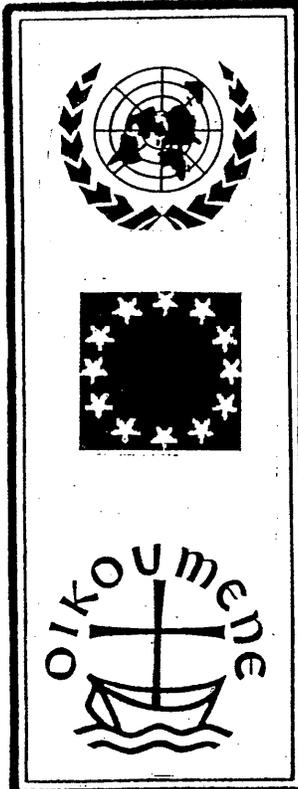
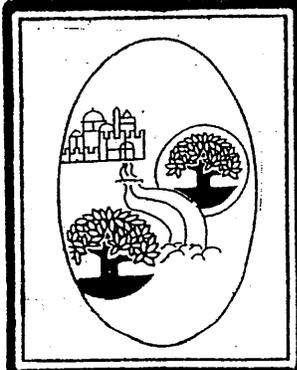
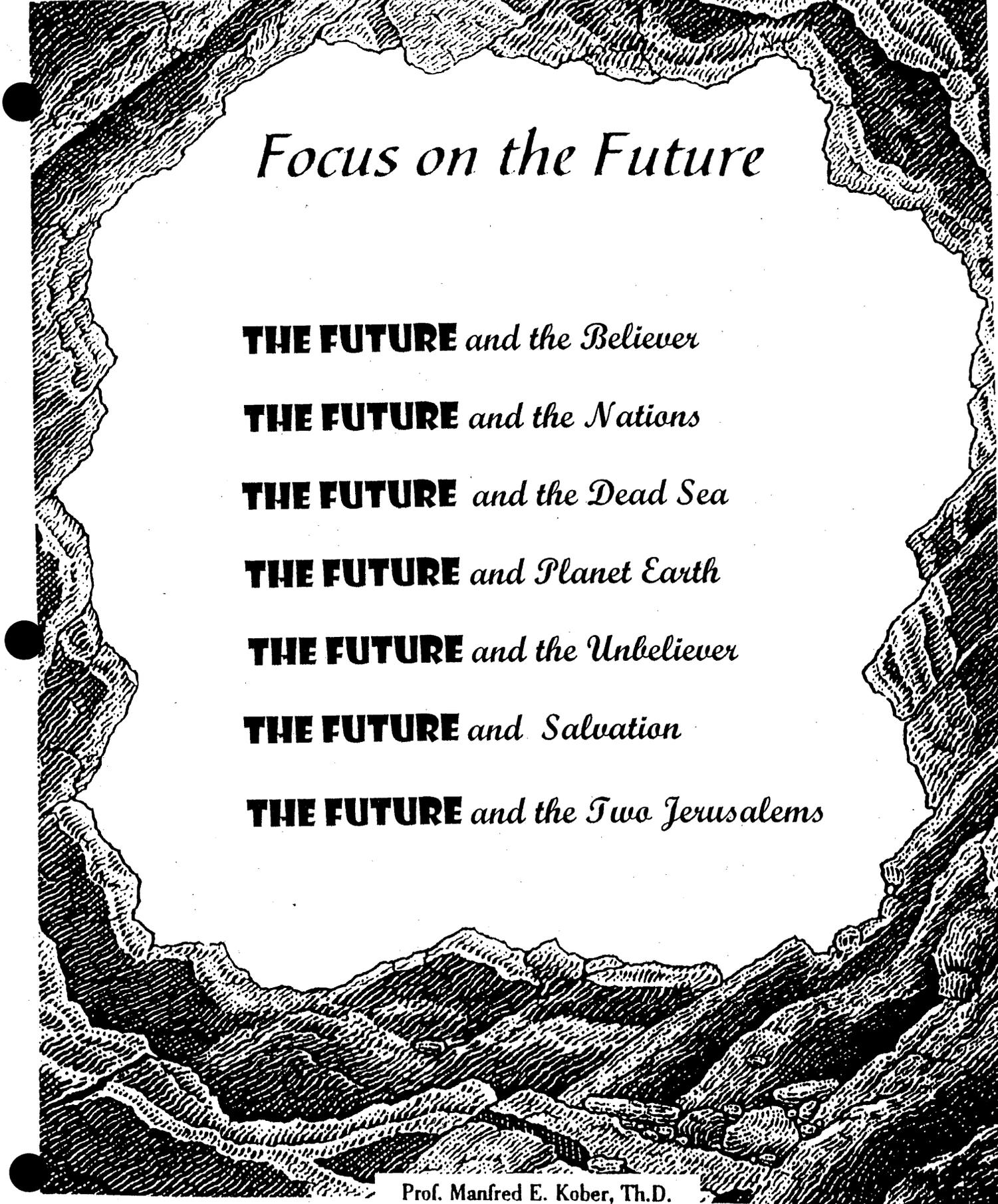


# The Truth About the Future



*Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.*

5907 Meredith Drive Des Moines, IA 50322  
(800) 247-3456 Mkober@RDFilms.com



# *Focus on the Future*

**THE FUTURE** *and the Believer*

**THE FUTURE** *and the Nations*

**THE FUTURE** *and the Dead Sea*

**THE FUTURE** *and Planet Earth*

**THE FUTURE** *and the Unbeliever*

**THE FUTURE** *and Salvation*

**THE FUTURE** *and the Two Jerusalems*

Prof. Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

# The Truth about the Future



Fall 2006 Bible Conference



**Nov. 10 - 12, 2006**

Fri., Nov. 10 7:00 p.m. **THE FUTURE** and the Believer

Sat., Nov. 11 1:00 p.m. **THE FUTURE** and the Nations

2:30 p.m. **THE FUTURE** and the Dead Sea

4:00 p.m. **THE FUTURE** and Planet Earth

Sun., Nov. 12 9:30 a.m. **THE FUTURE** and the Unbeliever

10:40 a.m. **THE FUTURE** and Salvation

12:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner

6:30 p.m. **THE FUTURE** and the Two Jerusalems

*Extensive  
Prophecy  
Manual  
Provided*

Refreshments  
after each  
service



**Come and Hear**  
**Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.**

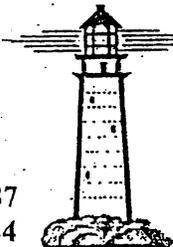
## Wall Lake Baptist Church

*(Bringing the Unchangeable Word of Life to a Changing World)*

3527 Needham Ave. Box 446  
Wall Lake, IA 51466

Ken McMillen  
Pastor

Church 712-664-2087  
Residence 712-657-8924

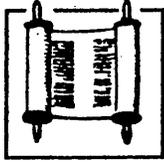


According to the Apostle Paul, the first benefit of Bible study is *doctrine* or *sound teaching* (2 Tim. 3:16). Doctrine gives content and conviction to one's beliefs. The capstone of Bible doctrine is prophecy. While skeptics deny and spiritualizers distort literal predictions, the Bible believer will depend on God's disclosure about the future, assuring him of God's control of his life and giving him help for the present and a *hope* for the *future*.

# Eschatology and Bible Doctrine

*Bible*

①



Replete with

*God*

②



Reveals matters

*Christ*

③



Rules for the

*Holy Spirit*

④



Restores the world's

*Angels*

⑤



Respond in worship

*Man*

⑥



Receives indescribable

*Sin*

⑦



Removed from

*Salvation*

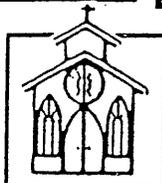
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Realized in its

*Church*

⑨

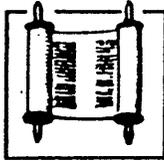


Resides in Christ's

# Eschatology and Bible Doctrine

**Bible**

①



Replete with predictive prophecy

**God**

②



Reveals matters past, present, future

**Christ**

③



Rules for the eternal eons

**Holy Spirit**

④



Restores the world's pristine beauty

**Angels**

⑤



Respond in worship to God

**Man**

⑥



Receives indescribable blessings

**Sin**

⑦



Removed from the future universe

**Salvation**

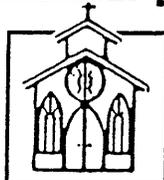
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Realized in its final fullness

**Church**

⑨



Resides in Christ's presence

## THE FUTURE AND THE BELIEVER

### 1A. The Readiness of the Saints:

- 1b. The Activity of the Believer: Lk. 19:13; 1 Thess. 4:9-12
- 2b. The Anticipation of the Believer: Phil. 2:20



### 2A. The Rapture of the Church:

- 1b. The Promise of the Rapture: Jn. 14:1-6
- 2b. The Picture of the Rapture: 1 Thess. 4:13-18

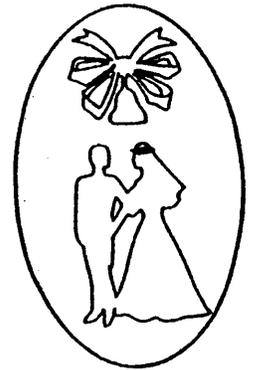
### 3A. The Rewards for the Believer:

- 1b. The Individuals at the Bema: 2 Cor. 5:10
- 2b. The Issues at the Bema: 1 Cor. 3:11-4:5



### 4A. The Rejoicing at the Marriage of the Lamb:

- 1b. The Presentation of the Bride: Rev. 19:7-8; Eph. 5:27
- 2b. The Presents for the Bride: Rom. 8:17; 1 Pet. 2:9



### 5A. The Return with Christ:

- 1b. The Descent on Horses: Rev. 19:11-16
- 2b. The Defeat of the Enemies: Rev. 19:15-21

### 6A. The Rule with Christ:

- 1b. Dining with the Saints: Mt. 26:29 (Mk. 14:25); Lk. 22:30
- 2b. Dominion with the Savior: 1 Cor. 6:2-3; Lk. 19:11-27

### 7A. The Residence in the New Jerusalem:

- 1b. Residing in the City: Rev. 20:1-5
- 2b. Ruling with Christ: Rev. 21:3-5





1A. The Readiness of the Saints:

1b. The Activity of the Believer:

The believer is to be active for the Lord. He lives as if the Savior were coming back today but he works as if the Lord were to tarry another 100 years.

Lk. 19:13

"And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come."

1 Thess. 4:9-12

"But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; and that ye study to be quiet, and to do you own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing."

2b. The Anticipation of the Believer:

While the Christian carries out the Great Commission and his divinely assigned tasks, he should live with a spirit of eager expectancy. The fervent prayer of every dedicated believer should issue in the expectant, "Perhaps Today!"

Titus 2:13

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

Phil. 3:20-21

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

2A. The Rapture of the Church:

1b. The Promise of the Rapture:

The first disclosure of the rapture involves a promise that Christ must leave His disciples to build their heavenly home. As soon as that home is ready, He will return to take them there.

Jn. 14:1-6

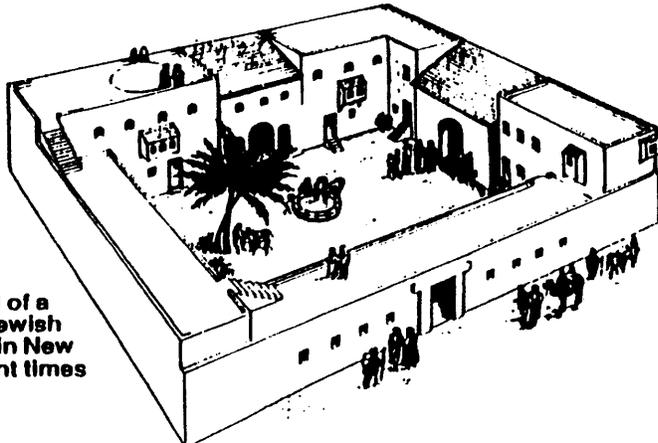
"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

2b. The Picture of the Rapture:

Twenty years after the Savior's first revelation of the rapture, Paul gives a detailed sequence of events surrounding Christ's return for His own. At that glorious event the Savior returns to the clouds, resurrects the dead saints and translates the living



believers into His presence. This will occur before the Tribulation, giving cause for great comfort.



Model of a wealthy Jewish house in New Testament times

Berdmans' Family Encyclopedia of the Bible, page 214.



1 Thess. 4:13-18

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

1 Thess. 5:9

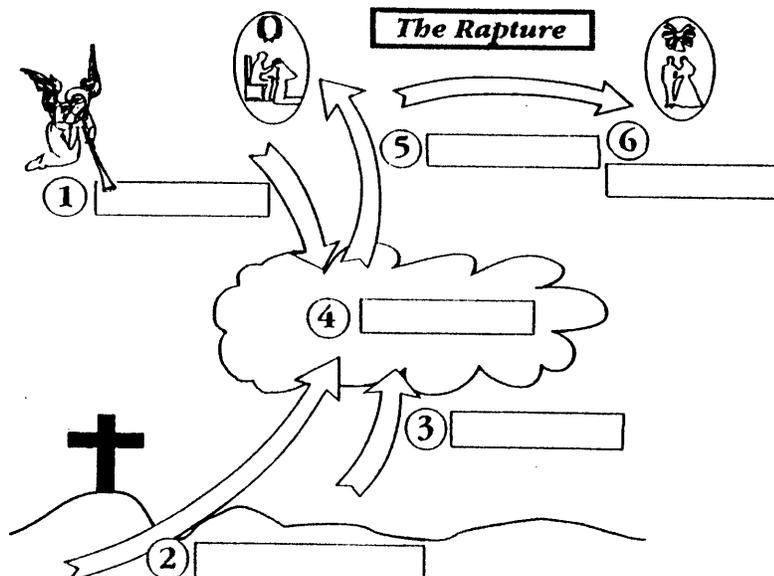
"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Cor. 15:51-52

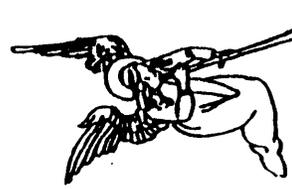
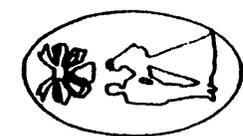
"Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

**I THESSALONIANS 4.**

**16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:  
**17** Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.  
**18** Wherefore comfort one another with these words.



# The Rapture



1

ACCOMPANIED BY  
--SAINTS  
--ANGELS

ANNOUNCED BY

--A SHOUT OR COMMAND  
--VOICE OF THE  
ARCHANGEL  
--TRUMP OF GOD

WITH THE LORD  
LOVED ONES

5

6

II Cor. 5:10

Rev. 19:6-9

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**I THESSALONIANS 4.**  
16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:  
17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.  
18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

4

3



2

OF CHURCH-AGE SAINTS

7

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3A. The Rewards for the Believer:

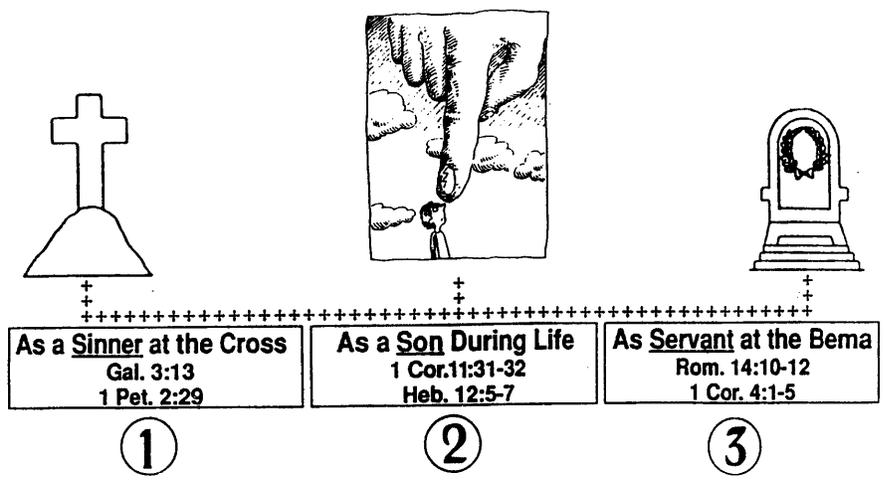
1b. The Individuals at the Bema:

The bema or judgment seat as an event intended specifically for the Church age believer will occur after the rapture in heaven. The bridegroom decorates the bride for the next event, the marriage of the Lamb.

2 Cor. 5:10

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

# The Believer's 3 Judgments



2b. The Issues at the Bema:

Not the believers sin but his service is examined here. The Christian is judged as a sinner at the cross, as a son during this life and as a servant at the bema. God promised: "their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" (Heb. 8:12; cf. Jer. 31:24).

1 Cor. 3:11-14

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward."

1 Cor. 4:5

"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God."



#### 4A. The Rejoicing at the Marriage of the Lamb:

5

##### 1b. The Presentation of the Bride:

The long separation between the Savior and the saints has ended. The bridegroom presents the bride without spot and wrinkle to the Father and Christ and His church are eternally joined.

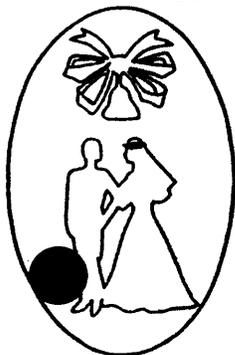
Rev. 19:7-8

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

Eph. 5:27

"That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

##### 2b. The Presents for the Bride:



From the moment of the blessed union on, the bride will eternally share in the prerogatives and prominence of the bridegroom. The Church age saint will share a uniquely intimate position. Where Christ is the bride will be, what He is doing the bride will do also.

Rom. 8:17

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

1 Pet. 2:9

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

#### 5A. The Return with Christ:

##### 1b. The Descent on Horses:

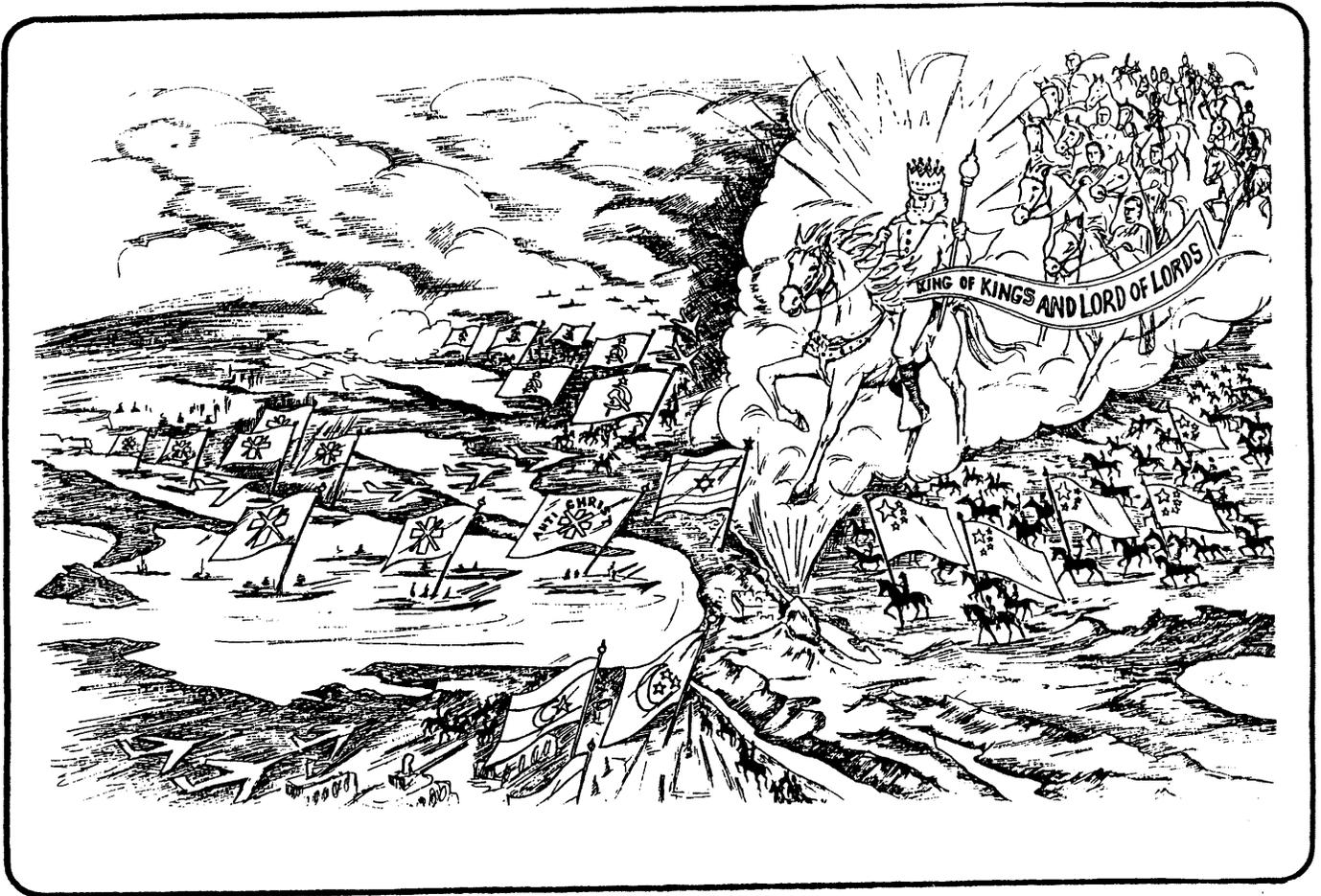
After a time of celebration in heaven the bride and bridegroom return to earth. John describes the spectacular scene of Christ and the church returning on horses to conclude triumphantly the time of the Tribulation on earth.

Rev. 19:11-14

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean."

Jude 14

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints."



## 2b. The Defeat of the Enemies:

As the King of kings returns with His armies, the invaders of Israel at Armageddon will direct their weapons against them. The saints will be protected as their leader destroys the armies of earth. One could well entitle a message on this passage, "The Day Half a Billion Soldiers Fought Against Me. . .and I Won!"

### Rev. 19:15-21

"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."

## 6A. The Rule with Christ:

### 1b. Dining with the Saints:

Christ promised His disciples that He would eat and drink with them in the kingdom. The believer's resurrection body, like that of Christ's, does not need food for sustenance, but can enjoy food (Acts 10:41). The meal at the beginning of the Millennium may well be the promised marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9; cf. Lk.

14:15-24). The bridegroom and the bride are the focus of the festivities but all the saints of all the ages will be present for this consummate celebration.

Mt. 26:29

"But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day which I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Lk. 22:30

"That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Rev. 19:9

"And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."

2b. Dominion with the Savior:



Every believer, whether spiritual or carnal, will participate in Christ's rule. This rule is promised to every Church age believer (and Tribulation martyr, Rev. 20:4), as part of the benefits of salvation. The extent of ruling responsibility depends upon faithfulness in this life. Those who have been committed to the Savior and consistent in their service, apparently will receive greater responsibility.

1 Cor. 6:2-3

"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?"

Lk. 19:16-19

"Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, be thou also over five cities."

7A. The Residence in the New Jerusalem:

1b. Residing in the City: Rev. 21:1-5

At the conclusion of the Millennial kingdom the Lord will remove every trace of sin from the universe by creating a new heaven and new earth. The new Jerusalem which Christ is constructing for us presently in heaven will at that time descend to earth. The believer will dwell in that celestial city for all eternity. He will be joined by the triune God, the holy angels and the saints of all the ages.

Rev. 21:1-5

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

Heb. 12:22-24

"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven,

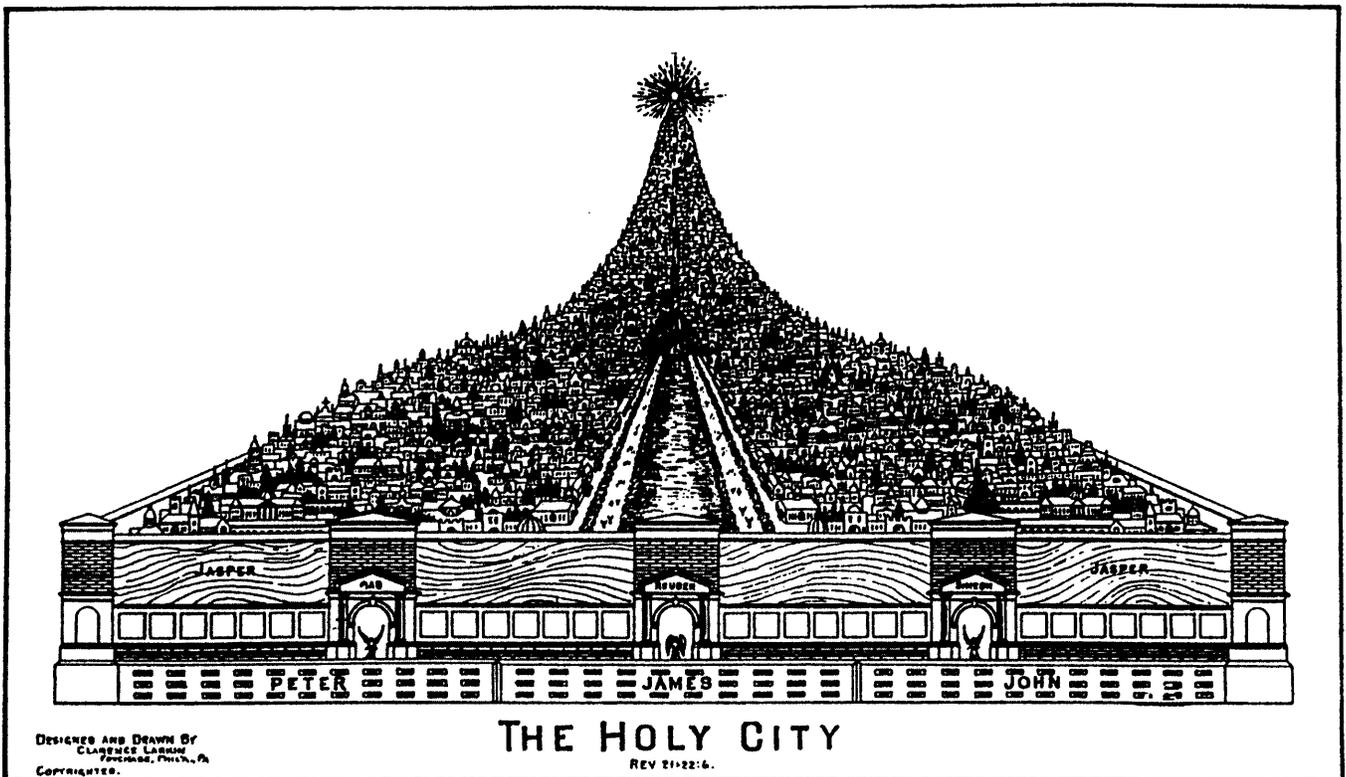
and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

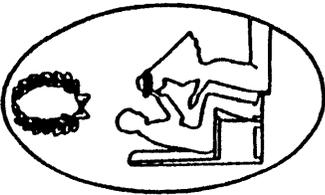
2b. Ruling with Christ:

Christ's reign in the Millennium will continue in the eternal state. The Church will share in that rule and will thrill at the privilege of serving Him by ruling with Him forever and ever.

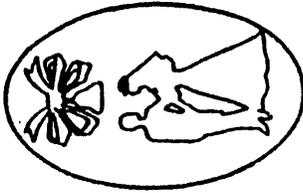
Rev. 22:3-5

"And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."





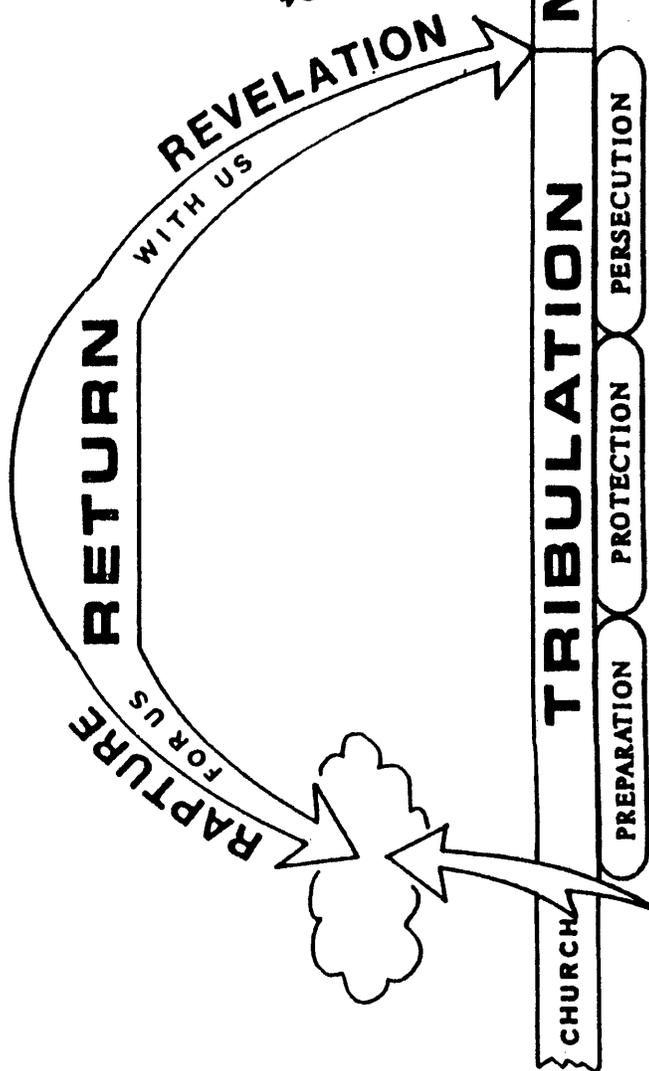
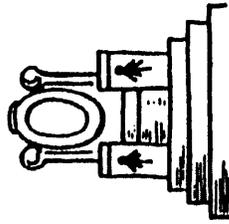
JUDGMENT  
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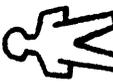


MARRIAGE OF  
THE LAMB

# CELEBRATION

GREAT WHITE  
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JUDGMENT

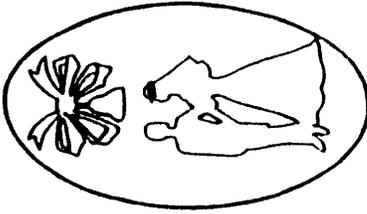
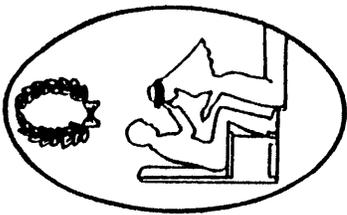


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# The Future and The Saint

3

1 Cor. 3:11-4:5



4

Rev. 19:7-8

**CELEBRATION**

1

Phil. 3:20

For Us  
Rapture

**RETURN**

5

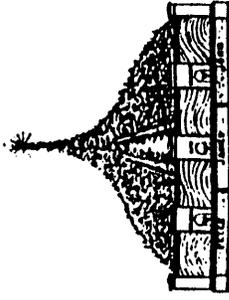
Rev. 19:4-16

6

1 Cor. 6:2-3

7

Rev. 22:1-5



THE HOLY CITY  
NEW JERUSALEM

**Church**

2

1 Thess. 4:13-18

**Tribulation**

**Millennium**

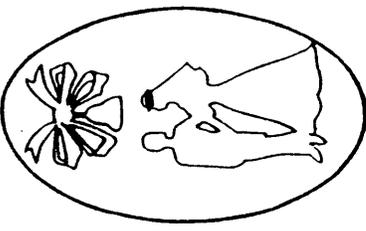
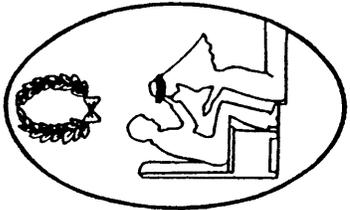
**Eternity**

Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.



