

# **PROPHECY PRIMER**

## ***A STUDY GUIDE TO THE PROPHECIES OF EARTH'S FINAL EVENTS***

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# *Introduction*

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

2 Peter 3:10

But ye **brethren**, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

1 Thessalonians 5:4

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house; and his disciples came unto him, saying, “Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.”

37 He answered and said unto them, “He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares (weeds) are the children of the wicked one;

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; **the harvest is the end of the world** and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: There shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

Matthew 13:36-43

Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, **Gather ye together first the tares**, and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn.

Matthew 13:30

For the wages of sin is death; but the **gift of God** is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever** believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, (truly, truly) I say unto thee, except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:3

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, **all** things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 **And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.** Galatians 3:28, 29

This selection of Bible verses is a brief summary of how I see the end of the world, the harvest of the faithful, and the born again experience Jesus said we must have in order to see the kingdom of God.

# 1

## *Our Eternal Home*

As we examine the Bible prophecies which will give us an outline of earth's final events, and as we soon experience the fulfillment of those events, it will be a comfort to keep in mind the reality of our eternal home.

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, **Write: for these words are true and faithful.**  
Revelation 21:1-5

People often say, "Tell me the good part, please tell me how the story ends", so that is why we began this chapter with Revelation 21:1-5. Between now and then, there will be, to say the least, a few bumps in the road; so let's keep our eyes on our eternal home and keep "looking for that **blessed hope**, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."

Titus 2:13

# Jesus: The Way To Our Eternal Home

To be the remedy for sin, to pay the price for sin, to die in our place so we could live eternally, for this cause came Jesus into the world. The just and perfect Jesus, dying, crucified, for the unjust, the sinful, you and I.

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold,...But with the **precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

1 Peter 1:18, 19

## Who Killed Jesus? For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son...

Who killed Jesus? The Roman soldier who nailed him to the cross and thrust the spear into his side? The angry mob of his fellow countrymen? The weight of the sins of the whole world that crushed his heart? The sins of you and I? Satan, for starting sin in the first place? Yes, yes, to all of the above, but ultimately, it was his own father, God the Father.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, **smitten of God** and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him: and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray: we have turned every one to his own way, and **the Lord hath laid on him** the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-6

Jesus is "...the lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13:8. Before Adam and Eve sinned, God the Father and God the Son had a plan for the salvation of the human race. **Thank you Jesus!**

## 2

# *Why Prophecy?*

We are very soon to embark upon a time in earth's history when great lines of Bible prophecy will be fulfilling in quick succession. A time which God has spoken of through all the holy prophets since the world began; a time in which Jesus said the world and life as we know it would end.

We only have one example of the world and life as it was known, ending, to draw lessons from. That example is the world wide flood in the days of Noah.

God has always had the same way of salvation from sin; that way is through Jesus Christ as the sin bearer, the "Lamb of God" who takes away the sin of the world. In the Old Testament times, people looked forward in faith to the time when Messiah would come; we now look back in faith on an accomplished historic fact.

The difference in the days of Noah was that a new element was brought into the salvation equation. That new element was a faith response to the word of God as brought to them by his spokesman Noah. To be saved from the flood of water to come, which Noah preached about for 120 years while building the ark, was very simple, just get on the boat and float. This message did not take away from the fact that the people still needed a savior from sin, Jesus.

Exactly how many millions of people lived on planet earth before the flood, I can't say; but today there are roughly six billion on the planet. The sin issue is not going to be dealt with by a flood of water this time; this time it will be a "lake of fire." A huge boat on which to float is not the special new element brought into the salvation equation this time. The special new element is a return to the worship of the Creator God.

“...Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and **worship him that made heaven and earth and the sea, and the fountains of waters.**” Revelation 14:7

The last generation before the “lake of fire” at the end of the world is also commanded to **not** worship the beast, or his image, or receive his mark in their forehead, or in their hand. Deception from the devil and those he controls will be everywhere in these last days.

When the disciples asked Jesus about “the end of the world”, his first point was this: “...Take heed that no man **deceive** you.” Matthew 24:4. In verse 11, “And many false prophets shall rise and shall **deceive** many.” In verse 24 “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew (show) great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall **deceive** the very elect.”

