

Thy Word is Truth

A Reference for Bible Students

A classified collection of Scriptures on various subjects and helpful charts for handy reference.

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Original Author's Preface.....	2
Editor's Preface	3
Dedication.....	3
Key to References.....	3
Part 1. Bible Readings	4
Important Things to Remember as we Study the Bible	5
Importance of Sound Doctrine	5
The Ransom.....	7
Restitution.....	8
Is Man Mortal or Immortal?	12
Intermediate State of the Dead	13
What is Eternal Punishment?	14
What is Hell?	15
The Trinity	18
The Second Coming of Christ.....	20
The <i>Man</i> Christ Jesus.....	24
Salvation, What? For Whom?	25
Resurrection.....	26
Baptism.....	28
Two Hopes Contrasted	30
The High Calling	32
Heavenly Promises.....	34
Earthly Promises	35
Earthly Prospects of the Church.....	36
Sins.....	37
The Judgment Day	38
The Earth Lasts Forever.....	39
Part 2. Bible "Times and Seasons"	40
Bible Times and Seasons — The Chart of the Ages	41
Chronology of the Bible — Showing Where 6000 Years From Creation Ends	44
"The Times of the Gentiles"	48
Israel's Double and its Significance	50
"The Time of the End"	52
The Cleansing of the Sanctuary	52
Antichrist, the Man of Sin, etc.....	53
Chronological Diagrams	54
Part 3. Types, Symbols, Parables, etc.	56
Tabernacle Types	57
Other Types of the Bible	58
Bible Symbols	59
Our Lord's Parables Explained.....	60
Practical Applications of the Truth	61

Key to The Chart of the Ages	62
Dispensations (Bold arcs)	62
Ages (Arcs)	62
Planes of Existence (Horizontal lines) and Key Events	62
The Tabernacle	62
Classes and Individuals (Complete or partial pyramids).....	62
Christ Jesus (Glory light)	63
Gospel Age Nominal Church.....	63
Gospel Age Harvest.....	63
Millennial Age.....	63
Dates (Vertical Lines) and Associated Events	63

Introduction

Original Author's Preface

GREETING: BELOVED IN THE LORD

In the arrangement of these subjects I have endeavored to bring together, in a compass small enough to carry always with us, the strongest Scriptures bearing upon such subjects as are the most vital and important for us to rightly understand. So that even those of us who lack time or ability to fix so much in our minds for ready repetition, may be able to answer convincingly and to clinch our answer with a "says the LORD" whenever and wherever we may be asked for "a reason of the hope that is within us." I have also aimed to so arrange the texts used as to bring out certain truths, *strongly*, hoping that some might thereby be led to inquire more earnestly, "Whether these things be so."

On no subject have I used *all* the Scriptures bearing upon it, but in every case have chosen those that most clearly and most strongly state the truth.

With each subject blank pages are provided, so that each may make such additions as they desire. And if the little book, as I send it out, will be helpful to even a few of the Lord's people, I will feel that the time spent in compilation has been well spent.

Your servant in Christ,

M. R. Bond

Original Copyright 1906 by M. R. Bond

Published by the Plimpton Press Norwood Mass. U.S.A.

Editor's Preface

This book is really a jewel! It contains concise summaries of many basic Bible truths. There have been a number of changes made to improve the readability and bring the book up to date. All Scriptures are from a modernized King James Version.

Some new charts and sections have been added. We pray that the Lord will bless this work and through it provide a blessing to all who read it.

“Your word is truth.” (John 17:17)

Dedication

To all who love the Lord “fervently with a pure heart” this book is dedicated, with a prayer that, “You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (1 Pet. 1:22; John 8:32)

Key to References

Letters are used to denote various publications of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society as follows:

A, B, C, D, E, F — The six volumes of “Studies in the Scriptures”

S — Spiritism Tract

T — Tabernacle Shadows

Z — Zion's Watch Tower

For example:

A263 means page 263 of Volume 1

E73 means page 73 of Volume 5

Z'00-91 means page 91 of Zion's Watch Tower for 1900

Z'95-15 means page 15 of Zion's Watch Tower for 1895

Z[2680] means page 2680 of Watch Tower Reprints

Part 1. Bible Readings

Important Things to Remember as we Study the Bible

1. Every class and private home study should be prefaced by following the instructions found in:

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and reproaches not; and it will be given him. (James 1:5)

2. After asking for wisdom and understanding from God we should study His Word with a mind that is willing to receive and believe whatever we find there, even if we find some things we didn't believe before, and don't find some things we thought were true all of our lives.

To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. (Isaiah 8:20)

3. We know that God's Word can not contradict itself. When we find something that seems like a contradiction we must carefully search for the clue that will harmonize the apparent contradiction. We will always find this if we follow the Scriptures.

Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD (Isaiah 1:18)

Comparing spiritual things with spiritual. (1 Corinthians 2:13)

Rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

4. We must note with special care (1) who the passage was written to, (2) who the passage was written by, and (3) what period of time the passage refers to. A lot of confusion is caused by a failure to note these distinctions.

5. We must distinguish between plain statements and figurative sayings, parables, types, and symbols.

6. When we want proof we must compare Scripture with Scripture, instead of comparing Scripture with the traditions of men.

Importance of Sound Doctrine

We often hear really good people that are church members and love the Lord say "Well, it does not make any difference what you believe, if you are only honest and do the best you know how." A careful study of the Scriptures shows that the Lord and Apostles thought differently.

"Come now, and let us reason together," (Isaiah 1:18)

To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. (Isaiah 8:20)

Jesus answered them, and said, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

If any man will do his will, he will know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." (John 7:16,17)

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:9)

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed back and forth, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ (Eph. 4:11-15)

Thy Word is Truth

Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils. (1 Timothy 4:1)

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

Whosoever transgresses, and abides not in the doctrine of Christ, has not God. He that abides in the doctrine of Christ, he has both the Father and the Son.

If there come any to you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

For he that bids him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. (2 John 1:7-11)

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which you have learned; and avoid them. (Romans 16:17)

But speak you the things which become sound doctrine. (Titus 2:1)

Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince those who oppose it. (Titus 1:9)

In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing integrity, gravity, sincerity, (Titus 2:7)

Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. (1 Timothy 4:13)

Study to show thyself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

If you put the brethren in remembrance of these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto you have attained. (1 Timothy 4:6)

Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied there. (Hebrews 13:9)

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (1 Peter 3:15)

And the things that you have heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit you to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2:2)

Meditate upon these things; give yourself wholly to them; that your profiting may appear to all.

Take heed to thyself, and to the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this you will both save thyself, and them that hear you. (1 Timothy 4:15,16)

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. (2 Timothy 4:2)

Hold fast the form of sound words, which you have heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

That good thing which was committed to you keep by the Holy Ghost which dwells in us. (2 Timothy 1:13,14)

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

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished to all good works. (2 Timothy 3:16,17)

And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. (John 8:32)

If we are only to be “made free by the truth” it is very important that we know the truth. The truth must be sound doctrine.

The Ransom

Here we present only the strongest texts that bring out clearly the following three thoughts:

1. Man is ransomed from death
2. Man is ransomed by the blood of Christ
3. The ransom applies to ALL men

The Scriptures say that false teachers will deny that man is bought with the blood of Christ.

Notice that the two Greek words translated as “ransom” are “anti” and “lutron” which signify a corresponding price.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he has visited and redeemed his people, (Luke 1:68)

Who redeems your life from destruction; who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies; (Psa. 103:4)

For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. (Jeremiah 31:11)

And I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem you out of the hand of the terrible. (Jeremiah 15:21)

I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be your plagues; O grave, I will be your destruction: repentance will be hid from mine eyes. (Hosea 13:14)

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree: (Galatians 3:13)

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered to, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. (Hebrews 9:12)

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. (1 Timothy 2:5, 6)

In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:(Colossians 1:14)

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe. (1 Timothy 4:10)

For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:20)

For you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (1 Peter 1:18,19)

Take heed therefore to yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he has purchased with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)

And they sung a new song, saying, You are worthy to take the book, and to open the seals of it: for you was slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; (Revelation 5:9)

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who secretly will bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (2 Peter 2:1)

See A, 149-172; Z'97-31; Z'98-373; Z'01-180.

Restitution

Promised

“Repent you therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord;

“And he will send Jesus Christ, which before was preached to you:

“Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. (Acts 3:19-21)

Covenant With Abraham — A Seed in Heaven and Earth

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham out of heaven the second time,
And said, By myself have I sworn, says the LORD, for because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son:

That in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and your seed will possess the gate of his enemies;

And in your seed will all the nations of the earth be blessed; because you have obeyed my voice. (Genesis 22:15-18)

Covenant Renewed With Isaac — Only Heavenly Seed

And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines to Gerar.

And the LORD appeared to him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I will tell you of:

Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you, and will bless you; for to you, and to your seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swear to Abraham your father;

And I will make your seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give to your seed all these countries; and in your seed will all the nations of the earth be blessed;(Genesis 26:1-4)

Covenant Renewed With Jacob — Only Earthly Seed

And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.

And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon you lie, to you will I give it, and to your seed;

And your seed will be as the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in you and in your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed. (Genesis 28:10-14)

Promised to Israel

Now the LORD had said to Abram, Get you out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you:

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you will be a blessing:

And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you will all families of the earth be blessed. (Genesis 12:1-3)

And the LORD said, Will I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

Seeing that Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed in him?(Genesis 18:17,18)

But Israel will be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: you will not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.

For says the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he has established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. (Isaiah 45:17,18)

Therefore the redeemed of the LORD will return, and come with singing to Zion; and everlasting joy will be upon their head: they will obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning will flee away. (Isaiah 51:11)

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

Instead of the thorn will come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier will come up the myrtle tree: and it will be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that will not be cut off. (Isaiah 55:12,13)

For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, will remain before me, says the LORD, so will your seed and your name remain.

And it will come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, will all flesh come to worship before me, says the LORD. (Isaiah 66:22,23)

At that time they will call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations will be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither will they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.

In those days the house of Judah will walk with the house of Israel, and they will come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance to your fathers. (Jeremiah 3:17,18)

Therefore, behold, the days come, says the LORD, that they will no more say, The LORD lives, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

But, The LORD lives, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they will dwell in their own land. (Jeremiah 23:7,8)

For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up.

And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they will be my people, and I will be their God: for they will return to me with their whole heart. (Jeremiah 24:6,7)

For the children of Israel will abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:

Afterward will the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and will fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days. (Hosea 3:4,5)

And the floors will be full of wheat, and the fats will overflow with wine and oil.