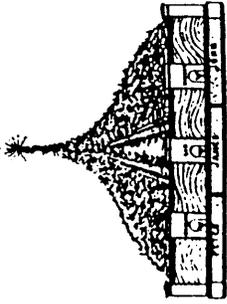
# The Future and The Saint

**3** Rewards for the Believer  
1 Cor. 3:11-4:5



**4** Rejoicing at Marriage of the Lamb  
Rev. 19:7-8

## CELEBRATION



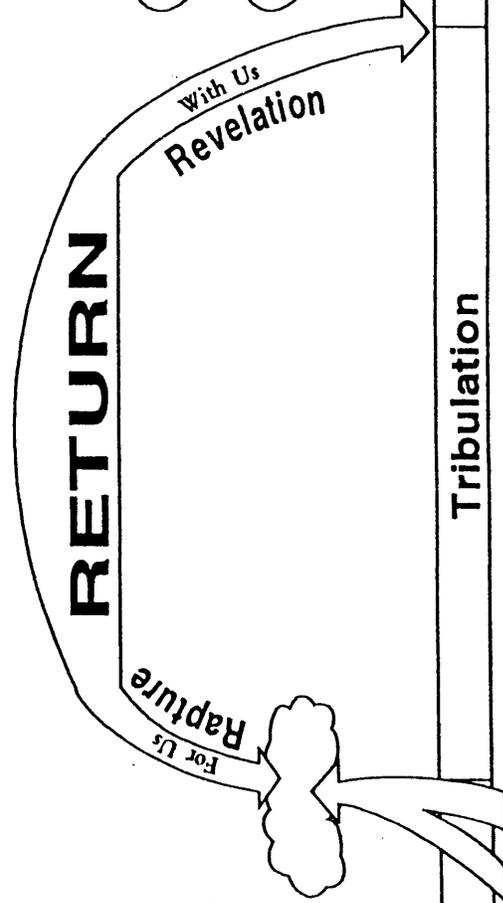
THE HOLY CITY  
NEW JERUSALEM

**1** Readiness of the Saints  
Phil. 3:20

**5** Return with Christ  
Rev. 19:4-16

**6** Rule with Christ  
1 Cor. 6:2-3

**7** Residence in the New Jerusalem  
Rev. 20:1-5



**2** Rapture of The Church  
1 Thess. 4:13-18

Tribulation

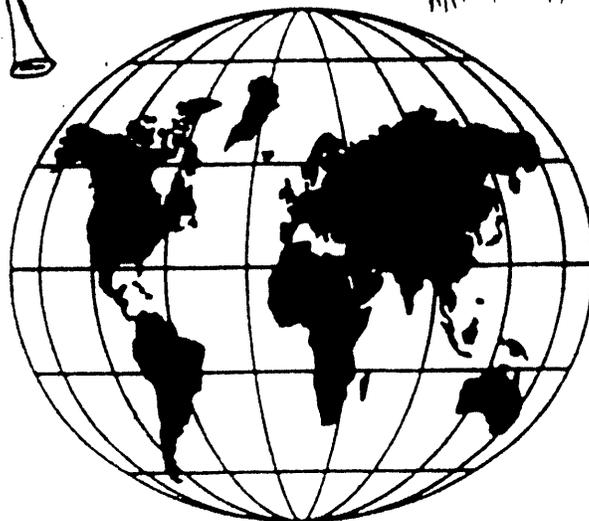
Millennium

Eternity

Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.



# The Future and the Nations



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.



## THE FUTURE AND THE NATIONS

### 1A. The Deception by Satan until the Second Advent.

#### 1b. The duration of the deception:

Since the dawn of human history Satan has sought to counterfeit the work of God and has attempted to usurp the rule of Christ. Through demonic princes he rules over nations. As the "god of this age" (2 Cor. 4:4) he is permitted to exercise authority over the world, deceiving the nations into accepting his substitute sovereignty until the Savior returns at the second advent.

Daniel 10:13

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

Revelation 12:9

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.

Revelation 20:3

And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

#### 2b. The departure from God.

Satan's deception has always led the nations of the world into confusion as to their true source of help and inspired them to collusion in his effort to thwart God's purpose in setting up His King upon the throne of David in Jerusalem. The case of Nebuchadnezzar's recognition and worship of the true God is a rare exception in the inspired annals of the nations.

Daniel 4:37

<sup>37</sup> Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Psalm 2:1-4

<sup>1</sup> Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*,

<sup>3</sup> Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

<sup>4</sup> He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.



## 2A. The Disarray of the Nations After the Rapture.

### 1b. The emergence of false messiahs and prophets:

In the Olivet Discourse Christ warned those on earth immediately after the rapture that there would be a veritable parade of counterfeit princes and prophets on earth. After the pandemonium occasioned by the rapture, each major country appears to have individuals who claim that if the nations follow them, they would lead the work to political stability or religious certainty.

Matthew 24:5, 11, 24

<sup>5</sup>For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

<sup>11</sup>And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

<sup>24</sup>For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

### 2b. The engulfing of the world by wars.

Christ predicted that the period beginning with the rapture and terminating with the second advent would experience even in its beginning stages wars and rumors of wars which are but "the beginning of sorrows." Every nation, including, no doubt, the United States, will be convulsed by wars and natural catastrophes.

Matthew 24:7-8

<sup>7</sup>For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

<sup>8</sup>All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.



### 3A. The Division into Two Major Power Blocs.

#### 1b. The development into two major powers:

Ever since World War II and the meteoric rise of international communism there have been two major focal points of power on this globe: the western powers controlled by Washington and the eastern bloc headed by Moscow. It is interesting to note that whatever the present demise of the Soviet empire might mean, by the middle of the Tribulation period the world will again be divided into the western powers, controlled by Antichrist from Rome, and the eastern powers, constituted by Russia and her satellites.



During the first part of the Tribulation, a 10-nation confederacy will form under Antichrist's rule in Western Europe. The European Union of today may be the forerunner of the federation of 10 nations which will comprise the revived Roman Empire during the first half of the Tribulation.

Daniel 7:23-24

<sup>23</sup> Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

<sup>24</sup> And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

#### 2b. The dictatorship in Western Europe:

After the rapture, the center of the western power shifts from Washington, D.C. to Rome. A dictator with satanic enablement will consolidate his kingdom as he seeks to restore the glory of the old Roman Empire. His devout desire to rule the world will be granted once his major opponent, the Russian empire, will be eliminated by God Himself, as soon as the northern confederacy invades Israel (Ezekiel 38-39).



In Nebuchadnezzar's dream of Daniel 2 and Daniel's vision of Daniel 7 the prophetic picture of the world situation at the second advent sees Rome (not Russia, Red China or some other would-be world power) in control of the planet, to be supplanted by Christ's Kingdom.

Daniel 2:40,44

<sup>40</sup> And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

<sup>44</sup> And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Daniel 7:25-27

<sup>25</sup> And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

<sup>26</sup> But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

<sup>27</sup> And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.



4A. The Defeat of Russia and Her Satellites: Ezekiel 38-39

## 1b. The attack on Israel: Ezek. 38

At the midpoint of the Tribulation the campaign of Gog and Magog against Israel takes place. It is said to be at a time when Israel is at peace, dwelling safely without defenses, undoubtedly because of Antichrist's peace treaty with the Jewish people (Dan. 9:27).

The world will stand by in utter consternation as a concerted lightning strike against Israel (Ezek. 38:13) is carried out by Russia and her confederates, "Persia, Ethiopia, Libya... Gomer and Togarmah" (Ezek. 38:5-6). Only God's direct intervention will save His people. Gog, Magog and the accompanying armies will be decimated by 8 specific judgments (Ezek. 38:18-23).

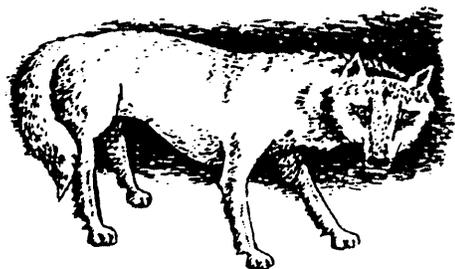
## 2b. The aftermath of the attack: Ezek. 39

The corpses of the invaders will be buried for seven months in a prepared mass grave east of the Dead Sea (Ezek. 39:11,12). The surrendered instruments of war will replace firewood for seven years (Ezek. 39:9).

When the nations of the world witness the defeat of God's enemies, many Jews (Ezek. 39:22) and gentiles (Ezek. 39:23) will come to God for deliverance lest they suffer a similar fate.

## EZEKIEL 39

# G O G AND M A G O G



17 ¶ And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, *even* a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood.

18 Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bā'-shān.

19 And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.



## 5A. The Developments in Babylon: Rev. 18

### 1b. The commercial center of Babylon:

Revelation 17 speaks of a spiritual Babylon, suggesting a union of all the world's religions centered in Rome (Rev. 17:9). As the culmination of the ecumenical movement, it is fittingly described as a harlot because of its unfaithfulness to the Lord.

In Revelation 18 a commercial Babylon is mentioned. Some suggest that the reference here is also to Rome as the commercial center of the revived Roman Empire. It is better to see an actual rebuilding of ancient Babylon as the commercial center of the planet. This would suggest the political and spiritual power residing in Rome, whereas the commercial center will be rebuilt Babylon. Interestingly, Saddam Hussein has already begun the reconstruction of this ancient city.

### 2b. The complete conflagration of Babylon.

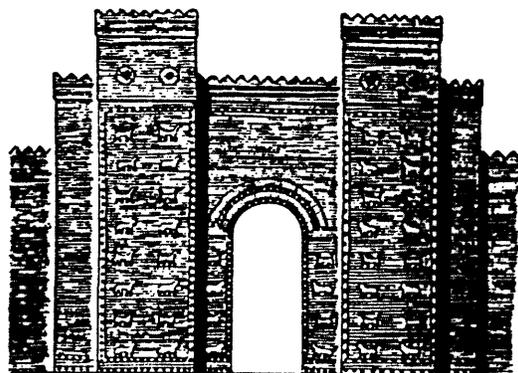
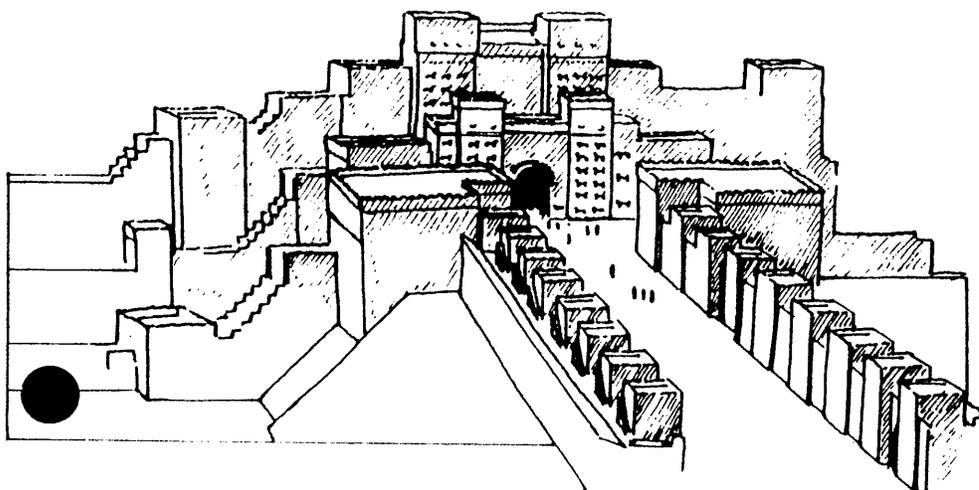
Prophecies relating to Babylon and picturing its total destruction have never been literally fulfilled (Is. 13-14; 21:9; 47; Jer. 50-51), making likely a future rebuilding and final ruination of the city and its commercial system at the second advent.

Revelation 18:8-10

<sup>8</sup>Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

<sup>9</sup>And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

<sup>10</sup>Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.



## 6A. The Destruction of Armageddon.

### 1b. The convergence of every nation on earth.

The world government of Antichrist which was put together virtually without a fight at the beginning of the Tribulation will be the object of a desperate attack of all of the world's armies gathered to gain control of power. For some 3½ years the campaign rages, involving every major country on earth. The fighting will be especially fierce in the Valley of Armageddon in northern Israel and around the city of Jerusalem.

Revelation 16:13-16

<sup>13</sup>And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

<sup>14</sup>For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

<sup>15</sup>Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

<sup>16</sup>And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Zechariah 12:3

<sup>3</sup>And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

Zechariah 14:1-3

<sup>1</sup>Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

<sup>2</sup>For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

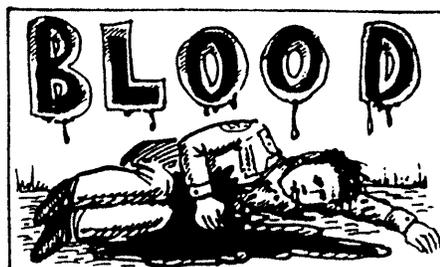
<sup>3</sup>Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

### 2b. The carnage at Jerusalem and Armageddon:

The destruction of Israel's invaders will result in the death of millions of men as well as their horses. The Holy Spirit predicts a river of blood in the low places of Israel, about four feet deep, for the distance of 200 miles. This would suggest that with liquid seeking its own level, a river of blood would inundate the Valley of Megiddo, flow down the Jordan Valley and finally issue into the Dead Sea.

Revelation 14:20

And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.



## 7A. The Division of the Sheep and Goat Gentiles.

### 1b. The focus of the judgment:

At the second advent every soldier fighting in Israel will be destroyed. The Lord will bring death upon the invaders (Rev. 19:15, 21) before He ever returns to the Mount of Olives (Zech 14:4). The living gentiles who did not participate in the campaign of Armageddon and who are scattered around the world will be summoned to Israel to appear before the Judge in Jerusalem. There the Lord, seated on the throne of David, will divide the sheep gentiles from the goat gentiles, a graphic depiction of the separation of believers from unbelievers. Saved gentiles will give evidence of their genuine faith by aiding the hounded and persecuted Jews of the Tribulation period.



Matthew 25:33-40

<sup>33</sup> And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

<sup>34</sup> Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

<sup>35</sup> For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

<sup>36</sup> Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

<sup>37</sup> Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink?

<sup>38</sup> When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*?

<sup>39</sup> Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

<sup>40</sup> And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

### 2b. The finality of the judgment:

The second advent will be a slow and deliberate event as at first the sign of the Son of Man appears in heaven, followed by the Savior and the saints. Once the Lord descends to earth, the time of salvation will have ended. The unbelieving gentiles are consigned to a place of torment described as "everlasting fire" (Mt. 25:41). The perpetual punishment will never be alleviated or abbreviated. If the state of the redeemed is eternal, so is the condition of the rebels. The identical word, everlasting, is used for both in Matthew 25:46.

Matthew 25:46

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.





8A. The Delights of the Millennium.

1b. The populating of the Millennial earth:

Gentiles who are saved in the Tribulation and survived the catastrophes and escaped martyrdom during that time will enter the Kingdom with their physical bodies. As national entities they will inhabit this planet. Numerous nations are mentioned by name in relation to the Millennium. These nations will apparently retain not just their national identity but their individual languages (Zech 8:23-4).

Isaiah 2:4

<sup>4</sup>And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Isaiah 11:10

<sup>10</sup>And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

Isaiah 42:1

<sup>1</sup>Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

2b. The pilgrimage to Jerusalem:

During the Kingdom gentiles from all over the world will converge on Israel to worship the King and present their gifts. Refusal to come to Jerusalem for certain feasts will result in judgment on those nations, such as drought and plagues.

Zechariah 8:22-23

<sup>22</sup>Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.

<sup>23</sup>Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days *it shall come to pass*, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard *that God is with you*.

Isaiah 60:3,6

<sup>3</sup>And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

<sup>6</sup>The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD.

Zechariah 14:16-18

<sup>16</sup>And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

<sup>17</sup>And it shall be, *that* whoso will not come up of *all* the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

<sup>18</sup>And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, *that have no rain*; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.



9A. The Design of Satan: Rev. 20:7-10

1b. The summoning of the gentiles:

The millennial malaise of Satan in the abyss will have no effect on his designs to usurp world rule. Ever since his original sin involving the five "I wills" of Isaiah 14 has Satan endeavored to replace the ruler of the universe. Despite doomed designs in the past and predicted punishment for future efforts, Satan refuses to give up his plans. As soon as he is released from the pit he will deceive the unsaved among the gentiles to help him carry out his satanic siege against Jerusalem. Drawn away from the Savior's sovereign rule by their rebellious old natures, gentiles as numerous "as the sand of the sea" will join Satan in one final effort to replace Christ.

2b. The sentencing of the attackers:

Before Satan can even carry out his battle plan against "the camp of the saints and the beloved city," fire from heaven will devour the duped gentiles and Satan will join Antichrist and the false prophet in the Lake of Fire. What an enigmatic scenario! How could Satan ever hope to succeed in his strategy against Jerusalem? How could he realistically expect to defeat an omnipotent, omniscient King and His glorified saints possessing immortal resurrection bodies?

Revelation 20:7-10

<sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

<sup>8</sup> And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea.

<sup>9</sup> And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

<sup>10</sup> And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.



## 10A. The Distribution of Nations on the New Earth.

### 1b. The descent of the New Jerusalem:

After the Millennial Kingdom a new heaven and a new earth will be created (Rev. 21:1-3) and the New Jerusalem, the eternal home of the saints, will descend to earth. Its immense size (1500 miles x 1500 miles x 1500 miles; Rev. 21:16-17) would cover with its base half the continental United States. It will be the home of the triune God, the holy angels and all the redeemed of all the ages (Heb. 12:22-24).

### 2b. The distinctions of the groups:

By implication Israel will be a distinct group even in the eternal state. Each of the twelve gates of the heavenly Jerusalem will have the name of one of the tribes of Israel written on it (Rev. 21:12). Perhaps outside the city various nations will inhabit the new earth but they will frequently come to the city to worship the King. The bride of Christ, comprised of the church age saints, will have the blessed privilege of joining Christ in His eternal rule which may well include sovereignty over the redeemed nations.

Revelation 21:23-26

<sup>23</sup> And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

<sup>24</sup> And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

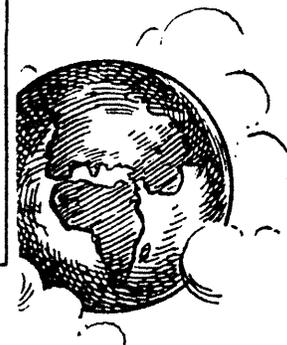
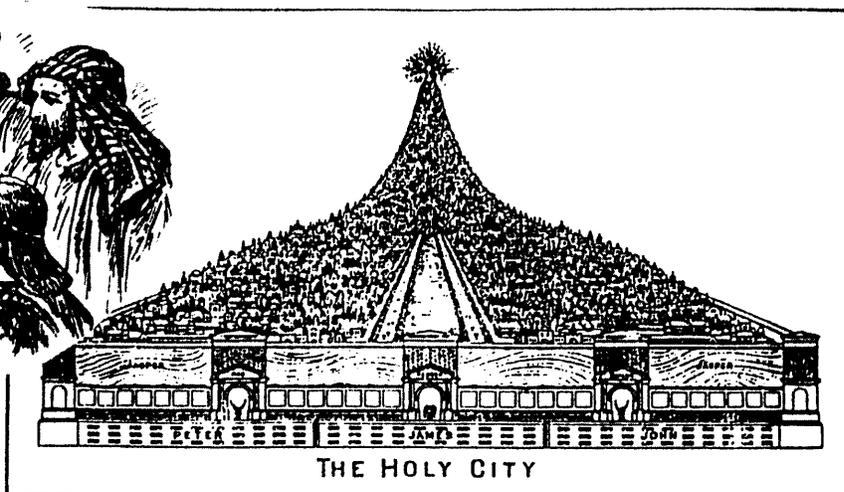
<sup>25</sup> And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

<sup>26</sup> And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

Revelation 22:3,5

<sup>3</sup> And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

<sup>5</sup> And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

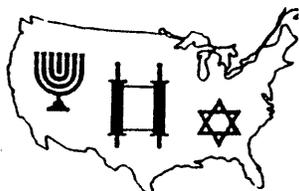




11A. The Destiny of the U.S.A.

It is possible to trace in general outline the future of our country. Though no direct reference is found in the prophetic Scriptures to the U.S.A., various features relating to the future of America can be discerned.

1b. Preservation until the rapture:



God's providential design for America has been to make it a missionary nation and a protector of Israel (Gen. 12:3). Until the rapture God protects and uses our nation to help Israel. Also until the rapture the United States is the main sending country for missionaries. After the rapture the 144,000 will be God's witnesses and Antichrist will be the protector of Israel.

2b. Pandemonium after the rapture:

With millions of American Christians gone our country will become a third-rate nation with its institutions collapsing and its societal structures in total shambles.



3b. Persecution of Israel:

America's pro-Israel stand will change dramatically after the rapture. All nations will persecute the Jews, resulting in the return of every last Jew to Israel (Ezek. 37; 39:28).

4b. Participation in the Roman Empire:



After the rapture the center of Western power will be Rome. The U.S.A. may well become a territorial extension of the revived Roman Empire, seeing that America's cultural and political roots lie in Europe.



5b. Perplexity at Gog and Magog:

The world's nations, including the U.S.A., will stand by in utter amazement when the hordes of Gog and Magog attack Israel (Ezek. 38:13; 39:21).



6b. The preaching of the 144,000 and an angel:

Through the 144,000 witnesses and the ministry of an angel, people in every nation and tribe on earth will hear the gospel during the Tribulation period. Americans thus will have a final opportunity to be saved (Rev. 7:9; 14:6).

7b. The punishments of the Tribulation:

Vast numbers of the world's people perish in the judgments of the Tribulation period. Through two judgments alone half the world's population and, presumably, half of America's population perishes (Rev. 6:8; 9:15).

8b. Participation in Armageddon:

All the world's armies will be gathered at Armageddon to fight against Antichrist's forces and finally against the descending Christ. American armies will be represented and they, like all the other armies, will be destroyed by Christ (Rev. 16:16; Rev. 19:19; Zech. 12:3; 14:1-2).

9b. Presentation in Jerusalem:

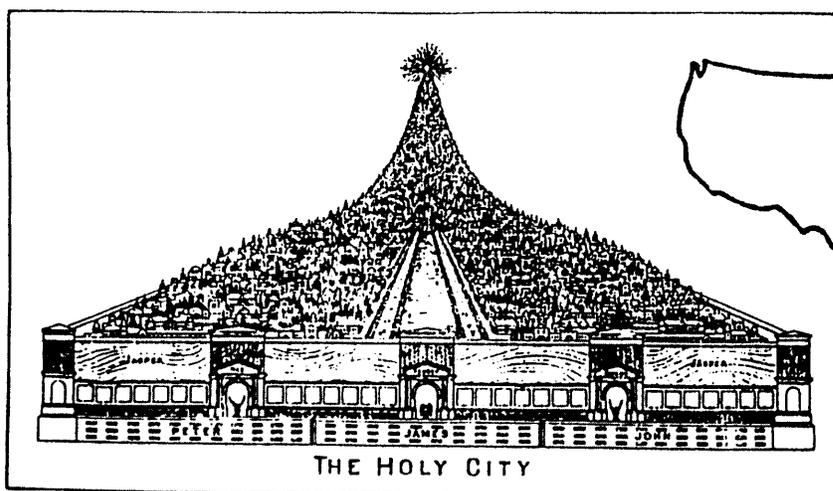
Saved Americans who survive the Tribulation period will join other nations on a yearly pilgrimage to Jerusalem to worship the Savior and to present gifts to Him (Is. 60:6-9; Zech. 14:16-17).

10b. Prosperity in the Kingdom:

Spiritual and physical well-being will characterize the world's nations, including the United States. God's Spirit will be poured out on all flesh (Joel 2:28, 32). All the desert areas of the earth will be healed, including America's deserts and "Bad Lands" (Is. 35:6). God's peace, like a mighty river, will flow from Jerusalem to all the nations, including the U.S.A. (Is. 66:12).

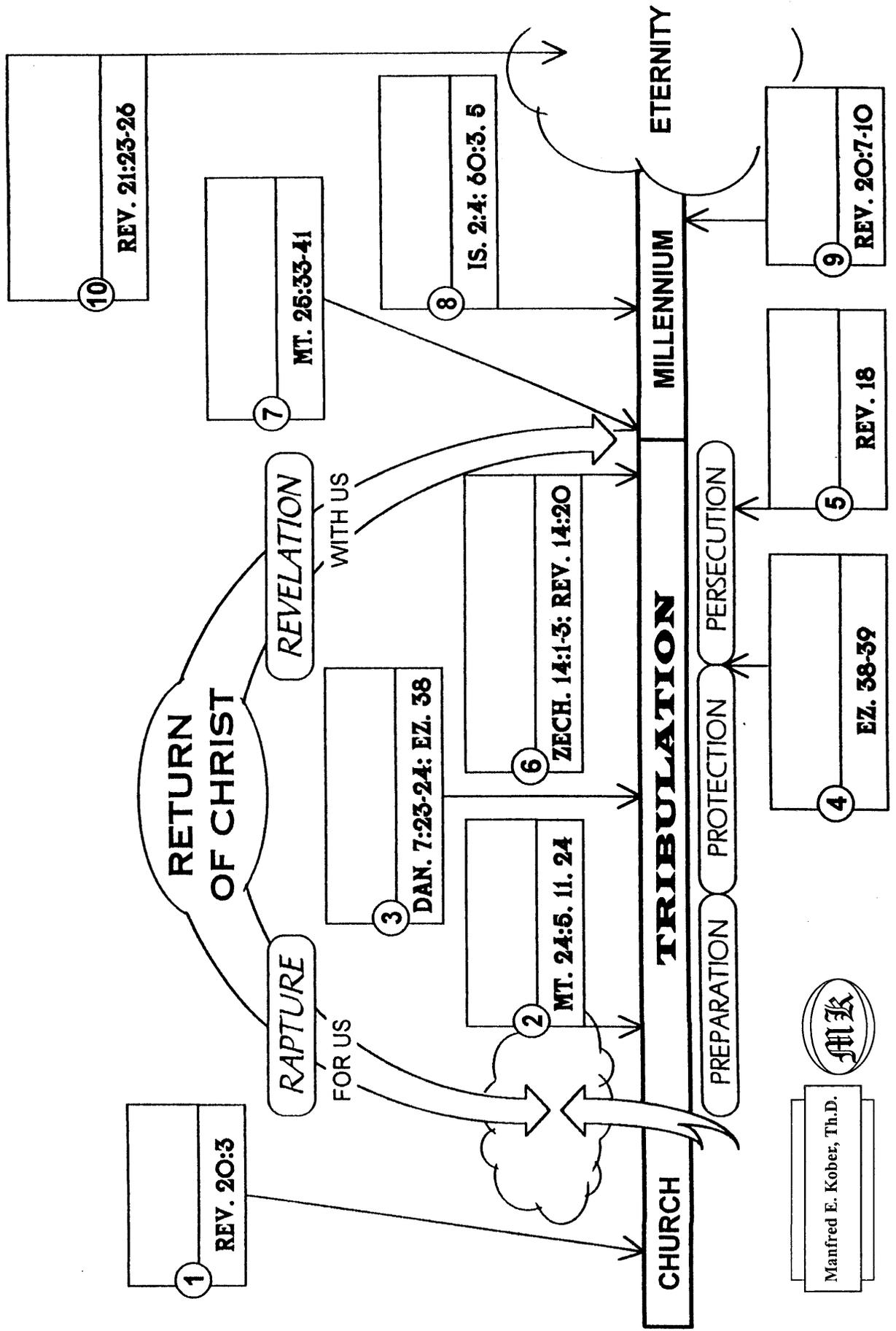
11b. Prominence in the New Jerusalem:

Americans will be among the nations to seek out the Lord in the capital of the universe, responding to His rule and reveling in His glory (Rev. 21:24).