To point out the prophetic way marks which will help folks avoid the deceptions, and to make a call for worship of the Creator God, the get on the boat and float of our day, is the purpose of this book.

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and **for thy pleasure they are and were created.**” Revelation 4:11

# 3

## *The Burden of Damascus*

One of the first huge events en route to the end of the world is the destruction of Damascus, Syria. **This and other prophecies will soon happen in quick succession.**

“The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap...because of the children of Israel: and there shall be desolation.” Isaiah 17:1, 9

Damascus, Syria; the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, some 4,000 years, is going to be a “ruinous heap”; blown off the map, if you will, by Israel. Tiny Israel, surrounded by less than friendly neighbors, has had a motto since the Holocaust of World War II, “**Never Again**”. Syria and Iran are “partners in crime” and the leader of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has openly and publicly called for Israel to be “wiped off the map.” It is then very understandable why Israel has an itchy trigger finger. Also, Damascus, Syria is a center of terrorist operations against Israel, largely funded by Iran. Please read all of Isaiah chapter 17.

# 4

## *In The Fury of His Power*

### **Ram vs. He Goat Battle**

Another huge event en route to the end of the world is the breaking of the leaders of Iran and Iraq, by the United States. Daniel 8:1-8 and 15-21.

“...Understand, O son of man: **for at the time of the end shall be the vision.**” Daniel 8:17.

When the disciples asked Jesus about “the end of the world”, Jesus quoted from the prophecies given to Daniel and mentioned Daniel by name, (see Matthew 24:15 and 1-51). The prophecies given to Daniel are recorded in chapters 7-12 of his book.

In Daniel chapter 8, a country comes from the “west on (across) the face of the **whole earth**, and touched not the ground...moved with choler”, which is intense anger or fury, and “breaks” or kills, “the kings”, or leaders of Iraq and Iran.

In Daniel’s time, Iraq and Iran were known as Media and Persia, and were represented by two horns on a ram, (Daniel 8:20, 3). “The two horns were high, but one horn was higher than the other and the higher horn came up last.” Daniel 8:3. So Iraq comes up first, followed by the higher horn Iran. In other words, during the end times, Iraq comes into prominence on the world scene first, followed by its more powerful neighbor, Iran.

### **Both Horns Are Broken Together**

At the time of the end, that country that comes from **the west** across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground, in the fury of his power, and is represented as a notable horn, between the eyes on a he goat, is the U.S., that’s us! More specifically, that notable horn is the first or number one king. The goat is described as

the king of Grecia, known in Daniel's time as the land that lies to the west; the gentile or non-Jewish land. (In the Bible concordance, the word translated Grecia is Yavan or Javan, the grandson of Noah. See Genesis 10:1-5).

What would cause the western power to be so furious, as to wipe out the leaders of Iraq and Iran, in one quick, decisive blow? It would need to be a military strike or a terrorist attack on the scale of the September 11, 2001 tragedy or larger. I also **personally** believe our troops would need to be out of harm's way before we would carry out such a massive air strike. As of November 29, 2006, today's date, as I write this chapter, the Iraq war has entered a "new phase", admitted to, even by President Bush. Many commentators believe Iraq is in a civil war, as of this date.

## **Which Comes First?**

So which comes first? Israel bombing Damascus, Syria? Or the United States bombing Iran and Iraq? For sure, I do not know. I used to think the U.S bombing Iraq and Iran, but now I think they could be at **nearly the same time**. When all of the Muslim nation's armies come down on the mountains of Israel, perhaps twelve months after the initial bombings, (see Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39), Syria is expressly omitted from the list of nations. We will study into this in a later chapter.

# 5

## *It's Not About Oil*

As we watch the Middle Eastern wars and terrorist attacks, we ask ourselves the question, what is this really all about? Someone might say oil, but I say no; no, oil is just a surface issue, a smoke screen if you will, a cover for the real issues. Sure, someone stands to make a lot of money from oil, but oil and the “War on Terror” are just a vehicle to get to a much deeper, much more important and potentially diabolical end. The end I’m speaking of is worship, and who and where we worship. In other words, who has our heart, and from what direction, from what place, is that request for our worship coming? The last great issue on planet earth and the **location** on the globe where it is most intense, where it culminates, is the final step in an ages long battle between Christ and Satan. Let me explain.