And I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

And you will eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that has dealt wondrously with you: and my people will never be ashamed. (Joel 2:24-26)

Then he said to me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

Therefore prophesy and say to them, says the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

And you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

And will put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I will place you in your own land: then will you know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, says the LORD. (Ezekiel 37:11-14)

And David my servant will be king over them; and they all will have one shepherd: they will also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

And they will dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob my servant, where your fathers have dwelt; and they will dwell there, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David will be their prince for ever. (Ezekiel 37:24,25)

Promised to Other Nations

Yet will I bring again the captivity of Moab in the latter days, says the LORD. So far is the judgment of Moab. (Jeremiah 48:47)

But it will come to pass in the latter days, that I will bring again the captivity of Elam, says the LORD. (Jeremiah 49:39)

When I will bring again their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters, and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, then will I bring again the captivity of your captives in the midst of them:

When your sisters, Sodom and her daughters, will return to their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters will return to their former estate, then you and your daughters will return to your former estate. (Ezekiel 16:53,55)

The men of Nineveh will rise in judgment with this generation, and will condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here. (Matthew 12:41)

Woe to you, Chorazin! woe to you, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

But I say to you, It will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

And you, Capernaum, which are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in you, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

But I say to you, That it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you. (Matthew 11:21-24)

Therefore wait you upon me, says the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth will be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent. (Zephaniah 3:8,9)

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)

And the LORD will be king over all the earth: in that day will there be one LORD, and his name one. (Zechariah 14:9)

And the angel said to them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be to all people.

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. (Luke 2:10,32)

So restitution is promised to: the Israelites, Moabites, Elamites, Sodomites, Samaritans; the people of Tyre, Sidon, and Nineveh; to “the kingdoms”, “all nations”, “all the earth”, and “the ends of the earth”. We also have all others that could have been left out included in:

Simeon has declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins of it, and I will set it up:

That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, says the Lord, who does all these things. (Acts 15:14-17)

See also:

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. (Luke 19:10)

Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be brought low; and the crooked will be made straight, and the rough ways will be made smooth;

And all flesh will see the salvation of God. (Luke 3:5,6)

That was the true Light, which lights every man that comes into the world.

The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:9,29)

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

And this is the Father's will which has sent me, that of all which he has given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. (John 6:38,39)

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ will all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:21,22)

And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel to Abraham, saying, In you will all nations be blessed. (Galatians 3:8)

Having made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he has purposed in himself:

That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:(Ephesians 1:9,10)

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior;

Who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. (1 Timothy 2:3-6)

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

(1 John 2:2)

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

(2 Peter 3:13)

We have given here a large number of texts showing clearly that Restitution is promised. But these are only about one-tenth of such texts which are found in the Bible.

See C, 256; A, 149-172; E, 155, 156; Z'97-229, paragraphs 1-5.

Is Man Mortal or Immortal?

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7)

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat:

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you will not eat of it: for in the day that you eat of it you will surely die. (Genesis 2:16,17)

And the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die:(Genesis 3:4)

God said “you will surely die.” Satan said “you will not surely die.” This is the first lie and the one that is responsible for many false doctrines today.

In the sweat of your face will you eat bread, till you return to the ground; for out of it were you taken: for dust you are, and to dust will you return. (Genesis 3:19)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:(Romans 5:12)

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ will all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:21,22)

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

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. (1 Corinthians 15:45)

Nevertheless man being in honor abides not: he is like the beasts that perish. (Psalms 49:12)

The LORD preserves all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy. (Psalms 145:20)

For yet a little while, and the wicked will not be: yea, you will diligently consider his place, and it will not be. (Psalms 37:10)

For Moses truly said to the fathers, A prophet will the Lord your God raise up to you of your brethren, like to me; him will you hear in all things whatsoever he will say to you.

And it will come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, will be destroyed from among the people. (Acts 3:22,23)

For that which befalls the sons of men befalls beasts; even one thing befalls them: as the one dies, so dies the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man has no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity.

All go to one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. (Ecclesiastes 3:19,20)

Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sins, it will die. (Ezekiel 18:4)

And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth, and every man:

All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. (Genesis 7:21,22)

Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he will divide the spoil with the strong; because he has poured out his soul to death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:12)

But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death, and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10)

Who only has immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach to; whom no man has seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen. (1 Timothy 6:16)

Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life (Romans 2:6,7)

See A, 184; E, 410-420; T, 38; Z'95-237.

Intermediate State of the Dead

And the LORD said to Moses, Behold, you will sleep with your fathers---(Deuteronomy 31:16)

But man dies, and wastes away: yea, man gives up the ghost, and where is he?

As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decays and dries up:

So man lies down, and rises not: till the heavens be no more, they will not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep. (Job 14:10-12)

If a man die, will he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. (Job 14:14)

If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness.

(Job 17:13)

For in death there is no remembrance of you: in the grave who will give you thanks?(Psalms 6:5)

The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence. (Psalms 115:17)

His breath goes forth, he returns to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. (Psalms 146:4)

For the living know that they will die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. (Ecclesiastes 9:5)

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, where you go. (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2)

And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. (Acts 7:60)

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that you 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 to you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain to the coming of the Lord will not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ will rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so will we ever be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)

And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (2 Peter 3:4)

After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain to this present, but some are fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:6)

For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; you are yet in your sins.

Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. (1 Corinthians 15:16-18)

Men and brethren, let me freely speak to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us to this day. (Acts 2:29)

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. (1 Corinthians 15:20)

Peter says that David had not gone to heaven even though he had been dead and buried for centuries.

For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he says himself, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit you on my right hand,

Until I make your foes your footstool. (Acts 2:34,35)

See E375-400; S, 19, 20; Z'95-237; Z'97-231; Z'01-29, 122.

What is Eternal Punishment?

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you will not eat of it: for in the day that you eat of it you will surely die. (Genesis 2:17)

And to Adam he said, Because you have hearkened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree, of which I commanded you, saying, You will not eat of it: cursed is the ground for your sake; in sorrow will you eat of it all the days of your life;

Thorns also and thistles will it bring forth to you; and you will eat the herb of the field;

In the sweat of your face will you eat bread, till you return to the ground; for out of it was you taken: for dust you are, and to dust will you return. (Genesis 3:17-19)

For such as be blessed of him will inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him will be cut off.

For the LORD loves judgment, and forsakes not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked will be cut off.

But the transgressors will be destroyed together: the end of the wicked will be cut off. (Psalms 37:22,28,38)

Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sins, it will die. (Ezekiel 18:4)

Enter you in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. (Matthew 7:13)

And these will go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (Matthew 25:46)

And it will come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, will be destroyed from among the people. (Acts 3:23)

Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. (Romans 1:32)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. (Romans 5:12)

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

For to be fleshly minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. (Romans 8:6)

But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raises the dead (2 Corinthians 1:9)

Compare the following texts:

Who will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power. (2 Thessalonians 1:9)

Whither will I go from your spirit? or whither will I flee from your presence?

If I ascend up into heaven, you are there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, you are there. (Psalms 139:7,8)

See E, 21, 210, 354, 405; Z'00-101,109.

What is Hell?

Some Texts Where “Sheol” is Translated “Hell” (KJV)

In the Old Testament the Hebrew word “sheol” (commonly translated as hell) occurs 65 times. In the King James Bible it is translated as “grave” or “pit” in 34 places. Sheol is translated as “hell” in 31 places and in 3 of the 31 places (Ps. 44:15, Ps. 86:13, and Isa. 14:9) the margin explains that “grave” is meant. In most modern translations the word “sheol” is left untranslated leaving it to the reader to provide a definition.

For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and will burn to the lowest *hell*, and will consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains. (Deuteronomy 32:22)

The wicked will be turned into *hell*, and all the nations that forget God. (Psalms 9:17)

The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of *hell* got hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. (Psalms 116:3)

If I ascend up into heaven, you are there: if I make my bed in *hell*, behold, you are there. (Psalms 139:8)

Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on *hell*. (Proverbs 5:5)

Her house is the way to *hell*, going down to the chambers of death. (Proverbs 7:27)

Hell and destruction are before the LORD: how much more then the hearts of the children of men? (Proverbs 15:11)

You will beat him with the rod, and will deliver his soul from *hell*. (Proverbs 23:14)

Because you have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with *hell* are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge will pass through, it will not come to us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

Therefore says the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believes will not make haste.

Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters will overflow the hiding place.

And your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with *hell* will not stand; when the overflowing scourge will pass through, then you will be trodden down by it. (Isaiah 28:15-18)

Some Texts Where “Hades” is Translated “Hell”

In the New Testament, the Greek word “hades” corresponds to the Hebrew word “sheol”. See the quotations of the Old Testament Apostles such as Acts 2:27 “because You will not leave my soul in Hades” which is a quotation from Psalm 16:10 “For You will not leave my soul in Sheol.” In the New King James version the word “hades” is left untranslated in 11 places leaving it to the reader to provide a definition.

And I say also to you, That you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of *hell* will not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18)

And you, Capernaum, which are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to *hell*: for if the mighty works, which have been done in you, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. (Matthew 11:23)

But he turned, and said to Peter, Get you behind me, Satan: you are an offense to me: for you savor not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. (Matthew 16:23)

Because you wilt not leave my soul in *hell*, neither wilt you suffer your Holy One to see corruption. (Acts 2:27)

I am he that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forever, Amen; and have the keys of *hell* and of death. (Revelation 1:18)

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 to 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 6:8)

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.

And death and *hell* were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. (Revelation 20:13,14)

A Text Where “Tartaroo” is Translated “Hell”

The Greek word “tartaroo” occurs only once and very closely resembles the word “tartarus” from Greek mythology. It was the name for a dark abyss or prison. It seems the word refers more to an act than to a place in that God degraded the angels.

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved to judgment;(2 Peter 2:4)

Some Texts Where “Gehenna” is Translated “Hell”

The last word translated “hell” is the word “gehenna”. It is the Greek way of spelling the Hebrew words which are translated “the Valley of Hinnom”. This valley was just outside the city of Jerusalem and served as a sewer and garbage burner for the city. Nothing living was ever cast into “gehenna”. The Jews were not permitted to torture any creature. Gehenna was rather a type or illustration of the second death — a final and complete destruction from which there is no recovery.