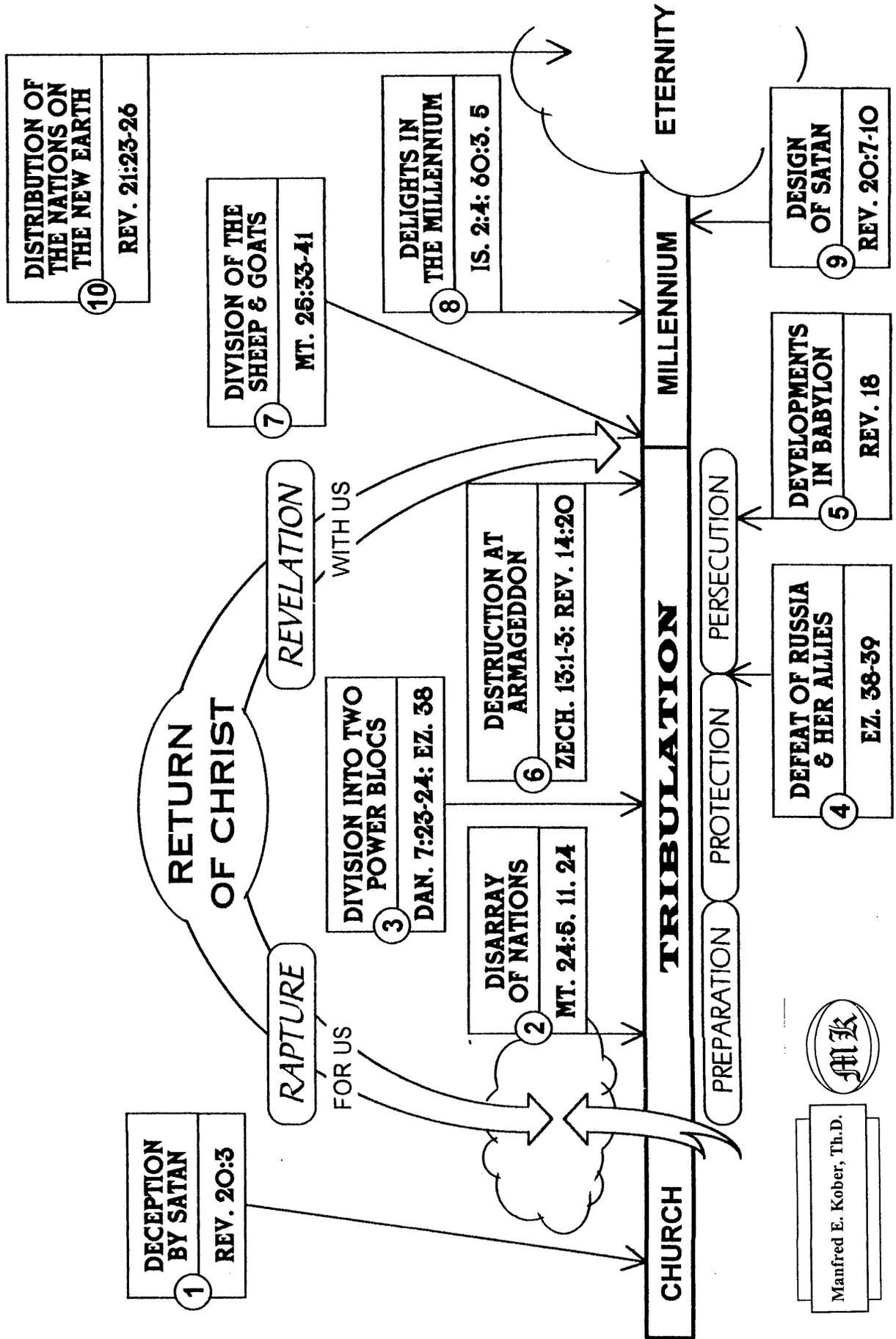


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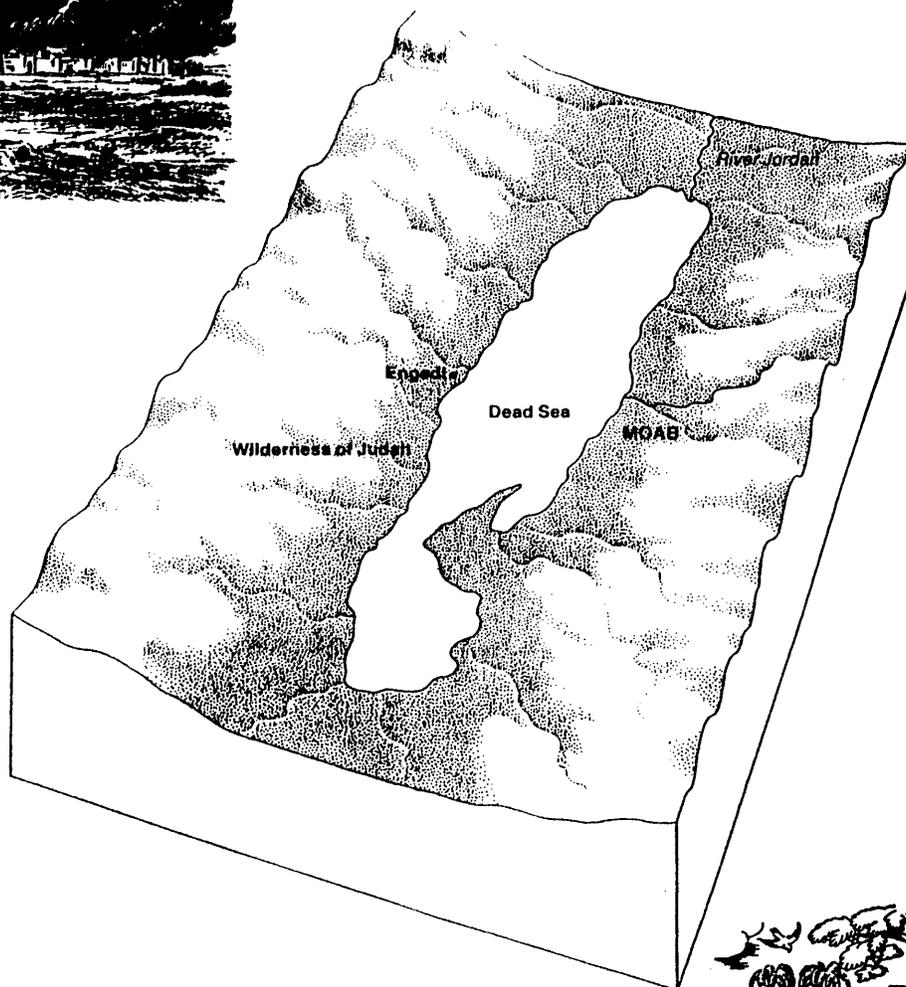
# The Future and the Nations



# The Future and the Nations



# THE FUTURE AND THE DEAD SEA: MYSTERIOUS IN HISTORY--MAGNIFICENT IN PROPHECY



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.



## THE FUTURE AND THE DEAD SEA: MYSTERIOUS IN HISTORY--MAGNIFICENT IN PROPHECY

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1. The designations for the Dead Sea

The customary name for the unique, mysterious body of water located at the mouth of the Jordan River is Dead Sea, first used by Pompeius Trogus (1st cent. B.C.). Actually the Dead Sea is not a sea at all but a land-locked lake. In the Old Testament it was called the Salt Sea (Gen. 14:3; Numb. 34:12 et. al.), the Sea of the Plain (Deut. 3:17; 4:49 et. al.), and the eastern sea (Ezek. 47:18; Joel 2:20). Some early writers such as Josephus (Jos. War 4, 7, 2) also referred to it as the Asphalt Sea or Lake Asphaltitis.

#### 2. The desolation of the Dead Sea

A pilgrim to the Dead Sea in 1861 relates his feelings, feelings which are rather common for first-time visitors:

As the visitor approaches the place, if all knowledge of his locality and its previous history could be obliterated, he would still instinctively feel that he was in close proximity to the theatre of some appalling or portentous event. All around him is a sterile desert of sand, and beneath his feet the salty incrustations crackle and break at every step. No signs of human habitation--no song of bird--no footfall of beast--no hum of insect--a silence, profound and awful as the chamber of death is there! (D.A. Randall, *The Handwriting of God in Egypt, Sinai, and the Holy Land*, II, 241).

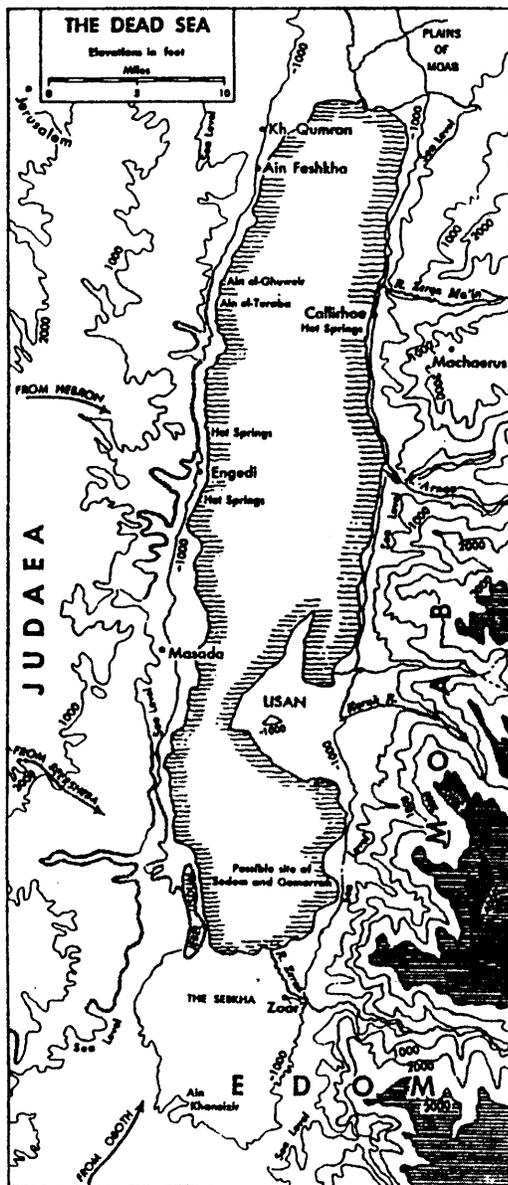
#### 3. The distinctiveness of the Dead Sea

Everyone who visits the Dead Sea is overwhelmed by it. A traveler in 1867 gives the following features that make the Dead Sea unique:

The Dead Sea is doubtless the most remarkable body of water in the world. Among its chief features of interest are: first, the extraordinary depression of the basin which it occupies--the surface of the sea being over thirteen hundred feet below the level of the Mediterranean, and the bottom of the sea over thirteen hundred feet below the surface; secondly, the saltiness and buoyancy of its water--the salt amounting to more than twenty-six pounds in every hundred of the water, and the buoyancy being such that persons may sit or lie in the water with their heads high above the surface; thirdly, the fact that it has no outlet, and voids the water

poured into it from all sides only by evaporation; fourthly, its steaming atmosphere--due chiefly to its deep depression between high bluff shores and the consequent intense heat and rapid evaporation; fifthly, the wild and desolate character of these mountain shores; and sixthly, the general absence of life in and around it--no living thing, save a few low and minute organizations, inhabiting its waters, little verdure anywhere appearing on its banks, and few haunts of beasts or abodes of men keeping station near its shores.

The silence, the desolation, the stern sublimity, the dread mystery, which reign around and hang over this water, have long made it a recognized and appropriate image of death, and procured for it the name of "The Dead Sea." (N. C. Burt, *The Land and Its Story*, pp. 118, 119).



## THE DEAD SEA IN HISTORY

### 1A. It was situated in a fruitful plain.

Before God destroyed the cities of the plain because of their indescribable wickedness, the Dead Sea apparently was a freshwater lake situated in a lush valley with abundant vegetation along its shores and numerous streams feeding into it. In the days of Abraham (2000 B.C.) its area was reminiscent of the Nile delta of Egypt and the Garden of Eden with the four streams of paradise.

Genesis 13:10-11

<sup>10</sup>And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

<sup>11</sup>Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

### 2A. It was sacked by foreign princes.

In the days of Abraham four Mesopotamian kings headed by Chedorlaomer invaded Palestine, punishing five petty city states which they had subdued some fourteen years previously. When Abraham heard that his nephew Lot had been captured, he and his confederates pursued after the marauding Mesopotamians and rescued the captured Canaanites, including Lot.

Genesis 14:1-3, 8, 11-12

<sup>1</sup>And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations;

<sup>2</sup>That these made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar.

<sup>3</sup>All these were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea.

<sup>4</sup>And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same is Zoar;) and they joined battle with them in the vale of Siddim;

<sup>11</sup>And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way.

<sup>12</sup>And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

### 3A. It was surrounded by fatal pits.

The Valley of Siddim, in which the present Dead Sea is located, was full of pits of bitumen or asphalt. Indeed, large chunks of asphalt still keep popping to the surface of the Dead Sea, explaining its ancient name, Lake Asphaltitis.

Genesis 14:10

<sup>10</sup>And the vale of Siddim was full of slimepits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain.

4A. It was settled by fierce perverts.

The inhabitants of the cities of the plain, chief among them Sodom and Gomorrah, were indescribably wicked. The outrage of their grievous sin registered before the infinitely holy Creator. Their depth of shameless depravity in the area of homosexuality, and sexual perversion involved every male citizen from the youngest to the oldest in Sodom and, by clear intimation, the other cities of the Pentapolis.

Genesis 13:13

<sup>13</sup> But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

Genesis 18:20

<sup>20</sup> And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

Genesis 19:4-5

<sup>4</sup> But before they lay down, the men of the city, *even* the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:

<sup>5</sup> And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where *are* the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

5A. It was scorched by fiery punishment.

About 1900 B.C., the salt, asphalt and abundant free sulphur of the area were mingled miraculously, apparently by an earthquake. The violent explosion hurled the red-hot salt, asphalt, and sulphur into the air, literally raining fire and brimstone over the whole plain.

Genesis 19:24-27

<sup>24</sup> Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

<sup>25</sup> And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

<sup>26</sup> But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

<sup>27</sup> And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD:

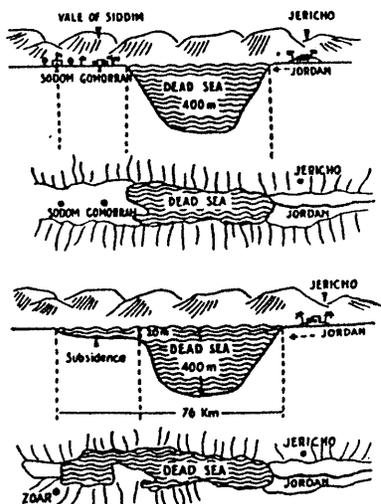


Fig. 12. The Dead Sea (a) in 2000 B.C. before the end of Sodom and Gomorrah, (b) in 1900 B.C. after the disaster.

12. Lot flieht aus Sodom.



I. Diefle Kap. 19, Vers 15—17, 24—26.

6A. It is skirted by fertile places.

Despite the desolation of the Dead Sea regions subsequent to the conflagration chronicled in Genesis 19, there have always been a number of fertile areas along its shores. One of the most delightful sites on the Dead Sea is the ancient oasis of Engedi, where a gushing stream of fresh water, forming a 300-foot-high waterfall, drops down from the mountains of Judea and has sustained for millennia human, animal and plant life.

Song of Solomon 1:14

<sup>14</sup>My beloved *is* unto me as a cluster of camphire in the vineyards of Engedi.

Joshua 15:62

<sup>62</sup>And Nibshan, and the city of Salt, and Engedi; six cities with their villages.

7A. It has served as a formidable protection.

When David fled from King Saul, he found refuge in the area of the Dead Sea, in various fortresses. The desolation of the area with its numerous ravines and caves made it a safe area. David hid in the fortress (the word "Masada" is derived the Hebrew word for fortress) and in Engedi but also used the Dead Sea as a barrier between himself and Saul.

1 Samuel 22:3-4

<sup>3</sup>And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, *and be* with you, till I know what God will do for me.

<sup>4</sup>And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold.

1 Samuel 23:14

<sup>14</sup>And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.

1 Samuel 23:29

<sup>29</sup>And David went up from thence, and dwelt in strong holds at Engedi.

1 Samuel 24:1-2

<sup>1</sup>And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David *is* in the wilderness of Engedi.

<sup>2</sup>Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.

8A. It symbolizes the final perdition of sinners.

Both Peter and Jude point to the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah as "an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly." The terrifying fire of 1900 B.C. is "set forth for an example (of the sinners') suffering the vengeance of eternal fire"

I Peter 2:6

<sup>6</sup>And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned *them* with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

Jude 7

<sup>7</sup>Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

One writer has movingly depicted the symbolism of divine judgment evident to all visitors to the Dead Sea:

No doubt but God here made use of natural agencies for the execution of his stern and fearful judgments; but the execution was none the less terrible, and none the less an act of direct and Almighty power on that account. The overthrow was accompanied by exhibitions of the most awful and terrific kind. The vale was full of bituminous pits. These inflammable substances were kindled, and fire broke forth from the ground. By the power of volcanic action they were ejected into the air, and came raining down from the uplifted and quaking hills. Here Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboim met their astounding and deserved overthrow! It was an utter and irreparable ruin. No one can stand here and look on this impressive scenery, and not feel the conviction that this sea is a creation of the wrath of God. The hand of the Almighty has been here, and he has left his imprint on this barren plain, these scorched and blackened hills are monuments placed here by the Almighty, upon which all succeeding generations may read, traced as with letters of fire, the Handwriting of his judgments, the certainty of his displeasure against sin. (*The Handwriting of God in Egypt, Sinai, and the Holy Land*, p. 250-251).



THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH.

## THE DEAD SEA IN PROPHECY

All those who visit the southern end of the Dead Sea are overwhelmed by the scene of desolation and death before their eyes. The burned mountains round about, the stench of sulphur in the air, and the deadly silence all around impress on the visitor the evidence of the divine destruction which occurred here 4000 years ago.

Students of the prophetic Word, however, can stand on the shores of the Dead Sea and visualize the miraculous transformation of the deadest place on earth into a lake of fresh water, teeming with millions of fish. Along its shores, fishermen will spread their nets. Lush vegetation will grace the countryside.

### 1A. The scene of mass burial

Before the healing of the Dead Sea waters at the Second Advent of Christ, its eastern shore will see a mass burial of enormous proportions. In a valley preappointed and already named by Ezekiel, millions of corpses at the battle of Gog and Magog will be buried here. When Russia and her satellites invade Israel at the mid-point of the Tribulation, swift divine judgment will result in the death of the invaders. Their mortal remains will be interred in the valley of Hamon-gog east of the Dead Sea.

Ezekiel 39:11-13

<sup>11</sup> And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the *noses* of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call *it* The valley of Hamongog.

<sup>12</sup> And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land.

<sup>13</sup> Yea, all the people of the land shall bury *them*; and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord GOD.

### 2A. A shield for persecuted Jews

Until the rapture, the U.S.A. appears to be Israel's protector. At the beginning of the Tribulation, Antichrist signs a covenant of protection with Israel. After three and one-half years he breaks the covenant. As he moves his military headquarters to Israel, he desecrates the temple, forcing the Jews to escape for their lives. At that time, the mountains to the east of the Dead Sea, covering the area of Ammon, Moab and Edom, will be a refuge for Israel. Antichrist and Satan, who empowers him, will be furious as the Lord establishes the Jordan River and the Dead Sea as a barrier beyond which Israel is safe from their imaginations.

Daniel 11:41

<sup>41</sup> He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many *countries* shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, *even* Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.



Matthew 24:15-16

<sup>15</sup>When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

<sup>16</sup>Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Revelation 12:6, 14-17

<sup>6</sup>And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

<sup>14</sup>And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

<sup>15</sup>And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

<sup>16</sup>And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

<sup>17</sup>And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

### 3A. The supply of salt

When the curse is lifted from nature soon after the Second Advent of Christ, the Dead Sea will be transformed into a freshwater lake. The only area not totally healed will be the salt flats at its southern shore. This area to the east and south of Mt. Sodom, a salt mountain 300 feet high and five miles long will be given to salt throughout the Millennium. Perhaps the salt will be refined as table salt, suitable for the preparation of food. Then too, as salt was required for certain Old Testament sacrifices, similarly, some memorial sacrifices in the millennial temple will require salt. Finally, it may be that the Lord will leave a small area of the Dead Sea to show how effective His healing power was on the deadest of all earthly areas. For 1000 years, mankind will have an impressive picture of the ruination of sin juxtapositioned to the redemption of nature through the Savior.

Ezekiel 47:11

<sup>11</sup>But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

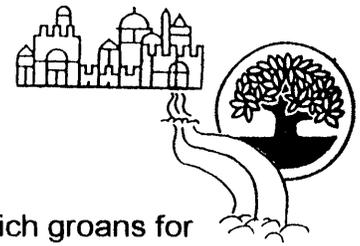
Ezekiel 43:21

<sup>21</sup>Thou shalt take the bullock also of the sin offering, and he shall burn it in the appointed place of the house, without the sanctuary.



'But his wife (of Lot) looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt'.





#### 4A. A source of fresh water

The healing power of the Savior in His physical creation which groans for deliverance from the curse of sin (Romans 8:19-21) is magnificently illustrated by Ezekiel's millennial vision. He is shown a living stream, emerging from the presence of the Lord, flowing eastward and healing the desert and the Dead Sea. The presence of the Lord occasions both spiritual and physical life.

Ezekiel 47:8

<sup>8</sup>Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: *which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.*

#### 5A. A sea of marine life

The Dead Sea, now eight times saltier than the ocean, will be completely salt free. The waters of the Dead Sea will be filled with a great number and great variety of fish, as the waters of the Mediterranean. The Dead Sea today, barely sustaining microorganisms, will become a fisherman's delight.

Ezekiel 47:9-11

<sup>9</sup>And it shall come to pass, *that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.*

<sup>10</sup>And it shall come to pass, *that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.*

<sup>11</sup>But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

#### 6A. A setting for a fishing industry

As a result of the magnificent and multiplied marine life in the former Dead Sea, a fishing industry will emerge, especially on the northwestern shore, from "En Gedi to En Eglaim" (perhaps the present-day En Feshka near Qumran). Fisherman will spread out their nets.

Ezekiel 47:10

<sup>10</sup>And it shall come to pass, *that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.*

#### 7A. A spectacle of living streams



Repeatedly, the Holy Spirit predicts for the millennial land of Israel a new river emerging from the temple in Jerusalem, one branch flowing westward into the Mediterranean, the other cascading eastward downhill, healing the desert and rejuvenating the Dead Sea. Along its banks, in the present wilderness of Judea, a miraculous tree will grow, producing a different fruit each month. Its leaves will provide healing for the nations. However, this microcosm of the changes in the

millennial land of Israel will be multiplied a thousand times over when not just all the rivers of Judah will flow with water, many of them issuing into the Dead Sea, but in wilderness areas all over the world, there will be "streams in the desert."

Zechariah 14:8

<sup>8</sup>And it shall be in that day, *that* living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

Ezekiel 47:7-8

<sup>7</sup>Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river *were* very many trees on the one side and on the other.

<sup>8</sup>Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: *which being* brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

Psalms 46:4

<sup>4</sup>*There is* a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy *place* of the tabernacles of the most High.

Joel 3:18

<sup>18</sup>And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

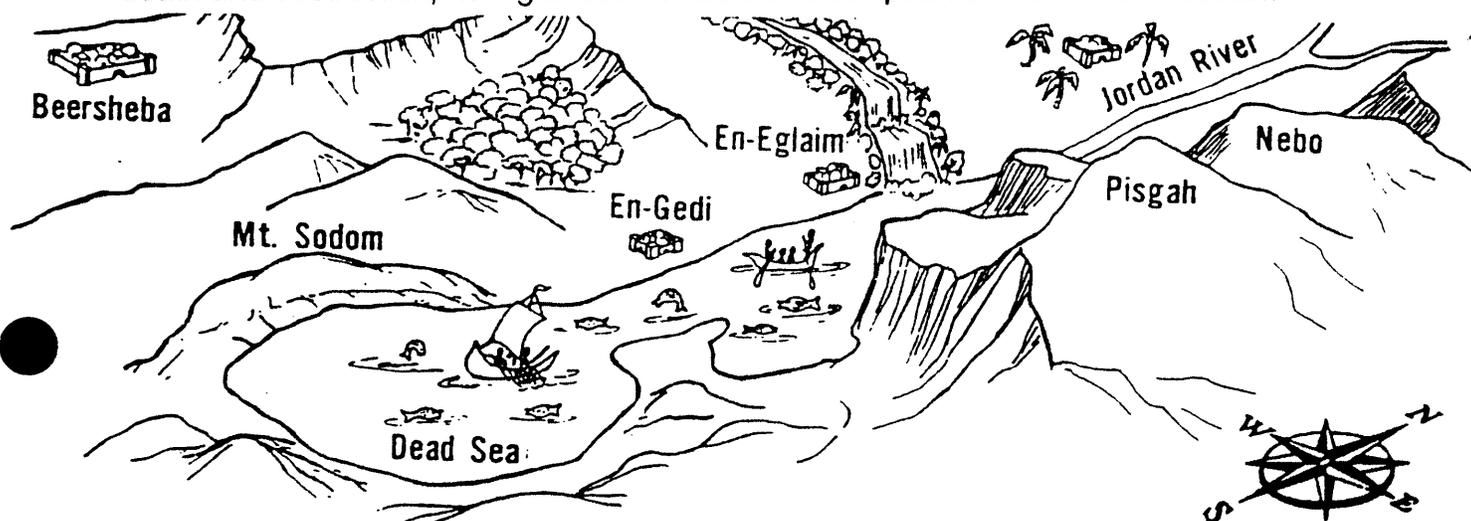
Joel 2:23

<sup>23</sup>Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first *month*.

## 8A. A symbol of divine redemption

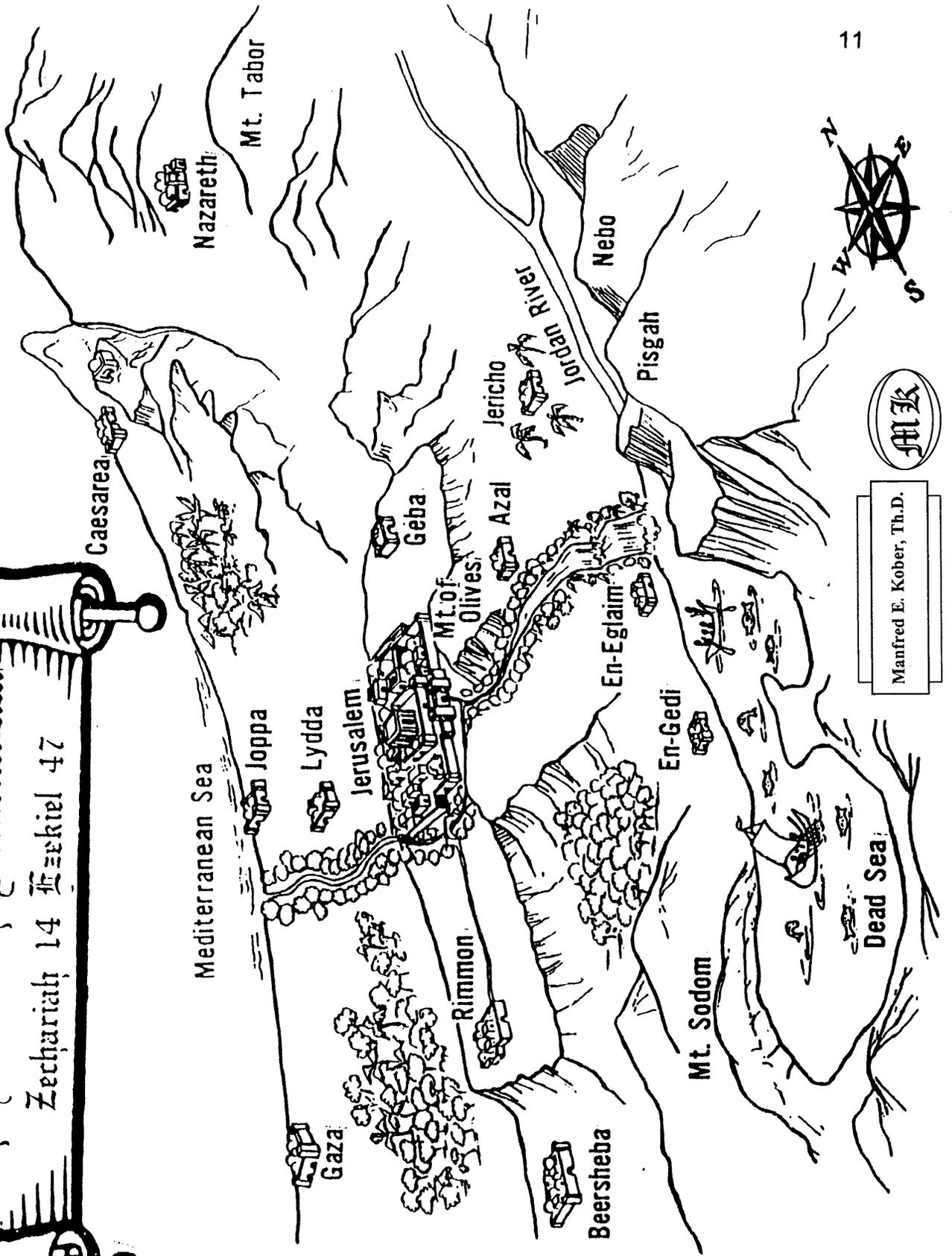
The prophetic promise of life on the millennial earth envisions an abundance of spiritual as well as physical life.

Christ's final redemptive work involves the regeneration of man and creation. It is through Adam's disobedience that "sin entered into the world and death by sin" (Romans 5:12). The result of Adam's sin and its effect on creation are nowhere more graphically manifest than in the condition of the Dead Sea. Its total transformation and rejuvenation through the Lord of Life employing the Spirit of Life affords a splendid symbol of the transforming power of God. If God can beautify such a dreadful scene of death and destruction, how glorious will be the redemption of the rest of creation!