### **Creator and Created**

God deserves our worship because he is the Creator and we are part of his Creation. This is the conclusion of Heaven’s inhabitants.

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor, and power: for thou hast created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 4:11

As we wish to give honor to our earthly father and mother, and are even commanded to do, (see Exodus 20:12), so even more we should honor our Heavenly Father who is above all.

### **Moral Reason Lost**

There is one who has lost his ability to reason along moral lines, one who has lost his ability to have a love response for God in his

heart; that one has become the arch enemy of God the Father, God the Son, and all of creation, he is the Devil or Satan.

How sin began in the heart of Satan is a bit of a mystery. God did not create a devil, God created a perfect being.

Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Ezekiel 28:15

God had given Lucifer (Satan) a very high position in heaven:

Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God...

Ezekiel 28:14

Lucifer was so close to God, but something happened in his heart.

Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast **corrupted thy wisdom** by reason of thy brightness...

Ezekiel 28:17

His thought processes became so corrupted that he thought he should be worshiped! Imagine, a created being wanting to be worshiped, like, or as, the Creator!

## Satan's Boast = "I" Trouble

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning, how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."

Isaiah 14:12-14 (see also 15-17, and Ezekiel 28:12-19)

## More Than "The Accuser Of The Brethren"

Fallen from heaven? Yes, Jesus said: "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."

Luke 10:18

Although he is “fallen from heaven” he wants to go back as much more than just the “accuser of the brethren”, see Revelation 12:10 and 1-17; he wants to attempt a coup; to “ascend into heaven”, to exalt his throne above the angels of God, to “sit also upon the mount of the congregation”, “above the heights of the clouds”, and he says, “I will be like the Most High”, like God. See Isaiah 14:12-14.

## What Part Of No Does He Not Understand?

7 And there was war in heaven. Michael (one like God) and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for **the accuser of our brethren is cast down**, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

12 Therefore rejoice ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth he hath but **a short time**.

Revelation 12:7-12

## A Short Time

So, the devil gets cast out of heaven for the second time, his attempted coup thwarted by Jesus and the holy angels. Woe to the people who live on earth because the devil is come down to them, knowing he has but a short time.

The devil is now determined to sit in the temple, that will be built in Jerusalem, Israel and to be worshiped there. (see Micah 4:1)

## **Apostasy Revealed**

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day (Christ's second coming) shall not come, except there come a falling away first, (apostasy) and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; **so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing (showing) himself that he is God.**

5 Remember ye not, that when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

II Thessalonians 2:3-7

“Let no man deceive you by any means:” II Thessalonians 2:3. Here, Paul is reiterating what Jesus stated in Matthew 24:4, “Take heed that no man deceive you.” Before the second coming of Jesus there will be a great apostasy, the devil will be revealed, sitting in the temple in Jerusalem, showing himself as God. In order to fool folks, it would be necessary to look and act the part, at least as close as possible.

## **Thy City Jerusalem – Thy Holy Mountain** **Daniel 9:16, Psalm 48:1-2, Matthew 5:35**

Jerusalem is “the city of the great King”, Matthew 5:35. I might add the “King of Kings”, that's Jesus! Jerusalem, Israel is the location where the “New Jerusalem” will land; the heavenly New

Jerusalem where God's throne is right now. That whole city will come down from heaven, after the earth is made new (see Revelation 21:1-27), and land on the site of old Jerusalem in Israel. A very, very important site where God will govern for **the rest of eternity!** That's the spot where the devil is going to set up, showing himself as God!

## **When He Sitteth In The Temple Of God, One Like God Stands Up!**

And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him. Daniel 11:45

And at **that time** shall Michael (one like God) stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Daniel 12:1

26 Jesus said "Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the **secret chambers**; believe it not.

27 For as the lightening cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be."

Matthew 24:26, 27

## **A Plan That Spans The Ages**

We began this chapter stating that, "it's not about oil". This focus on the Middle East, this gathering of armed forces, these generations long, deeply rooted ethnic hatreds are all really part of a very well thought out plan by the devil that **spans the ages**. This plan goes all the way back to Isaac and Ishmael and even to Adam and Eve and before, to lead the world down a prim rose path to deception and eternal loss. (See Genesis 11:26 and onward).