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28)

But I will forewarn you whom you will fear: Fear him, which after he has killed has power to cast into hell; yea, I say to you, Fear him. (Luke 12:5)

But I say to you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause will be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever will say to his brother, Raca, will be in danger of the council: but whoever will say, You fool, will be in danger of hell fire. (Matthew 5:22)

And if your right hand offend you, cut it off, and cast it from you: for it is profitable for you that one of your members should perish, and not that your whole body should be cast into hell. (Matthew 5:30)

And if your eye offend you, pluck it out, and cast it from you: it is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire. (Matthew 18:9)

And if your hand offend you, cut it off: it is better for you to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never will be quenched:

Where their worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched.

And if your foot offend you, cut it off: it is better for you to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never will be quenched:

Where their worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched.

And if your eye offend you, pluck it out: it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

Where their worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched. (Mark 9:43-48)

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, you make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. (Matthew 23:15)

You serpents, you generation of vipers, how can you escape the damnation of hell?(Matthew 23:33)

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. (James 3:6)

The Parable of Dives and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)

While these scriptures are admitted to be a parable it is generally treated as if it were a literal statement. To regard it as a literal statement involves some absurdities:

1. The rich man went to Hades because he lived in luxury and gave nothing but crumbs to Lazarus. Not a word is said about his wickedness.
2. Lazarus is blessed because he was poor and sick, not because he was good or full of faith in God.

If we interpret this passage literally, the only lesson that we might learn from it is that we will never enter into future happiness unless we are poor beggars full of sores; and if we wear purple and fine linen and live in luxury, we will be tormented forever.

Also, the place of favor is Abraham's bosom; and if the whole statement is literal, the bosom must be literal. It could not possibly hold millions of sick and poor people from the earth.

As a parable, it is easy to interpret. In a parable, what is said is not what is meant; for example, in the parable of the wheat and the tares, the Lord explained that *wheat* meant children of the kingdom, and *tares* the children of the devil. Similar classes in another parable are represented by sheep and goats. So in this parable, the rich man represents a *class*; and Lazarus another *class*. The parable as a lesson applies to these classes.

The rich man (Dives) represented the Jewish people, which up to, and at the time of the parable lived in luxury, receiving the special favor and promises of God. Paul said the Jews had many advantages in every way because God committed His oracles to them (Rom. 3:1,2). The promises to Abraham and David gave the Jews royalty, represented by the rich man's *purple*. The typical sacrifices of the law made them a holy nation in a typical sense, represented by the rich man's *fine linen* — symbolic of righteousness (Rev. 19:8).

The poor man (Lazarus) represented those that looked to God from other nations (gentiles), kept from the blessings of God until the end of the Jewish Age. The *sores* represented moral defilement in this class. They were not even typically cleansed and had no share in the promises of the kingdom (Eph. 2:11-13). The Lord's conversation with the gentile woman explains how they ate the *crumbs* of divine favor which fell from Israel's table and how they were like companions of *dogs* (Matt. 15:27).

But a change came about in these classes. The rich man class went out of favor, into trouble; not accepting Christ (Matt. 21:43). The Lazarus class also died, or ended their former condition, and were received into favor with God (Acts 10:28-35). Accepting Christ, these went into Abraham's bosom — they were accepted as true children of believing Abraham, and true heirs to the promise made to him. (Gal. 3:16, 29; Rom. 11:7-9, 12-25)

See Hell Tract p. 19, 23, 24, 35.

The Trinity

Verses that Seem to Teach the Doctrine

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

(John 1:1-3)

Literal translation of Greek for John 1:1, 2: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with The God and a god was the Word. The same was in a beginning with The God.”

I and my Father are one. (John 10:30)

Compare above, to see *how* one, with

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which will believe on me through their word;

That they all may be one; as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that you have sent me. (John 17:20,21)

Compare

Jesus says to him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet have you not known me, Philip? he that has seen me has seen the Father; and how say you then, Show us the Father?(John 14:9)

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Genesis 1:27)

Compare

And now, O Father, glorify you me with your own self with the glory which I had with you before the world was. (John 17:5)

with

And the glory which you gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:(John 17:22)

Literal translation of

For in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. (Colossians 2:9)

is “Because in him dwells all the fullness of the Deity bodily”

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. (1 John 5:7)

This verse is admitted to be spurious and is not found in the revised version.

Verses that Show the Superiority of the Father

But of that day and that hour knows no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. (Mark 13:32)

Then answered Jesus and said to them, Verily, verily, I say to you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he saw the Father do: for what things he does, these also does the Son likewise. (John 5:19)

You have heard how I said to you, I go away, and come again to you. If you loved me, you would rejoice, because I said, I go to the Father: for my Father is greater than I. (John 14:28)

For he has put all things under his feet. But when he says all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

And when all things will be subdued to him, then will the Son also himself be subject to him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:27,28)

Literal Translation of Verses that Show Jesus Made No Claim of Equality With God

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient to death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:5-8)

Literal translation of Phil. 2:5-8: "Let this disposition be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. Who, though being in God's form, yet did not meditate a usurpation to be like God. But divested himself, taking a bondsman's form, having been made in the likeness of men; And being in condition as a man he humbled himself becoming obedient to death, even the death of the cross."

Verses Showing that Life and Power Were Not His Until Given to Him by the Father

For as the Father has life in himself; so has he given to the Son to have life in himself;(John 5:26)

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All power is given to me in heaven and in earth. (Matthew 28:18)

Verses Showing that Jesus was Created

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:(Colossians 1:15)

And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God. (Revelation 3:14)

Verses Which Flatly Contradict the Doctrine

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling;

One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (Ephesians 4:4-6)

And this is life eternal, that they might know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (John 17:3)

Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. (Galatians 3:20)

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. (1 Timothy 2:5,6)

As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)

But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. (1 Corinthians 8:4-6)

See Diaglott, E, 59-90; Z'97-296.

The Second Coming of Christ

Jesus promised the disciples he would return in a “second coming”:

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:3)

The promise was repeated by the Angels:

Which also said, You men of Galilee, why stand you gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven. (Acts 1:11)

Three Greek words are used in reference to our “Lord’s return”:

1. Parousia — Presence
2. Epiphania — Bright shining or manifestation
3. Apokalupsis — Revealment, uncovering, or unveiling (as of a thing that was previously present but hidden)

If we remember the different shades of meaning these words express and give each its proper significance in the texts where they are used, we will get a much clearer view of the subject.

Texts Where “Parousia” Is Translated “Coming”

And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things be? and what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the world?(Matthew 24:3)

For as the lightning comes out of the east, and shines even to the west; so will also the coming of the Son of man be. (Matthew 24:27)

But as the days of Noah were, so will also the coming of the Son of man be.

And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so will also the coming of the Son of man be. (Matthew 24:37,39)

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. (1 Corinthians 15:23)

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?(1 Thessalonians 2:19)

To the end he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints. (1 Thessalonians 3:13)

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together to him,(2 Thessalonians 2:1)

Be patient therefore, brethren, to the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and has long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

Be you also patient; Establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draws nigh. (James 5:7,8)

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain to the coming of the Lord will not prevent them which are asleep. (1 Thessalonians 4:15)

Knowing this first, that there will come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (2 Peter 3:3,4)

Texts Where “Parousia” Is Translated “Presence”

This is the correct translation and should have been used in all the preceding texts.

For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible. (2 Corinthians 10:10)

And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house. (Philemon 1:2)

Texts Where “Epiphania” Is Translated “Appearing”

That you keep this commandment without spot or blame, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:(1 Timothy 6:14)

I charge you therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;(2 Timothy 4:1)

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me at that day: and not to me only, but to all them also that love his appearing. (2 Timothy 4:8)

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;(Titus 2:13)

A Text Where “Parousia” is Translated “Coming” And “Epiphania” is Translated “Brightness”

And then will that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the spirit of his mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of his coming:(2 Thessalonians 2:8)

The text should read “destroy by the brightness of his presence.”

Texts Where “Apokalupsis” is Translated “Revealed” or “Revelation”

The following texts refer to the Lord’s second presence, power, and glory as they will be made known, uncovered, or revealed to the world. Many texts show that when He is revealed, His Church will be with Him and be revealed or manifested at the same time and in the same manner.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which will be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18)

But rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory will be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy. (1 Peter 4:13)

Who are kept by the power of God through faith to salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:5)

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:(1 Peter 5:1)

Every man's work will be made manifest: for the day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will try every man's work of what sort it is. (1 Corinthians 3:13)

Here the reference is to the testings of the Lord’s people during the period of his presence in the end of the age. This agrees with the Lord’s prophecy “there is nothing covered that will not be revealed” concerning the same testings.

For there is nothing covered, that will not be revealed; neither hid, that will not be known. (Luke 12:2)

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:13)

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels. (2 Thessalonians 1:7)

So that you come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:7)

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found to praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:(1 Peter 1:7)

For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of God. (Romans 8:19)

But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even will it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. (Luke 17:29,30)

Other Texts Concerning Our Lord’s Return

The following texts show that the world will not be expecting His coming and when it has already taken place they will not know about it.

But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

But as the days of Noah were, so will also the coming of the Son of man be.

Thy Word is Truth

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,

And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so will also the coming of the Son of man be. (Matthew 24:36-39)

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I write to you.

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

For when they will say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they will not escape. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3)

The next texts promise that in the “time of the end” the wise will understand.

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

You are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. (1 Thessalonians 5:4,5)

And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what will be the end of these things?

And he said, Go your way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Many will be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked will do wickedly: and none of the wicked will understand; but the wise will understand. (Daniel 12:8-10)

The disciples asked what would be the sign of the Lord’s presence:

And Jesus answered and said to them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

For many will come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and will deceive many.

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

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

All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Then will they deliver you up to be afflicted, and will kill you: and you will be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

And then will many be offended, and will betray one another, and will hate one another.

And many false prophets will rise, and will deceive many.

And because iniquity will abound, the love of many will wax cold.

But he that will endure to the end, the same will be saved.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then will the end come. (Matthew 24:4-14)

And there will be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven will be shaken.

And he spoke to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

When they now shoot forth, you see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

So likewise you, when you see these things come to pass, know you that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

Verily I say to you, This generation will not pass away, till all be fulfilled. (Luke 21:25,26,29-32)

These texts tell the signs that will show the Church that the time has come and He is present. We find also a description of the condition of the world and the nominal church at the time of His presence (parousia):

Knowing this first, that there will come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (2 Peter 3:3,4)

This know also, that in the last days perilous times will come.