# The Land in the Millennium

Zechariah 14 זְכַרְיָהוּ 47



# *The Dead Sea in History*

1 **SITUATED IN A FRUITFUL**  
GEN. 13:10-11

2 **SACKED BY FOREIGN**  
GEN. 14:1-3, 8, 11-12; 13:13

3 **SURROUNDED BY FATAL**  
GEN. 14:10

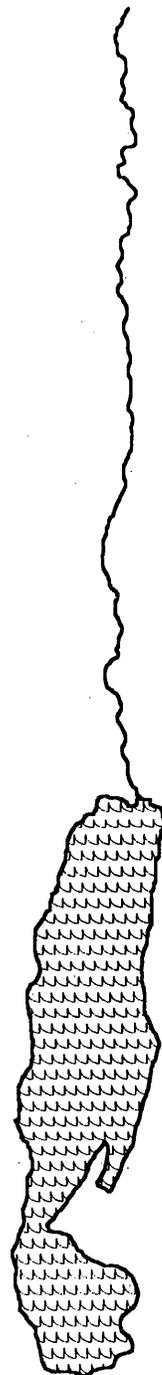
4 **SETTLED BY FIERCE**  
GEN. 18:20; 19:4-5

5 **SCORCHED BY FIERY**  
GEN. 19:24-29

6 **SKIRTED BY FERTILE**  
SONG OF SOL. 1:14; JOSH. 15:62

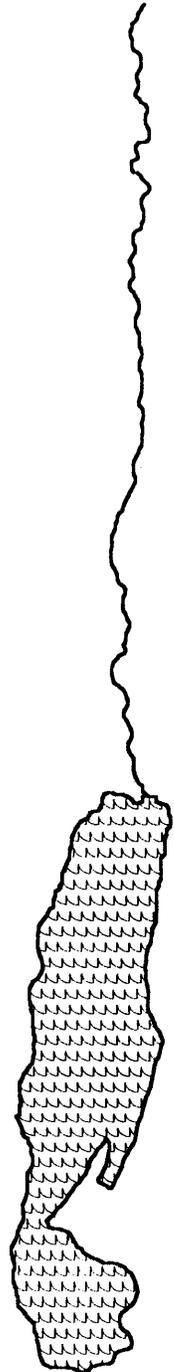
7 **SERVES AS FORMIDABLE**  
1 SAM. 22:3-4; 23:14, 29

8 **SYMBOLIZES FINAL**  
2 PET. 2:6; JUDE 7

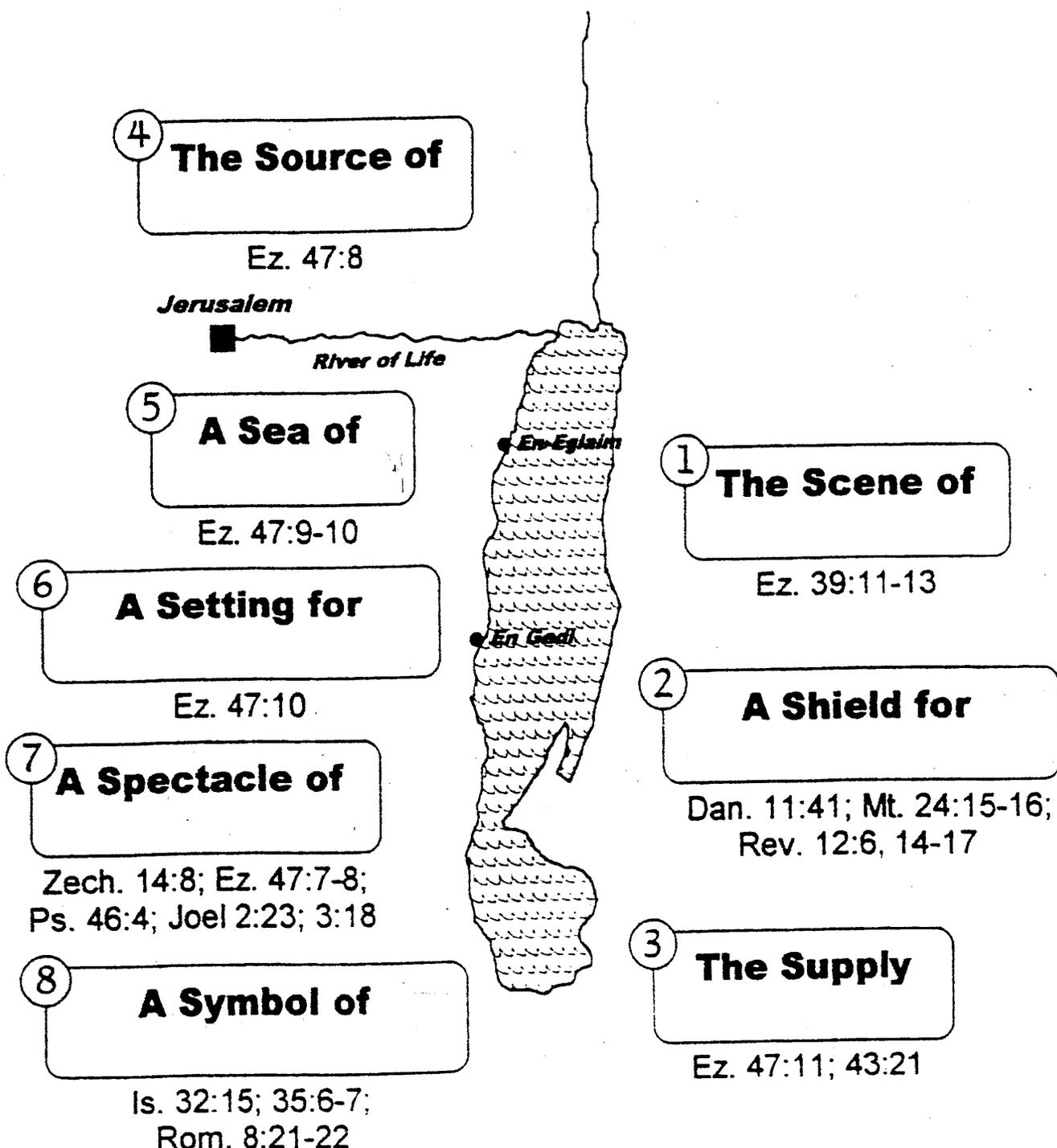


# *The Dead Sea in History*

- ① **SITUATED IN A FRUITFUL PLAIN:**  
GEN. 13:10-11
- ② **SACKED BY FOREIGN PRINCES:**  
GEN. 14:1-3, 8, 11-12; 13:13
- ③ **SURROUNDED BY FATAL PITS:**  
GEN. 14:10
- ④ **SETTLED BY FIERCE PERVERTS:**  
GEN. 18:20; 19:4-5
- ⑤ **SCORCHED BY FIERY PUNISHMENT:**  
GEN. 19:24-29
- ⑥ **SKIRTED BY FERTILE PLACES:**  
SONG OF SOL. 1:14; JOSH. 15:62
- ⑦ **SERVES AS FORMIDABLE PROTECTION:**  
1 SAM. 22:3-4; 23:14, 29
- ⑧ **SYMBOLIZES FINAL PERDITION:**  
2 PET. 2:6; JUDE 7



# The Dead Sea in Prophecy



4 **The Source of**

Ez. 47:8

Jerusalem

River of Life

5 **A Sea of**

Ez. 47:9-10

6 **A Setting for**

Ez. 47:10

7 **A Spectacle of**

Zech. 14:8; Ez. 47:7-8;  
Ps. 46:4; Joel 2:23; 3:18

8 **A Symbol of**

Is. 32:15; 35:6-7;  
Rom. 8:21-22

1 **The Scene of**

Ez. 39:11-13

2 **A Shield for**

Dan. 11:41; Mt. 24:15-16;  
Rev. 12:6, 14-17

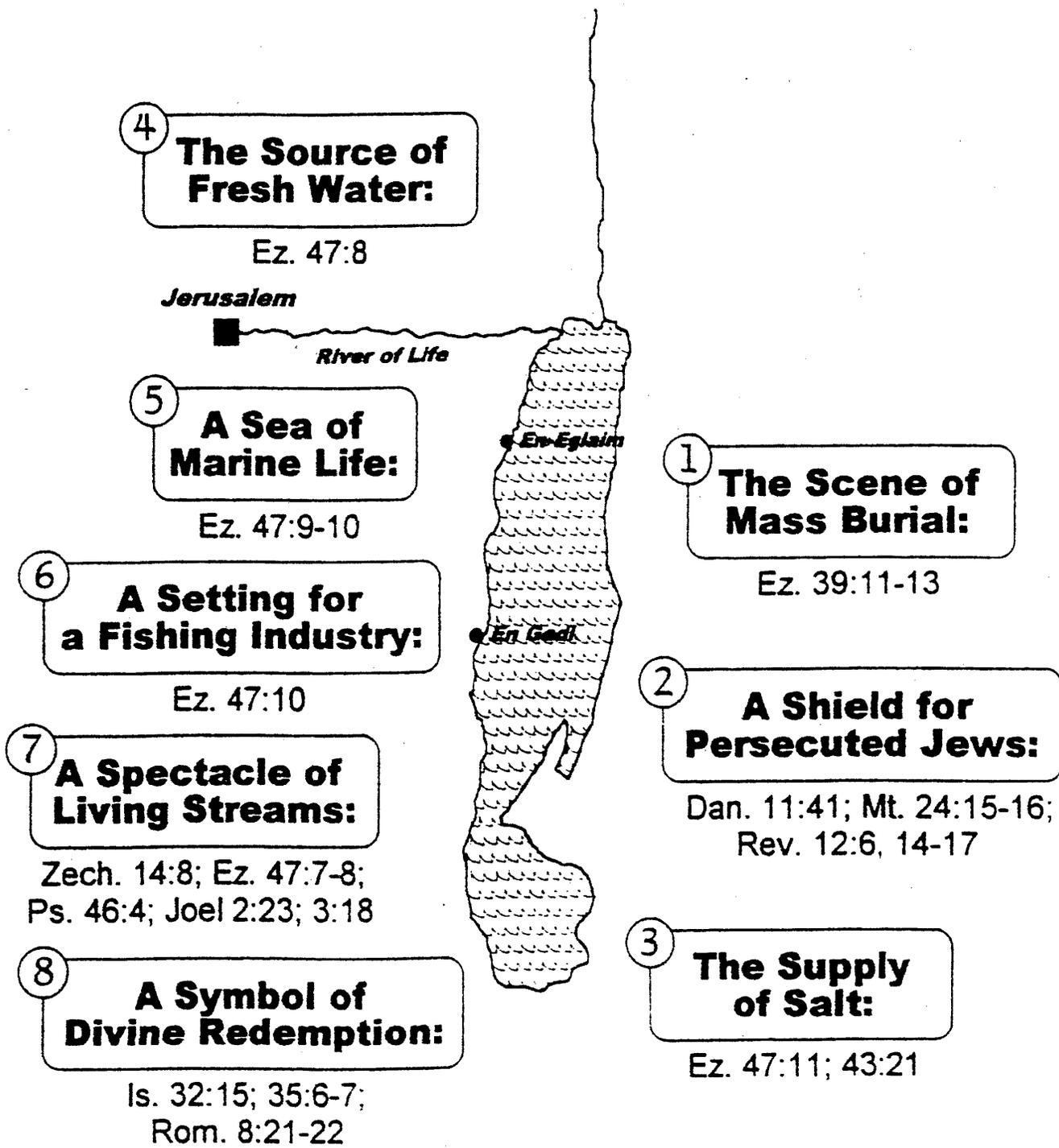
3 **The Supply**

Ez. 47:11; 43:21

Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.



# The Dead Sea in Prophecy



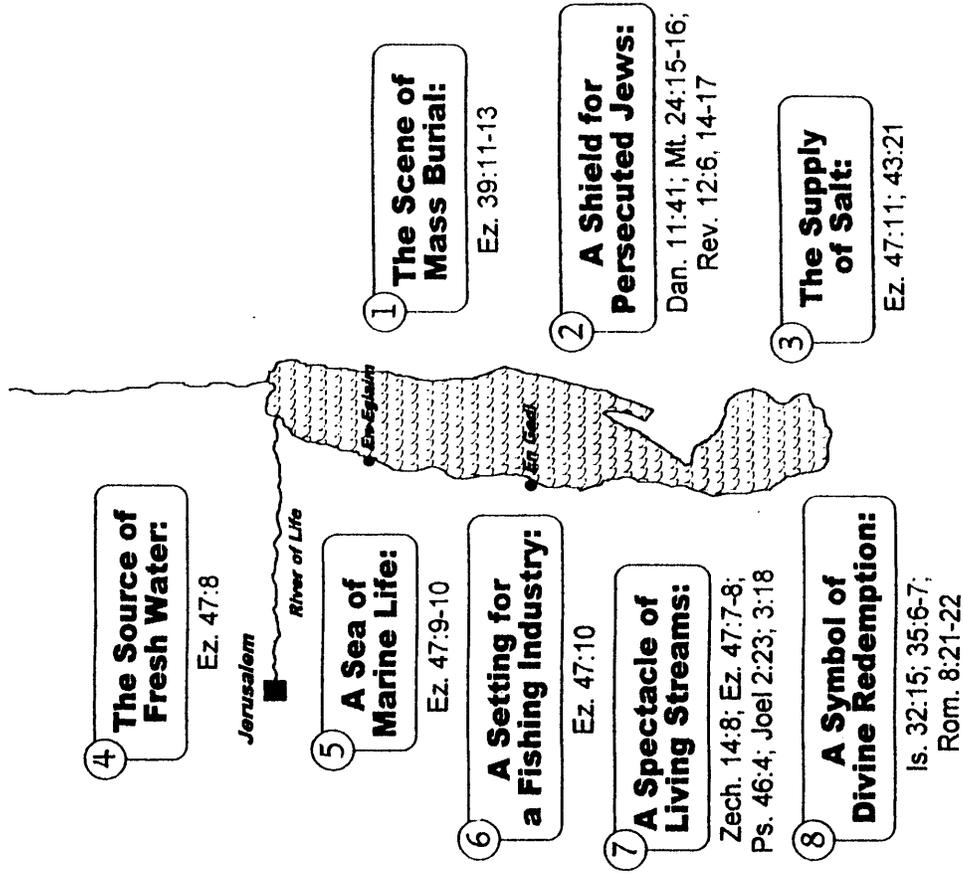
Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.



# The Dead Sea in History

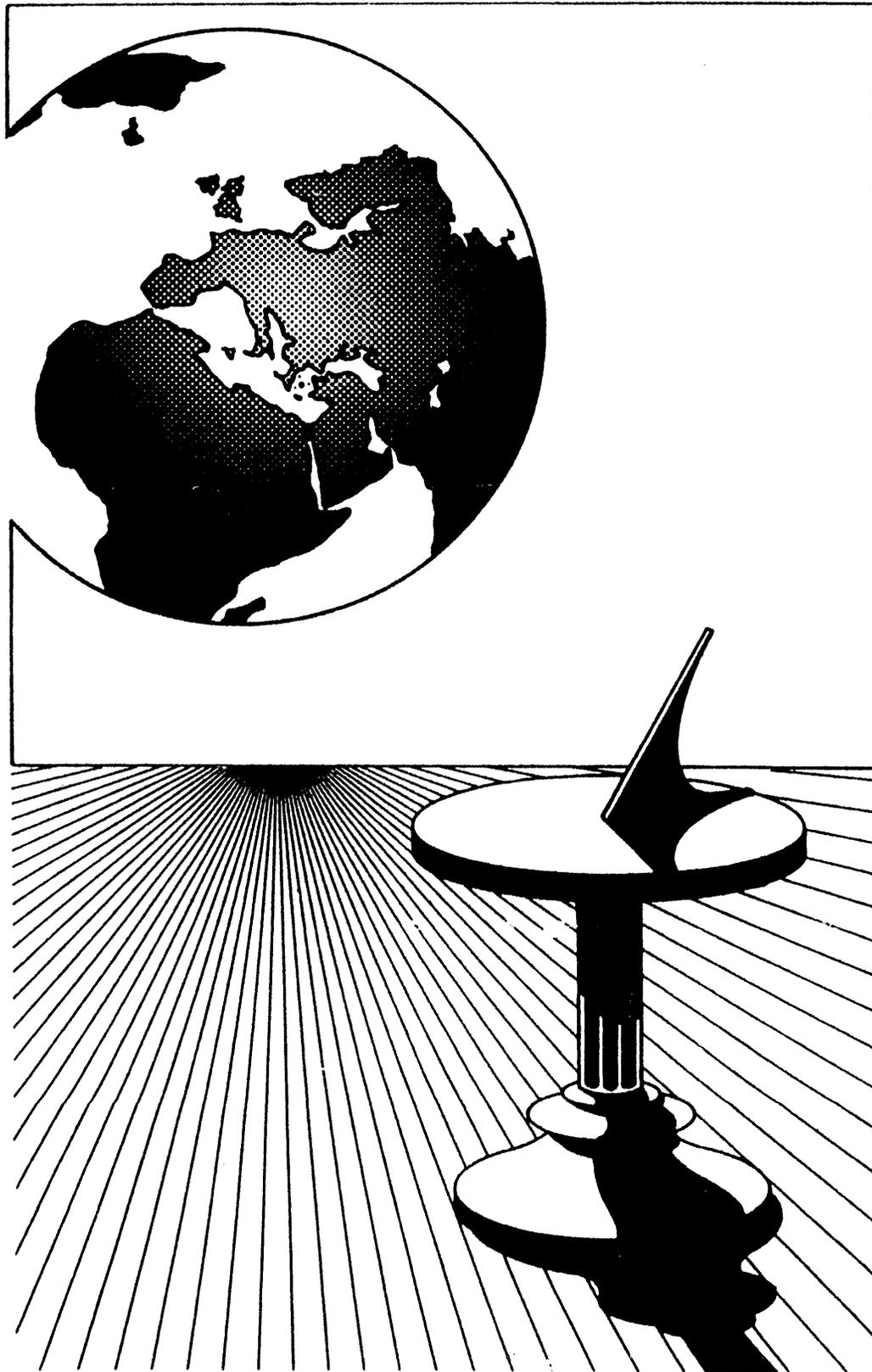
- 1 **SITUATED IN A FRUITFUL PLAIN:**  
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- 8 **SYMBOLIZES FINAL PERDITION:**  
2 PET. 2:6; JUDE 7

# The Dead Sea in Prophecy



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

*THE FUTURE AND THE EARTH:  
A GREAT PLANET WITH A GLORIOUS FUTURE*



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.



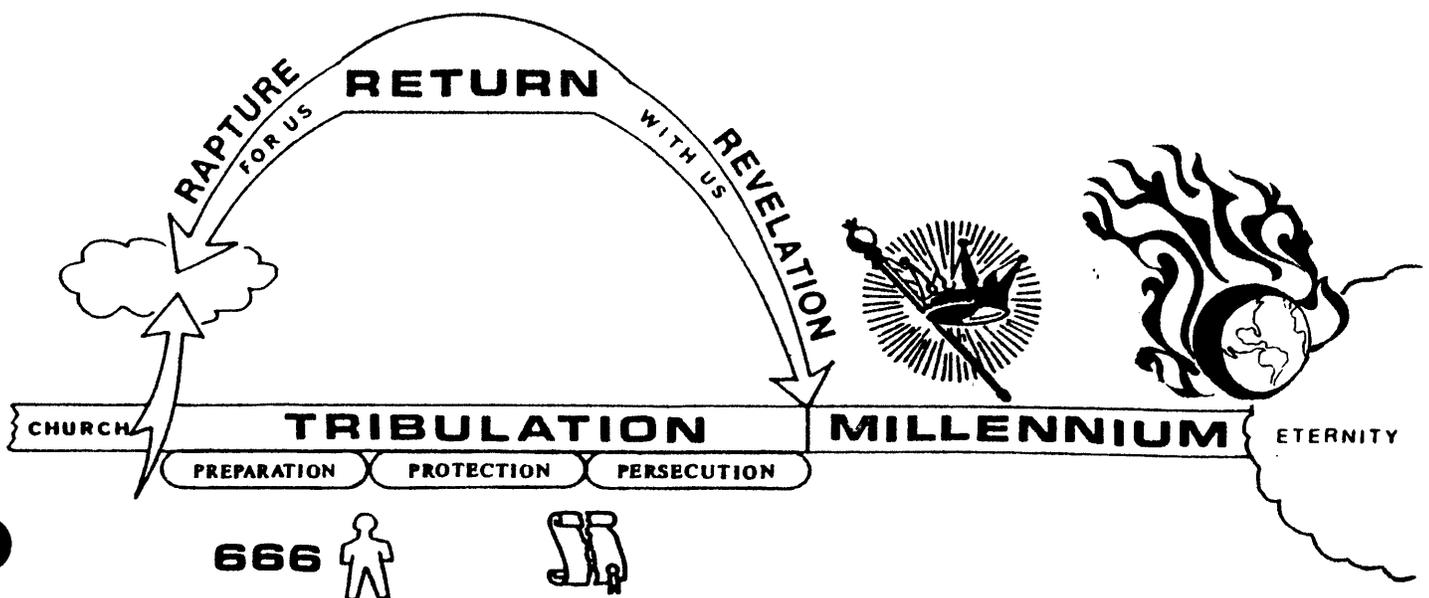
## THE FUTURE AND THE EARTH

One-fourth of the Bible is prophetic truth, written in the future tense. It is impossible to study the Bible without studying the future. Both believers and unbelievers inquire about the future of the world. How great the desire for knowledge of the future is can be seen by the phenomenal sales of Hal Lindsay's *The Late Great Planet Earth*. Stanley A. Ellisin's *Biography of a Great Planet* likewise traces biblical revelation concerning our fragile planet.

The public is bombarded by the secular media with one scenario after another how the world will end. Some say the world will end in fire, some in ice. Some suggest a nuclear holocaust, some a depletion of natural resources.

The study of our planet is rightly related to the study of the doctrine of God. His works of creation, preservation and providence certainly relate to this planet. Knowing the Creator and His revealed plan gives confidence that the events of the world are under the sovereign control of Him Who "worketh all things after the counsel of His own will" (Eph. 1:11). While God has chosen not to disclose everything concerning our planet, much prophetic information relates directly to this earth. Some of it is bad news, much of it is good news. Those who have never yet trusted personally in Christ as Savior will find dreadful news in the Scriptures concerning this world. Those who have their sins forgiven and are members of the family of God rejoice in the good prospects for our great planet.

God's detailed disclosure concerning the future of this earth begins with the rapture, involves the effects of the Tribulation period, the changes in the Millennial Kingdom, the dissolution of the old earth and the creation of a new heaven and a new earth.



## 1A. The Ravages of Nature:

- 1b. Natural catastrophes and raging wars will plague the earth after the rapture in an unprecedented manner.



Even in the interim period between the rapture and the Tribulation various calamities will befall the planet as a precursor of what is to come:

Matthew 24:6-7

<sup>6</sup> And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

<sup>7</sup> For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

- 2b. Famines, pestilence, earthquakes, lack of rain and wild beasts will ravage the planet:

Revelation 6:6

And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

Revelation 6:8

And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.



Revelation 11:6

These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

## 2A. The Reprisals of the Heavens:

- 1b. Cosmic disturbances in the heavens will result in consternation on earth:

Revelation 6:12-13

<sup>12</sup> And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

<sup>13</sup> And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

Revelation 8:12

And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

Joel 2:30-31

30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.



Joel 3:15

The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

Matthew 24:29

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Revelation 18:8

Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

2b. Atmospheric judgments will result in the decimation of natural and human life:

Ezekiel 38:22

And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

Revelation 8:7-8

7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

Revelation 16:21

And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great. (The weight of a talent is 100 pounds).



3A. The Ruination of the Land:

2b. Judgments through subterranean convulsions will occasion fire and brimstone:

Revelation 9:2

And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.



Ezekiel 38:22

And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that *are* with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

Supernaturally demonic and naturally destructive forces will be unleashed.

2b. Vast areas will be inundated and hopelessly polluted by rivers of blood:



Isaiah 34:2-3,6

<sup>2</sup> For the indignation of the LORD *is* upon all nations, and *his* fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.

<sup>3</sup> Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcases, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood.

Isaiah 34:

<sup>6</sup> The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, *and* with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea.

Revelation 14:20

And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs.

Based on the fact that liquid seeks its own level, the river of blood resulting from the carnage at Armageddon will most likely extend the length of the Valley of Armageddon from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River and downstream to the southern end of the Dead Sea.



One of the armies, comprised of the Asiatic invaders, numbers 200 million (Rev. 9:16; Dan. 11:44). It has been calculated that the blood of 200 million slain individuals would result in a stream of blood 1/8 of a mile wide, 4 feet deep and 200 miles long. The blood of the slain horses is not included in these calculations.

#### 4A. The Rejoicing at the Second Advent:

1b. Songs of joy and gladness will fill the air at the Second Advent and throughout the Millennium.

Isaiah 35:5-6

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

<sup>6</sup> Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.



Isaiah 35:10

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

2b. Creation will offer paeans of praise as the earth receives her Creator:

Isaiah 55:12

For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.

Isaiah 49:13

Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

5A. The Rejuvenation of Nature During the Millennium:

Christ's presence as King and Savior will involve the redemption of nature from the Adamic curse.

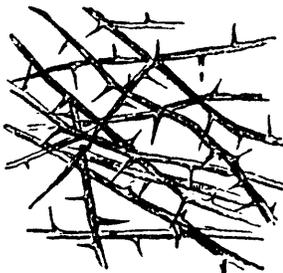
Romans 8:20-22

<sup>20</sup> For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope,

<sup>21</sup> Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

1b. The restoration of paradisaical conditions:



Isaiah 55:13

Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 65:20,25

<sup>20</sup> There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner *being* an hundred years old shall be accursed.

<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust *shall be* the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

Amos 9:13

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.



PEACE

2b. The regeneration of the desert areas:



Ezekiel 47:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: *which being* brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

<sup>9</sup> And it shall come to pass, *that* every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

Isaiah 35:6-7

<sup>6</sup> Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

<sup>7</sup> And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, *shall be* grass with reeds and rushes.

Joel 2:23

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first *month*.



## 6A. The Renovation of the Universe and Planet Earth:

### 1b. The dissolution of the present planet:

2 Peter 3:7,10-11

<sup>7</sup> But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness.

Revelation 20:11

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.



### 2b. The creation of a new heaven and earth:

Revelation 20:1

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Revelation 21:5

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.



## 7A. The Revelation of the New Jerusalem on the New Earth:

### 1b. Its descent out of heaven after the Millennium:

Revelation 21:2-3

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

### 2b. Its description on the new earth:

#### 1c. It will be the residence of the Triune God, the holy angels and all the redeemed of all the ages:

Revelation 21:3

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.

Hebrews 12:22-24

<sup>22</sup> But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

<sup>23</sup> To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

<sup>24</sup> And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

#### 2c. The new Jerusalem will come to rest on a spectacular new planet:

Revelation 21:16,17

<sup>16</sup> And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

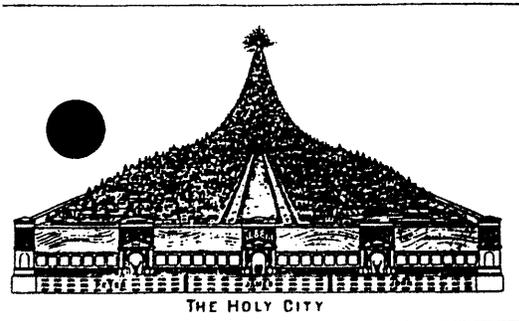
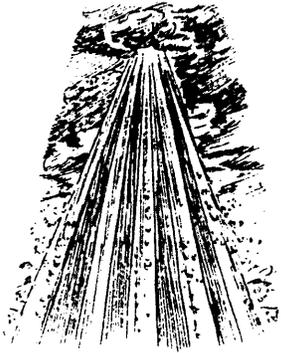
<sup>17</sup> And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred *and forty and four* cubits, *according to* the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

## 8A. Some Ramifications for the Earth and Its Inhabitants:

### 1b. Awe in light of God's punishments.

God will not let sin go unpunished.

### 2b. Appreciation of God's providence.



God actively moves the world toward its predetermined climax.

3b. Appropriation of God's provisions:

God protects His children from the coming Tribulation and He has predetermined a wonderful future for the believer on this earth and the next.



4b. Admonition to the perishing:

God encourages people to flee from the coming catastrophe by trusting Christ as Savior.

5b. Acknowledgment of God's preservation:

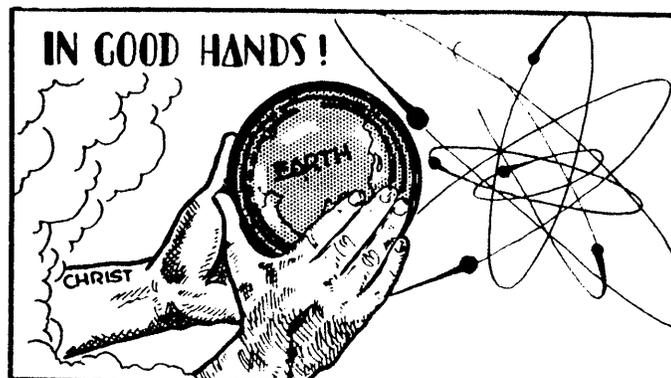
God will not permit an accidental destruction of this planet.

It is obvious that current scenarios about the prospects for this planet are patently false. Mark Twain opined that it is always dangerous to make predictions, especially those about the future. Man unaided by divine revelation cannot possibly predict the future or the end of our planet.

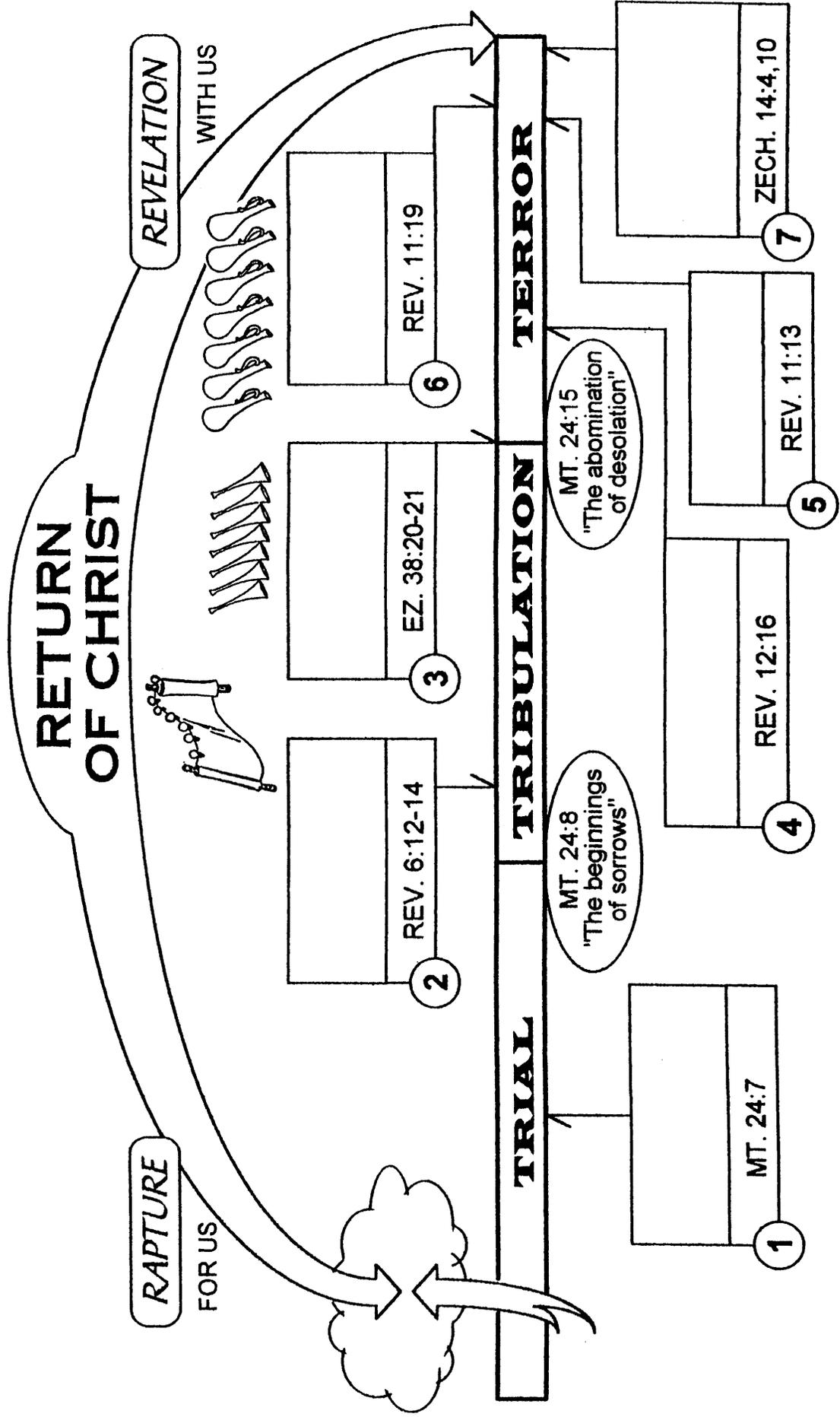
The Scriptures reveal a God Who created the world for a special purpose and preserves the world in accordance with that purpose. A careful reading of God's predictions for this planet should give individuals confidence that the world's finale is not

- ◆ a nuclear holocaust
- ◆ an ecological catastrophe
- ◆ an accidental war
- ◆ an ozone depletion
- ◆ a heating up or cooling down of our planet and its inhabitants

Rather, this planet, after experiencing God's long-delayed and well-deserved judgments during seven years of Tribulation, will experience 1,000 years of regeneration and rejuvenation and a final glorious recreation to make it the suitable eternal residence of the Triune God, His holy angels and the redeemed of all the ages.