# **The Devil Defeated At Calvary's Cross**

Most people, most personalities, even most armies, when they are defeated, will admit it, and get on with life: but not the Devil, he wants to take everyone down the tubes with him. Perhaps that is because he knows how great it is to live in God's presence. He has lost that privilege and wants to rob people of eternity if he possibly can.

## **Watch and Pray**

As we consider the developments in the Middle East, let's watch and pray as Jesus said to do, "...that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass", and to be like the "goodman of the house" and have spiritual food for folks, at the right time, "meat in due season". "Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping, and what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

Matthew 24:42-51, Mark 13:35-37, Luke 21: 34-36

# 6

## *Wild Men*

**Genesis 11:26-17:27**

And the angel of the Lord said unto her, (Hagar), Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael: because the Lord hath heard thy affliction.

And he will be a **wild man**; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all this brethren. Genesis 16:11,12

Ishmael is the father of the Arab race, and his descendents have been at war with "every man" for generations, even until this very day.

### **When Faith Falters**

Another good title for this chapter could be, When Faith Falters, for this is really how Ishmael came to be conceived. Ishmael was the first born son of Abram, and custom and tradition dictated that the father's possessions, including "the land", went to the first born son, when the father died. This is no doubt one of the biggest reasons why people like Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the leader of Iran, refuse to acknowledge the right of the Jewish state of Israel to even exist. The Jewish people are the descendents of Isaac, the son of promise, the second son of Abraham.

**So why was Isaac "the son of promise", and not the first born Ishmael?** Abram was a man of great faith, but there came a time when his faith, and the faith of his wife Sarai, wavered; and Abram wound up with a child, Ishmael, by Sarai's maid, Hagar; let me explain.

When Abram was 75 years old, God called him to move from his home country into a new land, a land that God would show him, and God said:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall **all families** of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:2, 3

Repeatedly, God told Abram that he would make him into a great nation, but Abram was over 75 years old and still had no children, no seed, with which to make a great nation. Sarai, Abram's wife, was over 65 years old and not getting any younger.

14 And the Lord said unto Abram ...Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art, northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward.

15 For all the land which thou seest, **to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.**

16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

Genesis 13:14-16

Again, no children for Abram and Sarai, and Abram talked to God about the problem, and God told him they would have a child for an heir and Abram believed God.

God told Abram: "...Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, **So shall thy seed be.** And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness."

Genesis 15:5, 6

"...the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, **Unto thy seed** have I given this land, from the river of Egypt (Nile) unto the great river, the river Euphrates."

Genesis 15:18

## Not A Good Plan

In that ancient culture, to be barren was thought of as a terrible curse, and Sarai, Abram's wife, caved in under the pressure. Sarai blamed the Lord in all of this:

"And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the Lord hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid, (Hagar), it may be

that I obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened (listened) to the voice of Sarai.” Genesis 16:2

To say the least, not a good plan, and **the whole world is paying for it unto this very day**; just open up any newspaper or watch the national evening news.

“And Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar, her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.

And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.”

Genesis 16:3, 4

## Two Great Nations; Rivalry

Abram should not have listened to his wife; but that’s all water under the bridge now, perhaps we can learn from other’s mistakes. The problem is that a rivalry started between two women over one man, especially when it involved a much coveted possession, a child. That rivalry and hatred expanded because **two great nations** came from the offspring of Abram: from the child Ishmael, through Hagar the maid, the Arab race was formed. Fourteen years later, at the age of one hundred, Abram, now called Abraham by God, and Sarai, now called Sarah, received the promised son, Isaac. From Isaac’s descendents, the Jewish nation was formed. Isaac’s son, Jacob, became Israel, and had twelve sons, who became the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.

19 And God said, Sarah, thy wife, shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name **Isaac**: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

20 And as for **Ishmael**, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly, twelve princes shall he begat (father), and **I will make him a great nation**.

21 **But my covenant will I establish with Isaac**, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

Gen. 17:19-21

## Legitimate or Illegitimate?

So Ishmael, born of Hagar, Sarai's maid, was an illegitimate son, born in sin, when Abram and Sarai's faith in God's promises wavered. Isaac was the son whom God had promised, born in wedlock (legitimate) to Abraham and Sarah. **Isaac represented faith**, and Isaac is the lineage from which Jesus Christ, the savior of the world, was born. Jesus Christ was the legitimate Son of our Heavenly Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary.

