

INTRODUCTION

A. Definition: 'Escatoj = eschatos = “extreme, last in time, last in place”, i.e., the study of last things.

B. The importance of eschatology

1. The human desire to know “what lies around the bend.”
2. The modern obsession with the future, with life after death.
 - a. Neurotic futurism
 - b. Spiritism
 - c. End-time mania

C. Eschatology and methods of interpreting it

1. A false-comparison: literal vs. figurative interpretation.

a. Hal Lindsey, The Late Great Planet Earth, p. 176.

“We are ‘premillennialists’ in viewpoint. The real issue between the amillennial and the premillennial viewpoints is whether prophecy should be interpreted literally or allegorically ... all prophecy about past events has been fulfilled literally, particularly the predictions regarding the first coming of Christ. The words of prophecy were demonstrated as being literal, that is, having the normal meaning understood by the people of the time in which it was written. The word were not intended to be explained away by men who cannot believe what is clearly predicted.”

b. John T. Valvoord, The Millennial Kingdom, p. 114.

“Premillennialism is founded principally on interpretation of the Old Testament ... the premillennial interpretation offers the only literal fulfillment for the hundreds of verses of prophetic testimony.”

2. Some observations.

a. The Bible says that prophetic communication, as a rule, is not literal.

- (1) Numbers 12:6-8
- (2) Hosea 12:10
- (3) Revelation 1:1 (shmeiōw = sēmeiōō = “to communicate by a sign”)

b. The issue is not literal-versus-figurative, but rather what was the intended literary mode used in any particular prophecy. It cannot be assumed, for example, that the prophets described future events and institutions in straight, narrative prose, and that they intended their prophecies to be understood in the literal mode in which they were given, when that mode is used.

- (1) Luke 3:1-6 (Is. 40:3-5)

(2) Mt. 17:1-13 (Malachi 4:5-6)

c. All reality is not physical.

“As the Bible clearly shows, there are two kinds of reality: physical and spiritual. Sometimes prophecy refers to one, sometimes the other. Thus it is a mistake to think that all prophecy must be fulfilled in physical realities.”

Jack Cottrell, “The Jews in Prophecy,” CS (October 14, 1979): 24.

d. Language, in general, is not usually strictly literal. Figures of speech, metaphors, etc. are an integral part of language. No one should insist that all statements be taken literally. Why, then, should this unnatural rule be imposed on Bible prophecy?

e. The New Testament is the norm for interpreting, not the Old Testament.

(1) Hebrews 1:1-2

(2) Ephesians 3:4-5

3. General rules for the interpretation of prophecy (Lockhart)

a. The form and meaning of a prediction must be studied in the light of the situation of the prophet. (The work of a prophet is so intimately connected with the needs and condition of his people that his predictions as well as his instructions must be studied in their historical setting. It must not be assumed that a prophet’s message is designed wholly for future generations. They were intended to encourage or restrain the people of his own age.)

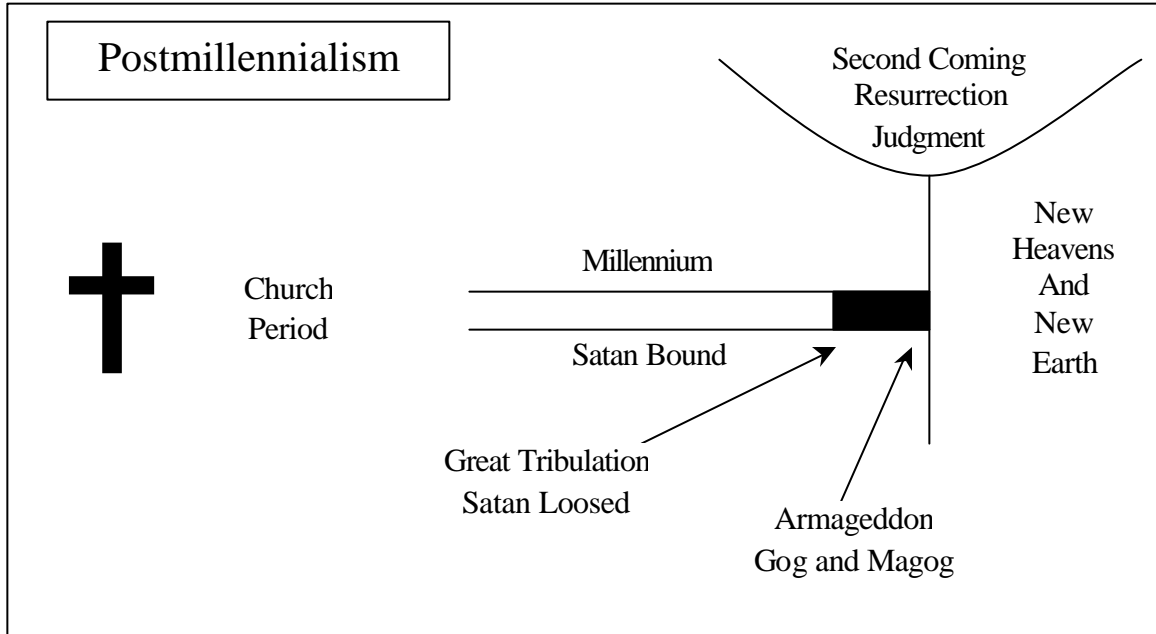
b. A prophecy must be interpreted in harmony with its fulfillment if that is known (Example: II Sam. 7:12-16 and Acts 2:29-32).

c. No prophecy should be approached with an assumption of what it should contain.

ESCHATOLOGICAL VIEWS

I. Postmillennialism

1. Definition: Postmillennialists believe that the return of Christ is to be after a 1000-year reign of Christ (not necessarily 1000 years exactly) from heaven over a world that has been overwhelmingly Christianized through the influence of the Gospel.



2. Interpretations of particular items.

- a. While Kingdom and Church are often seen to be synonymous, they are not necessarily so.
- b. The Second Coming is essentially signless
- c. The Tribulation passages describe difficulties suffered by the Church from time to time, not just at the end of the age.
- d. Rapture, Resurrection, and Judgment take place at the Second Coming. There is a single, General Resurrection.
- e. The universe is renovated at the Second Coming.
- f. Heaven and Hell follow the Millennium.
- g. The return of the Jews to Palestine is not prophesied in Scripture. The Jews have no special place in God's plans for the future, i.e., their hope is in the New Birth and nothing else.

3. Special Problems.

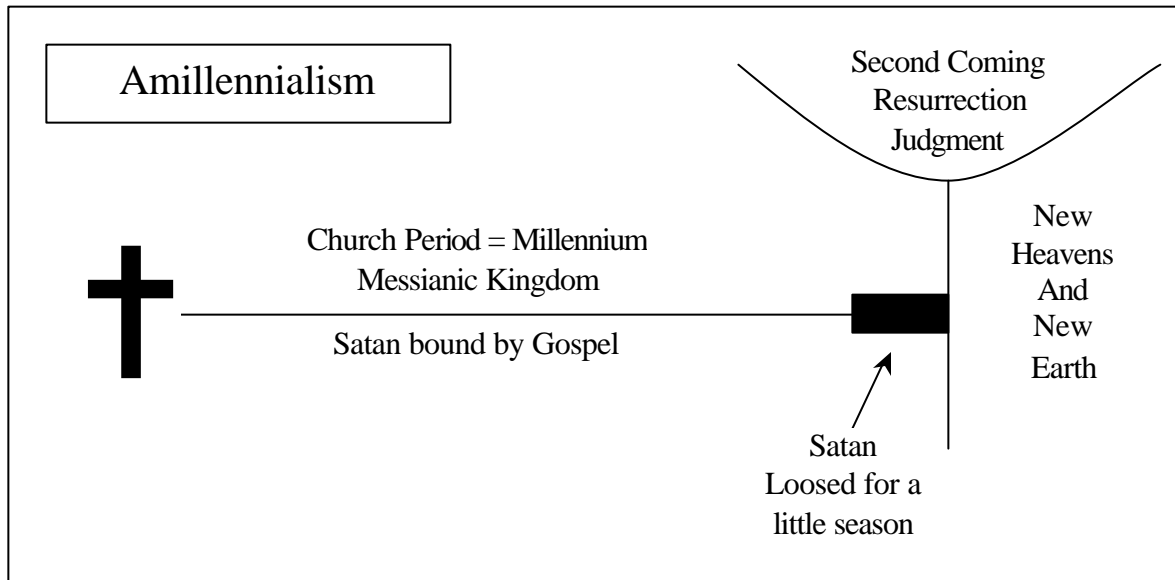
- a. The world seems not to be improving spiritually.