For men will be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Without natural affection, unforgiving, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, haters of those that are good,

Traitors, heady, conceited, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power of it: from such turn away. (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

For in those days will be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created to this time, neither will be.

And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he has chosen, he has shortened the days. (Mark 13:19,20)

Watch you therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. (Luke 21:36)

Watch therefore: for you know not what hour your Lord comes. (Matthew 24:42)

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. (1 Thessalonians 5:6)

But the end of all things is at hand: be you therefore sober, and watch to prayer. (1 Peter 4:7)

Those who watch will receive a blessing:

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. (Revelation 16:15)

Texts Which Seem To Imply a Visible Second Coming

The manner of His going was quiet, unnoticed, and unknown except by a few of His disciples.

Which also said, You men of Galilee, why stand you gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven. (Acts 1:11)

The “trump of God” is the same as the “seventh trumpet”. Why would the seventh trumpet be literal if none of the others were?

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ will rise first:(1 Thessalonians 4:16)

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he will reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11:15)

Comparing the next two verses makes them understandable. After the Lord’s parousia (presence) the saints will not fall asleep but will be instantly changed at their death to spirit beings and go to meet the Lord.

Then we which are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so will we ever be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

Behold, I show you a mystery; We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:51,52)

The word “see” is used in the sense of “perceive”.

And then will they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. (Mark 13:26)

Behold, he comes with clouds; and every eye will see him, and they also which pierced him: and all peoples of the earth will wail because of him. Even so, Amen. (Revelation 1:7)

See Z’98-259; B, 103-172; Z’02-51-56; Z’02-83-96

The *Man* Christ Jesus

Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;
And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:(Romans 1:3,4)

But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,(Galatians 4:4)

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Since the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

Therefore he had to be made like his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

For in that he himself has suffered being tempted, he is able to help them that are tempted. (Hebrews 2:14-18)

This is he of whom I said, After me comes a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. (John 1:30)

And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers,

Hearing of your love and faith, which you have toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;

That the communication of your faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by you, brother.

Therefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to command you that which is fitting, (Philemon 1:2-8)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

But not as the offense, so also is the free gift. For if through the offense of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, has abounded to many. (Romans 5:12,15)

For both he that sanctifies and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,(Hebrews 2:11)

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:(Romans 8:3)

What is man, that you are mindful of him? and the son of man, that you visit him?

For you have made him a little lower than the angels, and have crowned him with glory and honor.

You made him to have dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet:(Psalms 8:4-6)

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. (Hebrews 2:9)

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. (1 Corinthians 15:21)

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;(1 Timothy 2:5)

See A, 178; B, 132; E, 309; Z'96-120

Salvation, What? For Whom?

How may we be saved?

There is only one way to be saved, through faith in Christ.

This is the stone which was rejected of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:11,12)

There are two kinds of salvation, a salvation for all, and a special salvation for believers.

For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe. (1 Timothy 4:10)

The Salvation of The Church

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

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. (Romans 8:14,17)

Wherefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. (Philippians 2:12)

But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 2:13,14)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Who are kept by the power of God through faith to salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

The Salvation of the World

But not as the offense, so also is the free gift. For if through the offense of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, has abounded to many.

And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses to justification.

For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men to justification of life. (Romans 5:15-18)

So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and to them that look for him will he appear the second time without sin to salvation. (Hebrews 9:28)

And all flesh will see the salvation of God. (Luke 3:6)

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. (Titus 2:11)

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior;

Who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3,4)

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. (Revelation 12:10)

See A, 106, 107; E, 476-480; Z'96-246.

Resurrection

Promised

Your dead men will live, together with my dead body will they arise. Awake and sing, you that dwell in dust: for your dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth will cast out the dead. (Isaiah 26:19)

I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be your plagues; O grave, I will be your destruction: repentance will be hid from mine eyes. (Hosea 13:14)

Therefore prophesy and say to them, says the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

And you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, (Ezekiel 37:12,13)

Martha says to him, I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet will he live: (John 11:24,25)

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves will hear his voice,

And will come forth; they that have done good, to the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation. (John 5:28,29)

Now that the dead are raised, even Moses showed at the bush, when he called the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live to him. (Luke 20:37,38)

Some Rise with Spiritual Bodies and Some with Earthly Bodies

But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

You fool, that which the sow is not quickened, except it die:

And that which you sow, you sow not that body that will be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:

But God gives it a body as it has pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differs from another star in glory.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

How is it that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. (1 Corinthians 15:35-49)

Resurrection of Christ

He seeing this before spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. (Acts 2:31)

That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light to the people, and to the Gentiles. (Acts 26:23)

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: (1 Corinthians 15:3,4)

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. (1 Corinthians 15:20)

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:(Romans 1:4)

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. (Acts 4:33)

Beginning from the baptism of John, to that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. (Acts 1:22)

Resurrection of the Church

And you will be blessed; for they cannot recompense you: for you will be recompensed at the resurrection of the just. (Luke 14:14)

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable to his death;

If by any means I might attain to the resurrection of the dead. (Philippians 3:10,11)

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ will rise first:(1 Thessalonians 4:16)

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. (1 Corinthians 15:23)

Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with him a thousand years. (Revelation 20:6)

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we will be also in the likeness of his resurrection:(Romans 6:5)

The General Resurrection

But this I confess to you, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. (Acts 24:14,15)

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves will hear his voice,

And will come forth; they that have done good, to the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation. (John 5:28,29)

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. (Revelation 20:12,13)

See Z'95-188; Z'01-121; F, 693-729.

Baptism

One Lord, one faith, one baptism,(Ephesians 4:5)

John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. (Mark 1:4)

Then comes Jesus from Galilee to Jordan to John, to be baptized of him.

But John tried to prevent him, saying, I have need to be baptized of you, and come you to me?

And Jesus answering said to him, Suffer it to be so now: for it becomes us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him. (Matthew 3:13-15)

The like figure whereunto even baptism does also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: (1 Peter 3:21)

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and suddenly the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

And a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. (Matthew 3:16,17)

But Jesus said to them, You know not what you ask: can you drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?

And they said to him, We can. And Jesus said to them, You will indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal will you be baptized:(Mark 10:38,39)

For John truly baptized with water; but you will be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. (Acts 1:5)

Know you not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we will be also in the likeness of his resurrection (Romans 6:3-5)

Buried with him in baptism, where also you are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who has raised him from the dead.(Colossians 2:12)

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.(Galatians 3:27)

And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spoke and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him to them, and expounded to him the way of God more perfectly.

And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, showing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ. (Acts 18:24-28)

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

He said to them, Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed? And they said to him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

And he said to them, To what then were you baptized? And they said, To John's baptism.

Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 19:1-5)

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. (Acts 8:12,13)

Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.
(Acts 10:47,48)

See Z'96-125, 126; Z'97-171; Z'98-72, column 2; Z'98-122, question 3; Z'99-13; E, 227; F, 421-456.

Two Hopes Contrasted

Central Thought For Both

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. (1 Peter 3:15)

The Hope of the World

And the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, To your seed will I give this land: and there built he an altar to the LORD, who appeared to him. (Genesis 12:7)

And there is hope in your end, says the LORD, that your children will come again to their own border. (Jeremiah 31:17)

Your dead men will live, together with my dead body will they arise. Awake and sing, you that dwell in dust: for your dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth will cast out the dead. (Isaiah 26:19)

And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins of it, and I will set it up:

That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, says the Lord, who does all these things. (Acts 15:15-17)

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves will hear his voice,

And will come forth; they that have done good, to the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation. (John 5:28,29)

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ will all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:21,22)

Therefore prophesy and say to them, says the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. (Ezekiel 37:12)

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you will be a blessing:

And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you will all families of the earth be blessed. (Genesis 12:2,3)

And they will build houses, and inhabit them; and they will plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

They will not build, and another inhabit; they will not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect will long enjoy the work of their hands. (Isaiah 65:21,22)

And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they will build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they will plant vineyards, and drink the wine of them; they will also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.

And I will plant them upon their land, and they will no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, says the LORD your God. (Amos 9:14,15)

But they will sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none will make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken it. (Micah 4:4)

D, 629; E, 23, 393; Z'95-207; Z'97-80-84.

The Hope of the Church

For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe. (1 Timothy 4:10)

And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end. (Hebrews 3:5,6)

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace where we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:1,2)

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope; (1 Timothy 1:1)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (1 Peter 1:3)

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (1 Peter 1:13)

For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, where you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; (Colossians 1:5)

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, (Ephesians 1:18)

Even the mystery which has been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: (Colossians 1:26,27)

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

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. (Romans 8:16,17)

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we will also live with him:

If we suffer, we will also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: (2 Timothy 2:11,12)

To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (Revelation 3:21)

And I looked, and suddenly a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. (Revelation 14:1,4)

See C, 202, 206; Z'95-267.

The High Calling

What is it?

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth to those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13,14)

Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; (Hebrews 3:1)

Who has saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, (2 Timothy 1:9)

Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: (2 Thessalonians 1:11)

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling; (Ephesians 4:4)

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, (Ephesians 1:18)

But to every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (Ephesians 4:7)

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, you will never fall: (2 Peter 1:10)

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. (Romans 11:29)

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: has he said, and will he not do it? or has he spoken, and will he not make it good? (Numbers 23:19)

Who was called?

Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him? (John 7:48)

At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank you, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hid these things from the wise and prudent, and have revealed them to babes. (Matthew 11:25)

For you see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; (1 Corinthians 1:26,27)

Hearken, my beloved brethren, Has not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he has promised to them that love him? (James 2:5)

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He takes the wise in their own craftiness. (1 Corinthians 3:19)

Called to what?

For whom he foreknew, he also did predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

According as his divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given to us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:3,4)

For our conversation is in heaven; from where also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Who will change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like to his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things to himself. (Philippians 3:20,21)

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we will be: but we know that, when he will appear, we will be like him; for we will see him as he is. (1 John 3:2)

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I show you a mystery; We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, (1 Corinthians 15:49-51)

Why called?

Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? and if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

Know you not that we will judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? (1 Corinthians 6:2,3)

If we suffer, we will also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: (2 Timothy 2:12)

To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (Revelation 3:21)

But the saints of the most High will take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. (Daniel 7:18)

And he that overcomes, and keeps my works to the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

And he will rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter will they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. (Revelation 2:26,27)

And they sung a new song, saying, You are worthy to take the book, and to open the seals of it: for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

And have made us to our God kings and priests: and we will reign on the earth. (Revelation 5:9,10)

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham out of heaven the second time,

And in your seed will all the nations of the earth be blessed; because you have obeyed my voice. (Genesis 22:15,18)

And if you be Christ's, then are you Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:29)

See A, 203, 222; C, 205, 210; E, 412; Z'95-249; Z'96-68; Z'99-10, 11; Z'00-53, 188, 189; Z'01-6-10; E, 190

Heavenly Promises

These promises are made only to the Church.