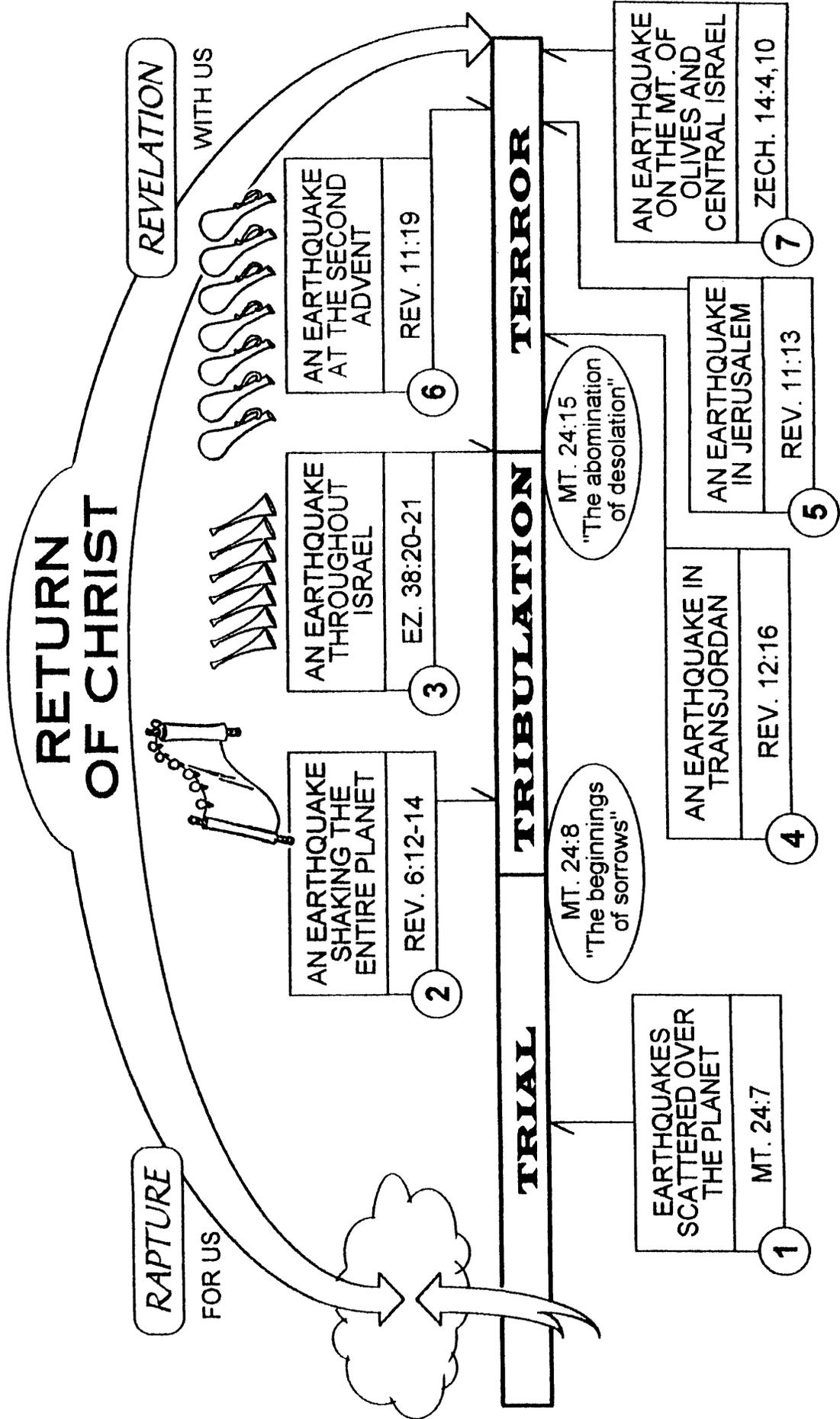


# EARTHQUAKES IN THE TRIBULATION



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

# EARTHQUAKES IN THE TRIBULATION



  
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# THE WORKS OF GOD

## CREATION

GOD'S BRINGING INTO EXISTENCE EVERY THING OUTSIDE OF HIMSELF BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER



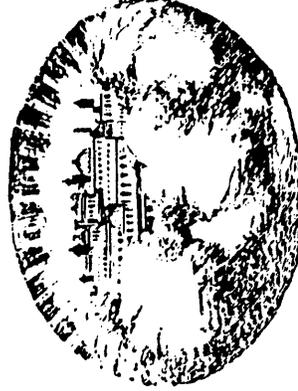
## PRESERVATION

THAT CONTINUOUS WORK OF GOD BY WHICH HE MAINTAINS THE THINGS HE CREATED.



## PROVIDENCE

THE EXERCISE OF DIVINE CARE AND FORESIGHT IN PROVIDING FOR THE WORLD'S MOVEMENT TO A PREDETERMINED GOAL.



## COMMENCEMENT

GOD AS POWERFUL SOURCE

NO EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT

## CONTINUATION

GOD A PERSONAL SUSTAINER

NO ECOLOGICAL DISASTER

## CONSUMMATION

GOD AS PURPOSEFUL SOVEREIGN

NO FATALISTIC DESTINY

## The End: Still Nigh

UNITED NATIONS panel on climate change is due to meet soon, but the *New York Times* already knows what it will say: The sky is falling. East Coast beaches will disappear; floods, fires, droughts, and pestilence will arrive; and we'll suffer more lethal heat waves like this summer's because the average surface temperature of the globe has risen by about 1° Fahrenheit over the last century, "with the steepest rise taking place in the last forty years," says the *Times*.

But don't move to the mountains yet. Most of the measured global temperature increases occurred before 1940, not after. According to a report of the George C. Marshall Institute, there has been "no statistically significant" warming trend over the past fifty years. Satellite measurements have been conducted consistently worldwide since 1979, and, according to the latest issue of *World Climate Report*, "there is no warming trend" registered in them.

Robert Davis, a climatologist at the University of Virginia, even questions whether a warming trend would have some of the effects the *Times* posits. Global-warming models predict milder winters, and greater warming at the Poles and at night than at the Equator and during the day. Climate science suggests that the average strength of storms would actually decrease under such conditions, because extreme weather events are driven by large temperature differences. "I'm afraid it's a rather dull conclusion that won't sell many newspapers," Dr. Davis adds.

He needn't worry. If one scare scenario doesn't work, the *Times* can always move to another. Twenty years ago, its headlines warned: "Major Cooling Widely Considered to Be Inevitable." Some say the world will end in fire, some say in ice. The *Times* says both.

FLASHPOINT, August 1995

## Billy Graham Says, "Save the Earth, Not Babies!"

Billy Graham has told columnist Cal Thomas that saving babies by fighting abortion is not "a big thing" to him (*World* magazine, Feb. 18, 1995). But, says the famed evangelist, he is concerned about saving Mother Earth. To him, *that's* a big thing. Indeed, Graham is so upset about the environmental harm being done to planet Earth that he recently vowed to begin actively speaking out on this issue.

The Reverend Graham has long maintained that the pro-life movement is irrelevant since "No one really knows when life begins" (*Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati* newsletter, Jan. 1992). Again and again, he has refused to become involved in speaking out against abortion. "It's not an issue I wish to pursue," Graham arrogantly informed CNN talk show host Larry King in 1993. "I try to stay away from these things that are so emotional," Graham told the *Philadelphia Inquirer* newspaper in 1992.

Neither is homosexuality a hot button for Billy Graham. "It's not a big sin," the evangelist recently told startled reporters at a national press conference. On the *Larry King Show* (Dec. 1994), Graham justified this by explaining that homosexuals and lesbians are just "born that way."

But apparently, while the popular North Carolina Baptist evangelist doesn't want to expend his energies battling abortion, homosexuality, pornography, New Ageism in public schools, the New World Order, and other rampant evils, he does not feel the same way about environmentalism. Interviewed recently on Cal Thomas' television program on Cable TV's *CMBC network*, Graham



Save Mother Earth, not unborn babies, is Billy Graham's plea.

insisted that protecting the environment is more important than protecting the unborn. Here's the exchange between Billy Graham and Cal Thomas (also see *World* magazine, Feb. 18, 1995, p. 10):

**Mr. Thomas:** "You've been reluctant to speak out on the top social issue of our time, abortion. Why?"

**Mr. Graham:** "I think the top social issue of our time may be ecology (the environment). I think that's more dangerous... and I'm going to start speaking out on that."

So, to Billy Graham, the murder of 40 million babies through abortion since 1963—in the U.S.A. alone—is not "a big thing" he needs to deal with. Admittedly, Graham is a politically astute liberal. He well knows that fighting abortion is politically incorrect, and he realizes that, were he to support the saving of unborn babies, the famous evangelist would not make the next published list of "America's Ten Most Admired Men."

Graham also knows, however, that saving Mother Earth is politically correct. After all, every good liberal wants to save the environment and kill the unborn babies—all at the same time!

What might God have to say about Graham's pandering to stanic baby-killers? In Psalm 94:16, God implores: "Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?" Now comes Billy Graham, one of the most liked and most popular men on Earth, to whine and cry out, "Not me, Lord, not me!"

THE CHRISTIAN NEWS  
September 11, 1995 Page 27

1A. The Removal of the Restrainer: 2 Thess. 2:7-8

- 1b. The Rapture of the Church
- 2b. The Release of Human Corruption

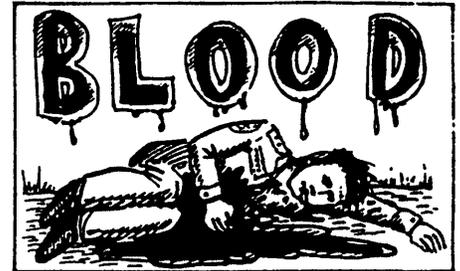


2A. The Revenge from Heaven: Rev. 4-19

- 1b. The Horrors from Heaven
- 2b. The Hordes from Hell

3A. The Rule of Antichrist: Dan. 7:7-28

- 1b. His Consolidation of Power
- 2b. His Conquest of the Planet



4A. The Rebellion Against God: Dan. 11:36-45; Rev. 16:16

- 1b. The Approach of the Armies
- 2b. The Aftermath of Armageddon

5A. The Reckoning at the Second Advent: Rev. 19:11-21

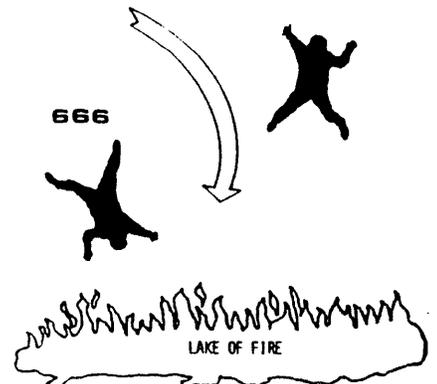
- 1b. The Destruction of the Soldiers
- 2b. The Death of Sinners

6A. The Rendering of Judgment at the End of the Millennium: Rev. 20:7-15

- 1b. The Removal of the Rebels
- 2b. The Resurrection at the Great White Throne

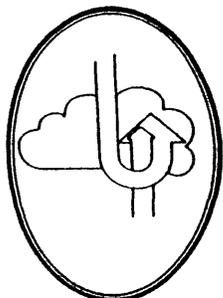
7A. The Relegation to the Lake of Fire: Rev. 20:10, 14-15

- 1b. The Doom of Satan
- 2b. The Destruction of Sinners



1A. The Removal of the Restrainer: 2 Thess. 2:7-8

1b. The Rapture of the Church:



Prior to the well-deserved and long-delayed judgment of God on a Christ-rejecting world, the Church will be removed. The promise for every believer is that he is exempt from the judgments of the tribulation period. He is delivered "from the wrath to come" (1 Thess. 1:10), is "saved from wrath" through Christ (Rom. 5:9), is not appointed "unto wrath but to obtain salvation" (1 Thess. 5:9) and will be kept out of the very time of temptation which will come upon the unbelievers in the whole earth (Rev. 3:10).

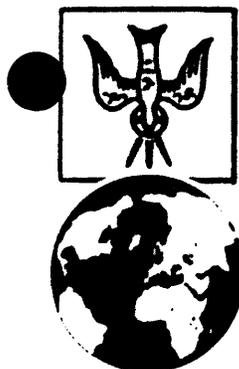
Rom. 5:9

"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

Rev. 3:10

"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."

2b. The Release of Human Corruption:



Presently the restrainer keeps back human iniquity. The one who restrains is the third person of the trinity, the Holy Spirit (Gen. 6:3). He is the one who keeps back evil and corruption on the earth until the tribulation. Through His indwelling ministry in the Church He restrains human sin and satanic rule. With the removal of the Church this ministry of the Holy Spirit will cease, although the Spirit is still present in other ministries such as His regenerating work (Rev. 7:9-10).

2 Thess. 2:7-8 (NIV)

"For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming."

2A. The Revenge from Heaven: Rev. 4-19

1b. The Horrors from Heaven:



The climactic conclusion of the world as we know it will involve the pouring out of divine judgments predicted in Rev. 4-19. Three series of judgments are foretold, the seals, the trumpets and the vials, spanning approximately the seven years of the tribulation and increasing in speed and severity. A large percentage of the world population will perish in these judgments: Rev. 6:8; 9:15; and 8:9.

Rev. 6:8

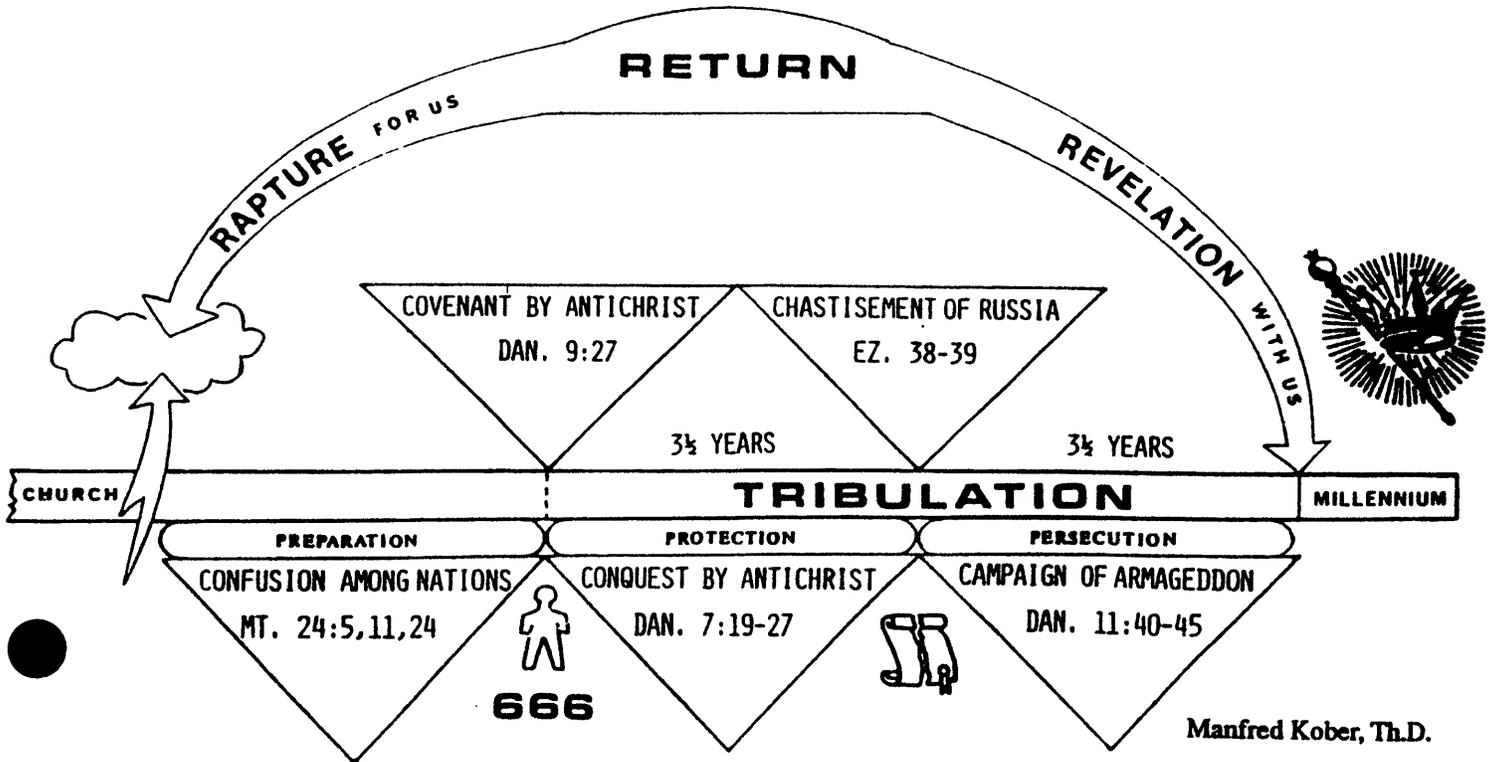
"And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."

Rev. 9:15

"And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men."

Rev. 8:9

"And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed."



2b. The Hordes from Hell:

Along with experiencing devastating heavenly judgments, unbelievers will be exposed to demonic forces which will plague mankind. Demons will torment men for five months (Rev. 9:2-3). Three demonic spirits are loosed and will bring about the death of a third of mankind (Rev. 9:15). Satan will attempt to destroy Israel for 3 1/2 years (Rev. 12:1-17).

Rev. 9:2-3

"And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power."

Rev. 9:15

"And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men."

Rev. 12:12,17

"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 that he hath but a short time.

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

3A. The Rule of Antichrist: Dan. 7:7-28

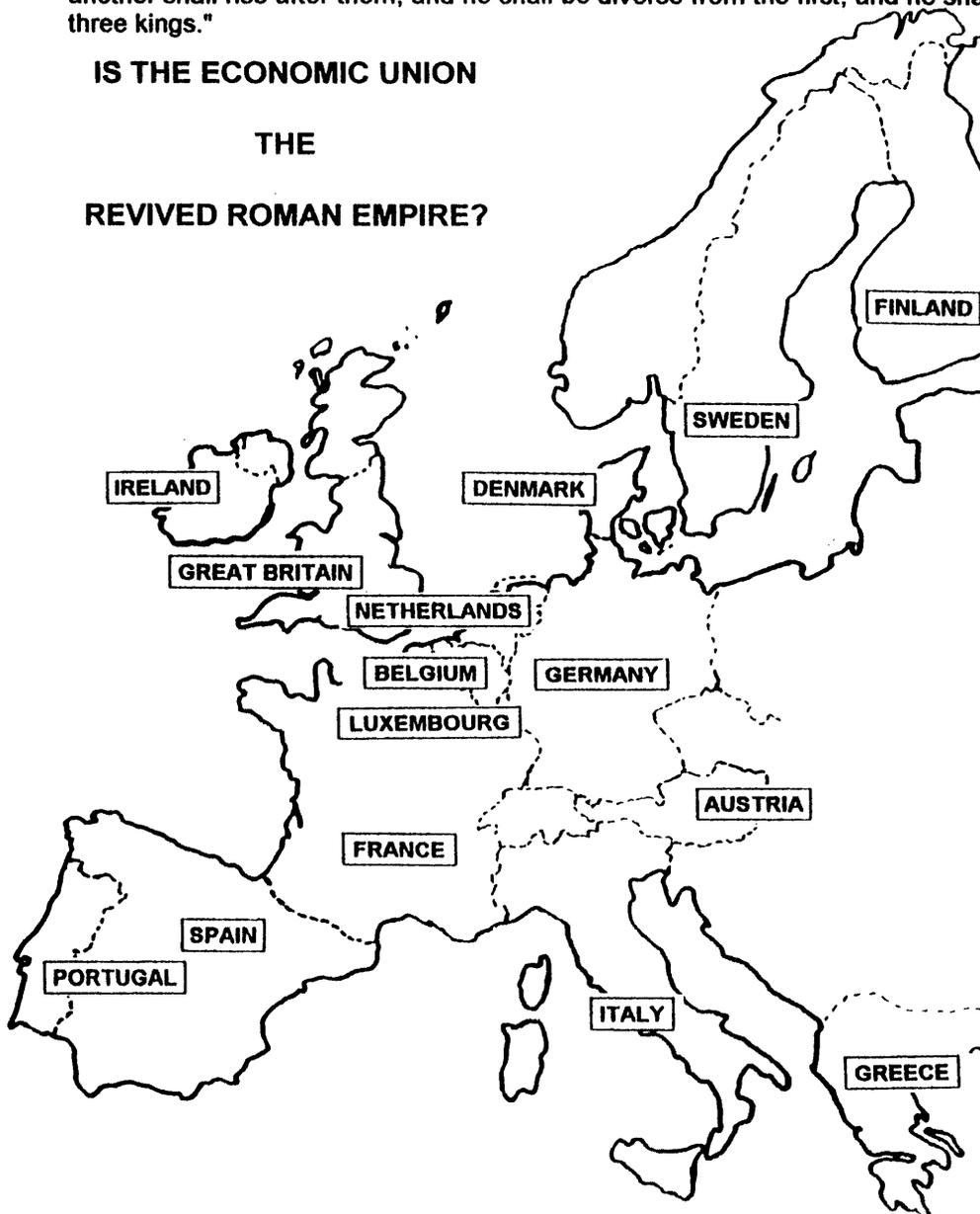
1b. His Consolidation of Power: Dan. 7:19

During the first half of the tribulation period the Roman Prince, known as Antichrist (1 Jn. 2:18), will attempt to regain the territory formerly held by Rome. He will head a confederacy of ten nations, three of whom he will subdue. Apparently seven will voluntarily submit to his rule.

Dan. 7:23-24

"Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings."

**IS THE ECONOMIC UNION  
THE  
REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE?**



After Antichrist has gained control of 10 nations, he will extend his reign over the whole earth for the last half of the tribulation. With the destruction of his major opponents, the kings of the North, Gog and Magog (Ez. 38-39), he will be a world ruler until he is supplanted by Christ.

Dan. 7:25

"And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

Rev. 13:5-7

"And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."

4A. The Rebellion Against God: Dan. 11:36-45; Rev. 16:16

## 1b. The Approach of the Armies:

As Antichrist rules from Rome over the world, armies invade Israel, his protectorate. He successfully counters the invasion from the south, north and east. Egypt, Russia and an army of 200 million Asiatics are defeated by the one who has satanic intelligence to counter any move against him (2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:2,4). For strategic and spiritual reasons he moves his military headquarters from Rome to Jerusalem (Dan. 11:45).

Rev. 13:2,4

"And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?"

Dan. 11:45

"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."

## 2b. The Aftermath of Armageddon:

The Campaign of Armageddon will be waged in Israel during the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation. Evidently, Satan, employing demonic help defiantly brings every army from around the world to Israel (Rev. 16:16). The final battle during that campaign takes place in the valley of Armageddon (today's Plain of Esdraelon) in northern Israel. At the same time armies will conquer and destroy Jerusalem in the south. The carnage defies the imagination, as hundreds of millions of soldiers on horseback are engaged in fierce combat (Rev. 9:16). An ensuing river of blood, four feet deep and 200 miles long (Rev. 14:20) will most likely flood the valley of Armageddon and the adjoining Jordan Valley, turning the Dead Sea literally into a sea of blood.



## 1b. The Destruction of the Soldiers:

As the King of kings returns with the saints from heaven, the armies which are fighting against each other at Armageddon (Rev. 16:16) and around Jerusalem (Zech. 14:1-3) will turn their weapons against Christ and His army. Christ's sword of judgment will destroy every single soldier. Only Antichrist and the false prophet will be cast alive into the lake of fire.

Rev. 19:19-21

"And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."

## 2b. The Death of Sinners:

Not only will every soldiers die but every unsaved individual will be put to death after a climactic judgment for Jews and Gentiles.

## 1c. The Death of the Jews: Ez. 20:33-38

Christ will bring His nation from their hiding place in Ammon, Moab and Edom (Dan. 11:41) and in judgment remove the unbelievers or rebels (Ez. 20:38). Two-thirds of Israel will die (Zech. 13:8).

Ez. 20:38

"And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD."

Zech. 13:8

"And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein."

## 2c. The Death of the Gentiles: Mt. 25:31-46

In a separate judgment near Jerusalem Christ will separate the believers (sheep) from the unbelievers (goats). The unbelievers will be punished by death (Mt. 25:46). In short, after Christ's judgments at the second advent no unbelievers will remain alive!

Mt. 25:31-34

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Mt. 25:46

"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."



**Rev. 16:16**

"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

**Rev. 9:16**

"And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them."

**Rev. 14:20**

"And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs."

# THE TERRIBLE TOLL OF THE TRIBULATION

## The Fourth Seal, The Pale Horse

**Rev. 6:8**

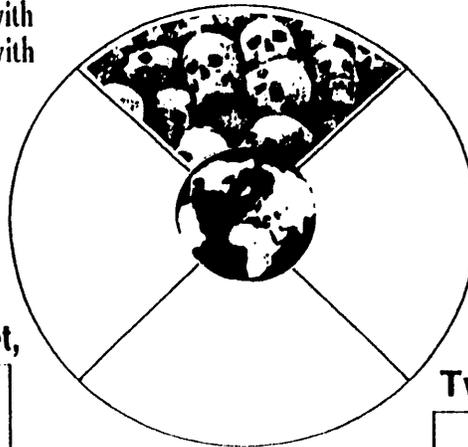
8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him and power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.



## The Second Trumpet, A Burning Mountain

**Rev. 8:9**

9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.



## The Sixth Trumpet, Four Demons

**Rev. 9:15**

15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.



## Two Witnesses, Earthquake

**Rev. 11:13**

13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.



## ***The Judgment of the Nations***



### 6A. The Rendering of Judgment at the End of the Millennium: Rev. 20:7-15

#### 1b. The Removal of the Rebels: Rev. 20:7-9

Believers who survive the tribulation will enter the Millennium with their natural bodies and sinful natures. Their children will also have a sin nature and need redemption. Unfortunately, at the end of the 1000 year reign of Christ many unconverted will join Satan in his rebellion against Christ and his bride in Jerusalem. As at the second advent, 1000 years previously, fire will destroy the rebels.

#### Rev. 20:7-9

"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them."

#### 2b. The Resurrection at the Great White Throne: Rev. 20:11-15

At the conclusion of the Millennium all the unsaved of all the ages from Cain to Caiaphas to Castro will be resurrected. The book of life will be opened to indicate that they never believed. The book of works will be opened to determine the severity of their punishment.

Rev. 20:12-13

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."

7A. The Relegation to the Lake of Fire: Rev. 20:10, 14-15

1b. The Doom of Satan: Rev. 20:10; Mt. 25:41

Satan and his demonic host will be cast into the lake of fire where Antichrist and the false prophet have been for 1000 years.

Rev. 20:10

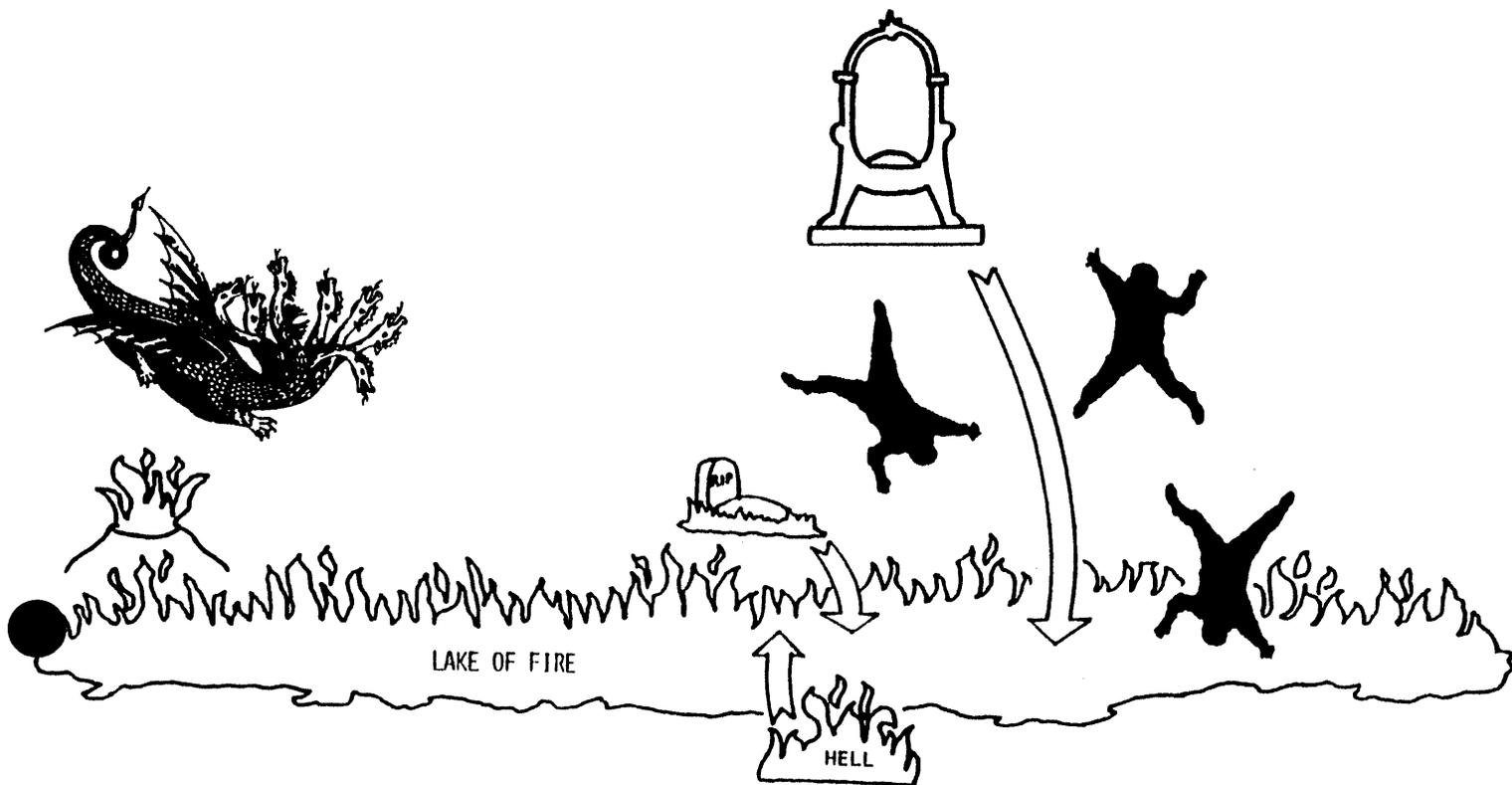
"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

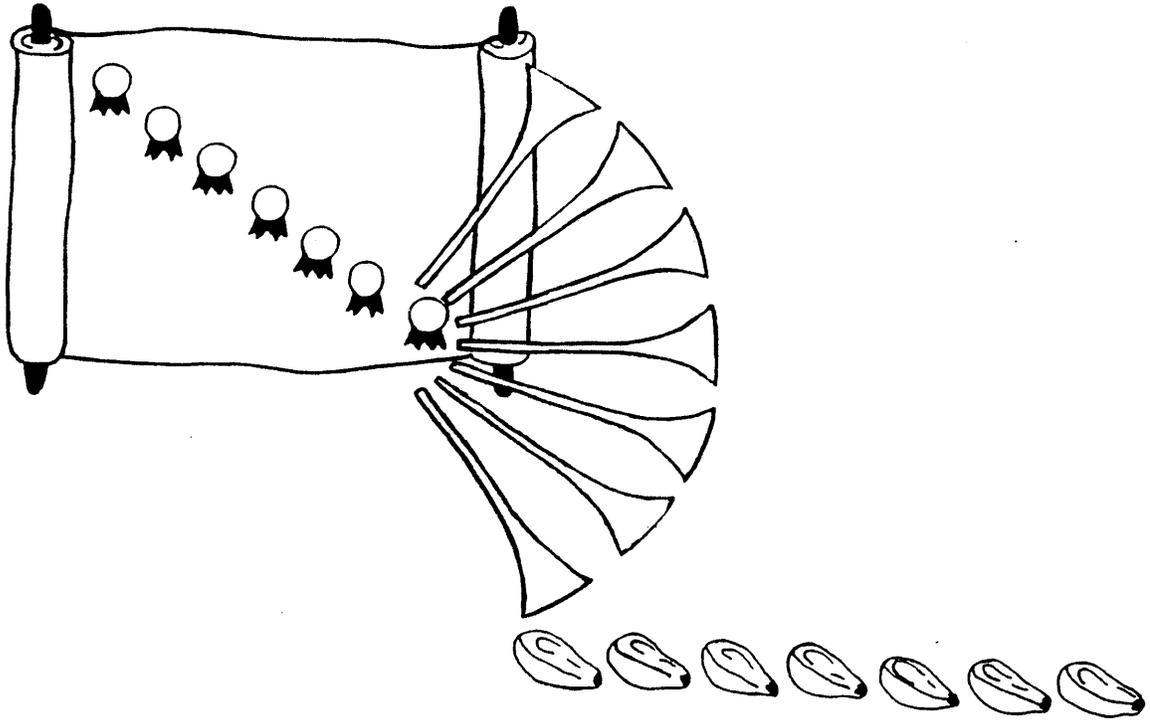
2b. The Destruction of Sinners: Rev. 20:14-15

How sad that sinners will join the destiny and destination of Satan! Hell was never meant for men but for the devil and his angels (Mt. 25:41). How sobering that salvation spurned does not result in annihilation but in eternal, conscious physical punishment (Mk. 9:42-48)! How splendid that there is a way of escape through Christ: "But as many as received Him to them did He give the authority to become the children of God, namely to them that believed on His name" (Jn. 1:12).