- b. If there is a single Resurrection, it is difficult to explain Mt. 24:40, 41.

II. Amillennialism

1. Definition: Amillennialists look for no physical, temporal reign of Christ on earth. Revelation 20 is interpreted as a figure. The Church age is understood as the millennium, and the Church is the prophesied Messianic Kingdom.

The name is misleading, because the position does not deny the thousand year prophecy of Revelation 20.



2. Interpretations of particular items.
- a. The Church is the Messianic Kingdom of Old Testament prophecy.
 - (1) There is a spiritual reigning in the “Church militant” (Mt 19:28).
 - (2) There is heavenly reigning in the “Church Triumphant” (Rev. 20:4).
 - b. The Second Coming is essentially signless.
 - c. “Parousia” and “Revelation” passages are seen as different ways of speaking of the same event; amillennialists do not look for more than one coming of the Lord.
 - d. The Great Tribulation spoken of in Mt. 24:21 is often understood as the troubles suffered by Jerusalem in 70 AD; some amillennialists look for a specific renewal of persecution toward the end of the Church age.
 - e. Rapture, Resurrection, and Judgment take place at the Second Coming. There is a single, general Resurrection.
 - f. The universe is renovated at the Second Coming.
 - g. Heaven and Hell follow the millennium.

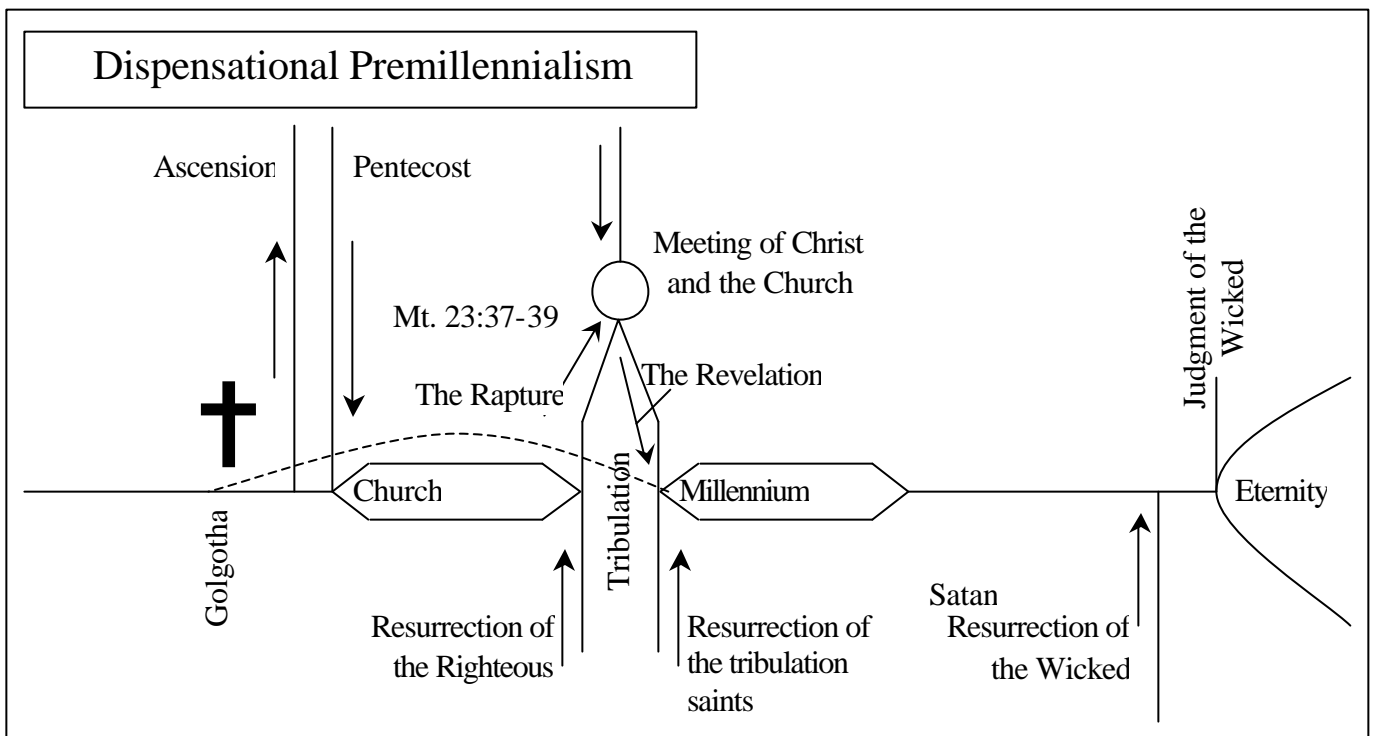
- h. The return of the Jews to Palestine is not prophesied in Scripture. The Jews have no special place in God's plans for the future, i.e., their hope is in the New Birth and nothing else.

3. Special problems

- a. If there is a single resurrection, it is difficult to explain Mt. 24:40, 41.
- b. Although the Amillennial view is as old as some of the Church fathers, there has been little agreement on whether the number 1000 is to be taken literally or figuratively. Many of the early fathers looked for a physical reign of Christ on earth prior to the end of all things.

III. Dispensational Premillennialism

- 1. Definition: Dispensational Premillennialism is an expanded form of "Historical Premillennialism." It divides the history of mankind into seven distinct periods (the number sometimes varies) or "dispensations," and teaches that in each period God deals with the human race on the basis of a distinctive principle. DP denies the spiritual identity of Israel and the Church. It has often served as the foundation of eschatological extremes and cults.



2. Interpretation of particular items

- a. The Church is not the Messianic Kingdom of prophecy.
- b. The Jews are the people of God in the primary sense, the Church secondary.
- c. The Millennial Kingdom is an age of forced peace, prosperity, longevity, and happiness.
- d. The Millennial Kingdom is essentially a Jewish world empire.

- e. Christ came to establish His physical, temporal rule at His first coming, but postponed the Kingdom because of stubborn resistance and unbelief on the part of first-century Jews.
- f. In the Millennium, Mosaic temple worship will be reinstated.
- g. World events, especially those in the Middle East, are signs of the immediate return of Jesus.
- h. There are three “Advents.”
- i. The Great Tribulation is a seven-year period of time between the close of the Church Age and the beginning of the Millennium. Antichrist is active during the tribulation period. Some DP’s hold that the Church will go through half of the Tribulation, some that it will endure on earth through the entire seven-year period.
- j. At His coming, Jesus will remove the saints from the earth in a “secret rapture.”
- k. There are three resurrections (see chart).
- l. There are at least three judgments.
 - (a) The “Rewards” Judgment of Christians at the Rapture.
 - (b) The “Sheep and Goat” Judgment at the Revelation. This is a judgment of nations.
 - (c) The “Great White Throne Judgment” at the close of the millennium. Here the wicked are condemned.

3. Special problems

- a. The claim by New Testament writers that the Church fulfills Old Testament Kingdom prophecies.
- b. The New Testament doctrine of the spiritual identity and unity of Jews and Gentiles in Christ.
- c. The passages of Scripture that speak of the Church age as the “last days,” “fullness of time,” “end of the ages,” and “last hour.”
- d. If at the close of the “Sheep and Goat” the nations are sent away into punishment, where do the nations come from over whom Christ will rule with the rod of iron?
- e. The New Testament doctrine that Old Testament sacrificial worship was a type (shadow) and was done away with the establishment of the New Covenant.
- f. The teaching of Jesus that there will be no marriage in the Resurrection, yet a “literal” interpretation of certain Old Testament prophecies has deaths and births during the Millennium.
- g. The teaching of Jesus and the Apostles that no one can know the time of the coming of Jesus.