And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

(Hebrews 11:39,40)

And this is the promise that he has promised us, even eternal life. (1 John 2:25)

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. (1 Cor. 15:49)

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

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. (Romans 8:16,17)

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)

Let not your heart be troubled: you 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 to myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:1-3)

Father, I will that they also, whom you have given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which you have given me: for you loved me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:24)

To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (Revelation 3:21)

According as his divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given to us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:3,4)

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we will also live with him:

If we suffer, we will also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: (2 Timothy 2:11,12)

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we will be: but we know that, when he will appear, we will be like him; for we will see him as he is.

And every man that has this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure. (1 John 3:2,3)

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, you will never fall:

For so an entrance will be ministered to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:10,11)

And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me to his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (2 Timothy 4:18)

See B, 207; C, 220; E, 77, 161, 280; E, 406, 426, 466; Z'97-229.

Earthly Promises

None of these promises are made to the Church.

And the LORD said to Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now your eyes, and look from the place where you are northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

For all the land which you see, to you will I give it, and to your seed for ever.

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

Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it to you. (Gen. 13:14-17)

Says the Lord GOD; In the day that I will have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes will be built.

And the desolate land will be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by.

And they will say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. (Ezekiel 36:33-35)

For the days come, says the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, says the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they will possess it. (Jer. 30:3)

And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they will build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they will plant vineyards, and drink the wine of them; they will also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.

And I will plant them upon their land, and they will no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, says the LORD your God. (Amos 9:14,15)

And you will dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and you will be my people, and I will be your God.

I will also save you from all your uncleanness: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.

And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that you will receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen. (Ezekiel 36:28-30)

I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together:

That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it. (Isaiah 41:18-20)

And they will build houses, and inhabit them; and they will plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

They will not build, and another inhabit; they will not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect will long enjoy the work of their hands.

They will not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

And it will come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the bullock: and dust will be the serpent's meat. They will not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, says the LORD. (Isaiah 65:21-25)

And fields will be bought in this land, where you say, It is desolate without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans.

Men will buy fields for money, and subscribe evidences, and seal them, and take witnesses in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the mountains, and in the cities of the valley, and in the cities of the south: for I will cause their captivity to return, says the LORD. (Jeremiah 32:43,44)

And David my servant will be king over them; and they all will have one shepherd: they will also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

And they will dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob my servant, where your fathers have dwelt; and they will dwell there, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David will be their prince for ever. (Ezekiel 37:24,25)

See A, 228; Z'95-206.

Earthly Prospects of the Church

What Must Be Endured

Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. (1 John 3:13)

Behold, I have refined you, but not with silver; I have chosen you in the furnace of affliction. (Isaiah 48:10)

You therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 2:3)

The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call them of his household? (Matthew 10:24,25)

If the world hate you, you know that it hated me before it hated you.

If you were of the world, the world would love his own: but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Remember the word that I said to you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. (John 15:18-20)

Blessed are you, when men will revile you, and persecute you, and will say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. (Matthew 5:11,12)

And you will be betrayed both by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends; and some of you will they cause to be put to death.

And you will be hated of all men for my name's sake. (Luke 21:16,17)

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you:

But rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory will be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy. (1 Peter 4:12,13)

But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. (Galatians 4:29)

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12)

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations;

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith works patience.

But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. (James 1:2-4)

For even hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps: (1 Peter 2:21)

Fear none of those things which you will suffer: behold, the devil will cast some of you into prison, that you may be tried; and you will have tribulation ten days: be you faithful to death, and I will give you a crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)

E, 207, 256, 498; Z'99-10; Z'01-85-88.

What may be Enjoyed

I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, from where comes my help.

My help comes from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. (Psalms 121:1,2)

The LORD will give strength to his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace. (Psalms 29:11)

The blessing of the LORD, it makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it. (Proverbs 10:22)

Come to me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you will find rest to your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

The meek also will increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 29:19)

Whom having not seen, you love; in whom, though now you see him not, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: (1 Peter 1:8)

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you: not as the world gives, give I to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:27)

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you: because he trusts in you. (Isaiah 26:3)

And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say to you, There is no man that has left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

But he will receive a hundred times now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. (Mark 10:29,30)

And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

See Z'95-153; Z'01-27,52.

Sins

Covered

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man to whom the LORD imputes not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. (Psalms 32:1,2)

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people, you have covered all their sin. Selah. (Psalms 85:2)

Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. (Romans 4:7,8)

Blotted Out

Repent you therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord; (Acts 3:19)

See Z'97-226.

The Judgment Day

The term “judgment” signifies more than simply rendering a verdict. It includes the idea of a trial and a decision based on that trial. This is true of the English word “judgment” and also the original Greek word translated as “judgment”.

The term “day” signifies a definite period of time. For example, we speak of “in Washington’s day” and in Scriptures we have the “day of salvation” or the “day of trouble”, etc.

The Scriptures speak of a great judgment or trial day in the future and show that all mankind will have their complete trial and final sentence in that day. The scriptures also teach there have been other judgment days in which certain elect classes have been on trial.

The first great judgment (trial and sentence) was at the beginning, in Eden, when the whole human race (as represented in Adam) stood on trial before God. The result of the trial was a guilty verdict; disobedient, unworthy of life. The penalty was death.

The Jewish Age was another Judgment Day in which the class spoken of in the Bible as “the house of servants” was tried and judged.

The Gospel Age is another Judgment Day in which the Church was tried, judged, and sentenced as either worthy or unworthy of being “joint heirs with Christ”.

After the resurrection, all of mankind will be tried again. This time it will be individually. Each will be judged worthy or unworthy of eternal human life on earth. The sentence of those judged worthy will be:

...” Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”
(Matthew 25:34)

To the unworthy it will be complete destruction in the second death:

...” Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: (Matthew 25:41)

Scriptures That Show Judgment Day is a Blessing Not a Terror

Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

Put you in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. (Joel 3:12-14)

But the LORD will endure for ever: he has prepared his throne for judgment.

And he will judge the world in righteousness, he will minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. (Psalms 9:7-9)

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fullness of them.

Let the field be joyful, and all that is there: then will all the trees of the wood rejoice

Before the LORD: for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth: he will judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth. (Psalms 96:11-13)

Let the sea roar, and the fullness of them; the world, and they that dwell there.

Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together

Before the LORD; for he comes to judge the earth: with righteousness will he judge the world, and the people with equity. (Psalms 98:7-9)

Scriptures Showing the Church is Judged in the Gospel Age

And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. (John 9:39)

Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. (1 Timothy 5:24)

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what will the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? (1 Peter 4:17)

Scriptures Showing the Church and Christ will Judge the World

Because he has appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he has ordained; where he has given assurance to all men, in that he has raised him from the dead. (Acts 17:31)

Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? and if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

Know you not that we will judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? (1 Corinthians 6:2,3)

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

To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. (Jude 1:14,15)

Scriptures Showing How Minute the Work of Judgment Will be

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 has done, whether it be good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

But why do you judge your brother? or why do you look down at your brother? for we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. (Romans 14:10)

In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel. (Romans 2:16)

For God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment to the Son: (John 5:22)

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. (Revelation 14:7)

See Z'99-38, 41; Z'01-37-46; A, 137-147; F, 395-419.

The Earth Lasts Forever

For ever, O LORD, your word is settled in heaven.

Your faithfulness is to all generations: you have established the earth, and it abides. (Psalms 119:89,90)

The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth has he given to the children of men. (Psa. 115:16)

For says the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he has established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. (Isaiah 45:18)

Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever. (Psalms 104:5)

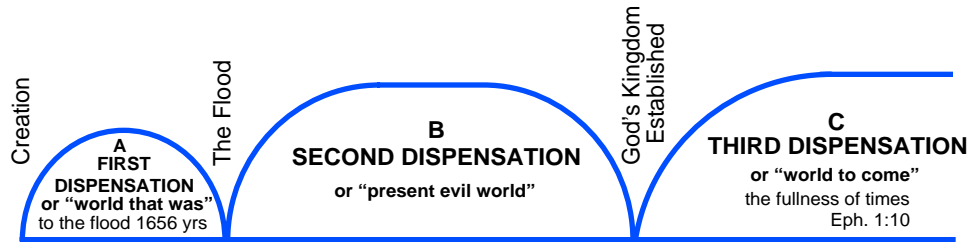
One generation passes away, and another generation comes: but the earth abides for ever. (Ecclesiastes 1:4)

See Z'02-83.

Part 2. Bible “Times and Seasons”

Bible Times and Seasons — The Chart of the Ages

In order to rightly understand the Bible it is necessary to have some knowledge of the subject of this chapter. The chart illustrates how the Bible divides time.



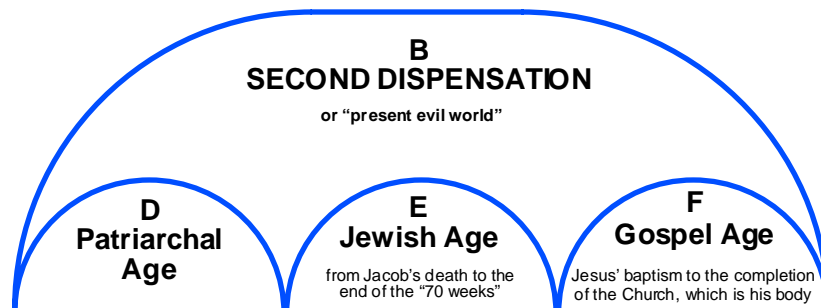
Worlds

The Bible divides time into three worlds or dispensations:

1. "the world that was"
Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: (2 Peter 3:6)
2. "the present evil world"
Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of our God and Father (Gal. 1:4 KJV)
3. "the world to come"
For to the angels has he not put in subjection the world to come, where we speak. (Hebrews 2:5)

Ages

The worlds are divided into smaller periods of time called ages.



The *Patriarchal Age* when God dealt only with individuals (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.)

And the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, To your seed will I give this land: and there built he an altar to the LORD, who appeared to him. (Genesis 12:7)

And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.

And he went up from thence to Beersheba.