By the way, who is the one who would like to see our faith waver? Of course, it's the devil! Are you beginning to piece this all together? The battle is over who will have the land, who will have the hearts of the people, who will be worshiped, who will sit in the temple. Is God going to be God, with a legitimate Son, Jesus Christ, who has a legitimate right to the land and the throne? Or is it the devil, in whose heart sin began, and in whose mind the idea of an illegitimate son began. Ishmael, born in sin, a wild man, begat descendents who will fight for the land they were **not** promised. This will bring about world conditions that will lead to the devil positioning himself to be worshiped in the temple in Jerusalem.

## Sold Out

Adam and Eve gave up the right to the land when they sinned. They sold out to the devil. The devil became "the prince of this world". See John 14:30, 12:31.

## A Plan Of Redemption

Although Adam and Eve sold out life and land to the devil through sin; God the Father and God the Son had a plan to redeem life and land, to buy it back, to win it back, even before Adam and Eve had sinned. Jesus is the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world". Revelation 13:8. The four legged lambs that were sacrificed,

pointed forward in faith to the time when Jesus, the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world, would come, and offer himself. For this cause came Jesus into the world; only the death of the lawgiver could pay the price for the broken law.

**There is one lawgiver who is able to save and to destroy.**

**James 4:12**

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

**Acts 4:12**

## **Paid In Full**

Jesus paid the price for the land and the people at Calvary's cross. "For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

**I Peter 1:18, 19**

## **All Power**

Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth", Matthew 28:18, and at the last trumpet blast he takes his "great power" to himself and reins, Revelation 11:15-17.

## **Bigger, Better, and Eternal**

Although God gave Abraham and his seed, Israel, the chosen Jewish people, "the **land of Canaan** for an everlasting possession", see Genesis 17:8, the promised prophecy gets **much bigger, much better, and even eternally so!**

God told Abram, "And in thee shall **all families** of the earth be blessed."

**Genesis 12:1-3**

God also told Abram, "Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, so shall **thy seed** be."

**Genesis 15:5**

“...The Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, **unto thy seed** have I given this land, from the river of Egypt (Nile) unto the great river, the river Euphrates.”  
Genesis 15:18

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 **And if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.**  
Galatians 3:28, 29

I believe the Holy City, the **New Jerusalem**, will fit within the area described as being between the Nile River in Egypt and the Euphrates River in Iraq. What do you think?

## **By Faith**

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went, (where he was going).

9 By faith he sojourned in **the land of promise**, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 **For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**

11 Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore sprang there even of one and him as good as dead, (nearly dead), so many as the stars of the sky **in multitude**, and as the sand which is by the sea shore **innumerable**.

13 **These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**

14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

16 **But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly:** wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: **for he hath prepared for them a city.**

Hebrews 11:8-16

# 7

## *“The Great City” – “Where Also Our Lord Was Crucified”* **Revelation 11:8 and 1-12**

“The Great City”, spoken of through out Revelation, is Jerusalem, “where also our Lord was crucified”, Revelation 11:8, 2. Throughout the chapters of this book we will be returning, at times, to Revelation chapter eleven, because it is such a **pivotal** chapter in the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Jerusalem as we have already discovered, is of extreme importance and relevance, and even eternally so, as the New Jerusalem finds its home there. Islam, Judaism, and Christianity all lay claim to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is indeed “a cup of trembling” in the hands of the nations. To follow the phrase “the great city” through Revelation, see Revelation 14:8, 17:18, 18:2, 10, 16, 18, 19, 21.

Keep in mind that we will be focusing on the deception that will emanate from Jerusalem and engulf the whole world.

### **A Brief Overview**

The following is a very brief overview of Revelation 11; it will be discussed in greater detail in later chapters.

The “holy city” Jerusalem is given to the “Gentiles”, or nations, for forty and two (42) months, which is 3 ½ years. Power is given by God to his “two witnesses”, his “two prophets”, to prophesy and administer plagues for 1260 days, or 42 months, which is 3 ½ years, from Jerusalem.

