holy Spirit that now resides with Christ's local, scriptural churches must "be taken out of the way" - Robert Tinner*); the old Roman Empire must be revived and assume its final form—divided under ten kings—before the "Little Horn" comes into prominence (Dan. 7:24—he rises "after them"): Israel must be restored to their land and the Temple be rebuilt, etc., etc.

At the present time the ultimate development of "the Mystery of Iniquity" is being hindered. God's people are the salt of the earth, and their presence here stays the corruption of the "carcass" (Matthew 24:28—The "Carcass" is the antithesis of the "Body" of Christ). The saints are the light of the world, and while they remain it is impossible for darkness to cover the earth and gross darkness the people (Isa. 60:2). The Spirit of God is here, indwelling believers, and His holy presence checks the final outworking of Satan's plans. But when all believers of this dispensation have been "*caught up to meet the Lord in the air*" (1 Thess. 4:16), and the Holy Spirit has departed from the earth (*What Arthur Pink should have written was, when all believers of this dispensation have been "caught up to meet the Lord in the air" and the seven-fold power of the Holy Spirit that is dwelling with Christ's local, scriptural churches has departed from the earth - Robert*

*Tanner*) all restraint will be removed, and Satan will be allowed to bring forth his false Christ, who will be "revealed in his time" (2 Thess. 2:6). It would seem that even now signs are not wanting to show that God has already given permission to Satan to prepare the stage of action for the ghastly consummation of his evil efforts. There can be no doubt but that the Devil has desired to reveal the Son of Perdition long before this, so that by means of him he may reduce the whole world to submission. But the restraining hand of God, now so soon to be removed, has held him back.

The time, then, when the Antichrist will be revealed is (1) after this present Dispensation of Grace has run its course (*Since all people are saved by grace (the undeserved favor of God), the Dispensation of Grace will continue until the last person is saved at the end of the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ. We are now in the Church Age and it will run its course at the catching up (the Rapture). What Arthur Pink should have written was, after this present Church Age has run its course - Robert Tanner*); (2) after the Mystical Body of Christ has been completed; (3) after the whole company of God's people have been caught up to meet the Lord in the air; (and) (4) after the Holy Spirit has departed from the world (*What Arthur Pink should have written was, after the seven-fold power of the Holy Spirit that now resides with Christ's local, scriptural churches has departed from the world - Robert Tanner*). How soon after, we cannot say for certain. The majority of prophetic students seems to think that the last great Caesar will come into prominence almost immediately after the rapture of the saints. Personally, we believe there will be an interval, long or short, between the two. As there was a period of thirty years after the birth of the Lord Jesus—a period of silence—before His public ministry commenced, so there may be a similar interval between the Rapture and the revelation of Antichrist.

The Antichrist will enter the arena of public affairs before the beginning of Daniel's seventieth week, for at the beginning of it he makes a seven-years covenant with the Jews, then in their land. But at that point he will be the Dictator of the world's policies, and as he begins in comparative obscurity (at least from a governmental standpoint), some time—probably years—must be allowed for his gradual rise to political supremacy. His meteoric course will not be terminated until the Lord Himself descends to earth to usher in the Millennium. Just as the reign of Saul preceded that of David, so shall that of Antichrist antedate that of the true Christ.

We turn now to consider the place of Antichrist's appearing. So far as the writer is aware there are only two scriptures which give direct information upon this point, and they are each found in the prophecy of Daniel. We refer to the passages which speak of *"the Little Horn"*. In Daniel 7:7-8 we read, *"After this I saw in the night visions, and, behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and break in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn."* This fourth Beast is the last world-empire, prior to the setting up of the Messianic kingdom. This empire will, at first, be ruled over by ten kings—the *"ten horns"* of Daniel 7:7 and defined as ten kings in Daniel 7:24. After them arises another, the *"Little Horn,"* which signifies another "king", see Daniel 7:24. He is termed "little" because at that stage his kingdom is but small compared with that of the others, and the power he then wields is insignificant when contrasted from the ten kings. But not for long will he remain weak and insignificant. Soon the ten kings will themselves own allegiance to this eleventh—see Revelation 17:12, 13. We reserve for a later chapter the proofs that this *"Little Horn"*

is the Antichrist, asking our readers to study carefully the description furnished of him in Daniel 7:8, 20-27; 8:9-12, 23-25.