And the LORD appeared to him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham your father: fear not, for I am with you, and will bless you, and multiply your seed for my servant Abraham's sake. (Genesis 26:17,23,24)

And God appeared to Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and blessed him.

And God said to him, Your name is Jacob: your name will not be called any more Jacob, but Israel will be your name: and he called his name Israel. (Genesis 35:9,10)

The *Jewish Age* when God dealt with Jewish people.

Thy Word is Truth

And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and you will know that I am the LORD your God, which brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. (Exodus 6:7)

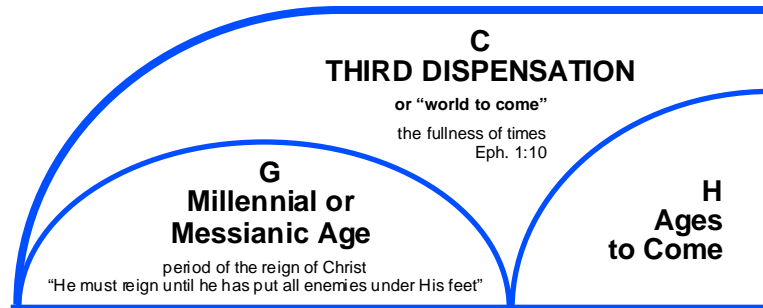
You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. (Amos 3:2)

The *Gospel Age* when God dealt with the true Church (also called Church or Christian Age.)

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. (Matthew 4:23)

And he said to them, Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15)

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then will the end come. (Matthew 24:14)



The *Millennial Age* (also called Messianic Age) when God deals with all mankind.

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

And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

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.

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (Revelation 20:1-4)

The *Ages to Come*

That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:7)

Harvests

There are two harvest periods:

1. Jewish Age Harvest

Then says he to his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few;

Pray you therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest. (Matthew 9:37,38)

Say not you, There are yet four months, and then comes harvest? behold, I say to you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. (John 4:35)

2. Gospel Age Harvest

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

The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. (Matthew 13:30,39)

The Work of Each Period

Patriarchal Age

Selecting one man, Abraham, through which to bless all the nations of the earth

And the LORD said, Will I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

Seeing that Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed in him? (Genesis 18:17,18)

Jewish Age

Picturing in types and symbols the entire plan of salvation

Now all these things happened to them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. (1 Corinthians 10:11)

Trial and development of a “House of Servants” or “Ancient Worthies” as described fully in the 11th chapter of Hebrews.

And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; (Hebrews 3:5)

Jewish Age Harvest

Gathering the true-hearted Israelites into the Garner of the Gospel Church

Burning the chaff of merely nominal Israel in the fire of affliction

Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable. (Luke 3:17)

Gospel Age

Development of a “House of Sons”, Taking out people for His name, Perfecting of the saints

But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end. (Hebrews 3:6)

Simeon has declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. (Acts 15:14)

Preaching of the Gospel for a witness

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (Ephesians 4:11,12)

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then will the end come. (Matthew 24:14)

Gospel Age Harvest

Separation of God’s true Church from merely nominal Christians

Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather you together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn. (Matthew 13:30)

Millennial Age

After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins of it, and I will set it up:

That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, says the Lord, who does all these things. (Acts 15:16,17)

For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will confess to God. (Romans 14:11)

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)

And they will not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all will know me, from the least to the greatest. (Hebrews 8:11)

See A, B, and C.

Chronology of the Bible — Showing Where 6000 Years From Creation Ends

From Creation to the Flood

And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and had a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth: (Genesis 5:3).....	130 years
And Seth lived an hundred and five years, and had Enos: (Genesis 5:6).....	105 years
And Enos lived ninety years, and had Cainan: (Genesis 5:9).....	90 years
And Cainan lived seventy years, and had Mahalaleel: (Genesis 5:12).....	70 years
And Mahalaleel lived sixty and five years, and had Jared: (Genesis 5:15).....	65 years
And Jared lived an hundred sixty and two years, and he had Enoch: (Genesis 5:18).....	162 years
And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and had Methuselah: (Genesis 5:21).....	65 years
And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and had Lamech: (Genesis 5:25).....	187 years
And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and had a son: And he called his name Noah, saying, This same will comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed. (Genesis 5:28,29).....	182 years
And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. (Genesis 7:6).....	<u>600 years</u>
Total.....	1656 years

From Creation to the Day the Flood Was Dried Up

And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry. (Genesis 8:13)

From the Flood to the Covenant with Abraham at the Death of Terah

These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and had Arphaxad two years after the flood: (Genesis 11:10).....	2 years
And Arphaxad lived five and thirty years, and had Salah: (Genesis 11:12).....	35 years
And Salah lived thirty years, and had Eber: (Genesis 11:14).....	30 years
And Eber lived four and thirty years, and had Peleg: (Genesis 11:16).....	34 years
And Peleg lived thirty years, and had Reu: (Genesis 11:18).....	30 years
And Reu lived two and thirty years, and had Serug: (Genesis 11:20).....	32 years
And Serug lived thirty years, and had Nahor: (Genesis 11:22).....	30 years
And Nahor lived nine and twenty years, and had Terah: (Genesis 11:24).....	29 years
And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran. (Genesis 11:32).....	<u>205 years</u>
Total.....	427 years

From the Covenant with Abraham to the Giving of the Law to Moses

And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, does not annul, that it should make the promise of none effect. (Galatians 3:17)

Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. It is a night to be much observed to the LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the LORD to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations. (Exodus 12:40-42).....	430 years
---	-----------

From Exodus to Division of the Land

And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians. (Numbers 33:3)

And it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle of the testimony. And the children of Israel took their journeys out of the wilderness of Sinai; and the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran. (Numbers 10:11,12)..... 1 year, 1 month, 5 days
 And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel. (Numbers 13:3)

Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadeshbarnea to spy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart. Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God. And Moses swore on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon your feet have trodden will be your inheritance, and your children's for ever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God. And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spoke this word to Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, I am this day fourscore and five years old. (Joshua 14:7-10).....45 years
 Total.....46 years

The Period of the Judges

And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he divided their land to them by lot. And after that he gave to them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. (Acts 13:19,20) 450 years

The Period of the Kings

And afterward they desired a king: and God gave to them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. (Acts 13:21).....40 years
 David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. And the time that he reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem. (1 Chronicles 29:26,27).....40 years
 And Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. (2 Chronicles 9:30).....40 years
 So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam was one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. (2 Chronicles 12:13)..... 17 years
 Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam began Abijah to reign over Judah. He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Michaiiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam. (2 Chronicles 13:1,2).....3 years
 And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign. (2 Chronicles 16:13).....41 years
 And Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah: he was thirty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. (2 Chronicles 20:31)25 years
 Now Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.
 Jehoram was thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 21:1,5)8 years
 And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead: for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned.
 Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri. (2 Chronicles 22:1,2) 1 year
 But when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah. But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons that were slain, and put him and his nurse in a bedchamber. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, (for she was the sister of Ahaziah,) hid him from Athaliah, so that she slew him not. And he was with them hid in the house of God six years: and Athaliah reigned over the land. (2 Chronicles 22:10-12)6 years

Thy Word is Truth

Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Zibiah of Beersheba. (2 Chronicles 24:1).....	40 years
Amaziah was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 25:1).....	29 years
Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 26:3).....	52 years
Jotham was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jerushah, the daughter of Zadok. (2 Chronicles 27:1)	
Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem: but he did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father. (2 Chronicles 28:1).....	16 years
Hezekiah began to reign when he was five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah. (2 Chronicles 29:1).....	29 years
Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem: (2 Chronicles 33:1).....	55 years
Amon was two and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned two years in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 33:21).....	2 years
Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years. (2 Chronicles 34:1).....	31 years
Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God. (2 Chronicles 36:5).....	11 years
Moreover Uzziah had an host of fighting men, that went out to war by bands, according to the number of their account by the hand of Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the ruler, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains. (2 Chronicles 26:11).....	<u>11 years</u>
Total.....	513 years

The reign of this last king was followed by 70 years desolation of the land as prophesied by:

And this whole land will be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. (Jeremiah 25:11)

A return to their own land was promised at the end of the 70 years.

Says the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. (Jeremiah 29:10)

The 70 years ended in the first year of Cyrus.

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

Says Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth has the LORD God of heaven given me; and he has charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up. (2 Chronicles 36:22,23)

History shows the first year of Cyrus was 536 years before the date known as 1 A.D.

From the Creation of Adam

The previous figures clearly show the following:

To the end of the flood.....	1656 years
To the covenant with Abraham.....	427 years
To the Exodus and the giving of the Law.....	430 years
To the division of Canaan.....	46 years
The period of the Judges.....	450 years
The period of the Kings.....	513 years
Period of the desolation.....	70 years

To A.D. 1 536 years
Total.....4128 years

To determine how long after A.D. 1 the 6000 years ends we subtract 4128 from 6000 which gives us 1872. Therefore, the 6000 years would close with the opening of 1873.
See B, 33-72.

“The Times of the Gentiles”

When the disciples asked the Lord when His kingdom would be established He told them a number of things that would happen before that time. One of these is found in:

... For there will be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.

And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem will be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. (Luke 21:23-24)

The words “until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” implies a time limit since an indefinite period could not be said to be fulfilled. The Scriptures clearly state the beginning and ending of this fixed time period. Zedikiah was the last Jewish king, and to him came the words of the prophet:

And you, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity will have an end,

Says the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this will not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high.

I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it will be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him. (Ezekiel 21:25-27)

This prophecy was fulfilled at the beginning of the 70 years of captivity. Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar’s army and then rebuilt in the first year of Cyrus. Since then, it has remained under rulership of the Gentiles as it is now.

Says Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth has the LORD God of heaven given me; and he has charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up. (2 Chronicles 36:23)

Jerusalem began to be “trodden under foot of the Gentiles” 70 years before the first year of Cyrus (536 B.C.). This marks the beginning of the Gentile times which must be fulfilled before our Lord’s Kingdom is established upon earth as 606 B.C. To find out the duration of these “times” we look at:

And I will set my face against you, and you will be slain before your enemies: they that hate you will reign over you; and you will flee when none pursue you.

And if you will not yet for all this hearken to me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. (Leviticus 26:17,18)

Then I will walk contrary to you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins. (Leviticus 26:28)

There are seven times in which “those who hate you [Gentiles] will reign over you.” So how long a period is meant by the words “a time”?

This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:

That they will drive you from men, and your dwelling will be with the beasts of the field, and they will make you to eat grass as oxen, and they will wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times will pass over you, till you know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever he will.