When God’s two prophets finish their time of prophesying, “the beast” that comes out of the bottomless pit makes war against them and kills them, and their dead bodies lie in the street, in Jerusalem for

3 ½ days. For 3 ½ days, until the midst of the week, all the people in the world, of all nations and languages, throw a party and send gifts to one another, so happy are they to be rid of these prophets. Why? Because the message of the two prophets tormented them, as they were not willing to obey; they were also tormented grievously by the plagues which the prophets had power to administer.

11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

Revelation 11:11, 12

## **How Did Earth’s Inhabitants Become So Evil?**

Revelation 11:8 says: And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

So, how did Jerusalem become so evil that Jesus refers to it spiritually as Sodom and Egypt? Sodom was an Old Testament city so wicked that a perverted sex act is named after it, sodomy. Egypt was a center of false worship, with many “gods”, not a place where the **One Creator God** was worshiped.

Also, how did Jerusalem become so evil that Jesus would say that his last two prophets would be killed there? How could all the people of the world throw a party over their deaths?

## **Three Principles for Spiritual Discernment**

We have raised a number of questions, now let’s see what we can do to present some answers.

## **Principle #1**

### **Spiritual Things Are Spiritually Discerned**

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” I Corinthians 2:14.

You may think this is an over simplification of a very complex issue, but in effect it is the crux of the matter. To be guided by God’s Holy Spirit is a prerequisite for spiritual discernment. The people rejoicing over the prophet’s death have **lost their ability** to rightly divide the word of truth. This usually does not happen overnight, but happens day by day, and year by year, **as truth is systematically and persistently rejected.**

## **Principle #2**

### **God Defines His House**

1 Thus saith the Lord, the heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the **house** that ye build unto me? And where is the place of my rest?

2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this **man** will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

Isaiah 66: 1, 2

The “house”, or church, is someone who realizes that he or she is a sinner in need of a savior, who has a repentant or remorseful heart, and takes God’s word seriously, in other words “trembleth at my word.”

## **Principle #3**

### **Study**

Study to shew (show) thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II Timothy 2:15

To avoid the deceptions of the last days, it is necessary to apply these principles. We must take God’s word seriously; we must study it so that we are aware of the warnings that God gives us, and we must have his Holy Spirit to guide us so that we can understand His word.

## 23

# *What It Means To Be A Christian And How To Become A Christian*

“Bullfrogs and butterflies, they’ve both been born again”. You may have heard this song, it was popular a number of years ago; a fun little song with a great message! The startling transformation of a tadpole to a bullfrog, and a caterpillar to a butterfly, is “tailor made” for a parallel of what happens when a person becomes a Christian.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; (a new creation) old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” II Corinthians 5:17.

This process of becoming “a new creature” or a new creation, is very much like what happens to the bullfrog and the butterfly. What happens to the bullfrog and butterfly is not something that they can accomplish of their own accord, it is a gift from the Creator. A very similar “gift” from the creator, is also available to humans, and Jesus called this startling transformation being “born again”. Jesus went on to say that this startling transformation, being born again, was necessary to go to heaven.

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, (truly, truly) I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3.

While the startling transformation of the bullfrog and butterfly is very evident in their appearance; with a person it is more evident in their change of personality, their change of heart. Although, many

times it is visible in the peace and contentment of their countenance, the change of their habits, and yes, even the loss of a huge beer gut.

## **So, How Does It Happen?**

So how does one go about obtaining this startling transformation, this being “born again”, this becoming “a new creature,” a new creation? Strangely enough, it does not start with something the person can do. **It begins with God, he makes the first move.**

“...The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.” Romans 2:4.

As we see this process unfold, we will notice from start to finish, that it is all a “gift from God.” I am pretty good at receiving gifts, you know, like birthday and Christmas gifts, etc., how about you?

God works upon our hearts sometimes for many years, drawing us in love toward him; sometimes pointing out our sins, sometimes just warming our hearts with thoughts of his beautiful creation or reminders of his love for us. Just as earthly fathers and mothers teach their children right from wrong, because they love them and want only the best for them; so our Heavenly Father teaches us also. But at some point in time it dawns upon us that our sins are hurting others and that we really don’t seem to have the power to change. This realization is a “gift of God”. He is drawing or “leading thee to repentance...”, Romans 2:4.