Taking it for granted (at the moment) that the Little Horn of Daniel 7 is the Antichrist let us see how what is there said of him helps us to determine the quarter from which he will arise. In Daniel 7:7 the "fourth Beast" is described, and in Daniel 7:23 we are told, *"the fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces."* This Kingdom will be divided into ten parts, over which will be the ten kings (Dan. 7:24). This kingdom will be, we believe, the old Roman Empire revived in its final form, and divided into two great halves—the Eastern and the Western. This fourth kingdom will include within itself all the territory and will perpetuate all the dominant characteristics of the other three which have preceded it, i.e. the Babylonian, the Medo-Persian, and Grecian. Turning now to Daniel 7:8 we are told, *"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn."* The Antichrist, then, will have his rise within the limits of the old Roman Empire. This narrows considerably our circle of inquiry. The next question is, Can we determine from which part of the empire he will arise—the Eastern or the Western? Daniel 8 furnishes light upon this point.

In Daniel 8:8,9 we read, *"Therefore the he-goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land."* Now Daniel 8:21 of this same chapter tells us, *"The rough goat is the king (kingdom) of Grecia,"* and Daniel 8:22 informs us *"and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms (or kings) shall stand up out of the nation."* This, of

course, refers to the act of Alexander the Great who divided his kingdom into four parts—Greece, Egypt, Syria, and the rest of the domains of Turkey—under his four great generals: Ptolemy, Cassander, Lysimachus, and Seleucus. This, again, very appreciably narrows our circle of inquiry. Daniel 7 tells us the Little Horn is to arise in a part of the territory covered by the old Roman Empire, which Empire gradually included within its domains that of the preceding empires. Now here in Daniel 8 we learn that the Little Horn will spring from that part of the revived Roman Empire which was included in the Grecian Empire. But this is not all that Daniel 8 tells us. The Grecian Empire is here viewed as disintegrated into four parts or kingdoms, from which of these parts, then, may we expect him to issue—Macedonia, Egypt, Syria, or Thrace? This question, we believe, receives answer in Daniel 8; where we are told, that the Little Horn "waxed exceeding great toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land." Practically all students are agreed that "the south" here refers to Egypt, the "east" to Persia and Greece and "the pleasant land" to Palestine, hence it would seem that the country from which Antichrist will first be manifested is Syria. It will be noted that nothing is said in Daniel 8:9 about the Little Horn "waxing great" toward the north, and we believe the reason for this is because that is the quarter from whence he shall arise. This is confirmed by the fact that "the king of Assyria" in Isaiah 10:12 is clearly none other than the Antichrist. We may say this was the current view of Christian writers on prophecy through the first ten centuries A.D. The late Mr. W. B. Newton in his splendid "Aids to the Study of Prophetic Inquiry" has succinctly summarized the various arguments of the ancients in the following language:

"In the first place, as Nimrod—the founder of Babel, that is, the Tower of Babylon—a savage tyrant and cruel oppressor of men, was the first person who declared open war against God; so it is meet that there should arise from

the selfsame Babylon, the last and most atrocious persecutor of the saints—the Antichrist. Moreover, seeing that Nebuchadnezzar and Antiochus Epiphanes—two monsters who bore down upon the people of God with an overwhelming power of destruction, and who were the antichrists of the old Testament and remarkable types of the Antichrist which is to come; seeing, I say, that these monarchs reigned in Babylon, it is fitting that the true Antichrist of the New Testament should arise from the same Babylon.

Besides, no place can be pointed out more meet for the nativity of Antichrist than Babylon, for it is the City of the Devil—always diametrically opposed to Jerusalem, which is deemed the City of God; the former city, that is, Babylon, being the mother and disseminator of every kind of confusion, idolatry, impiety—a vast sink of every foul pollution, crime, and iniquity—the first city in the world which cut itself off from the worship of the true God—which reared the city of universal vice,—which perpetually (according to the record of Holy Writ) carries on the mystery of iniquity, and bears imprinted on her brow the inscription of blasphemy against the name of God. The consummation, therefore, of impiety, which is to have its recapitulation in Antichrist, could not break forth from a more fitting place than Babylon."

Having dwelt at some length on the time and the place of the Antichrist's appearing, we shall attempt to give now a brief outline of the leading events in his career. We have seen that the scriptures which help us to determine the direction from which he will arise, speak of him under the title of the Little Horn. Now the first thing this title denotes is that he is

a king, king of Assyria. Some, no doubt, will wonder how a Jew will succeed in obtaining the throne of Syria. Several answers might be suggested, such, for example, as heading a successful rebellion—the spectacle of an obscure plebeian speedily rising to the rank of national Dictator, has been forcibly exhibited before our own eyes in Russia. But on this point we are not left to speculation. Daniel 11:21 tells us that the "Vile Person" will come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. With this agrees Revelation 6:2, where the Antichrist is seen riding a white war-horse, and with bow in hand, but with no arrow fitted to it. The symbol suggests bloodless victories.

As soon as this Jew acquires the crown of Syria he will speedily enlarge his dominions. As Revelation 6:2 tells us, he will go forth *"conquering and to conquer,"* and as we are told further in Habakkuk 2:5, *"He is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlarged his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people."* The first thing which is predicted of him (as "the Little Horn") is that *"he shall subdue three kings"* (Dan. 7:24). As to what kings these may be, appears to be intimated in Daniel 8:9 where we are told, *"And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land."* He waxes great first toward the south, that is, most probably, by a victorious expedition into Egypt. Next, he is seen moving toward the east, reducing, to what extent we are not told, the dominions of Persia and Greece; finally he turns his face toward the pleasant land, which is Palestine. Without being dogmatic, we would suggest that the three kings he subdues are those of Egypt, Persia, and Greece.

Having subdued the three kings by his military prowess a "league" is made with him (see Daniel 11:23). Probably it is the remaining seven kings of the revived Roman Empire, plus the three vassals of the Antichrist



who take the place of the kings he had deposed, that enter into this League with the Little horn, or king of Assyria; but he shall work deceitfully, and shall become strong with a small people (Dan. 11:23). So strong does he become that in a short time he rises to political supremacy, and the whole of the ten kings shall *"give their kingdom unto the Beast."* (Rev. 17:17), and he will then be recognized as the imperial Emperor. Thus as King of kings he will dictate the policies of Europe and Asia.

"The Little Horn" will revive in himself all the personified glory of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. And let not this be regarded as an event incredible. We are to remember that Antichrist will be Satan's masterpiece; furnished with every auxiliary of influence and wealth, for wresting the scepter from the hands of Him who won it by His humiliation of the Cross. Thus it is said he will *'resist the God of gods'*. The accumulated and restored honors of each royal successor are thus to crown the brow of this last and greatest of Gentile monarchs. And so shall he stand in his unrivalled magnificence till the Stone shall smite him and his power, and grind all to powder" (Mrs. G. Needham).

After the Antichrist has acquired the political sovereignty of the prophetic earth he will then enter upon his religious role, claiming to be the Christ of God and demanding Divine honors. At first sight it appears strange, if not incongruous, that a military despot should be found filling the character of a religious impostor. But history shows that there is a point at which one character readily merges into the other. Political ambition, intoxicated by success, finds it an easy step from self-glorification to self-deification, and the popular infatuation as easily passes from the abject adulation of the tyrant to the adoration of the god. Or again; a religious impostor, encouraged by the ascendancy he has acquired over the minds of men, grasps the scepter of secular power and

becomes the most arbitrary of despots. Revelation 13:4 makes it plain that the military prowess of the Antichrist first induces men to render him Divine homage: *"And they worshipped the Dragon which gave power unto the Beast: and they worshipped the Beast, saying, Who is like unto the Beast? who is able to make war with him?"* But no ordinary honors will suffice him. His religious ambitions are as insatiable as his political, for he will *"oppose and exalt himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God"* (2 Thess. 2:4). This claim to be God Himself, incarnate, will be backed up by imposing credentials, for his coming will be, *"after the working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders"* (2 Thess. 2:9). These miracles will be no mere pretenses, but prodigies of power.

The Jews, previously returned to Palestine, and with temple in Jerusalem rebuilt, will receive this Son of Perdition as their long-promised "Messiah" (John 5:43). In imitation of the true Christ who will, at His return to the earth, *"make a new covenant with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah"* (Heb. 8:8, compare Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 36), the Antichrist will make a covenant with the Jews (see Daniel 9:27 and 11:22). Under a seven years' treaty, and in the guise of friendship, he will gain ascendancy in Jerusalem, only later to throw off the mask and break the covenant.

About seven months after the Antichrist, the "Prince" (i.e. of the Roman Empire) of Daniel 9:27, has made the Covenant with the Jews he will begin to "practice" in Jerusalem (Dan. 8:24). This we believe is the explanation of the two thousand three hundred days of Daniel 8:14 which has puzzled so many of the commentators. This two thousand three hundred days is the whole period during which the false messiah will practice in Jerusalem and have power over the "sanctuary:" two thousand three hundred days is seven years less seven months and ten days.

There, in Jerusalem, he will pose as the Christ of God, the Prince of Peace. The world will suppose that the long looked for Millennium has arrived. There will be every indication that the eagerly desired Golden Age has, at last, dawned. The great Powers of Europe and Asia will have been united under the ten-kingdomed Empire. It will be expected that the League of Nations guarantees the peace of the earth. For a season quietness and amity will prevail. None will dare to oppose the mighty Emperor. But not for long will the hideous war-spectre hide himself. Soon will the "white horse" of Revelation 6 be found to change his hue. A "red horse" will go forth, and then "peace shall be taken from the earth" (Rev. 6). At the very time the world is congratulating itself that all is well, and the slogan of the hour is "Peace and Safety," then *"sudden destruction cometh upon them" (1 Thess. 5:3)*.

In the midst of the seven years the Antichrist will throw off his mask, break his covenant with Israel, and stand forth as the most daring idolater who has ever trodden this earth. After he has "practiced" in Jerusalem for two years and five months, he will take away the daily sacrifice (Dan. 8:11; 9:27) from the Temple, and in its place rear an image to himself in the holy place, which is the "abomination of desolation" referred to by Christ (see Matthew 24:15).

This brings us to the great dividing line in his career, to which reference was made near the beginning of this chapter. It is a point not only of interest but of considerable importance to ascertain what it is that causes this startling change of front, from posing as the true Christ to that of the open deifier of God. There are several scriptures which throw light on this point. Satan will cause the Man of Sin to crown his daring imitation of the Christ of God by being slain and rising again from the dead.

Both the Old and the New Testaments refer to the death of the Antichrist, and attribute it to the sword. In Revelation 13:14 we read that

the false Prophet shall say to them that dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the Beast, which had the wound by the sword and did live. In harmony with this we read in Zechariah 11:17, "*Woe to the Idol Shepherd that leaveth the flock! The sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye.*" It is to be noted that before we read that "*the sword shall be*" upon him, we are told that he "*leaveth the flock,*" and the previous verse tells us that he was raised up "*in the land,*" which can only mean that he was ruling in Palestine. Hence it is clear that he leaves the Land before he receives his death wound by the sword. In perfect accord with this is what we read in Isaiah 37:6-7 (in a later chapter we shall treat at length of the future Babylon, restored; the connection of Antichrist with it, and the typical and prophetic significance of Isaiah 37 and 38); "*Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumor, and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.*"

Leaving Palestine, the Antichrist will "*return to his own land,*" that is, the land of his nativity—Assyria—which confirms what we have said previously about Assyria being the country where Antichrist will first be manifested. There, in his own land, he will fall by the sword. Most probably he will be slain there by his political enemies, envious of his power and chafing under his haughty autocracy. In death he will be hated and dishonored, and burial will be refused him. It is to this that Isaiah 14 (speaking of the King of Babylon, see v.4) refers: "*But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit. As a carcass trodden under feet, thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people*" (vv. 19,20). But his enemies will suddenly be filled with consternation and then admiration for to their amazement this one slain by the sword shall rise from the dead, and his deadly wound will be healed—note how this is

implied in Isaiah 14, for v. 25 shows him once more in the land of the living, only to meet his final doom at the hands of the Lord Himself. It is to this amazing resurrection of the Antichrist that Revelation 13:3-4 refers: *"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the Beast. And they worshipped the Dragon which gave power unto the Beast: saying, Who is like unto the Beast? who is able to make war with him?"* Details of his resurrection are supplied in Revelation 9, from which we gather that just as Christ was raised from the dead by God the Father, so the Antichrist will be raised from the dead by his father the Devil, see v. 1 where the fallen *"Star,"* which refers to Satan, is given the *"key to the bottomless pit,"* and when this happens there comes out of it the mysterious *"locusts"* whose king is the Destroyer (v. 11), the Antichrist.