Rev. 20:14-15

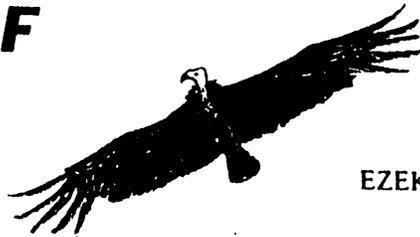
"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."





# THE BATTLE OF

# ⚔ ⚔ ⚔ AND ⚔ ⚔ ⚔

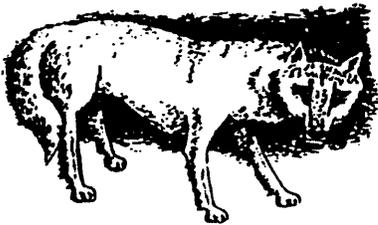


EZEKIEL 39

17 ¶ And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, *even* a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood.

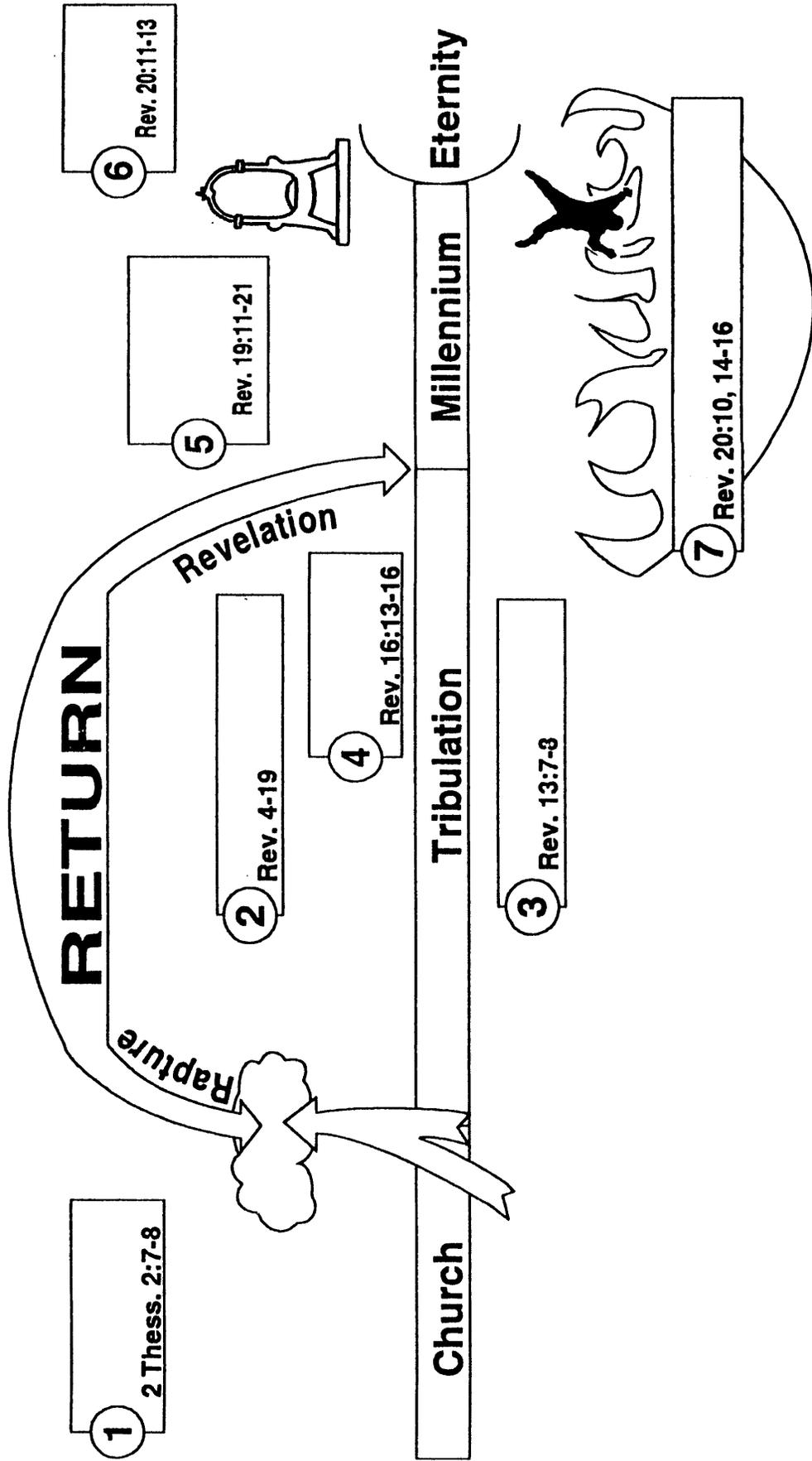
18 Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bā'-shān.

19 And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.

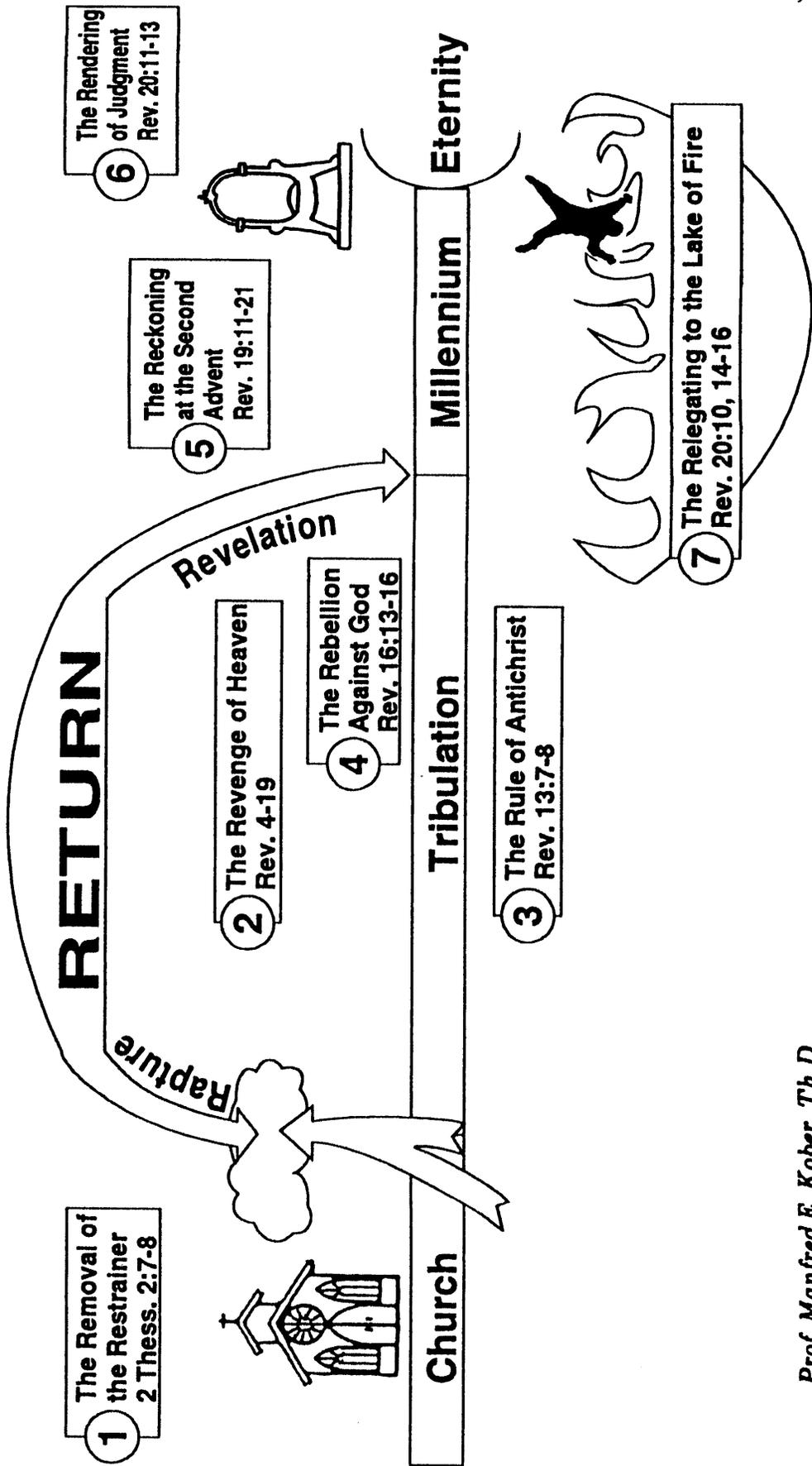


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# The Future and the Sinner

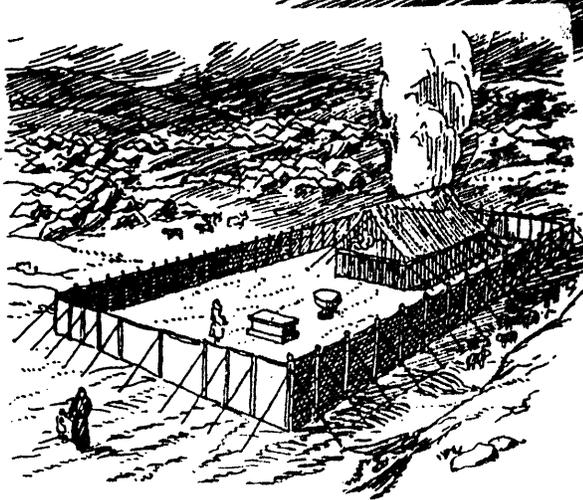


# The Future and the Sinner



Prof. Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

# THE FUTURE AND SALVATION



**Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.**

## THE FUTURE AND SALVATION

In a treatment of the future aspect of salvation, it might be helpful to discuss first of all salvation in its present and past aspects to accent the similarities and differences of salvation between individuals in the Old Testament and New Testament age. Some aspects about salvation have never changed, others have. It is important to rightly divide the Word of truth on this important doctrine.

### 1A. Dispensational Distinctions in Salvation:

Dispensationalists have consistently taught that salvation is always through God's grace. Lewis Sperry Chafer, founder of Dallas Theological Seminary, has clearly enunciated the traditional dispensational position:

"Are there two ways by which one may be saved? In reply to this question it may be stated that salvation of whatever specific character is always the work of God in behalf of man and never a work of man in behalf of God. This is to assert that God never saved any one person or group of persons on any other ground than that righteous freedom to do so which the Cross of Christ secured. There is, therefore, but one way to be saved and that is by the power of God made possible through the sacrifice of Christ."

(L. S. Chafer, "Inventing Heretics Through Misunderstanding," Bib. Sac., 102 (January, 1945), 1).

Only the content of salvation has been different from dispensation to dispensation. It is theologically incorrect to suggest that the average Israelite had the same knowledge of the finished work of Christ as the individual does in the New Testament era.

### THE PATTERN OF SALVATION THROUGH THE DISPENSATIONS

1. The Object of Salvation :

2. The Basis of Salvation :

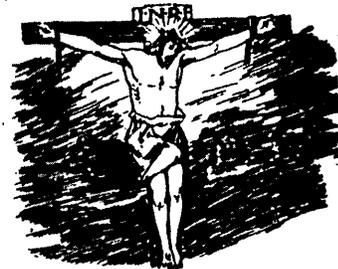
3. The Means of Salvation:

4. The Agent of Salvation:

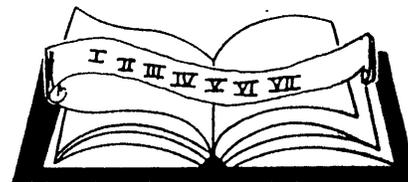
5. The Result of Salvation:

6. The Permanence of Salvation:

7. The Content of Salvation:



- ◆ The object of saving faith has always been God.
- ◆ The basis of salvation has always been the blood.
- ◆ The means of salvation has always been faith.
- ◆ The agent of salvation has always been the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ The result of salvation has always been a righteous standing before God.
- ◆ The permanence of salvation has always been guaranteed by the power of God.
- ◆ The content of salvation is based on the amount of revelation given concerning redemption.



#### 2A. Past Patterns of Salvation:

Covenant theologians insist that the Old Testament believer had essentially the same knowledge of the redeeming work of Christ as does the Church age saint. They accuse dispensationalists of teaching two ways of salvation, one of salvation by works in the Old Testament and one of salvation by faith in the New Testament.

Charles Ryrie agrees with what was noted under the last point and refutes the charge of two ways of salvation:

“The *basis* of salvation in every age is the death of Christ; the *requirement* for salvation in every age is faith; the *object* of faith in every age is God; the *content* of faith changes in the various dispensations. It is this last point, of course, which distinguishes dispensationalism from covenant theology, but it is not a point to which the charge of teaching two ways of salvation can be attached. It simply recognizes the obvious fact of progressive revelation. When Adam looked upon the coats of skins with which God had clothed him and his wife, he did not see what the believer today sees looking back on the cross of Calvary. And neither did other Old Testament saints see what we can see today. There have to be two sides to this matter--that which God sees from His side and that which man sees from his.” (Charles Ryrie, Dispensationalism Today, 1965, pp. 123-124)

While it was historically impossible for Old Testament saints to have as their conscious object of faith the incarnate, crucified Savior, the Lamb of God (Jn. 1:29), their salvation was based on faith in God’s provision for salvation. It is not always clear how much

1:29), their salvation was based on faith in God's provision for salvation. It is not always clear how much God revealed to individuals concerning a substitute sacrifice for man's sin. However, the case of Abraham and Rahab may prove illuminating.

1b. Abraham's salvation:

In Genesis 15:6 Abraham's salvation is clearly asserted:

And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Whatever Abraham believed about God's promises that he would have a great seed (15:5) and that through his seed blessings to the whole world would come (Gen. 12:3), it is unlikely that Abraham clearly perceived the death, burial and resurrection of Christ as the Father's ultimate provision for salvation. Nevertheless, Abraham believed in Yahweh, the One who always keeps His covenant, and it was counted to him for righteousness. Abraham's faith resulted in the Almighty's judicial verdict of Abraham, "Not guilty!" Abraham's sins were forgiven because he trusted in the promises of God.

2b. The Salvation of Rahab:

Joshua 2 affords indisputable evidence that a Canaanitess, Rahab the harlot, was saved. How much did Rahab know concerning the future Savior? Apparently nothing at all. So how was she saved? By trusting in God who alone could deliver her.

Joshua 2:9-11

<sup>9</sup> And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

<sup>10</sup> For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

<sup>11</sup> And as soon as we had heard *these things*, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he *is* God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

She, like all the Canaanites, had observed the Israelites in their exodus from Egypt and during their 40 years of wilderness wanderings. From this she rightly concluded that the God of the Israelites who could deliver them from the hand of the Egyptian armies and the attacks of the Amorites was the only true God who could deliver those who trusted in Him. In slaying the Egyptian forces in the Reed Sea and the Amorites through Israel, a people totally unprepared for battle, Israel's God showed that He was more powerful than the pagan deities worshipped in Egypt and Transjordan. In fact, Rahab appears to have been convinced that there was only one true God and she wanted to have that God as her

deliverer as well. No wonder her life was spared. Furthermore, she is listed as a woman of faith (Heb. 12:31; James 2:25) and she is included in the messianic line (Mt. 1:5).

### 3A. The Contemporary Content:

It has been noted that the basis of salvation is always the death of Christ, that the means is always faith, the object is always God but the content of salvation is different today than it was in the Old Testament. The Church age believer today has God's full revelation. The content of the message of salvation which needs to be proclaimed and believed today is spelled out in 1 Cor. 15:3-4:



<sup>3</sup>For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

<sup>4</sup>And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

In the Church age individuals are saved as they recognize their problem of sin, as they realize God's provision of a Savior and as they personalize that procurement of a Savior by trusting in Him who died, was buried and raised again as their substitute.

### 4A. Future Facets of Salvation:

#### 1b. Salvation in the Tribulation

##### 1c. The Position of Dispensationalists:

Salvation is accomplished in the tribulation period as in any other period of biblical history. It is based upon faith and accomplished through the work of the Holy Spirit. Those saved will include both Jews and Gentiles. The message will be proclaimed by those saved during the Tribulation, as well as through heavenly messengers, and will include both the announcement of the kingdom and the truth of the cross. Those who reject Christ in the Church age may be able to receive Christ during the Tribulation, but are not as likely to respond to the message.

##### 2c. The Presupposition Concerning the Church and the Holy Spirit:

1d. The Church will be removed from earth prior to the Tribulation period: Jn. 14:3; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:13-18.

2d. The Holy Spirit as the restrainer will be removed prior to the Tribulation: 2 Thess. 2:7; Gen. 6:3



HOLY  
SPIRIT

### 3c. The Principles Governing Salvation:

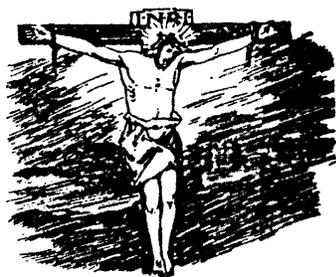
#### 1d. The role of the Holy Spirit:



- 1e. The ministries of the Holy Spirit that are to be removed are primarily those that belong exclusively to the Church: baptizing (1 Cor. 12:13), and indwelling (Jn. 14:16). These ministries will be gone because the body to which they have been promised will be gone
- 2e. The restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit will also be removed: 2 Thess. 2:7
- 3e. Ministries like convicting, regenerating, sealing and illuminating will be present during the Tribulation, otherwise, no one could be saved.

#### 2d. The Nature of Salvation in the Tribulation:

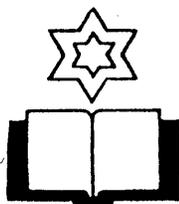
- 1e. The message of Hebrews 11:1 through 12:2 clearly teaches that faith is the means of salvation in every period of human history: in the predeluvian (vs. 1-7), in the patriarchal (vs. 9-31), in the period of the judges (vs. 32a), during the times of the kings and prophets (vs. 32b-40), and in the Church age (12:1-2).
- 2e. It has been stressed previously that salvation in any dispensation has as



- 1f. The basis: the blood
- 2f. The means: faith
- 3f. The object: God
- 4f. The agent: the Holy Spirit
- 5f. The only difference is the content. What does a person have to know in order to be saved? In this dispensation the content of the gospel: Christ's death, burial and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3-4). In the Tribulation this will include the

above as well as the good news of the kingdom (Rev. 14:6-7; Mt. 24:14; Mk. 3:10).

3d. The evangelists during the Tribulation:

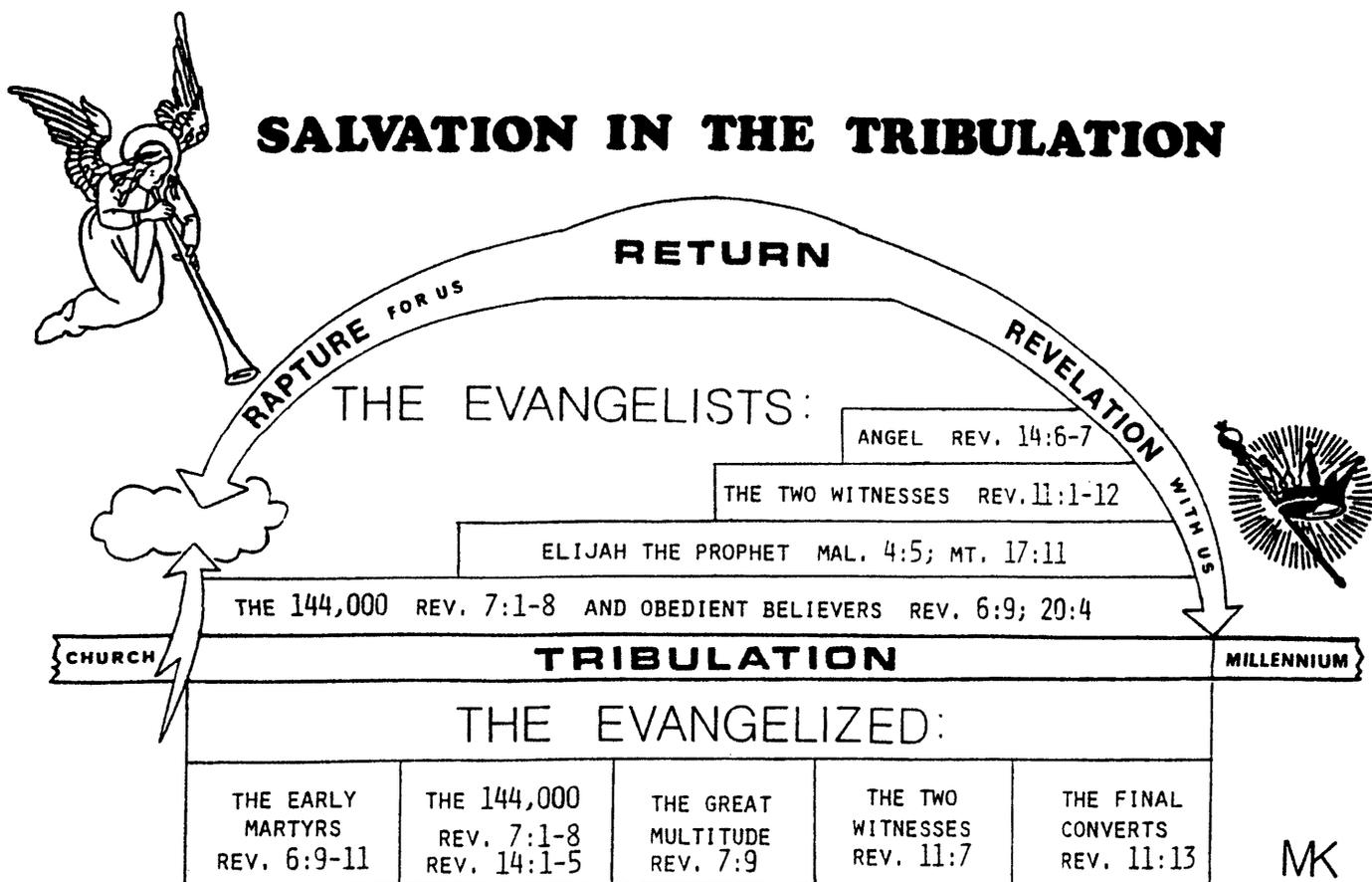


- 1e. The 144,000: Rev. 7:9
- 2e. The two witnesses: Rev. 11:7
- 3e. The Angel: Rev. 14:6-7
- 4e. Elijah: Mal. 3:1; 4:5-6  
Jn. 1:21; Mt. 17:11
- 5e. Obedient believers:  
Rev. 6:9 "Slain for the Word of God and the testimony which they held"  
Rev. 20:4 "Beheaded for the witness of Jesus and for the Word of God"

4d. The evangelized of the Tribulation:

- 1e. The early martyrs: Rev. 6:9-11
- 2e. The 144,000: Rev. 7:1-8; 14:1-5
- 3e. The great multitude: Rev. 7:9
- 4e. The two witnesses: Rev. 11:7
- 5e. The final converts: Rev. 11:13

## SALVATION IN THE TRIBULATION



5d. The destiny of those who reject Christ in the Church age:

1e. The biblical considerations:

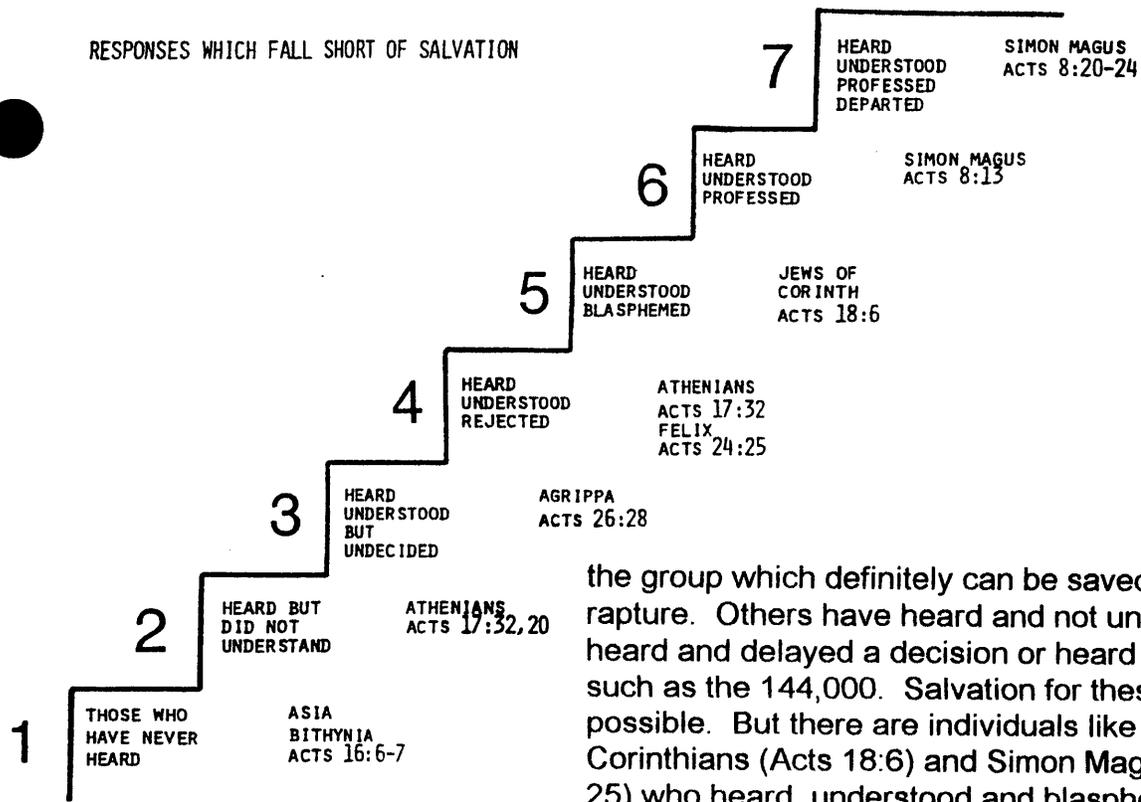
Can individuals who have heard and rejected the gospel in the Church age be saved during the Tribulation? Many have given a negative answer to this important question. However, it can be demonstrated that some individuals at least will be saved in the Tribulation who rejected the gospel in the Church age. Soon after the rapture, 144,000 Jewish witnesses will be saved and sealed (Rev. 7:3-8). They would have been alive before the rapture. As part of their Jewish heritage they, as every Jew, would have heard about Christ and rejected Him as their Messiah, otherwise they would have been taken away in the rapture. The 144,000 thus comprise a group who have heard the gospel, rejected it and are still redeemed after the rapture.

Who are those individuals in the Tribulation who "believe the lie" (2 Thess. 2:10-11)? Most likely they are Church age individuals who heard the truth of the gospel, rejected it, but have gone beyond mere unbelief and blasphemed the gospel somehow. Thus they are judicially hardened. They are not simply individuals who have heard the gospel in this dispensation, but have refused to believe it. As Hiebert says, "Not only did they refuse 'the truth' (not truth abstractly but the saving truth of the gospel, as the added clause makes clear), but manifested a disposition of aversion to the truth, showing no desire to seek and possess the saving truth of God. Their unbelief was not so much a matter of the head as of the heart." (The Thessalonian Epistles, p. 318)

God's sending them great delusion, lest they should believe, applies to individuals who persistently have rejected the gospel and purposefully turned away from God to idolatry, blasphemy and apostasy.

The book of Acts affords a study of various groups and their response to the gospel. Some have never heard the gospel in the Church age. They belong to

RESPONSES WHICH FALL SHORT OF SALVATION



the group which definitely can be saved after the rapture. Others have heard and not understood or heard and delayed a decision or heard and rejected, such as the 144,000. Salvation for these groups is possible. But there are individuals like some of the Corinthians (Acts 18:6) and Simon Magus (Acts 8:20-25) who heard, understood and blasphemed. These religious renegades will never be saved. Rejection and ridicule bring reprobation.

Another consideration is in order in answering the question of who can be saved after the rapture. The converts of the Tribulation do not simply come from countries unreached by the gospel in the Church age. In fact, as a result of the ministry of the 144,000 witnesses and the angelic messenger, people from "all nations, and kindred, and tongues" (Rev. 7:9; Rev. 14:6) will be saved. Certainly Western Europe and North America have heard the gospel and many individuals have rejected it. And yet, myriads of persons will be gloriously saved.



Of course, it will not be any easier to accept the Lord in the Tribulation than it is now in the Church age. The pleading of the Holy Spirit to each individual is "Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Heb. 3:7; cf. 7:13,15). It is true that the possibility of salvation exists in the Tribulation. It is equally true that to defer a decision until then is presumptuous. Nobody knows when his allotted days shall be used up. May the Latin motto be our guide:

**RARA HORA--BREVIS MORA**

(The hours are few--Death is soon)

## 2e. The concluding principles:

- 1f. Believers in the Tribulation are not baptized into Christ and are therefore not Christians who comprise the bride of Christ. Rather, Tribulation saints are friends of the bridegroom (Mt. 25:1; Js. 2:23). As the bride is more intimate to the bridegroom, so Church age saints have a position of greater intimacy than Old Testament saints or Tribulation saints. What a blessedness to belong to the bride of Christ!
- 2f. As has been stated, there is no guarantee that a person who rejects the gospel now will accept it at a later time. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that a person has the opportunity to live another hour, day, week, month or year.
- 3f. To reiterate once more: the time to believe is now.
  - 1g. God pleads for salvation today: Heb. 3:7,8  
"Today if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts!"
  - 2g. God promises salvation today:  
2 Cor. 6:2  
For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

## 2b. Salvation in the Millennium

No unsaved person is to enter the Millennium. At the second advent various judgments will remove unbelievers and only believers will remain to join Christ in His kingdom.

## 1c. The salvation of Israel.

Israel's conversion is effected at the second advent, for Paul writes:

Romans 11:26-27

<sup>26</sup> And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

<sup>27</sup> For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

God will give to His people an intuitive knowledge of Himself and will place His Spirit within every person.

Jeremiah 31:33-34

<sup>33</sup> But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

<sup>34</sup> And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Ezekiel 11:19

<sup>19</sup> And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

## 2c. The salvation of the gentiles

When Christ returns He will separate believing from unbelieving gentiles and those who believe will enter the millennial kingdom (Matt. 25:32-34).

Salvation in the kingdom will be possible as it is now and as it will be during the Tribulation, by calling on the name of the Lord for deliverance. Those who are born in the millennial kingdom will have inherited a sin nature and need personal redemption.