## **Sorrow For Sin**

To be sorry for sin, is a difficult task for one deeply entrenched in sin. Only God is able to bring our hearts into a repentant condition. Somehow, some where along the way, we learn about this wonderful sinless man who died on a cruel cross for our sins, God’s own Son, Jesus.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16.

We begin to realize that our sins not only hurt our family and friends, but that they are the cause of the death of God’s only Son,

Jesus. From the Bible we learn the whole scope of sin, that it is the breaking of God's Ten Commandment law, ( I John 3:4) even breaking just one of the ten (James 2:10-12). But then we also learn about the gift of God, forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6: 23.

## The Gift Exchange

We realize God's love and forgiveness and that he wants us to live eternally with him, and we are ready for the gift exchange. This gift exchange is not a one way street, like birthdays; it's more like Christmas, we give God our heart, life and sins, and He gives us forgiveness of sin, eternal life, and more of his spirit to guide us. If we are counting, that's three gifts from both parties. I think it's a wonderful deal for both sides!

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and **for thy pleasure they are and were created.**” Revelation 4:11.

**Fun is always more fun if there is someone to share it with,** it appears that God feels the same way.

## Born Again

When this gift exchange has taken place by faith, you are truly **“born again”**, and as a little baby begins to grow, so will you.

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is **the gift of God.**

9 Not of works lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8,9

**Grace is an undeserved or unmerited favor- a gift, received by faith, into the heart.** “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

John 17:3

9 If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:9, 10

If we will openly share our faith in Jesus it helps not only others to believe, but solidifies our heart's decision and desire.

## Confession Of Sin

Now, a different kind of confessing, this kind is of our sins, to God. The Bible says:

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;” I Timothy 2:5.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:9.

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:” I John 2:1.

## Grow In Grace

We may be newly “born again”, or “little children” in the faith, or we may have loved the Lord a good many years; wherever we are at, whatever our level of experience, we should take to heart the admonition of Peter which says: “But **grow in grace** and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.” II Peter 3:18

## All Along The Way – A Gift!

We mentioned earlier that from start to finish, our redemption is all a gift from God, and it is.

“For **it is God** which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” Philippians 2:13.

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you **will perform it** until the day of Jesus Christ.”  
Philippians 1:6.

## Reading The Bible

Peter wrote about growing not only in grace, but also in the knowledge of Jesus; **this comes from reading the Bible.**

1 Jesus said: I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman (farmer).

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he pruneth (prunes) it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean (**pruned**) **through the word** which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, And I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: **for without me ye can do nothing.**  
John 15:1-5

God works in us by implanting his precious truths in our hearts with power from his spirit, but **we must read those truths on a regular basis**, daily is best, for this to continue. **Our gift to Him**, and to ourselves, **is the time that we spend to make contact, and to keep the love relationship growing.** Imagine if we never talked to our spouse, or family or friends; what would happen to the relationships? If we are to bear fruit as branches of Jesus we must abide in the vine, that's Jesus. **Daily prayer** is very important. **Reading the Bible** is very important. **Sharing our faith** is also very important.

## So, Where In The Bible Should I Start?

The Bible is a huge book, all of it is important, and a blessing can be obtained from reading any portion of it. **However, the life and**

**ministry of Jesus found in the four gospels**, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, are the best place to start. **And of the four, I would start with the book of John.** John was the one who seemed to love Jesus even more than the other disciples. He was the youngest and Jesus kind of took him under his wing, so to speak. It seems John understood the love of God even more deeply than the others.

But;

16 **All scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. II Timothy 3:16, 17

And;

19 We have also **a more sure word of prophecy** whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

II Peter 1:19-21

## **The Author And Finisher Of Our Faith**

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us **run with patience the race that is set before us,**

2 **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;** who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1, 2

# Our Eternal Home

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, **write: for these words are true and faithful.**

6 And he said unto me, **It is done.** I am Alpha and Omega the beginning and the end. **I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.**

Revelation 21:1-6

If the Lord has used this book to bring you into a saving, “born again” relationship with Jesus; do send us a short note in the mail so we can rejoice with you!

If the “seal of God” or any of the prophecy study has blessed your heart, I would love to hear from you!

If you would like to see a book written on Revelation chapter twenty and the one thousand year period, just drop us a note.

And when “the roll is called up yonder”, I’ll look for you there! Until then, God be with you.

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“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

I Corinthians 15:58

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