WHO ARE THE JEWS?

Does God have a Chosen people? Yes

Deuteronomy 7:6 “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Beginning in Gen. 3:15 God began narrowing down Who the Messiah would be. E.g., of a woman, of Abraham’s descendants, of Isaac, of Jacob, of Judah, of David, of a virgin, etc.

The OT tells of how God dealt with the people of Whom His ultimate demonstration of grace would be brought forth, the Jews.

But God’s promise to Abraham was that his descendants would be special for eternity.

Genesis 17:7 “I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.

Do we, who are not the flesh of Abraham, have God’s grace to be His special people? Absolutely. Who are the Jews of the New Covenant?

Romans 2:25-29 For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Law; but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. 26 So if the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? 27 And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Law, will he not judge you who though having the letter *of the Law* and circumcision are a transgressor of the Law? 28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

Romans 4:1-18 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.” 4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 “BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. 8 “BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.” 9 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.” 10 How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; 11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised. 13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith.

14 For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; 15 for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation. 16 For this reason *it is* by faith, in order that *it may be* in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 (as it is written, “A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU”) in the presence of Him whom he believed, *even* God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. 18 In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.”

Romans 8:14-17 For all who are being led by the spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

Romans 9:6-8 But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel; 7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants, but: “THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED.” 8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.

Romans 11:16-31 If the first piece of *dough* is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too. 17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, 18 do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, *remember that* it is not you who supports the root, but the root *supports* you. 19 You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” 20 Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; 21 for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. 22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. 23 And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. 24 For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural *branches* be grafted into their own olive tree? 25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.” 27 “THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.” 28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of *God’s* choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; 29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy.

Matthew 21:43 “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.

Matthew 23:37-38 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her

wings, and you were unwilling. 38 “Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

Galatians 3:26-29 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 6:14-18 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Philippians 3:2-4 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; 3 for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, 4 although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:

The eternal promise of God to Abraham was/is for those who have the **faith** of Abraham, not the flesh of Abraham

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM

(This particular study is the second study of the “In-Home Studies”)

I. Old Testament Predictions of the Kingdom

(The height of Israel’s glory was under the kingship of David approximately B.C. 1000)

A. *Isaiah 2:1-4* (B.C. 750)

1. Last days
2. All nations
3. Jerusalem

B. *Daniel* (B.C. 550)

1. *2:44* - Never be destroyed (endure forever)
2. *7:18* - Possess forever

II. New Testament Predictions of the Kingdom

A. John the Baptist - Kingdom is at hand (near) *Matthew 3:1-2*

B. Jesus

1. Kingdom is at hand (near). *Matthew 4:17*
2. Kingdom will come in lifetime of the disciples. *Mark 9:1*
3. Kingdom will come with power. *Mark 9:1*
4. Kingdom entered by new birth. *John 3:1-7*
5. Kingdom is within you. *Luke 17:20-21*
6. Peter has keys. *Matthew 16:13-19* Church and kingdom are the same and will be built upon the rock: i.e., the truth that Jesus is the Christ. *I Corinthians 3:11*
7. Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached first in Jerusalem. *Luke 24:44-49*

C. Joseph of Arimathea was still waiting for the kingdom. (*Luke 23:50-51*)

III. Fulfillment of Old Testament and New Testament Predictions (*Acts 1-2*)

A. Last days (*Acts 2:17*) - *Isaiah 2:2*

B. All nations (*Acts 2:5*)

1. *Isaiah 2:2*
2. *Luke 24:47*

C. Jerusalem (*Acts 2:5*)

1. *Isaiah 2:3*
2. *Luke 24:44-49*

D. Eternal Kingdom (*Acts 2:37-42*)

1. *Daniel 2:44*,

2. *Daniel 7:18*

E. Date of Coming Approximately A.D. 33 (*Acts 1-2*)

1. Old Testament Prophecy
2. John the Baptist - “is at hand” *Matthew 3:1-2*
3. Jesus - “is at hand” *Matthew 4:17*

F. Lifetime (*Acts 2:14*)

1. *Mark 9:1*
2. “Some” - Judas died *Acts 1:18-19*

G. Power (*Acts 1:8, Acts 2:1-4*)

Mark 9:1

H. New Birth (*Acts 2:38*)

Water and Spirit *John 3:1-7*

I. Kingdom within (*Acts 2:37*)

Luke 17:20-21

J. Peter with the keys (*Acts 2:14, 38*)

Matthew 16:19

K. Repentance and Forgiveness of Sin (*Acts 2:38*)

Luke 24:44-49

IV. Conclusion

A. The church **is** the Kingdom of God on earth.

B. *Acts 2:42* As citizens of the kingdom and members of the body (church), we must be devoted to:

1. apostles doctrine
2. fellowship
3. breaking bread
4. prayers

C. *Matthew 6:33* We must seek His Kingdom first.

REVELATION 20

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

The Greek word for “angel” (aggelos) simply means messenger. Sometimes it is a heavenly messenger, sometimes earthly. The context determines what kind of messenger it is. This angel is quite probably Jesus Himself because He holds the key. The key represents control (power, authority) and the chain is the Gospel (see Rev. 1:17, 18; 3:7).

“Unfortunately the Church of today does not realize the power that Christ has given her. Christ has placed in her hands the chain by which she can bind Satan. She can restrain his influence over the nations. But today the Church bemoans the fact that evil is becoming stronger and stronger. She bemoans the fact that the world is coming more and more under the control of the Devil. Whose fault is that? It is the Church. She has the chain and does not have the faith to bind Satan even more firmly. Satan is bound and the Church knows it not! Satan can be bound more firmly and the Church does it not!” *An Eschatology of Victory*. J. Marcellus Kik, p. 196.

2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

Satan has four names in this verse. Dragon: Whenever we see paganism trying to crush the people of God in the OT we see Satan referred to as a dragon (e.g., Ez. 29:3; Jer. 51:34). Serpent: See Gen. 3:15. Devil: “the Accuser.” Satan: “The Adversary” or “Opponent.” Satan is bound (limited) in what he can do - See I John 5:18; Jas. 4:7. Also Mt. 12:26-29. 1000 years is an indeterminate length of time. See II Peter 3:8 & Ps. 50:10.

3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

The binding of Satan does not mean that he has no power at all. Instead it is that his range of power has been severely shrunk. His being cast into the abyss was to keep him from “deceiving the nations” until the end of the 1000 years. This could have a couple of possible meanings: 1) There will be no more Satanic empires as there had been since Babylon (Persia, Greece, Rome). After Rome there have been no other dominating empires. 2) The Gentile nations would no longer be exclusively pagan, i.e., up to the founding of the Church, salvation was found only in the Jews.

4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Who are “they” that are sitting on the thrones? John lets us know in the second part of the verse – Christians. Notice they reign during the 1000 years. “And we must not forget that the thrones exist during the thousand-year period. After this period gathers Gog and Magog to oppose the saints. Surely this would not happen on the ‘renewed earth’! Surely this would not happen in heaven! No, the scene is upon the present earth. That is the location of the thrones.” Kik, p. 211. Christians reign with Christ NOW – II Tim. 2:12; Rev. 5:10; Rom 5:17; I Cor. 3:21, 22. The Beast was Domitian (emperor of Rome).

5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

The first resurrection was when “they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.” When those who were dead in sin came to life – Eph 2:5, 6; Col 2:12, 13; I John 3:14; John 5:24-29. The word “until” is used in the sense “to the time that,” i.e., they did not come to life at all. Similar wording is found in I Sam 15:35 and Is 22:14. The contrast is between those who came to life (v. 4) and those who didn’t.