Joel 2:32

<sup>32</sup> And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

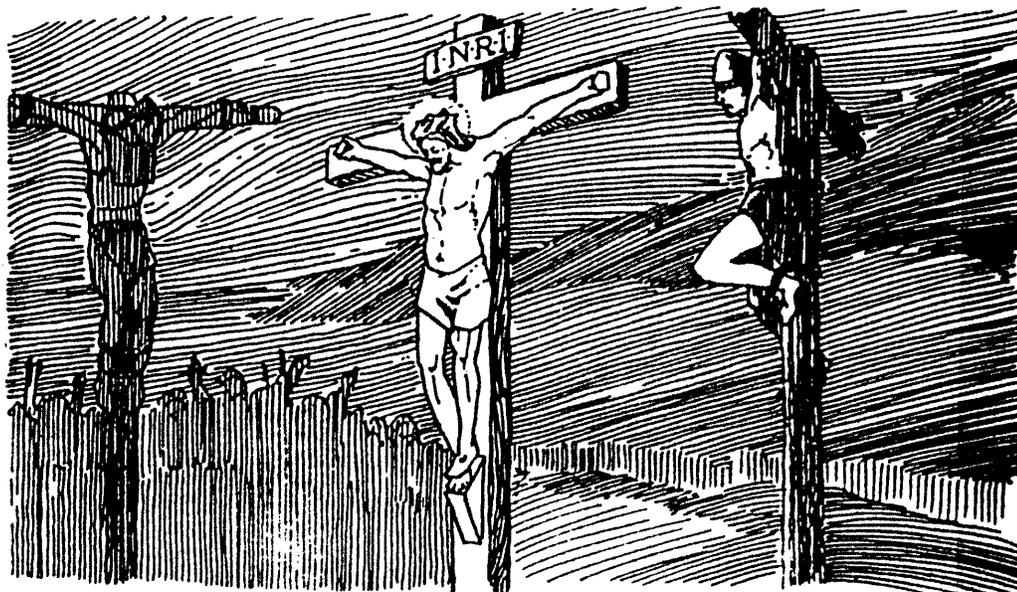
Despite the most ideal circumstances in the millennial kingdom and evidences of the Savior's personal presence, vast numbers will still remain unsaved and Satan will deceive them after he is loosed from the abyss for a little season. Their number is described as "the sand of the sea."

Revelation 20:7-9

<sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

°And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

°And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.



# THE SINNER AND THE SAVIOR



**THE PROBLEM:**

**THE PROVISION:**

**THE PROCUREMENT:**

The sinner finds salvation as he recognizes his lostness and trusts in Christ as substitute Savior. At that moment he is declared righteous and receives eternal life. As a child of God he will be delivered from the wrath of the Tribulation and the eternal flames of hell.

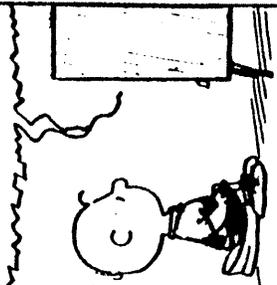
# PEANUTS

featuring

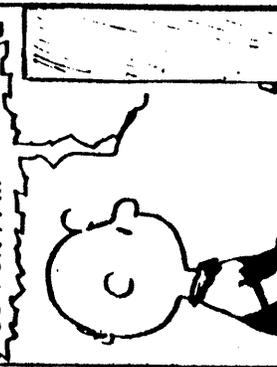
## "Good ol' Charlie Brown"

by SCHULZ

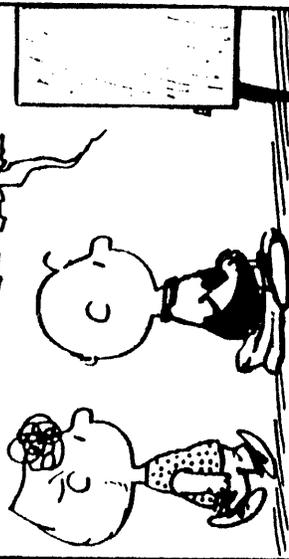
ALL RIGHT, GOLF FANS,  
THIS IS IT... THE OLD  
PRO HAS TO MAKE  
THIS ONE...



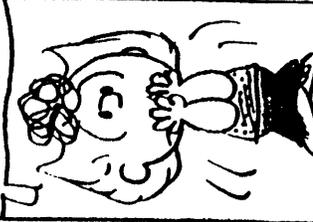
HE'S DOWN TO THE LAST  
PUTT, AND HE CAN'T PLAY  
IT SAFE... HE HAS TO  
GO FOR IT...



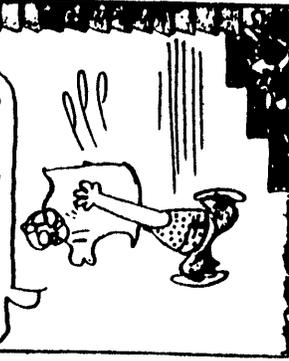
THERE'S NO  
TOMORROW!



THERE'S NO  
TOMORROW?!



THERE'S NO  
TOMORROW!!



THEY JUST ANNOUNCED ON  
TV THAT THERE'S  
NO TOMORROW!!!



THERE'S NO  
TOMORROW!!  
THEY JUST  
ANNOUNCED  
IT ON TV!

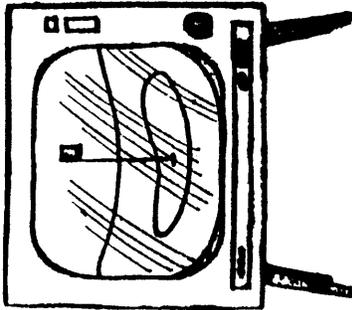
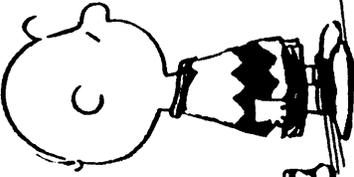
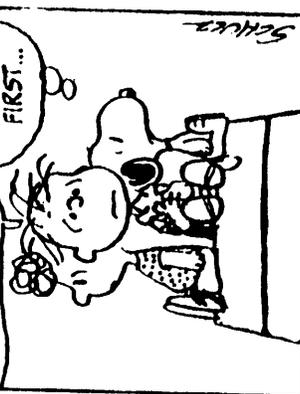


PANIC! PANIC! RUN!  
HIDE! FLEE! RUN!  
FOR THE HILLS!  
FLEE TO THE  
VALLEYS! RUN TO  
THE ROOF TOPS!

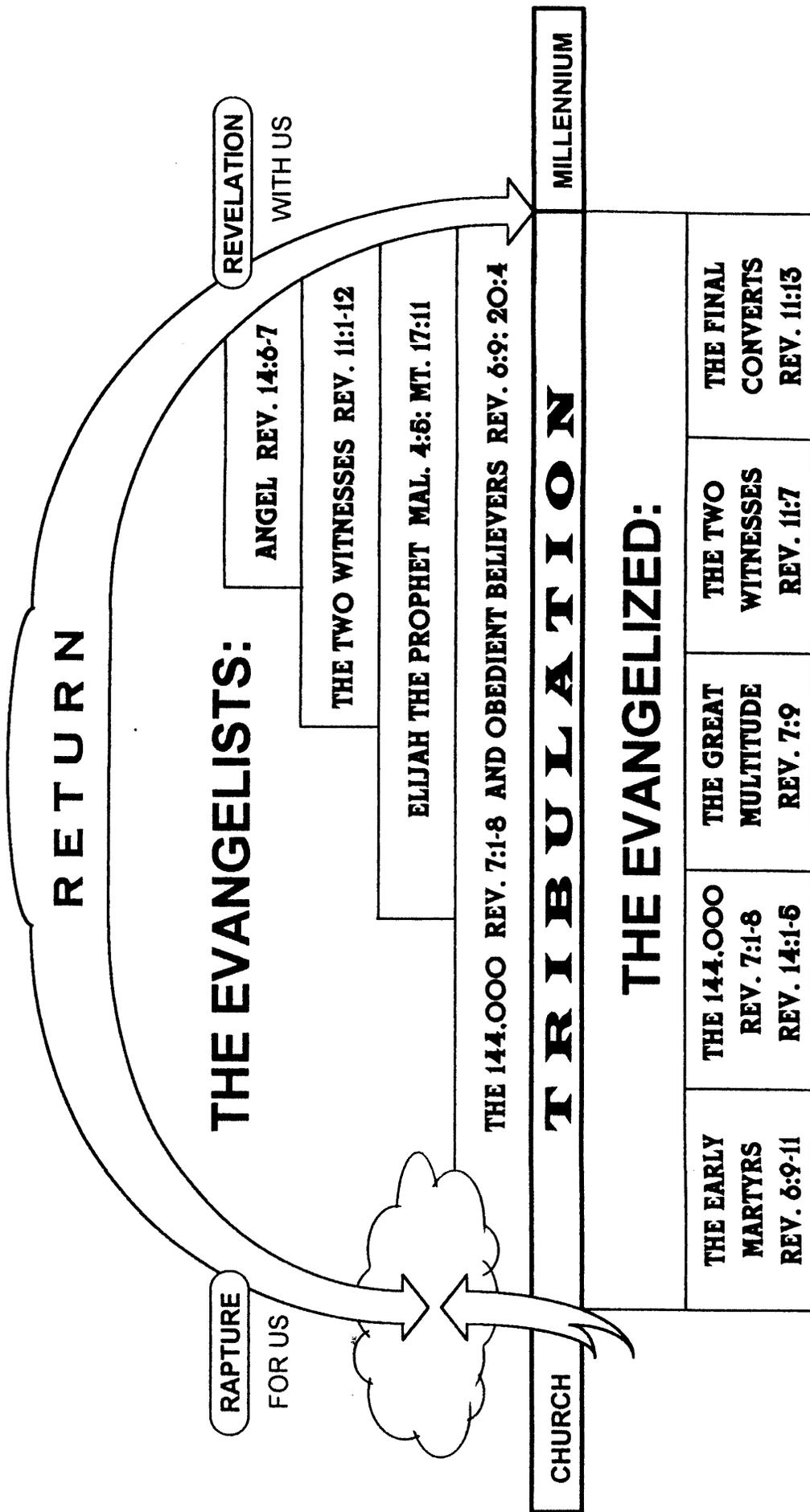


SOMEHOW I NEVER  
THOUGHT IT WOULD  
END THIS WAY!

I THOUGHT  
ELIJAH WAS  
TO COME  
FIRST...



# SALVATION IN THE TRIBULATION

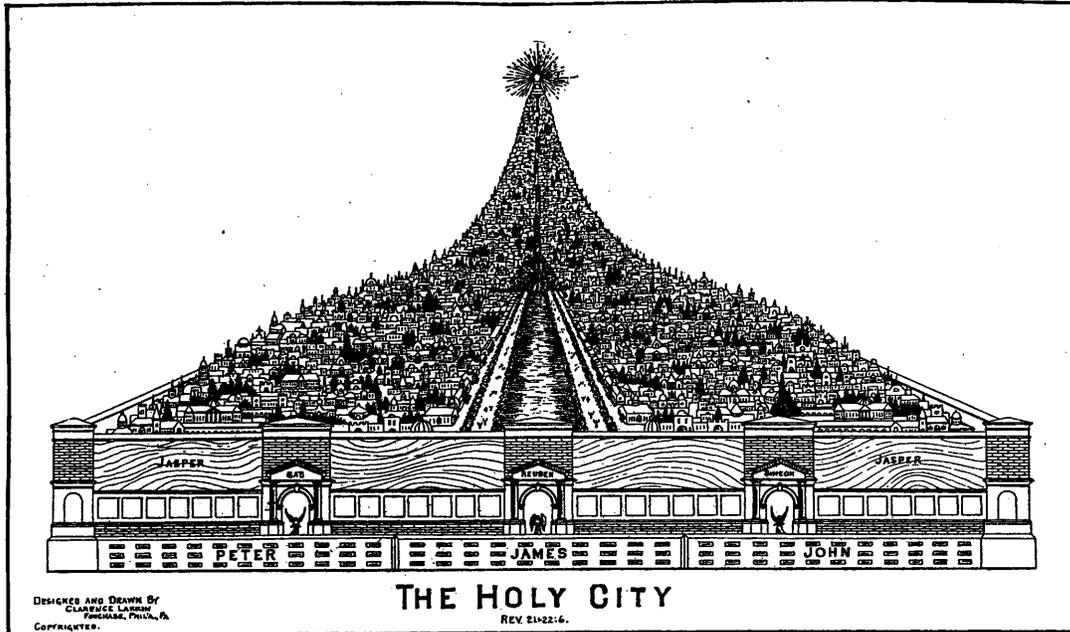


Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

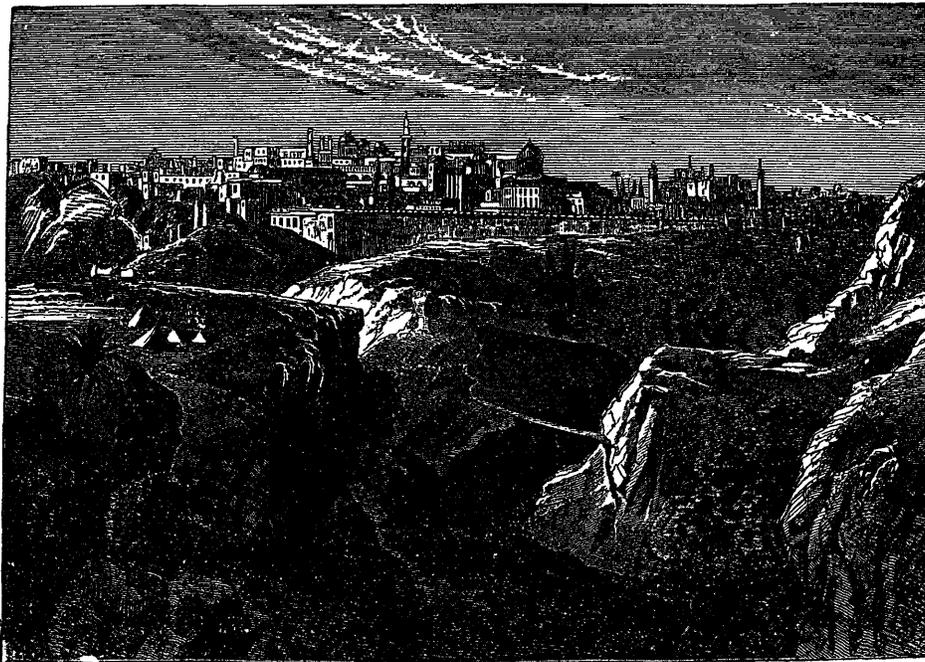


# THE FUTURE AND THE TWO JERUSALEMS

## *The Heavenly Jerusalem*



## *The Earthly Jerusalem*



**Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.**

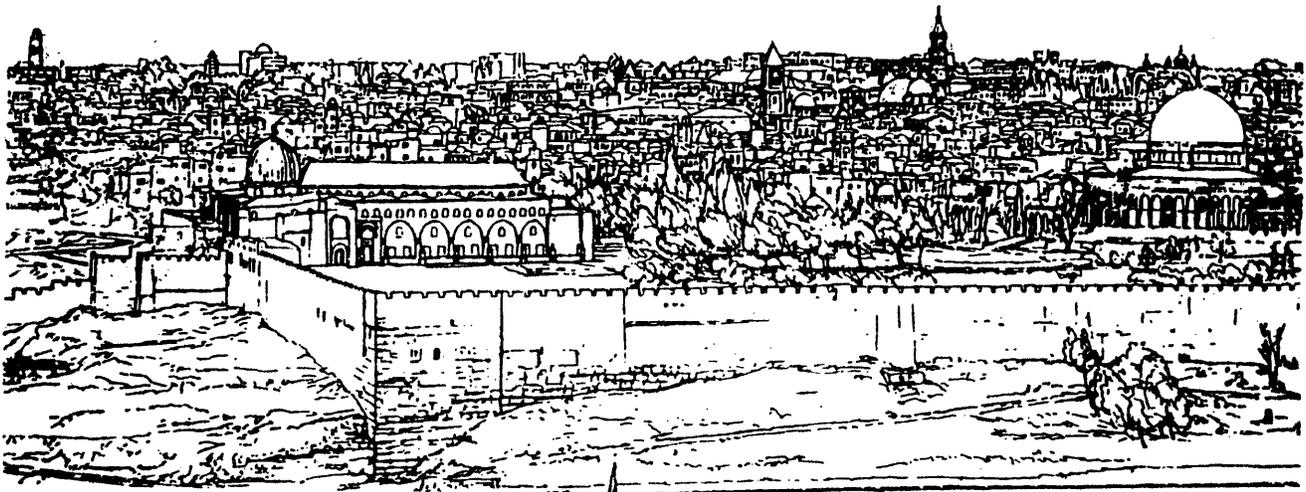
## THE FUTURE AND THE TWO JERUSALEMS

God's magnificent plan from eternity to eternity focuses in a special way on this planet. The innumerable galaxies, constellations and stars of the universe serve to glorify God (Psalm 19:1) and to be of benefit to man (Gen. 1:15-17). Central to this planet are God's chosen people. Other nations gain significance only as they are rightly related to Israel (Deut. 32:7-10).

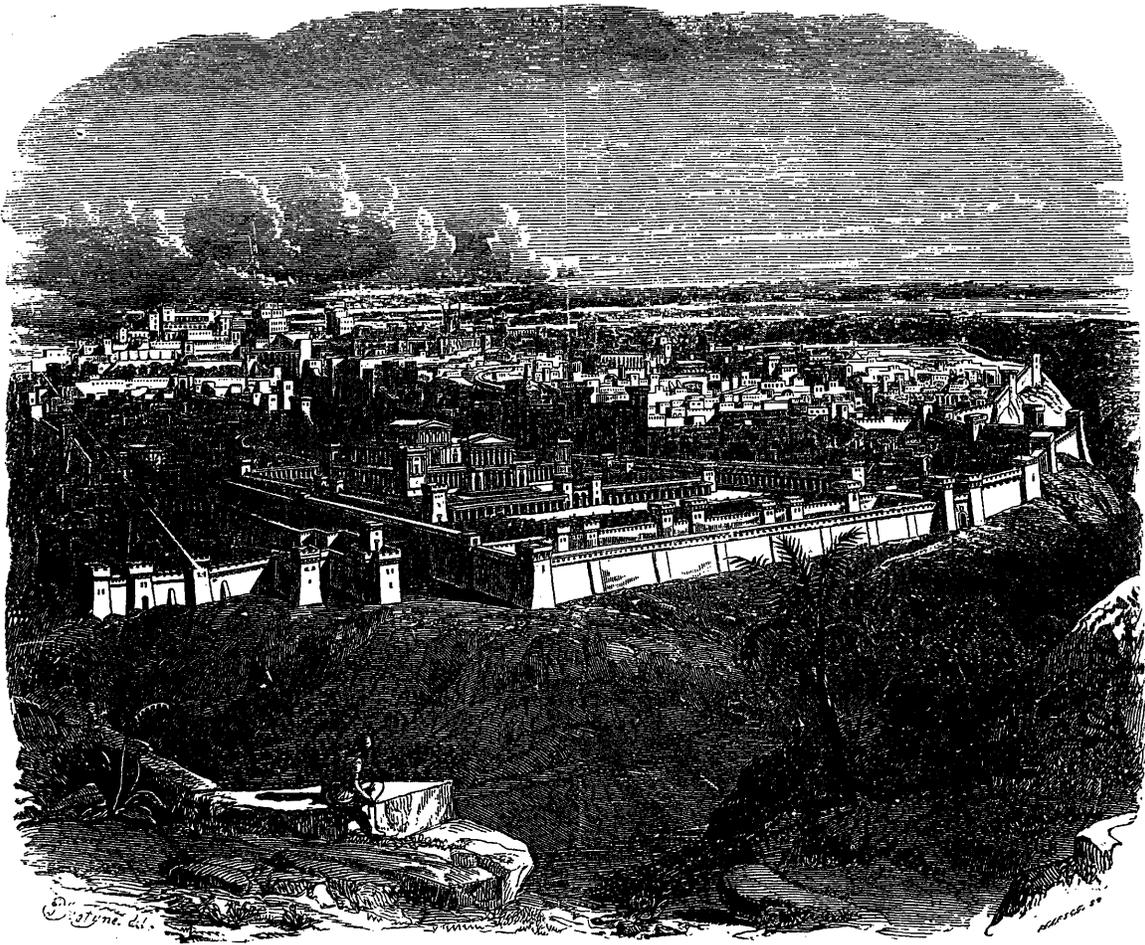
Geographically, Israel is the center of the earth (Ez 5:5; 38:12, literally, "the navel of the earth"). In the center of Israel lies the city of Jerusalem. The present center of Jerusalem is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher built at the site of Calvary. In its central sanctuary stands a strange convex bird-bath-like stone configuration which has been there since Crusader days. Its designation is "The Navel of the Earth." Christ died at the very center of the earth! But God's redeeming work is not completed. Future redemption will include the deliverance of Creation from the curse of sin (Rom. 8:21-22). Christ will sit on the throne of David in the Millennial Kingdom. As Sovereign, He will rule the world. As Savior He will redeem the world.

Jerusalem, the city of peace, has witnessed more total destructions than any other city. Despite future spoliation, a glorious future awaits the magnificent city. It will be at last the world's capital for 1,000 years.

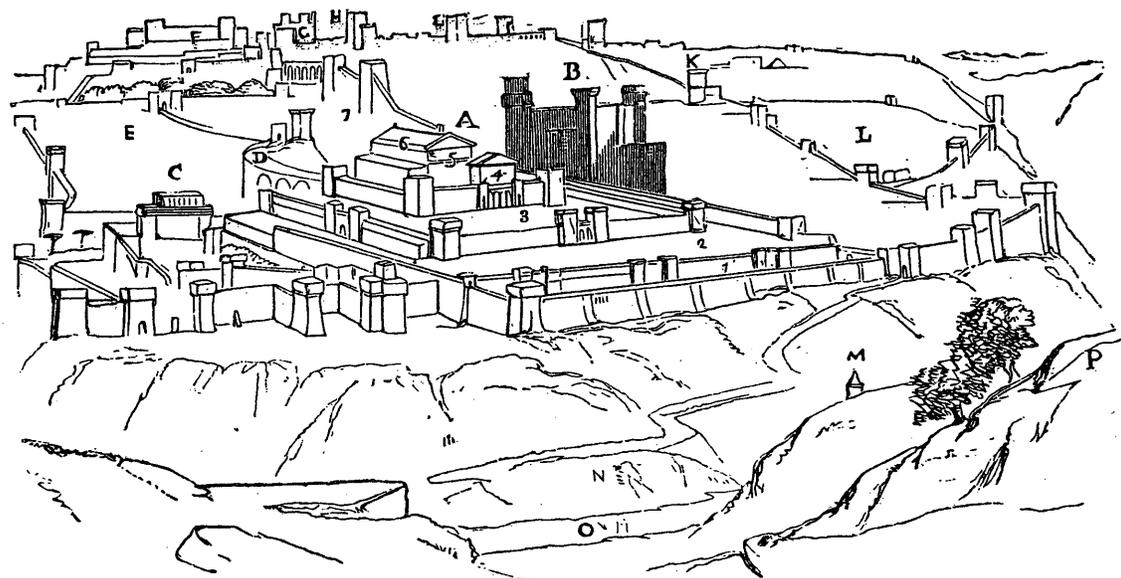
S · H I E R V S A L E M ·



Frequently neglected in prophetic studies is the revelation concerning another Jerusalem, a heavenly city, also referred to as Mount Zion, the future city of the living God. As the eternal home of the redeemed of all the ages, it is described in intricate detail in Rev. 21-22. It will be helpful to juxtaposition the earthly and heavenly Jerusalem in a single study. May we appreciate God's revelation concerning the travails and triumph of Jerusalem, the earthly capital, and the revelation concerning the grandeur and glory of the eternal city.



JERUSALEM IN THE TIME OF OUR LORD.



KEY TO VIEW OF JERUSALEM.

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p>A The Temple built by Herod.<br/>         B The Fortress and Palace of Antonia.<br/>         C The Old Palace of Solomon, and the King's Gardens.<br/>         D Herod's Bridge over the Valley of the Tyropæon.<br/>         E Mount Zion, or The Upper City.<br/>         F Herod's Palace and Gardens.<br/>         G Tower of Hippicus.<br/>         H Tower of Phasælus.</p> | <p>I Tower of Mariamme.<br/>         K Tower of Hananeel and of Hezekiah.<br/>         L Bezetha.<br/>         M Tomb of Absalom.<br/>         N Valley of Jehoshaphat.<br/>         O The Brook Kidron.<br/>         P Mount of Olives.</p> | <p>2 The Second Court, or Sanctuary and Court of the Women.<br/>         3. The Inner Court, wherein stood the Altars of Burnt Sacrifice.<br/>         4. The Gate called Beautiful.<br/>         5. The Court of the Priests.<br/>         6. The Holy of Holies.<br/>         7. The Valley of the Tyropæon, dividing Zion from Acra, or the Lower City.</p> |
|--|--|--|

TEMPLE.

- 1. The Outermost Court.

## THE EARTHLY JERUSALEM

### 1A. Jerusalem will be populated by returning Jews.

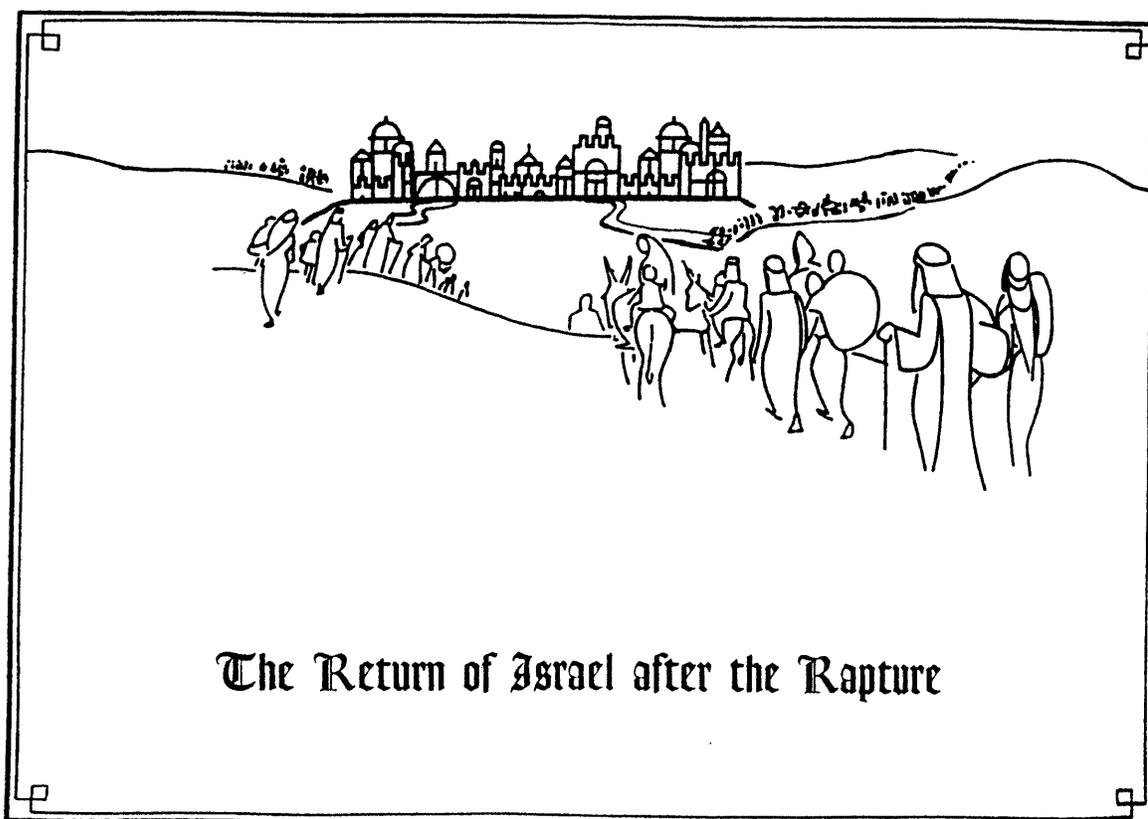
After the rapture all the world's Jews will experience severe persecution and will hastily return to the land of Israel. Millions of Jews will take up residence in the land of their ancestors and Jerusalem will be its capital.

Ezekiel 37:21

<sup>21</sup> And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:

Ezekiel 39:28

<sup>28</sup> Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.



### 2A. Jerusalem will be protected by Antichrist.

With America's protection withdrawn from Israel after the rapture of the believers, Israel will turn to the powerful Roman prince for protection. He will make a covenant of peace with Israel, giving that nation a complete sense of security. They will live in unprotected settlements in apparent safety, realizing

little the impending attack by Russia and ensuing abomination of desolation by Antichrist.

Daniel 9:27

<sup>27</sup> And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Ezekiel 38:14

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know *it*?

### 3A. Jerusalem will be delivered at Gog and Magog.

At the mid-point of the Tribulation, the armies of Gog and Magog and their allies will invade Israel in a Blitzkrieg action that startles the rest of the world. In a spectacular outpouring of 8 specific judgments God will protect the land and people of Israel and utterly destroy the invaders.

Ezekiel 38:18

<sup>18</sup> And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, *that* my fury shall come up in my face.

Ezekiel 39:4

<sup>4</sup> Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that *is* with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and *to* the beasts of the field to be devoured.

### 4A. Jerusalem will be invaded by Antichrist.

With Antichrist's major opponent eliminated, but an eastern army of 200 million challenging his rule (Rev. 19:16), he moves his military headquarters from Rome to Jerusalem, desecrates the altar and desolates the temple, driving the Jews from their place of worship.

Daniel 9:27

<sup>27</sup> And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Daniel 11:45

<sup>45</sup> 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.

Matthew 24:15-16

<sup>15</sup> When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

<sup>16</sup> Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

### 5A. Jerusalem will be evangelized by the two Witnesses.

Apparently during the last three and a half years of the Tribulation, two unnamed Witnesses appear on earth. When Antichrist kills them, their bodies will lie on display in the streets of Jerusalem. Then suddenly, after three days, they will be resurrected and ascend to heaven.

Revelation 11:3, 7-8, 11-12

<sup>3</sup>And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

<sup>7</sup>And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

<sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>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.

#### 6A. Jerusalem will be shaken by an earthquake.

As the two witnesses are raptured to heaven a violent earthquake shakes Jerusalem, destroying one-tenth of the city and violently crushing 7,000 individuals.



Revelation 11:13

<sup>13</sup>And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

#### 7A. Jerusalem will be destroyed at the campaign of Armageddon.

During the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation a series of attacks will be launched against Israel by the major armies of the world. Although the campaign is named after the main battlefield of Armageddon in northern Israel, while armies rampage there, another focal point of conflict will be Jerusalem, as enemy armies conquer Jerusalem one final time. This violation of the holy city prompts God to intervene directly.

Zechariah 12:1-3

<sup>1</sup>The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.

<sup>2</sup>Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah *and* against Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup>And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

Zechariah 14:1-3

<sup>1</sup>Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

<sup>2</sup>For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

<sup>3</sup>Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.



8A. Jerusalem will be rescued by the Messiah.

The destruction of Jerusalem in the final days of Armageddon elicits a response from heaven. The times of the Gentiles come to an end. The Son of David returns from heaven, accompanied by vast hosts of saints and angels. He destroys Israel's invaders before He ever descends to the Mount of Olives. Triumphantly He enters the Eastern gate, captures Antichrist and the false prophet, deposits them in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20) and assumes His rule over the world.

Zechariah 12:4-5

<sup>4</sup>In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness.