All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes to heaven, and mine understanding returned to me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honored him that lives for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: (Daniel 4:24,25,28,34)

The madness of Nebuchadnezzar which was foretold in his dream to endure for “seven times” really lasted seven years. So the Scripture itself interprets the phrase “seven times” to mean seven years.

But we know in the case of Israel’s seven times of punishment under Gentile rule that it did not end in seven years. We must conclude that the time in this prophecy was symbolic, namely, a year for a day. In this way each “time” or symbolic year consisted of 360 actual years. Then the period would be 7x360 years or 2520 years total. The Scriptures tell us that it is possible a year can be represented by a day.

Lie you also upon your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that you will lie upon it you will bear their iniquity.

For I have laid upon you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so will you bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.

And when you have accomplished them, lie again on your right side, and you will bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed you each day for a year. (Ezekiel 4:4-6)

And your children will wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your unfaithfulness, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.

After the number of the days in which you searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, will you bear your iniquities, even forty years, and you will know my breach of promise. (Numbers 14:33,34)

Other scriptures give us authority to interpret the expression “time” or “times” as a period of 360 year days. The following prophecies are well known to refer to the dark ages before the reformation which were a period of 1260 years in literal time or 3.5 years of symbolic time (“a time, and times and half a time”).

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

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

But the judgment will sit, and they will take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it to the end. (Daniel 7:24-26)

And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by him that lives for ever that it will be for a time, times, and an half; and when he will have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things will be finished. (Daniel 12:7)

We find a similar representation of a period in other scriptures. The Roman Church is referred to in three places and the time of its power is expressed differently in each place:

1. “a time, and times and half a time”

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. (Revelation 12:14)

2. “forty-two months”

And there was given to him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given to him to continue forty and two months. (Revelation 13:5)

3. “1260 days”

And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. (Revelation 12:6)

It seems plain that the Gentile Times are a period of 2520 years and since they began in 606 B.C. it would end in the year 1914 A.D.

See B, 73-102.

Israel’s Double and its Significance

In the study of the chart we find that the Millennial (or Kingdom) Age would begin at the close of the Gospel Age. We also found that the Gospel Age began with the closing of the Jewish Age. Here we examine scriptures that indicate the length of the Gospel Age.

Therefore, behold, the days come, says the LORD, that it will no more be said, The LORD lives, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

But, The LORD lives, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave to their fathers.

And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable things. (Jeremiah 16:14,15,18)

The Hebrew word translated “double” is “mishneh” and it signifies a second portion or repetition.

After the death of Jacob, Israel was God’s chosen and favored people. But the Scriptures here say that their favor would end and for an equal time they would not have favor. We will now find out the beginning, ending and duration of this period.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, your King comes to you: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. Turn you to the strong hold, you prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double to you; (Zechariah 9:9,12)

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kills the prophets, and stones them which are sent to you, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and you would not!

Behold, your house is left to you desolate.

For I say to you, You will not see me henceforth, till you will say, Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord. (Matthew 23:37-39)

These two passages indicate the time when God’s favor ended. Our Lord’s words, “See! Your house is left to you desolate,” show the ending of the favor and the prophet referring to this occurrence says, “today I declare that I will restore double to you,” showing that here the double is to begin.

The length of the period is shown by the following:

Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years.

And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

(Exodus 12:40,41) 430 years

Abraham was 75 years old when he received the covenant:

And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you will all families of the earth be blessed.

So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. (Genesis 12:3,4)

From then to Isaac’s birth

And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born to him.

(Genesis 21:5) 25 years

From then to Jacob’s birth

And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them. (Genesis 25:26)

..... 60 years

And to Jacob’s death

And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was

an hundred forty and seven years.(Genesis 47:28)..... 147 years

Total from covenant to Jacob’s death 232 years

From Jacob’s death to the Exodus would be 430 minus 232 or 198 years.

From Jacob’s death to the Exodus 198 years

Israel in the wilderness.....	40 years
To the division of Canaan.....	6 years
Period of the Judges.....	450 years
Period of the Kings.....	513 years
Period of desolation.....	70 years
From the first year of Cyrus to A.D. 1.....	536 years
Total years from Jacob's death to A.D. 1.....	1813 years
From A.D. 1 to the crucifixion at the Passover in the Spring of A.D. 33 — full years,	
Jewish Ecclesiastical time.....	32 years
Total period of Israel's waiting for the kingdom under divine favor and recognition.....	1845 years

Israel had 1845 years of favor up to 33 A.D. at which time a 1845 year “double” of disfavor began. So the double must have ended in 1878. As one proof we find that the “Berlin Congress of Nations” was held in 1878. Lord Beaconsfield (a Jew) was the central figure and took a leading part. By amendment of Turkish laws the condition of the Jews residing in Palestine was greatly bettered, as well as the privilege extended to others to locate there and hold real estate.

But we must remember that the year 1878 was but a turning point of returning favor to Fleshly Israel. Jerusalem and its people will continue to be controlled and oppressed by the Gentiles until the Times of the Gentiles is fulfilled. Therefore, since favor was due and began in 1878, the Jew will not be received back into full favor until A.D. 1914, a period of 37 years, corresponding exactly to the time of their fall, which, though begun in A.D. 33, was not complete until the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Let us look at some texts that show that the Gospel Age will close at the same time as the ending of Israel's Double and the Millennial Age will begin. The work of the Gospel Age (taking of a people from among the Gentiles) is going on during the time of Israel's disfavor or blindness. When the work is accomplished, blindness will depart from Israel, favor will be returned to them, and “all Israel will be saved.”

And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken to me:

Simeon has declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins of it, and I will set it up: (Acts 15:13-16)

For I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

And so all Israel will be saved: as it is written, There will come out of Zion the Deliverer, and will turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

For this is my covenant to them, when I will take away their sins. (Romans 11:25-27)

Now a final prophecy concerning the double that clearly shows that with the end of Israel's double, Millennial work will begin:

Comfort you, comfort you my people, says your God.

Speak you comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry to her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she has received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

The voice of him that cries in the wilderness, Prepare you the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley will be exalted, and every mountain and hill will be made low: and the crooked will be made straight, and the rough places plain:

And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together: for the mouth of the LORD has spoken it. (Isaiah 40:1-5)

See B, 218.

“The Time of the End”

And some of them of understanding will fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed. (Daniel 11:35)

But you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many will run to and fro, and knowledge will be increased. (Daniel 12:4)

The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men are in scarlet: the chariots will be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees will be terribly shaken.

The chariots will rage in the streets, they rush back and forth in the broad ways: they will seem like torches, they will run like the lightning. (Nahum 2:3,4)

Daniel’s “time of the end” and Nahum’s “day of His preparation” refer to the same thing. It is a period of 115 years during which “many will run to and fro, and knowledge will [rapidly] increase.” Both history and prophecy convince the student that this period began in 1799 and will close in 1914.

Another prophecy stating a fixed lengths of time is found. The first part ended in 1799 with the fall of the Papal Hierarchy:

And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by him that lives for ever that it will be for a time, times, and an half; and when he will have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things will be finished. (Daniel 12:7)

The second part ended in 1829 when the Miller Movement began:

And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what will be the end of these things?

And he said, Go your way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Many will be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked will do wickedly: and none of the wicked will understand; but the wise will understand.

And from the time that the daily sacrifice will be taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate set up, there will be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. (Daniel 12:8-11)

The third part ended in 1874:

Blessed is he that waits, and comes to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. (Daniel 12:12)

See C, 23-94.

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary

These 2300 days (or years) began in 454 B.C. and ended in 1846 A.D.

Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said to that certain saint which spoke, How long will be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

And he said to me, To two thousand and three hundred days; then will the sanctuary be cleansed. (Daniel 8:13,14)

See C, 95-120.

Antichrist, the Man of Sin, etc.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day will not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (2 Thessalonians 2:3,4)

And then will that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the spirit of his mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, (2 Thessalonians 2:8,9)

I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spoke: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; (Daniel 7:8,11,21)

And arms will stand on his part, and they will pollute the sanctuary of strength, and will take away the daily sacrifice, and they will place the abomination that makes desolate. (Daniel 11:31)

When you therefore will see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoever reads, let him understand:) (Matthew 24:15)

And the king will do according to his will; and he will exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and will speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and will prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined will be done.

Neither will he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he will magnify himself above all. (Daniel 11:36,37)

Little children, it is the last time: and as you have heard that antichrist will come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. (1 John 2:18)

The name Antichrist signifies two things:

1. Against or in opposition to Christ
2. Instead or counterfeit of Christ

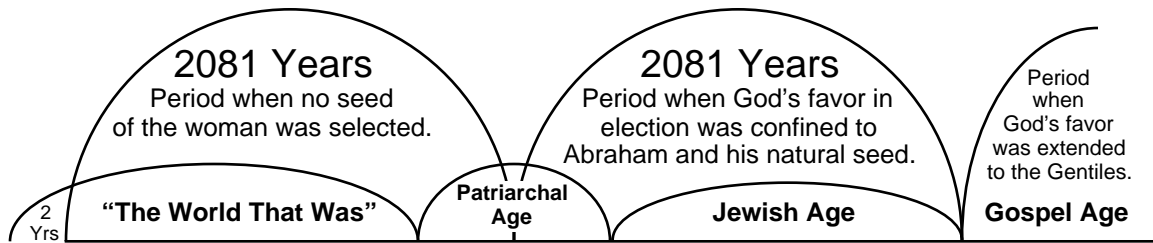
As The Christ consists of the true Lord and the true Church, so the Antichrist consists of a false Lord and an apostate church. A close examination of prophesy and history show the previously mentioned texts were fulfilled in the Papal Hierarchy even to the time of its power.

See B, 267.