6 *Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.*

The 2nd death is the Lake of Fire (see v. 14). During the 1000 years Christians priests of God and Christ. It is through the proclamation of the Gospel that Christians mediate between God and man.

7 *When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,*

At the end of the 1000 years Satan will be released from the abyss. This should be understood as he will be released at the end time of the 1000 years. Satan's release does not come AFTER the Lord's return. I Th 4:16; II Th 1:7-10. Satan's loosing will be that period just before the 2nd coming.

8 *and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.*

Gog and Magog has reference to Ez 38 & 39. These are representative of the enemies of Israel. Since Satan will be released toward the end of the 1000 years to deceive the nations, they turn on the Church, and their number is countless.

9 *And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.*

The camp of the saints is the Church. The fire is the same as the fire that destroys Gog and Magog in Ez. This is the final outpouring of wrath of God upon the enemies of the Church. See I Th 1:6-10 "6 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed--for our testimony to you was believed.

10 *And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

We must always keep in mind that John wrote this to the people of his day. The most awesome power that could be conceived of in the world (besides the devil) was Rome. Here we see the devil, the beast (Domitian) and the false prophet (the secret police that Domitian organized to enforce emperor worship) are thrown into the lake of fire.

11 *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.*

Here we see the throne of Christ. Judgment is about to begin. See Jn 5:22, 23, 27; Acts 10:42; 17:31; Phil 2:8-11. Earth and heaven have no place. They will be replaced-- II Pe 3:13.

12 *And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.*

13 *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.*

14 *Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.*

15 *And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

MATTHEW 24

Dispensationalists like to “pick & choose” pieces of Mt 24 to try and support the position. As a close study will reveal, it teaches nothing similar to dispensationalism. A key to understanding this text is to pay particular attention to the phrases “those days” (which is plural) and “that day” (which is singular).

To understand the context you must begin by reading chapter 23, particular giving attention to vv. 29ff.

1 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.

2 And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

In 23:38 Jesus had told them that their house would be left to them desolate. He is continuing with that thought as chapter 24 begins.

3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

The 12 (or at least some of them) came to Jesus to get Him to expound further. They could not imagine a world without the Temple, especially since they knew Jesus was about to establish His kingdom. They thought they were only asking one question but they were actually asking Him two: 1) When will these things happen (referring to the destruction of the Temple) and 2) What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age? Jesus, in the remainder of 24 answers both questions.

4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you.

5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.

6 "You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.

7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

Kik, p. 93.

It was not long after the Olivet Discourse that strife, insurrections, and wars were filling both Palestine and other parts of the Roman Empire ... To the Jews it was a highly turbulent time. There was an uprising against them in Alexandria. In Seleucia 50,000 were slain. In Caesaria a battle between Syrians and Jews divided many villages and towns into armed camps ... Acts 11:28 makes mention of a famine which occurred in the days of Claudius Caesar. It was a famine that spread not only in Judea but other parts of the world, and like all famines, it was followed by pestilences that caused the death of thousands. And as to earthquakes, many are mentioned by writers during a period just previous to 70 AD. There were earthquakes in Crete, Smyrna, Miletus, Chios, Samos, Laodoea, Hierapolis, Colosse, Campania, Rome, and Judah. ... The city of Pompeii was damaged by an earthquake occurring Feb. 5th, 63 AD.

8 "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

Acts 12:2; all Apostles were put to death except for John.

10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

Tacitus [15.44] Such indeed were the precautions of human wisdom. The next thing was to seek means of propitiating the gods, and recourse was had to the Sibylline books, by the direction of which prayers were offered to Vulcanus, Ceres, and Proserpina. Juno, too, was entreated by the matrons, first, in the Capitol, then on the nearest part of the coast, whence water was procured to sprinkle the fane and image of the goddess. And there were sacred banquets and nightly vigils celebrated by married women. But all human efforts, all the lavish gifts of the emperor, and the propitiations of the gods, did not banish the sinister belief that the great fire was the result of an order. Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their center and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired. Nero offered his gardens for the spectacle, and was exhibiting a show in the circus, while he mingled with the people in the dress of a charioteer or stood aloft on a car. Hence, even for criminals who deserved extreme and exemplary punishment, there arose a feeling of compassion; for it was not, as it seemed, for the public good, but to glut one man's cruelty, that they were being destroyed.

11 *"Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.*

12 *"Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.*

13 *"But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.*

The "end" of Jerusalem. Luke 21:16-19 "But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, and you will be hated by all because of My name. Yet not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives."

14 *"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

The Gospel was preached to all the world before 70 AD. Acts 2:5, "Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven." Romans 1:8, "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world." Colossians 1:6 & 23, "the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;" "if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister."

15 *"Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),*

Luke 21:20-24: ""But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled. Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people; and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

16 *then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains;*

17 *Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.*

18 *Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.*

Eusebius (260-340 AD), Book 3, Ch. 5.

After Nero had held the power thirteen years, and Galba and Otho had ruled a year and six months, Vespasian, who had become distinguished in the campaigns against the Jews, was proclaimed sovereign in Judea and received the title of

Emperor from the armies there. Setting out immediately, therefore, for Rome, he entrusted the conduct of the war against the Jews to his son Titus. For the Jews after the ascension of our Saviour, in addition to their crime against him, had been devising as many plots as they could against his apostles. First Stephen was stoned to death by them, and after him James, the son of Zebedee and the brother of John, was beheaded, and finally James, the first that had obtained the episcopal seat in Jerusalem after the ascension of our Saviour, died in the manner already described. But the rest of the apostles, who had been incessantly plotted against with a view to their destruction, and had been driven out of the land of Judea, went unto all nations to preach the Gospel, relying upon the power of Christ, who had said to them, "Go ye and make disciples of all the nations in my name."

But the people of the church in Jerusalem had been commanded by a revelation, vouchsafed to approved men there before the war, to leave the city and to dwell in a certain town of Perea called Pella. And when those that believed in Christ had come thither from Jerusalem, then, as if the royal city of the Jews and the whole land of Judea were entirely destitute of holy men, the judgment of God at length overtook those who had committed such outrages against Christ and his apostles, and totally destroyed that generation of impious men. But the number of calamities which every where fell upon the nation at that time; the extreme misfortunes to which the inhabitants of Judea were especially subjected, the thousands of men, as well as women and children, that perished by the sword, by famine, and by other forms of death innumerable -- all these things, as well as the many great sieges which were carried on against the cities of Judea, and the excessive sufferings endured by those that fled to Jerusalem itself, as to a city of perfect safety, and finally the general course of the whole war, as well as its particular occurrences in detail, and how at last the abomination of desolation, proclaimed by the prophets, stood in the very temple of God, so celebrated of old, the temple which was now awaiting its total and final destruction by fire -- all these things any one that wishes may find accurately described in the history written by Josephus.

19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

20 "But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.