<sup>5</sup>And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem *shall be* my strength in the LORD of hosts their God.

Zechariah 14:3-4, 11-12

<sup>3</sup>Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

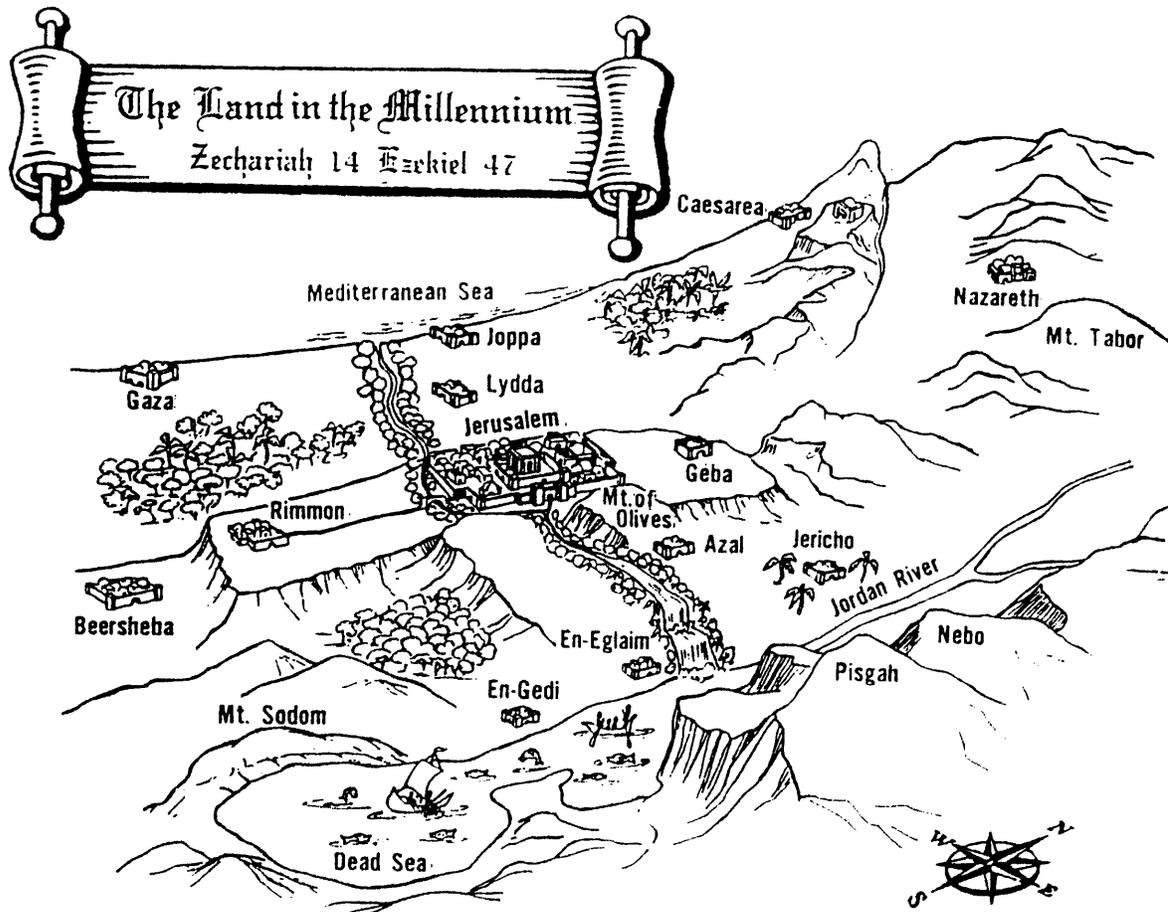
<sup>4</sup>And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and *there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

<sup>11</sup>And *men* shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.

<sup>12</sup> And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.

9A. Jerusalem will be elevated above the surrounding area.

Topographical changes at the second advent involve a deep east-west valley in the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4) and an elevation of Israel's central mountain range into a plateau, positioning Jerusalem as the world's capital above the surrounding area.

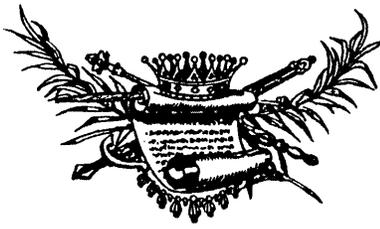


Zechariah 14:10

<sup>10</sup> All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses.

10A. Jerusalem is exalted as the world's capital.

Jerusalem at last will be what God intended it to be. The Prince of Peace will rule the world from here during the Millennial Kingdom, bringing peace and prosperity to the entire world.



Isaiah 24:23

<sup>23</sup> Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

Isaiah 27:13

<sup>13</sup> And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

Isaiah 62:1-7

<sup>1</sup> For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp *that* burneth.

<sup>2</sup> And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

<sup>3</sup> Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

<sup>4</sup> Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.

<sup>5</sup> For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

<sup>6</sup> I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, *which* shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,

<sup>7</sup> And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Micah 4:1-2

<sup>1</sup> But in the last days it shall come to pass, *that* the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

<sup>2</sup> And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.



11A. Jerusalem will be visited yearly by the nations.

Jerusalem will be the center of world government as well as worship. Annually the Gentiles will ascend to Jerusalem at the feast of tabernacles to worship the King and to be blessed by His presence. This presages a thriving seasonal tourist business. Little revelation is given about the means of transportation although travel by horse seems to be clearly indicated by terms such as "the horses' harnesses" (Zech. 14:20).

Zechariah 14:16-21

<sup>16</sup> And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

<sup>17</sup> And it shall be, *that* whoso will not come up of *all* the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

<sup>18</sup> And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, *that have no rain*; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

<sup>19</sup> This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

<sup>20</sup> In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

<sup>21</sup> Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and see the therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

12A. Jerusalem will be attacked by Satan and his host.

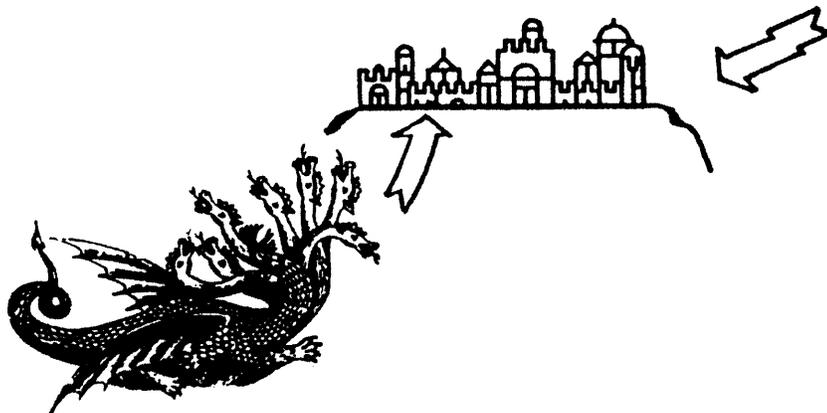
A final danger threatens Jerusalem at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. As Satan is loosed from the pit for a little season, he is able to deceive the unsaved Gentiles who will join him in a final desperate effort to supplant Christ from His throne and to destroy the saints that are gathered with Him in Jerusalem. A fiery judgment destroys the hellish hordes and the devil is deposited into the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 20:7-9

<sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

<sup>8</sup> And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea.

<sup>9</sup> And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.





## THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM

Much of the believer's future blessedness has been concealed. And yet, much has been revealed. The inspired canon of Scripture concludes with the arresting description of the believer's final home, the heavenly Jerusalem. While its full revelation is not given until John penned the book of the Revelation around A.D. 100, its anticipation can be documented as early as 1000 B.C. when Abraham foresaw the city, the cynosure of Creation. Presumably he passed on that information to his descendants.

### 1A. Prophetic Anticipation of the City.

It is interesting to contemplate how much the patriarchs may have known about the future. In one area they appear to be well-informed. Somehow God disclosed to them that their ultimate home would be a city whose builder was God. On this earth they were nomads without a permanent home, but they lived in hope of a future final city. Their eventual home made their earthly hardships more bearable.

Hebrews 11:8-10, 16

<sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>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:

<sup>10</sup>For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God. (KJV)

<sup>16</sup>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.

### 2A. Promised Availability of the City.

The night before His crucifixion the Savior encouraged His disciples with the revelation that during His absence from them He would prepare their eternal home.

John 14:1-3

<sup>1</sup>Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

<sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

<sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

### 3A. Present Activity on the City.

Almost two millennia have passed since the Lord ascended to heaven. During His absence He has been preparing our future home. When the last building block is added to the city in heaven and the last believer is joined to the Church

on earth, the Savior will return and rapture the Church, His bride, to that promised home.

John 14:3

<sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

#### 4A. Prospective Accessibility to the City.

At the rapture the believers are summoned to a reunion with their Lord and loved ones in the air (1 Thess. 4:13-18). From the atmospheric heaven we will ascend to the third heaven where the city awaits its residents. Central will be the Bride of Christ, but the triune God, the holy angels and all the redeemed will reside in the city at last completed.

Hebrews 12:22-24

<sup>22</sup>But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

<sup>23</sup>To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

<sup>24</sup>And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

#### 5A. Postmillennial Appearance of the City.

At the conclusion of Christ's millennial reign, after all the unbelievers of all the ages have been judged at the Great White Throne Judgment and are consigned to the Lake of Fire, a new heaven and a new earth will be created. John predicts the descent of the magnificent city, brilliant in its array "as a bride adorned for her husband."

Revelation 21:2-3, 10

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

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

#### 6A. The Prominent Array in the City.

As the city descends to earth, having perhaps been suspended above our planet as a satellite city during the Millennium, a heavenly announcement will call attention to the fact that God will dwell with His people, comforting them and initiating that eternal rest and rejoicing they longed for.

The city, measuring 1500 miles x 1500 miles x 1500 miles will be inhabited by all the redeemed men, the holy angels as well as the triune God. It is not so much

that man will live with God for eternity but that God is pleased to dwell with man forever. This is one of the marvels of God's condescension.

Hebrews 12:22-23

<sup>22</sup>But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

<sup>23</sup>To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Revelation 21:3, 11

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

## 7A. Perpetual Abiding in the City.

Even in the eternal state, there are national and racial distinctions. The kings of the earth and Gentile nations, perhaps occupying the area outside the city, will revel in the access to the Lord of glory as they pay their homage to Him.

For the Bride of Christ, the proximity to the Savior involves meaningful activity and blessed fellowship, expressed in the words, "his servants shall serve him . . . they shall see his face. . . and they shall reign forever and ever."

Revelation 21:22-24

<sup>22</sup>And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

<sup>23</sup>And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof.

<sup>24</sup>And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

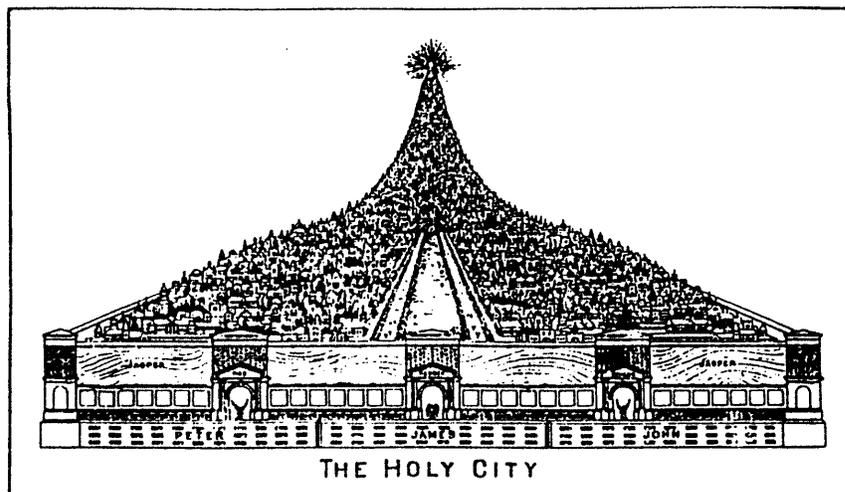
Revelation 22:3-5, 19

<sup>3</sup>And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

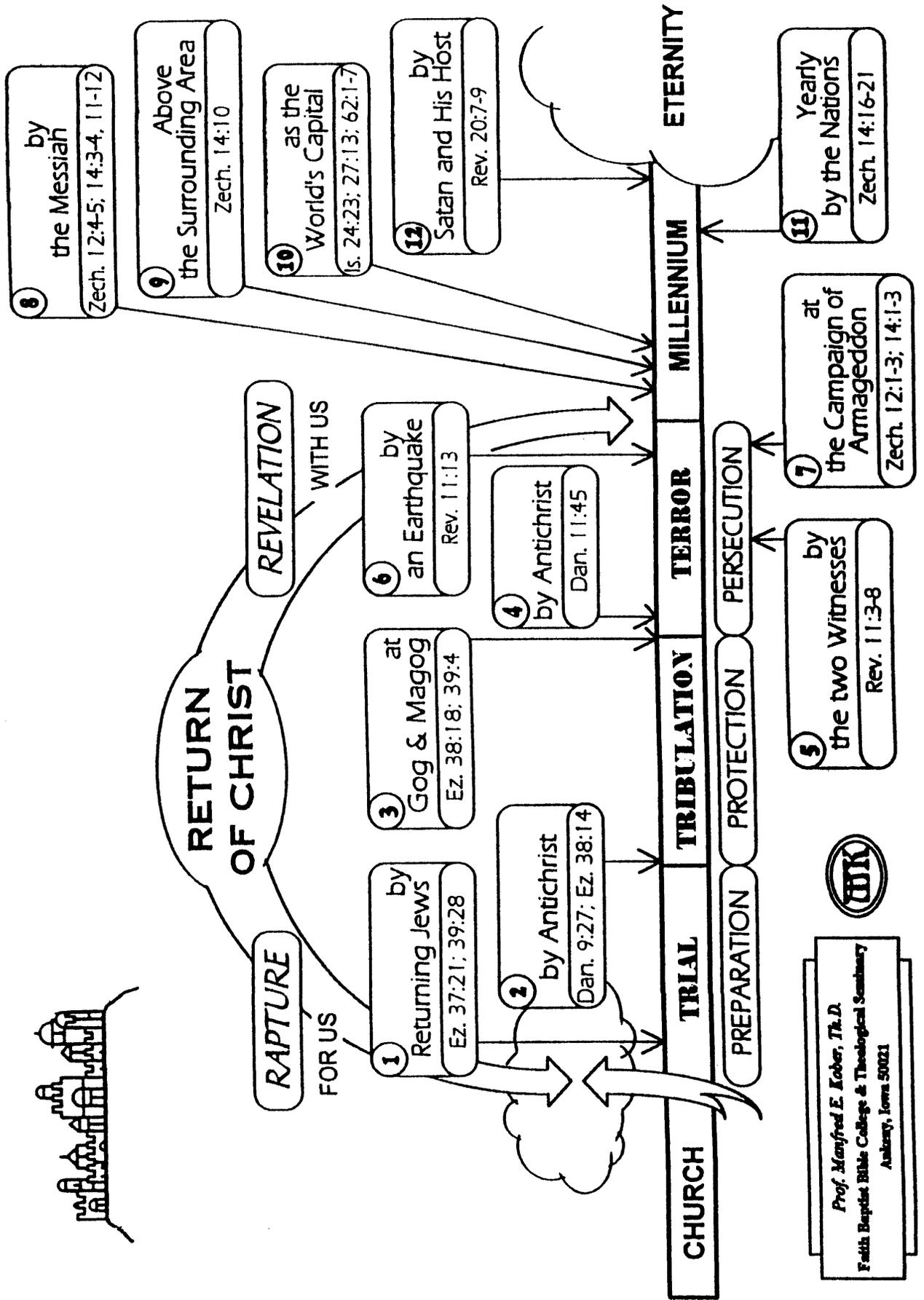
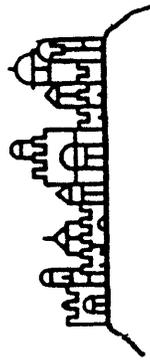
<sup>4</sup>And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads.

<sup>5</sup>And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

<sup>19</sup>And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

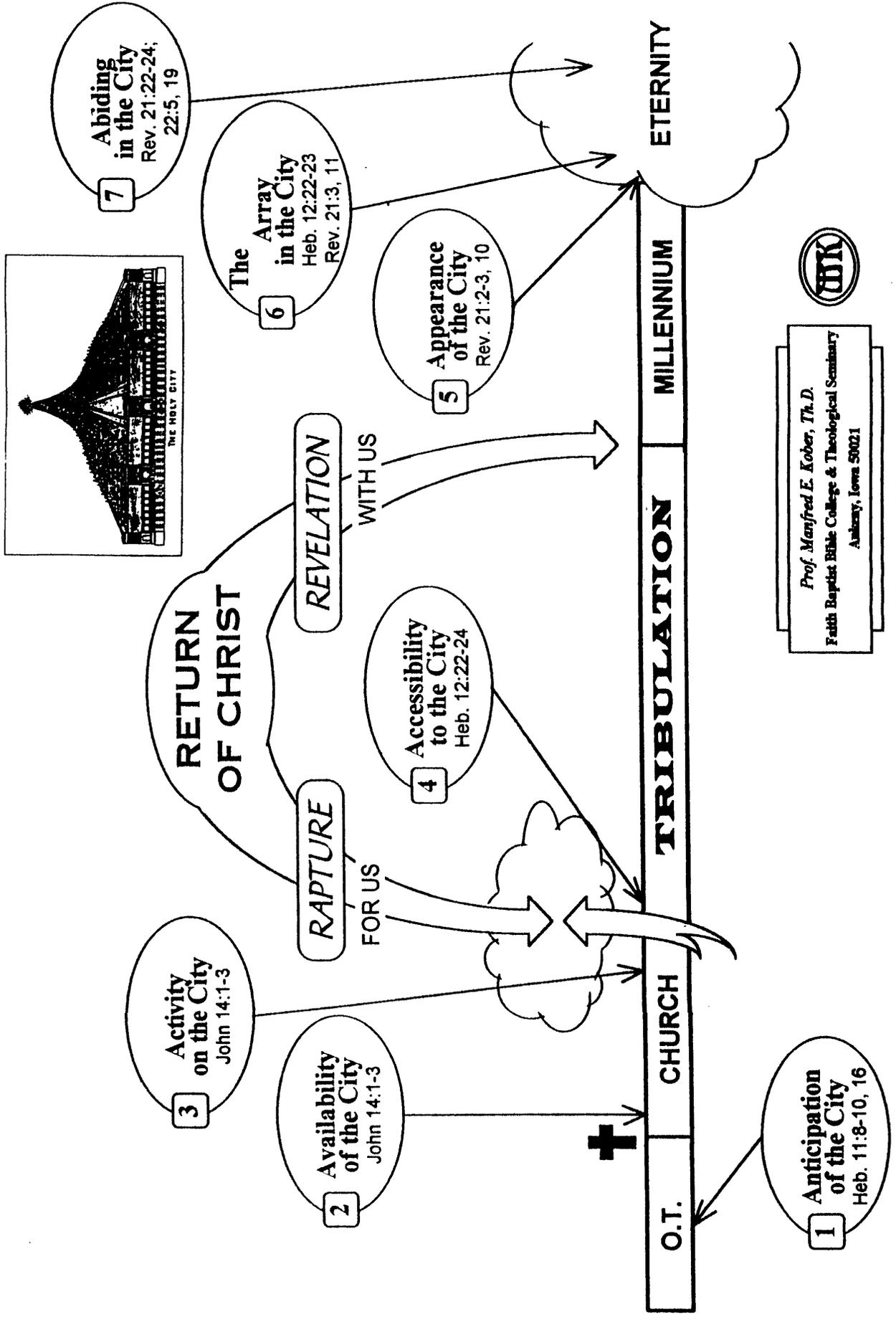


# The Earthly Jerusalem



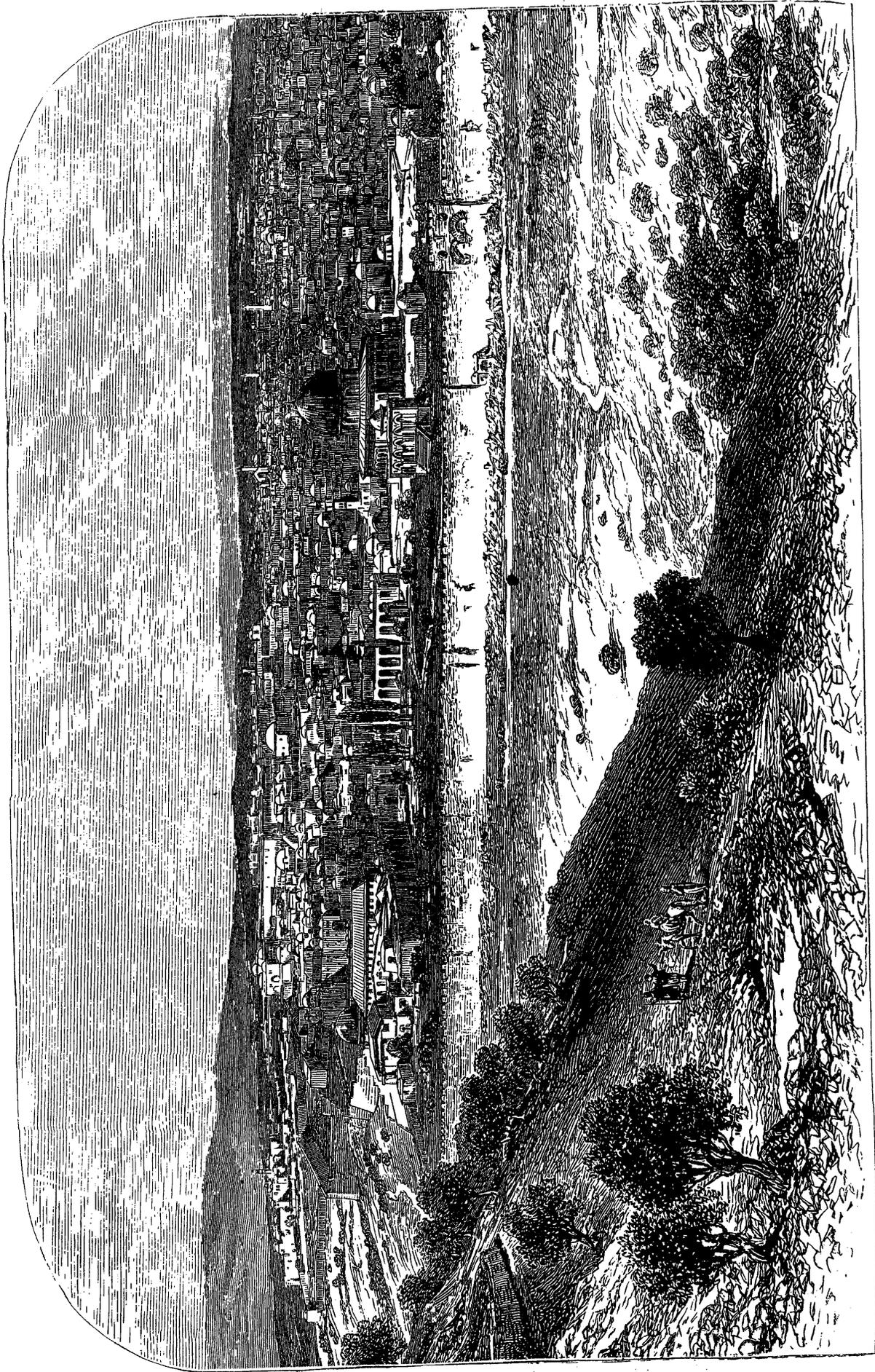
Prof. Manfred E. Ober, Th.D.  
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# The Heavenly Jerusalem



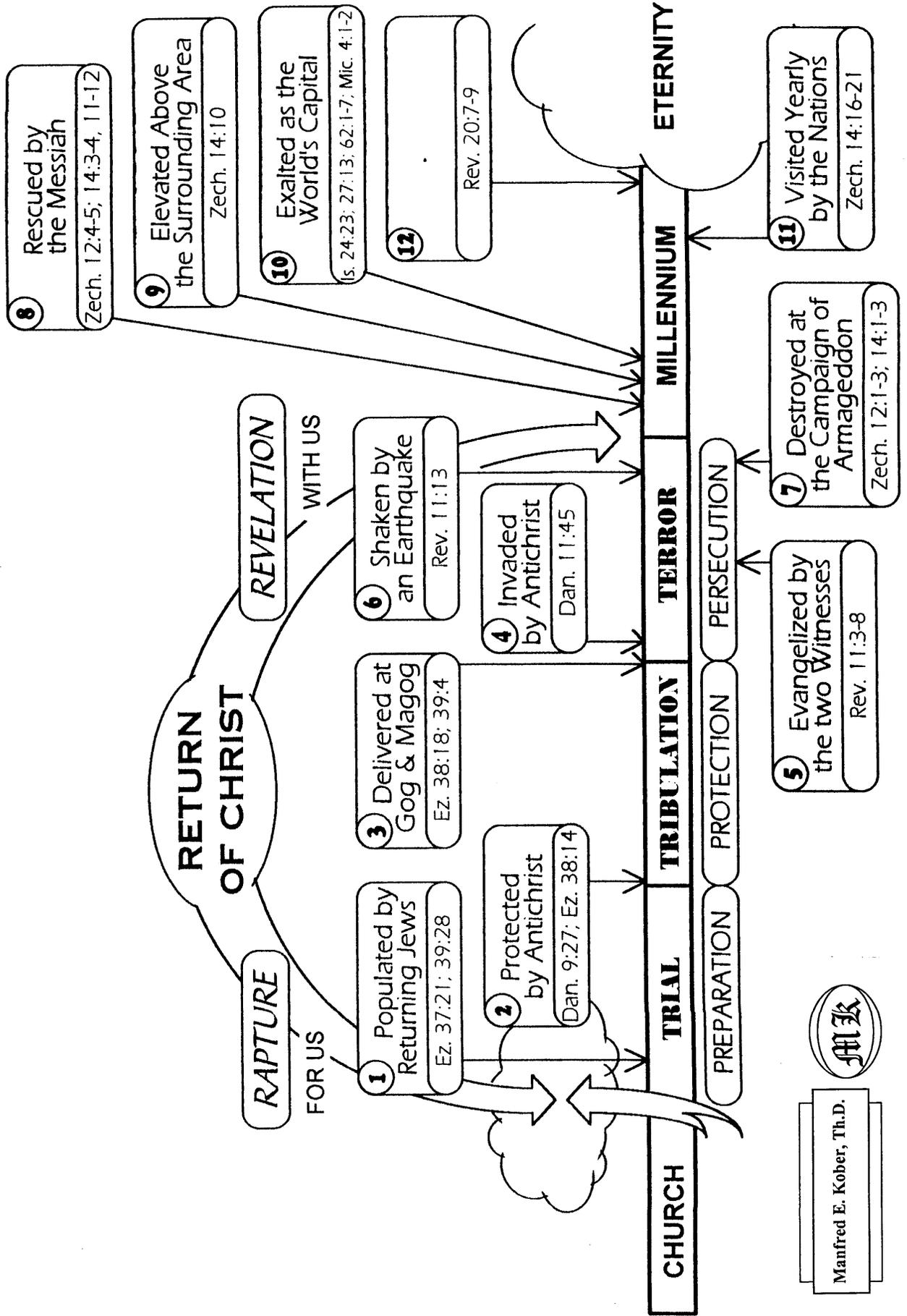
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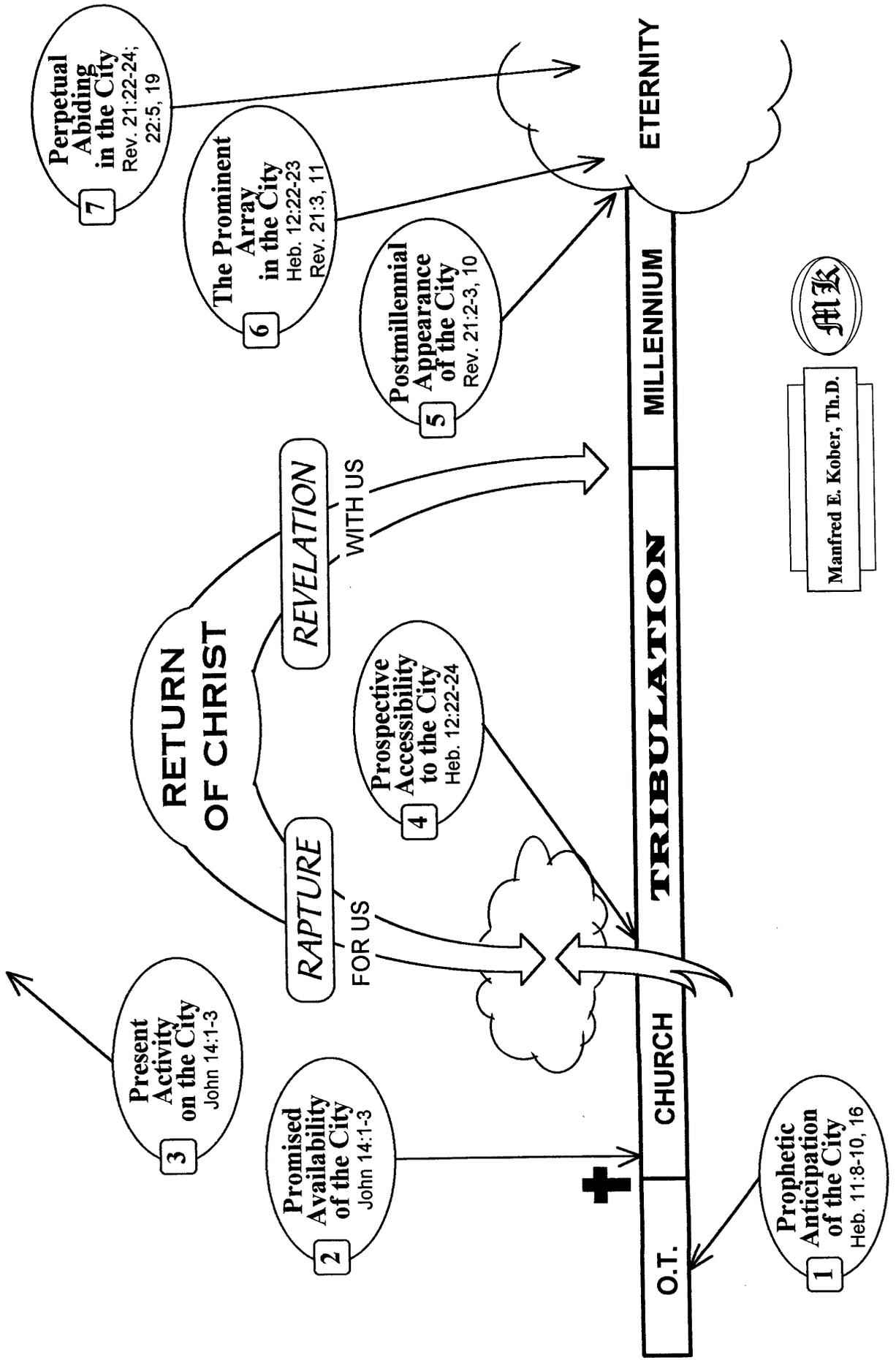


JERUSALEM FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES.

# The Earthly Jerusalem



# The Heavenly Jerusalem



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.