Chronological Diagrams

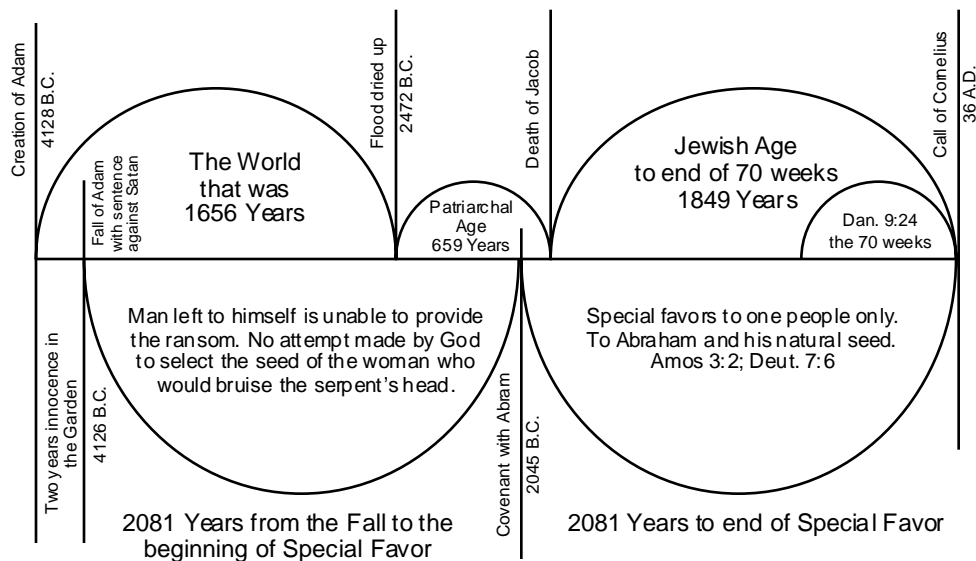
The following diagrams are from the Watch Tower Nov. 15, 1904. They are helpful in gaining a clear understanding of how carefully certain times and events have been marked so that the Bible student can understand as promised in Dan. 12:10. The lesson is that no parallels would be possible if a single one of the prominent dates were altered.

Diagram 1



This diagram shows that 4162 years from the time of the Fall to A.D. 36 was marked exactly at its center by the Oathbound Covenant made to Abraham “ In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed.” (Gen. 22:18)

Diagram 2



Mathematical demonstration of Diagram 2:

Creation to the Flood	1656 years
Patriarchal Age (Flood to death of Jacob).....	659 years
Jewish Age to End of Favor (36 A.D.).....	1849 years
Total.....	4164 years
Subtract “innocent years”	2 years
Total.....	4162 years
The middle of the period (one half).....	2081 years

Period 1:

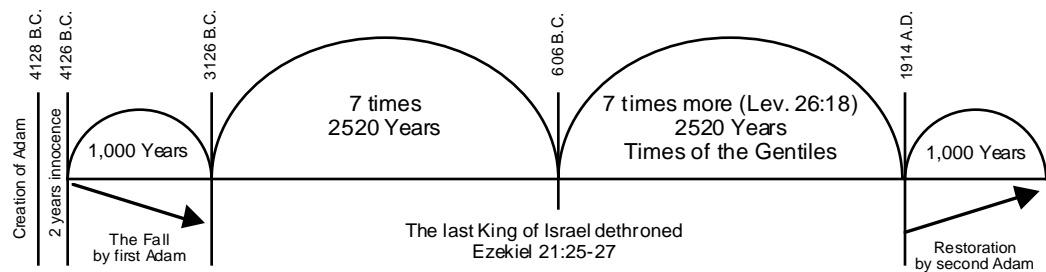
Creation to the Flood	1656 years
Flood to Covenant.....	427 years

Creation to Covenant	2083 years
Subtract "innocent years"	<u>2 years</u>
Total	2081 years

Period 2:

From Abraham to the Law	430 years
Israel in the Wilderness	40 years
To the division of Canaan	6 years
Period of the Judges	450 years
Period of the Kings	513 years
Period of Desolation	70 years
Period to A.D. 1	536 years
Period to A.D. 36	<u>36 years</u>
Total	2081 years

Diagram 3

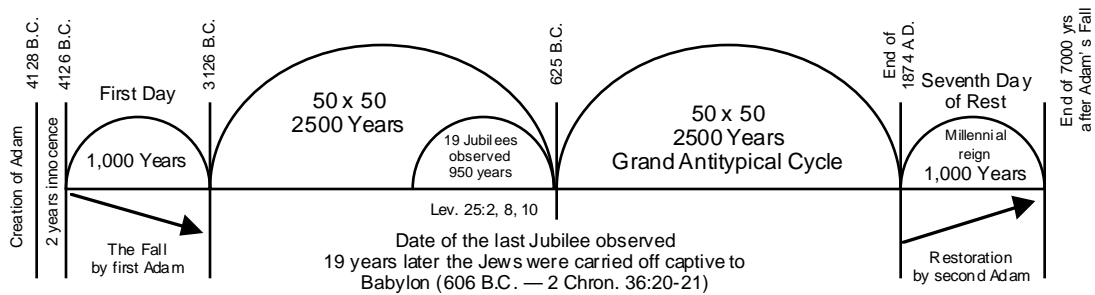


This diagram assumes that the “day of Adam” (Gen. 2:17) and the “day of Christ” are each 1000 years long.

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (2 Pet 3:8)

It views the beginning of the Millennium as the end of the “gentile times” in October 1914. The intervening time of 5040 years is exactly twice “seven times” and marks the turning point as 606 B.C. as well as the ending point 1914 A.D.

Diagram 4



This diagram resembles diagram 3 but is quite different. It takes a different Scriptural view with 1874 A.D. as the date of the Millennium as shown by the Jubilee cycles and other prophecies.

See B, chapter 6; C, chapter 5; B, 42-54.

Part 3. Types, Symbols, Parables, etc.

Tabernacle Types

This subject is exhaustively treated in the pamphlet “Tabernacle Shadows,” so here is stated only the principal types for ready reference:

- Camp of Israel — The world in sin
- Court — Condition of justification
- Holy Place — Condition of consecration
- Most Holy — Heavenly conditions
- Tribe of Levi — Justified believers
- Priesthood — Consecrated believers
- High Priest — Christ
- White Linen — Righteousness of Christ
- Scarlet Embroidery — Blood of sacrifice
- Blue Embroidery — Faithfulness
- Purple Embroidery — Royalty
- Gold — Divine nature
- Silver — The truth
- Copper (or brass) — Perfect human nature
- Wood — Fallen human nature
- Gate of the Court — Christ, the only way by which to obtain justification
- Door of the Holy Place — Death of human will
- Vail of the Holy of Holies — Actual death of human nature
- Wooden Posts in Copper sockets — Imperfect human beings in justification
- Linen Curtains held by Silver Hooks to Posts — Fact the only by the aid of the truth the righteousness of Christ may be held on to by imperfect human beings
- Door Posts covered with Gold but set in Copper Sockets — Consecrated believers begotten to the Divine Nature still hold this treasure in earthen vessels
- Posts at the Vail covered with Gold and set in Silver sockets — Fact that those who enter through the vail have become in very truth partakers of the Divine Nature
- Oil — Holy Spirit
- Table of Shewbread — Church holding forth the Word of Life
- Candlestick — Church as the light of the world
- Golden Altar — Church in sacrificing condition of Gospel Age
- Ark — Christ head and body
- Shekinah — Jehovah as the light of the universe
- Mercy Seat — God’s justice
- Cherubim — Jehovah’s love and power
- Aaron’s Rod — Elect character of the Church as members of the royal priesthood
- Golden Pot of Manna — Immortality of Church
- Day of Atonement — Gospel Age
- Bullock — Man Christ Jesus
- Lord’s Goat — Little Flock
- Scape Goat — Great Company

Other Types of the Bible

Aaron — The Christ in the flesh head and body
Aaron's Sons — Under priests
Abel — Wheat class
Abraham — Jehovah
Adam — Christ
Ark of the Covenant — Christ, the embodiment of the plan of God
Brazen Altar — Christ, earthly rights and requirements
Bullock — Perfect sacrifice
Cain — Rejected sacrificers
Canaan — Heavenly rest
Candlestick — God's church
Cities of Refuge — Christ
David — Beloved, God's people
Day of Atonement — Gospel Age
Days of Noah — Harvest of Gospel Age
Egypt — The world
Egyptian Plagues — Time of trouble
Elijah — The Church
Esau — Fleshly Israel
First Vail — Death of human will
Golden Altar — Spiritual rights and promises
Hidden Manna — Immortality
Isaac — The Christ
Jerusalem — The heavenly city
John the Baptist — The Church, especially in the Harvest of the Gospel Age
Jubilee — Restitution
Levites — Justified believers
Lord's Goat — Little Flock
Manna — Christ and His truth
Noah's Ark — Christ
Rebecca — The Church
Sarah — The Abrahamic covenant
Scape Goat — The Great Company
Second Vail — Death of the human body
Tabernacle of the Wilderness — The Church in the flesh
Tablets of Stone — The two covenants
Temple — The Church in glory
Zion — Spiritual Israel

Bible Symbols

Babylon — Confusion
Baptism — Burial into Christ
Beast — Papacy
City — Religious government
Copper — Human nature
Crown — Power to rule
Day — Time for a year
Earth — Society
Egypt — The world
False Prophet — Systems of error during the Gospel Age
Fig Tree — Jewish nation
Fire — Trouble trials, destruction
Field — The world
Flood — Deluge of truth
Gold — Divine nature
Hail — Hard, distressing truth
Heavens — Ruling or spiritual powers
Hills — Less powerful states than are represented by mountains
Image — United Protestantism
Lake of Fire — Second death
Leaven — Sin
Leprosy — Sin
Light — Truth
Linen — Righteousness
Meat in due Season — Dispensational truth
Mountains — Kingdoms
Moon — Light of Mosaic law
Oil — Spirit of truth
Scepter — Right to rule
Sea — Restless masses of society
Seven — Perfection, completeness
Sun — Light of the gospel
Sword — Truth, the Word of God
Throne — Honor, glory, power
Water — Truth
Winds — Wars
The Four Winds — All parts of the nominal church
Wine — Doctrine and spirit, true or false
Wood, Hay, Stubble — Traditions of men and corresponding unstable characters

Our Lord's Parables Explained

- Barren Fig Tree — Luke 13:6-9; Z'00-25
Bread of Life — John 6:22-40; Z'95-10; Z'00-186
Bridegroom — Mark 2:19, 20; Z'00-79
Drag Net — Matt. 13:47-50; C, 214
Eleventh Hour — Matt. 20:1-16; C, 223; Z'00-237
Good Samaritan — Luke 10:25-37; Z'00-229
Good Shepherd — John 10:1-16; Z'99-63; Z'00-229
Great Supper — Luke 14:15-24; Z'98-136
Householder Returning from Wedding — Luke 12:35-40; Z'00-268
Leaven — Matt. 13:33; Z'00-154
Lost Coin — Luke 15:8-10; Z'00-299
Lost Sheep — Luke 15:1-10; Z'00-288
Meat in Due Season — Matt. 24:45-51; D, 613
Members of Body Cut Off — Matt. 18:8, 9; