

FUTURE THINGS ©
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Introduction

Revelation 1

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.

When we go to God in prayer, ask Him to forgive our sins and ask that the payment of His Son's sacrifice on Calvary pay the sin debt we owe, we begin a new journey that will end upon a New Earth (Revelation 21:1).

"The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about." Luke 18:34

You are responsible for your spiritual growth.

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.

"1 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly-mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready." 1st Corinthians 3:1-2

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.

Dear reader, I pray that this paper 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 paper, you ask our Lord to bless you with the Spirit of Understanding (Please see "The

Sevenfold Spirit of God” under “Gleanings”) so that you may understand God's word, God's will and God's way.

This paper is a work in progress and it is our intend to continue to expand it until we have explained, according to the scriptures, the main events that 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 that you may receive regular updates as this paper progresses. Eleven inch by seventeen inch layouts are available with icons that represent the events that the Bible tells us will transpire in the Last Days. They will make it much easier to follow this study. Please e-mail us at roberttanner@bayourouge.net and request your free layout as well as list any questions that you might have.

Revelation 22

10 Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.

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Revelation 22

6 The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place." 7 "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

Revelation 22

12"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. 14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may

have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

We have the privilege to be living in a marvelous time. 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 will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, 10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie 12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."
2nd Thessalonians

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. Romans 3:23; Isaiah 64:6; James 2:10; Romans 6:23; Romans 10:8-13; Romans 8:1-39

The scripture printed above (2nd Thessalonians 2:9-12) says that in the last days God will allow those who He knows will never accept His Son as their Savior to be deluded (Revelation 13:7-8). Because of the strong delusion, they will believe any and every lie of Satan and his demons. When the Anti-Christ is projected upon the scene, many of those men and women will lend their support to help catapult him to international prominence very quickly. Satan is methodically and successfully placing people in every media, every school (even some of our "Christian" schools), and every government. If he can, he even places them within churches. This does not mean that they are all lost. Some of these people could indeed be lost and possessed. Some, however, could be saved and could be controlled by their sin nature and by Satan and his demons (Romans 6:12-13).

I know we do not like to consider that leaders within our churches and within our associations and conventions could, at times, embrace and proffer error. Even Jesus could not prevent the leaders of the church in Jerusalem from doing this.

"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

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 some of our churches and schools have begun to depart from the faith once delivered 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. 4For 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

2nd Timothy 3

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.

1 Timothy 4

1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

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 worldwide trading center. It will be destroyed in one day near the end of the tribulation. We know that Saddam was rebuilding the city for over twelve years before we removed him from power in Iraq. If the stock market is ever moved from Baghdad to Babylon, the things listed below would be traded in the city or through the religion that was initiated in that city.

Revelation 18

1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. 2 With 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. 3 For 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." 4 Then 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; 5 for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. 6 Give 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. 7 Give 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.' 8 Therefore 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. 10 Terrified 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-12 cargoes 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; 13 cargoes 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.' 15 The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn 16 and cry out""Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine

linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls! 17 In 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. 18 When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?' 19 They 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! 20 Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you.'" 21 Then 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. 22 The 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. 23 The 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. 24 In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth."

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

Understanding the proper sequence of the events of future things is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle with some pieces that have been cut identically but have different colors or different shades of the same color and some pieces that 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 that we have placed the piece in the wrong place. (2nd Timothy 2:15; 2nd Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 15:4)

According to the testimony of Paul (2nd Thessalonians chapters 1 & 2), Christ will not come to set up the Millennium until (1) there will be a falling away first

(2nd Timothy 3:1-17; 2nd Thessalonians 2:3) and (2) the Anti-Christ will set himself up in the temple of God in Jerusalem (2nd Thessalonians 2:4; Daniel 11:45).

We find in Matthew 24:3 that Jesus Christ was asked three questions.

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

2-What shall be the sign of your coming? This is the same Greek word that is translated "coming" in Matthew 24:27.

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 24 and 25 (in the order they were asked). It is a clear outline that begins with the events that 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 gives us the assurance that many of those who have not secured the Holy Spirit as their companion through salvation will do so after they realize that they have been left behind (Matthew

25:1-13). Please note that it was not too late for the foolish virgins to obtain the oil (a type of the Holy Spirit). It was too late for them to go to the marriage supper. 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 (Revelation 19:6-9), they will have to go through the tribulation (Revelation 7:9-17; Revelation 14:9-13). They will also 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

“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” 2 Thessalonians 2:4.

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 (John 6:44; Revelation 7:8-17)? We will answer that question later in these papers.