A further reference to the resurrection of the Antichrist, his coming forth from the Bottomless Pit, is found in Revelation 17:8: *"The Beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the Bottomless Pit, and go into Perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the Beast that was, and is not, and yet is."* It is to be noted that the earth-dwellers wonder when they behold the Beast that was (alive), and is not (now alive), and yet is (raised again). The world will then be presented with the spectacle of a man raised from the dead. All know him, for his career and amazing progress were eagerly watched; his wonderful achievements and military campaigns were the subject of daily interest; his transcendent genius elicited their admiration. They had witnessed his death. They stood awe-struck, no doubt, at the downfall of this King of kings. And now he is made alive; his wound of death is healed; and the whole world wonders, and worships him.

It is about this time, apparently, that the "False Prophet" (Rev. 13:11-16), the third person in the Trinity of Evil will appear on the scene.

From a number of scriptures it is evident that the Antichrist will not spend all his time in Palestine during the last three and a half years of his career. It seems that shortly after the middle of the "week" the Beast will turn his face again toward Babylon, leaving the False Prophet to act as his vicegerent, compelling all in Jerusalem to worship the image of the Beast under pain of death (Rev. 13:15). It is to be noted that Habakkuk 2:5 tells us that the Antichrist is *"a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlarged his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people."*

The reason for the Antichrist's return to Babylon is not far to seek. Having thrown off his mask of religious pretension, he now stands forth as the Defier of God. His first move now will be to blot out from the earth everything that bears His name. To accomplish this the Jewish race must be utterly exterminated, and to this end he will put forth all his power to banish Israel from the earth. He will make war with the saints (the Jewish saints) and prevail against them (Dan. 7:21; 8:24): this is the going forth of the "red horse" of Revelation 6:4.

Those of the godly remnant who are left will *"flee to the mountains"* (Matthew 24:16), and there they will be hunted like partridges. It is then they will cry, *"Keep not Thou silence, O God: hold not Thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, Thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate Thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against Thy people, and consulted against Thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance"* (Ps. 83:1-4). Then, because many of the Jews will be found in that day dwelling in Babylon (see Jeremiah 50:8; 51:6, 45; Revelation 18:4) the Antichrist will go thither to wreak his vengeance upon them. But not for long will he be suffered to continue his blasphemous and bloody course. Soon will heaven respond to the cries of the faithful remnant of Israel, and terrible shall be the punishment meted out on their

last enemy. This, however, must be left for consideration in our next chapter, when we shall treat of the last days and doom of the Antichrist

There is one other thing I need to call your attention to before we end this paper. The fulfillment of Isaiah 13 (printed below) will do at least three things. First it has and will continue to cause unrest and fear in the world because the land of the Medes is Muslim controlled Iran today. I believe the second reason for the fulfillment of Isaiah 13 is the anti-Christ will be so busy quelling the revolt of the Muslims that he will not have time to exterminate many of those who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, both Jews and non-Jews. We will speak of this further in the paper describing the last half of the Great Tribulation. Third, the revolution of the army of the Muslims against the army of the Anti-Christ will lead to the first battle of Armageddon.

Again, we will discuss this further in the paper entitled "Future Things-The First Battle Of Armageddon".

*"<sup>1</sup> The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see. <sup>2</sup> Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles. <sup>3</sup> I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness. <sup>4</sup> The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the LORD of hosts mustereth the host of the battle. <sup>5</sup> They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land. <sup>6</sup> Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. <sup>7</sup> Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: <sup>8</sup> And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. <sup>9</sup> Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. <sup>10</sup> For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. <sup>11</sup> And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. <sup>12</sup> I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. <sup>13</sup> Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her*

*place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger. <sup>14</sup> And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land. <sup>15</sup> Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined unto them shall fall by **the sword**. <sup>16</sup> Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished. <sup>17</sup> Behold, **I will stir up the Medes against them**, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. <sup>18</sup> Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children" Isaiah 13:1-18 (The King James Version).*

Please note, again, that the land of the Medes mentioned above, the land who will kill men, women and children with a sword, is the nation of Iran today. What is their major religion? Have you ever heard of the people of that religion killing people with a sword?