21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

Josephus, Wars, Book5, ch. 10:

1. AS Josephus was speaking thus with a loud voice, the seditious would neither yield to what he said, nor did they deem it safe for them to alter their conduct; but as for the people, they had a great inclination to desert to the Romans; accordingly, some of them sold what they had, and even the most precious things that had been laid up as treasures by them, for every small matter, and swallowed down pieces of gold, that they might not be found out by the robbers; and when they had escaped to the Romans, went to stool, and had wherewithal to provide plentifully for themselves; for Titus let a great number of them go away into the country, whither they pleased. And the main reasons why they were so ready to desert were these: That now they should be freed from those miseries which they had endured in that city, and yet should not be in slavery to the Romans: however, John and Simon, with their factions, did more carefully watch these men's going out than they did the coming in of the Romans; and if any one did but afford the least shadow of suspicion of such an intention, his throat was cut immediately.
2. But as for the richer sort, it proved all one to them whether they staid in the city, or attempted to get out of it; for they were equally destroyed in both cases; for every such person was put to death under this pretense, that they were going to desert, but in reality that the robbers might get what they had. The madness of the seditious did also increase together with their famine, and both those miseries were every day inflamed more and more; for there was no corn which any where appeared publicly, but the robbers came running into, and searched men's private houses; and then, if they found any, they tormented them, because they had denied they had any; and if they found none, they tormented them worse, because they supposed they had more carefully concealed it. The indication they made use of whether they had any or not was taken from the bodies of these miserable wretches; which, if they were in good case, they supposed they were in no want at all of food; but if they were wasted away, they walked off without searching any further; nor did they think it proper to kill such as these, because they saw they would very soon die of themselves for want of food. Many there were indeed who sold what they had for one measure; it was of wheat, if they were of the richer sort; but of barley, if they were poorer. When these had so done, they shut themselves up in the inmost rooms of their houses, and ate the corn they had gotten; some did it without grinding it, by reason of the extremity of the want they were in, and others baked bread of it, according as necessity and fear dictated to them: a table was no where laid for a distinct meal, but they snatched the bread out of the fire, half-baked, and ate it very hastily.
3. It was now a miserable case, and a sight that would justly bring tears into our eyes, how men stood as to their food, while the more powerful had more than enough, and the weaker were lamenting [for want of it.] But the famine was too hard for all other passions, and it is destructive to nothing so much as to modesty; for what was otherwise worthy of reverence was in this case despised; insomuch that children pulled the very morsels that their fathers were eating out of their very mouths, and what was still more to be pitied, so did the mothers do as to their infants; and when those that were most dear

were perishing under their hands, they were not ashamed to take from them the very last drops that might preserve their lives: and while they ate after this manner, yet were they not concealed in so doing; but the seditious every where came upon them immediately, and snatched away from them what they had gotten from others; for when they saw any house shut up, this was to them a signal that the people within had gotten some food; whereupon they broke open the doors, and ran in, and took pieces of what they were eating almost up out of their very throats, and this by force: the old men, who held their food fast, were beaten; and if the women hid what they had within their hands, their hair was torn for so doing; nor was there any commiseration shown either to the aged or to the infants, but they lifted up children from the ground as they hung upon the morsels they had gotten, and shook them down upon the floor. But still they were more barbarously cruel to those that had prevented their coming in, and had actually swallowed down what they were going to seize upon, as if they had been unjustly defrauded of their right. They also invented terrible methods of torments to discover where any food was, and they were these to stop up the passages of the privy parts of the miserable wretches, and to drive sharp stakes up their fundamentals; and a man was forced to bear what it is terrible even to hear, in order to make him confess that he had but one loaf of bread, or that he might discover a handful of barley-meal that was concealed; and this was done when these tormentors were not themselves hungry; for the thing had been less barbarous had necessity forced them to it; but this was done to keep their madness in exercise, and as making preparation of provisions for themselves for the following days. These men went also to meet those that had crept out of the city by night, as far as the Roman guards, to gather some plants and herbs that grew wild; and when those people thought they had got clear of the enemy, they snatched from them what they had brought with them, even while they had frequently entreated them, and that by calling upon the tremendous name of God, to give them back some part of what they had brought; though these would not give them the least crumb, and they were to be well contented that they were only spoiled, and not slain at the same time.

4. These were the afflictions which the lower sort of people suffered from these tyrants' guards; but for the men that were in dignity, and withal were rich, they were carried before the tyrants themselves; some of whom were falsely accused of laying treacherous plots, and so were destroyed; others of them were charged with designs of betraying the city to the Romans; but the readiest way of all was this, to suborn somebody to affirm that they were resolved to desert to the enemy. And he who was utterly despoiled of what he had by Simon was sent back again to John, as of those who had been already plundered by Jotre, Simon got what remained; insomuch that they drank the blood of the populace to one another, and divided the dead bodies of the poor creatures between them; so that although, on account of their ambition after dominion, they contended with each other, yet did they very well agree in their wicked practices; for he that did not communicate what he got by the miseries of others to the other tyrant seemed to be too little guilty, and in one respect only; and he that did not partake of what was so communicated to him grieved at this, as at the loss of what was a valuable thing, that he had no share in such barbarity.
5. It is therefore impossible to go distinctly over every instance of these men's iniquity. I shall therefore speak my mind here at once briefly: - That neither did any other city ever suffer such miseries, nor did any age ever breed a generation more fruitful in wickedness than this was, from the beginning of the world. Finally, they brought the Hebrew nation into contempt, that they might themselves appear comparatively less impious with regard to strangers. They confessed what was true, that they were the slaves, the scum, and the spurious and abortive offspring of our nation, while they overthrew the city themselves, and forced the Romans, whether they would or no, to gain a melancholy reputation, by acting gloriously against them, and did almost draw that fire upon the temple, which they seemed to think came too slowly; and indeed when they saw that temple burning from the upper city, they were neither troubled at it, nor did they shed any tears on that account, while yet these passions were discovered among the Romans themselves; which circumstances we shall speak of hereafter in their proper place, when we come to treat of such matters.

Josephus Book 6, ch. 3

1. BUT now the seditious that were in the temple did every day openly endeavor to beat off the soldiers that were upon the banks, and on the twenty-seventh day of the forenamed month [Panemus or Tamuz] contrived such a stratagem as this: They filled that part of the western cloister (14) which was between the beams, and the roof under them, with dry materials, as also with bitumen and pitch, and then retired from that place, as though they were tired with the pains they had taken; at which procedure of theirs, many of the most inconsiderate among the Romans, who were carried away with violent passions, followed hard after them as they were retiring, and applied ladders to the cloister, and got up to it suddenly; but the prudent part of them, when they understood this unaccountable retreat of the Jews, stood still where they were before. However, the cloister was full of those that were gone up the ladders; at which time the Jews set it all on fire; and as the flame burst out every where on the sudden, the Romans that were out of the danger were seized with a very great consternation, as were those that were in the midst of the danger in the utmost distress. So when they perceived themselves surrounded with the flames, some of them threw themselves down backwards into the city, and some among their enemies [in the temple]; as did many leap down to their own men, and broke their limbs to pieces; but a great number of those that were going to take these violent methods were prevented by the fire; though some prevented the fire by their own swords. However, the fire was on the sudden carried so far as to surround those who would have otherwise perished. As for Caesar himself, he could not, however, but commiserate those that thus perished, although they got up thither without any order for so doing, since there was no way of giving the many relief. Yet was this some comfort to

those that were destroyed, that every body might see that person grieve, for whose sake they came to their end; for he cried out openly to them, and leaped up, and exhorted those that were about him to do their utmost to relieve them; So every one of them died cheerfully, as carrying along with him these words and this intention of Caesar as a sepulchral monument. Some there were indeed who retired into the wall of the cloister, which was broad, and were preserved out of the fire, but were then surrounded by the Jews; and although they made resistance against the Jews for a long time, yet were they wounded by them, and at length they all fell down dead.

2. At the last a young man among them, whose name was Longus, became a decoration to this sad affair, and while every one of them that perished were worthy of a memorial, this man appeared to deserve it beyond all the rest. Now the Jews admired this man for his courage, and were further desirous of having him slain; so they persuaded him to come down to them, upon security given him for his life. But Cornelius his brother persuaded him on the contrary, not to tarnish his own glory, nor that of the Roman army. He complied with this last advice, and lifting up his sword before both armies, he slew himself. Yet there was one Artorius among those surrounded by the fire who escaped by his subtlety; for when he had with a loud voice called to him Lucius, one of his fellow soldiers that lay with him in the same tent, and said to him, "I do leave thee heir of all I have, if thou wilt come and receive me." Upon this he came running to receive him readily; Artorius then threw himself down upon him, and saved his own life, while he that received him was dashed so vehemently against the stone pavement by the other's weight, that he died immediately. This melancholy accident made the Romans sad for a while, but still it made them more upon their guard for the future, and was of advantage to them against the delusions of the Jews, by which they were greatly damaged through their unacquaintedness with the places, and with the nature of the inhabitants. Now this cloister was burnt down as far as John's tower, which he built in the war he made against Simon over the gates that led to the Xystus. The Jews also cut off the rest of that cloister from the temple, after they had destroyed those that got up to it. But the next day the Romans burnt down the northern cloister entirely, as far as the east cloister, whose common angle joined to the valley that was called Cedron, and was built over it; on which account the depth was frightful. And this was the state of the temple at that time.
3. Now of those that perished by famine in the city, the number was prodigious, and the miseries they underwent were unspeakable; for if so much as the shadow of any kind of food did any where appear, a war was commenced presently, and the dearest friends fell a fighting one with another about it, snatching from each other the most miserable supports of life. Nor would men believe that those who were dying had no food, but the robbers would search them when they were expiring, lest any one should have concealed food in their bosoms, and counterfeited dying; nay, these robbers gaped for want, and ran about stumbling and staggering along like mad dogs, and reeling against the doors of the houses like drunken men; they would also, in the great distress they were in, rush into the very same houses two or three times in one and the same day. Moreover, their hunger was so intolerable, that it obliged them to chew every thing, while they gathered such things as the most sordid animals would not touch, and endured to eat them; nor did they at length abstain from girdles and shoes; and the very leather which belonged to their shields they pulled off and gnawed: the very wisps of old hay became food to some; and some gathered up fibres, and sold a very small weight of them for four Attic [drachmae]. But why do I describe the shameless impudence that the famine brought on men in their eating inanimate things, while I am going to relate a matter of fact, the like to which no history relates, (15) either among the Greeks or Barbarians? It is horrible to speak of it, and incredible when heard. I had indeed willingly omitted this calamity of ours, that I might not seem to deliver what is so portentous to posterity, but that I have innumerable witnesses to it in my own age; and besides, my country would have had little reason to thank me for suppressing the miseries that she underwent at this time.
4. There was a certain woman that dwelt beyond Jordan, her name was Mary; her father was Eleazar, of the village Bethesob, which signifies the *house of Hyssop*. She was eminent for her family and her wealth, and had fled away to Jerusalem with the rest of the multitude, and was with them besieged therein at this time. The other effects of this woman had been already seized upon, such I mean as she had brought with her out of Perea, and removed to the city. What she had treasured up besides, as also what food she had contrived to save, had been also carried off by the rapacious guards, who came every day running into her house for that purpose. This put the poor woman into a very great passion, and by the frequent reproaches and imprecations she cast at these rapacious villains, she had provoked them to anger against her; but none of them, either out of the indignation she had raised against herself, or out of commiseration of her case, would take away her life; and if she found any food, she perceived her labors were for others, and not for herself; and it was now become impossible for her any way to find any more food, while the famine pierced through her very bowels and marrow, when also her passion was fired to a degree beyond the famine itself; nor did she consult with any thing but with her passion and the necessity she was in. She then attempted a most unnatural thing; and snatching up her son, who was a child sucking at her breast, she said, "O thou miserable infant! for whom shall I preserve thee in this war, this famine, and this sedition? As to the war with the Romans, if they preserve our lives, we must be slaves. This famine also will destroy us, even before that slavery comes upon us. Yet are these seditious rogues more terrible than both the other. Come on; be thou my food, and be thou a fury to these seditious varlets, and a by-word to the world, which is all that is now wanting to complete the calamities of us Jews." As soon as she had said this, she slew her son, and then roasted him, and eat the one half of him, and kept the other half by her concealed. Upon this the seditious came in presently, and smelling the horrid scent of this food, they threatened her that they would cut her throat immediately if she did not show them what food she had gotten ready. She replied that she had saved a very fine portion of it for them, and withal uncovered what was left of

her son. Hereupon they were seized with a horror and amazement of mind, and stood astonished at the sight, when she said to them, "This is mine own son, and what hath been done was mine own doing! Come, eat of this food; for I have eaten of it myself! Do not you pretend to be either more tender than a woman, or more compassionate than a mother; but if you be so scrupulous, and do abominate this my sacrifice, as I have eaten the one half, let the rest be reserved for me also." After which those men went out trembling, being never so much affrighted at any thing as they were at this, and with some difficulty they left the rest of that meat to the mother. Upon which the whole city was full of this horrid action immediately; and while every body laid this miserable case before their own eyes, they trembled, as if this unheard of action had been done by themselves. So those that were thus distressed by the famine were very desirous to die, and those already dead were esteemed happy, because they had not lived long enough either to hear or to see such miseries.

5. This sad instance was quickly told to the Romans, some of whom could not believe it, and others pitied the distress which the Jews were under; but there were many of them who were hereby induced to a more bitter hatred than ordinary against our nation. But for Caesar, he excused himself before God as to this matter, and said that he had proposed peace and liberty to the Jews, as well as an oblivion of all their former insolent practices; but that they, instead of concord, had chosen sedition; instead of peace, war; and before satiety and abundance, a famine. That they had begun with their own hands to burn down that temple which we have preserved hitherto; and that therefore they deserved to eat such food as this was. That, however, this horrid action of eating an own child ought to be covered with the overthrow of their very country itself, and men ought not to leave such a city upon the habitable earth to be seen by the sun, wherein mothers are thus fed, although such food be fitter for the fathers than for the mothers to eat of, since it is they that continue still in a state of war against us, after they have undergone such miseries as these. And at the same time that he said this, he reflected on the desperate condition these men must be in; nor could he expect that such men could be recovered to sobriety of mind, after they had endured those very sufferings, for the avoiding whereof it only was probable they might have repented.

22 "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short."

Josephus, Wars, Book 6, ch. 9, par. 1

Now, when Titus was come into this [upper] city, he admired not only some other places of strength in it, but particularly those strong towers which the tyrants, in their mad conduct, had relinquished; for when he saw their solid altitude, and the largeness of their several stones, and the exactness of their joints, as also how great was their breadth, and how extensive their length, he expressed himself in the following manner: -- "We certainly had God for our assistant in this war, and it was no other than God that ejected the Jews out of these fortifications; for what could the hands of men, or any machines, do towards overthrowing these towers.

Had the siege continued for long the war would have spread throughout Palestine and then even Christians would have suffered.

23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him."

24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect."

Josephus, Wars, Book 6, ch. 5, par. 2

2. And now the Romans, judging that it was in vain to spare what was round about the holy house, burnt all those places, as also the remains of the cloisters and the gates, two excepted; the one on the east side, and the other on the south; both which, however, they burnt afterward. They also burnt down the treasury chambers, in which was an immense quantity of money, and an immense number of garments, and other precious goods there repositied; and, to speak all in a few words, there it was that the entire riches of the Jews were heaped up together, while the rich people had there built themselves chambers [to contain such furniture]. The soldiers also came to the rest of the cloisters that were in the outer [court of the] temple, whither the women and children, and a great mixed multitude of the people, fled, in number about six thousand. But before Caesar had determined any thing about these people, or given the commanders any orders relating to them, the soldiers were in such a rage, that they set that cloister on fire; by which means it came to pass that some of these were destroyed by throwing themselves down headlong, and some were burnt in the cloisters themselves. Nor did any one of them escape with his life. A false prophet (19) was the occasion of these people's destruction, who had made a public proclamation in the city that very day, that God commanded them to get upon the temple, and that there they should receive miraculous signs of their deliverance. Now there was then a great number of false prophets suborned by the tyrants to impose on the people, who denounced this to them, that they should wait for deliverance from God; and this was in order to keep them from deserting, and that they might be buoyed up above fear and care by such hopes. Now a

man that is in adversity does easily comply with such promises; for when such a seducer makes him believe that he shall be delivered from those miseries which oppress him, then it is that the patient is full of hopes of such his deliverance.

Josephus, Wars, Book 6, ch. 5, par. 3

3. Thus were the miserable people persuaded by these deceivers, and such as belied God himself; while they did not attend nor give credit to the signs that were so evident, and did so plainly foretell their future desolation, but, like men infatuated, without either eyes to see or minds to consider, did not regard the denunciations that God made to them. Thus there was a star (20) resembling a sword, which stood over the city, and a comet, that continued a whole year. Thus also before the Jews' rebellion, and before those commotions which preceded the war, when the people were come in great crowds to the feast of unleavened bread, on the eighth day of the month Xanthicus, (21) [Nisan,] and at the ninth hour of the night, so great a light shone round the altar and the holy house, that it appeared to be bright day time; which lasted for half an hour. This light seemed to be a good sign to the unskillful, but was so interpreted by the sacred scribes, as to portend those events that followed immediately upon it. At the same festival also, a heifer, as she was led by the high priest to be sacrificed, brought forth a lamb in the midst of the temple. Moreover, the eastern gate of the inner (22) [court of the] temple, which was of brass, and vastly heavy, and had been with difficulty shut by twenty men, and rested upon a basis armed with iron, and had bolts fastened very deep into the firm floor, which was there made of one entire stone, was seen to be opened of its own accord about the sixth hour of the night. Now those that kept watch in the temple came hereupon running to the captain of the temple, and told him of it; who then came up thither, and not without great difficulty was able to shut the gate again. This also appeared to the vulgar to be a very happy prodigy, as if God did thereby open them the gate of happiness. But the men of learning understood it, that the security of their holy house was dissolved of its own accord, and that the gate was opened for the advantage of their enemies. So these publicly declared that the signal foreshowed the desolation that was coming upon them. Besides these, a few days after that feast, on the one and twentieth day of the month Artemisius, [Jyar,] a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared: I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those that saw it, and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sun-setting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armor were seen running about among the clouds, and surrounding of cities. Moreover, at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner [court of the temple,] as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise, and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, "Let us remove hence." But, what is still more terrible, there was one Jesus, the son of Ananus, a plebeian and a husbandman, who, four years before the war began, and at a time when the city was in very great peace and prosperity, came to that feast whereon it is our custom for every one to make tabernacles to God in the temple, (23) began on a sudden to cry aloud, "A voice from the east, a voice from the west, a voice from the four winds, a voice against Jerusalem and the holy house, a voice against the bridegrooms and the brides, and a voice against this whole people!" This was his cry, as he went about by day and by night, in all the lanes of the city. However, certain of the most eminent among the populace had great indignation at this dire cry of his, and took up the man, and gave him a great number of severe stripes; yet did not he either say any thing for himself, or any thing peculiar to those that chastised him, but still went on with the same words which he cried before. Hereupon our rulers, supposing, as the case proved to be, that this was a sort of divine fury in the man, brought him to the Roman procurator, where he was whipped till his bones were laid bare; yet he did not make any supplication for himself, nor shed any tears, but turning his voice to the most lamentable tone possible, at every stroke of the whip his answer was, "Woe, woe to Jerusalem!" And when Albinus (for he was then our procurator) asked him, Who he was? and whence he came? and why he uttered such words? he made no manner of reply to what he said, but still did not leave off his melancholy ditty, till Albinus took him to be a madman, and dismissed him. Now, during all the time that passed before the war began, this man did not go near any of the citizens, nor was seen by them while he said so; but he every day uttered these lamentable words, as if it were his premeditated vow, "Woe, woe to Jerusalem!" Nor did he give ill words to any of those that beat him every day, nor good words to those that gave him food; but this was his reply to all men, and indeed no other than a melancholy presage of what was to come. This cry of his was the loudest at the festivals; and he continued this ditty for seven years and five months, without growing hoarse, or being tired therewith, until the very time that he saw his presage in earnest fulfilled in our siege, when it ceased; for as he was going round upon the wall, he cried out with his utmost force, "Woe, woe to the city again, and to the people, and to the holy house!" And just as he added at the last, "Woe, woe to myself also!" there came a stone out of one of the engines, and smote him, and killed him immediately; and as he was uttering the very same presages he gave up the ghost.

25 *"Behold, I have told you in advance.*

26 *"So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them.*

27 *"For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

Jesus contrasts the suddenness of the coming judgment with the suddenness of the Second Coming.

28 *"Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.*

Jerusalem was the corpse. Rome would gather and devour the corpse.

29 *"But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*

The events concerning the Sun, Moon, and Stars are apocalyptic language signifying the fall/destruction of a great nation. This kind of language was used in Isaiah 13:10 concerning Babylon; Isaiah 34:4, 5 concerning Edumea; Ezekiel 32:7, 8 concerning Egypt; and Acts 2:19, 20 concerning the judgment upon Jerusalem (it is a quote of Joel 2:30, 31).

30 *And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.*

This is a quote from Daniel 7:13 in which the Son of Man (Jesus) came in the clouds before God the Father. This is NOT referring to Jesus' Second Coming. The sign in the sky (literally "heaven" Gr. Ouranos) was the Ascension of Christ to the Father. The tribes are the 12 tribes which with the New Covenant are no longer God's chosen. The sign put an end to the old covenant with an exclamation mark.

31 *"And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.*

His angels are messengers who have a great trumpet which is the Gospel. They will convert people from all over the world.

32 *"Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near;*

Just as you can tell when summer is near, you need to be watchful of when this destruction will occur.

33 *So, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.*

34 *"Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.*

Verse 34 is key to understanding this passage. Everything He has discussed so far will occur to the generation that was then living. But do not despair for ...

35 *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.*

36 *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.*

Notice the shift from "those days" (vv. 19, 22, 29) to "that day and hour." Jesus now begins to answer the second question that the apostles asked Him (see comments on v. 3).

37 *"For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.*

38 *"For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,*
39 *and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

There were no special signs before the destruction of water except for the preaching of Noah. As it was in Noah's day, so it will be when Jesus returns.

40 *"Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.*
41 *"Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.*

These verses are often used to try and teach a "rapture" in which Christians will secretly be removed from earth. Jesus is instead teaching that there will be no signs of His coming. People are working in the field and at the mill. Those taken are the same ones that were "taken" in verse 39, i.e., those to be judged.

42 *"Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.*

Instead of looking for signs that Jesus will not give us, the Christian is to always be prepared for the Coming of our Lord.

43 *"But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.*
44 *"For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.*

Again Jesus emphasizes to be ready. There are three parables that follow: 24:45-51; 25:1-13; and 25:14-30. All three of these parables teach to be ready for His coming. Each one of these parables emphasize that no one knew when He would return for no signs were given.

45 *"Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?*
46 *"Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.*
47 *"Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.*
48 *"But if that evil slave says in his heart, 'My master is not coming for a long time,'*
49 *and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards;*
50 *the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,*
51 *and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

ANTICHRIST AND THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS

I. Standard definition among Dispensational Premillennialists:

This name {antichrist} introduces to us one of the most solemn and foreboding subjects in the Word of God. An antichrist – one absolutely opposed to Jesus Christ – we are told, shall come. The spirit of antichrist is already in the world, denying the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh, either in the past, or in the future.

This spirit of antichrist, now possessed by many, will culminate in one person, *the Antichrist*, who will deny both the Father and the Son.

That he is a single individual is plainly taught in 2 Thes. 2, where he is called “that man of sin” . . . “the son of perdition” – “that wicked,” or properly, “the lawless one.”

As Christ is the express image of God, so it appears that antichrist is the culminating manifestation of Satan, “the prince of this world.” His coming is “after the working (energy, or inward working) of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders and deceivableness of unrighteousness.” (*Jesus Is Coming* by W. E. Blackstone, p. 107)

This person, the Antichrist, is called the “beast” because from God’s viewpoint that is exactly what he is. The passage (Rev. 13:3, 4) is obviously talking about a person because the personal pronoun “he” is used. He is also described as a person of great authority. (*The Late Great Planet Earth* by Hal Lindsey, p. 92)

Satan will become incarnate and appear on earth in human form. . . . the Antichrist will not only be the Man of Sin, but also "the Son of Perdition", the Seed of the Serpent. The Antichrist will be the Devil's masterpiece. In him shall dwell all the fulness of the Devil bodily. He will be the culmination and consummation of Satan's workings. The world is now talking of and looking for the Superman; and the Devil is soon to supply him. The Antichrist will be no ordinary person, but one possessed of extraordinary talents. He will be endowed with superhuman powers. With the one exception of the God-man he will be the most remarkable personage who has ever appeared upon the stage of human history. (<http://ccel.wheaton.edu/p/pink/antichrist/antichrist07.htm>)

II. Scriptures referring to Antichrist (below is an exhaustive list of all occurrences)

A. 1 John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that **antichrist** is coming, even now many **antichrists** have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

B. 1 John 2:22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the **antichrist**, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

C. 1 John 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the **antichrist**, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

D. 2 John 1:7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the **antichrist**.

III. Antichrist must be understood in it’s historical context: The Gnostics.

A. Name: **Gn̄ s̄ij** = gnosis = knowledge

All matter is evil and all spirit good in Gnosticism. This made the idea of Christ coming in the flesh and being raised bodily from the dead unthinkable to them and required that the Gospels and other apostolic writings be "spiritualized" into saying something other than what they plainly said. The Gnostics could not conceive that a holy God could create a physical world. So they believed that the original God created another god who created another god who created another god *ad infinitum*, with each carbon copy or "emanation" or "demiurge" or "aeon" growing more corrupt as the process went on. Finally along came a god-copy foolish and corrupt enough to create a material universe. In Gnostic thinking this was the God of the Old Testament. Jesus, in the Gnostic view, was a new spiritual emanation designed to bring us back to the original proto-god.

B. Name: **ĉnt.cristoj** = antichristos = antichrist

Anti: I. of Place, *opposite, over against*,
II. of Time,
III. *instead, in the place of, substitute*

The Gnostics were offering a substitute Christ, a phantom.

IV. There is no connection whatsoever to some kind of end-time ruler of the world.

V. The Man of Lawlessness is often connected with "the" antichrist but a more thorough study of II Thessalonians should show otherwise.

II Thessalonians (Mostly NASB with corrections of translation)

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is *only* fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows *ever* greater; therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. *This is* a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed--for our testimony to you was believed. To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit

or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, because apostasy will first come (**i.e., there will be many things taught and believed**), and the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction, the one who opposes (**i.e., the ML opposes true doctrine**), is revealed and rises in pride against everyone called a god or an object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the Temple of God, claiming himself to be a god (**declaring things that Jesus didn't know, nor any man, only God**). Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? And you know one who restrains *the work of God* (**You may not know he's teaching falsehood, but you know him**), until it (**that which restrains, i.e., ML's false doctrine**) is revealed in its own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; the one who restrains is now *and will be* until it is taken out from your midst. And when the lawless one will be revealed, this *lawless* one, the Lord will destroy with the breath of His mouth and will abolish *the lawless one* by the appearance of His presence (**the ML will be with the Church until Jesus returns**); whose (**i.e., the lawless one's**) appearance is according to Satan's power with all false works, false signs, and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness (**Those who believe "I know what it says but that's not what it means." Instead of following after the clear teachings of Scripture, these who are deluded follow after men wanting to be like God, creating their own doctrines.**).

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brethren, stand firm

NASB without my changes

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us (**i.e., do not believe the ML**).

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as *it did* also with you; and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil *one*. We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will *continue to* do what we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example. For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. *Yet* do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

I. Traditional view is that the Pope (papacy) is the ML.

- A. Apostacy
- B. Opposer of Truth
- C. Set himself up as God on earth
- D. Holy Spirit is the One doing the "restraining."

II. Problems

- A. The text indicates that it is the ML that is doing the restraining.
- B. Paul said the mystery of Lawlessness was already at work. The Papacy did not evolve until 3 centuries later (actually later than that).

III. Regardless which interpretation is correct, there is no connection between the ML and the "Antichrist."

GOG & MAGOG
Ezekiel 38 & 39

From Ezekiel 38:2 & 3, “Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.'”

Hal Lindsey, *Late, Great Planet Earth*, p. 53. “Wilhelm Gesenius, a great Hebrew scholar of the early nineteenth century, discusses these words in his unsurpassed Hebrew Lexicon. ‘Meshech,’ he says, ‘was founder of the Moschi, a barbarous people, who dwelt in the Moschian mountains.’

This scholar went on to say that the Greek name, ‘Moschi,’ derived from the Hebrew name Meshech is the source name for *the city of Moscow*. In discussing Tubal he said, ‘Tubal is the son of Rapheth, founder of the Tibereni, a people dwelling on the Black Sea to the west of the Moschi.’

Gesenius concludes by saying that these people undoubtedly make up the modern Russian people.”

It is from this passage and understanding of Gog that Russia always plays a prominent role in DP views. At the time that LGPE was written (1973), Gesenius was outdated archaeologically. G. was making educated guesses with the information he had in the early to mid 1800’s. However, Meshech and Tubal were in modern day Turkey – nowhere near Russia. Either Lindsey is being deceptive by using outdated material to try and make his theory work, or else his bad scholarship is shining through.

There are four basic views concerning Gog & Magog

1. Futuristic view (e.g., Lindsey, et al.)
2. A prophetic parable, i.e., no one is intended specifically. It is just a general statement about God’s people being victorious over their enemies.
3. The Future Idealistic View which has a final, climactic struggle against the forces of good and evil (James Smith hold to this view).
4. The Historical View, of which I hold to.

Magog is most likely ancient Syria, from which a Greek general by the name of Antiochus Epiphanes came. His reign over Jerusalem was a terrible time. He forbade circumcision, and all sacrifices were to be made to the Greek gods. He later set up a statue of Zeus in the Holy of Holies. This is what prompted the Maccabean revolt. (Daniel also spoke of AE in 8:9-27 and 11:21-35).

Antiochus IV. *Antiochus Epiphanes* (ca. 215-164 BCE). King of Syria (175-164 BCE). Called *Epiphanes*, "God Revealed," but nicknamed *Epimanes*, "the Mad," due to his abnormal and erratic behavior. He was the third son of Antiochus III also known as *Antiochus the Great*.

In 175 BCE Heliodorus murdered Seleucus IV, the brother of Antiochus Epiphanes, in a failed attempt to seize the Syrian crown. Antiochus moved quickly to take the throne thereby succeeding Seleucus IV as ruler of the Seleucid kingdom. It was Seleucus who sent Heliodorus, at the instigation of Apollonius, to plunder the Temple at Jerusalem (II Maccabees 3:1-40, cf Daniel 11:10-16).

Antiochus Epiphanes undertook a series of military campaigns to consolidate his power and to secure the territory of the Seleucid kingdom. In 168 BCE his military ambitions came to an abrupt halt when the Roman Senate ordered him to withdraw from Cyprus and Egypt. The Romans, however,

allowed him to keep southern Syria against the Egyptian claim thereby allowing him to keep the Seleucid realm intact.

On his withdrawal from Egypt in 167 BCE he took Jerusalem by force, garrisoned troops there, and set about to Hellenize Judea. He plundered the Temple (I Maccabees 1:21-24) and compelled Jews to adopt Greek culture and religion. He instituted laws of conformity forbidding ritual circumcision and observance of the Sabbath and Holydays under the penalty of death. By his order sacrifices to the gods were to be made in every Judean town. Each month Seleucid soldiers searched Jewish homes to discover whether or not any Jews possessed a copy of the Torah or had circumcised their children.

In 167 BCE, following an uncompromising policy of suppression of Judaism, he caused erection of a pagan altar to *Zeus Olympus* on the altar of burnt-offering at the Temple. This desecration occurred on Kislev 25. These events led to the rebellion by the Maccabees (166-160 BCE). Judas Maccabaeus and his brothers took Jerusalem in 164 BCE. On Kislev 25, exactly three years from its defilement, the Jews cleansed and rededicated the Temple. Hanukkah is the eight-day festival celebrating this event. (Copied from www.bibarch.com/Biographs/Antiochus%20IV.htm)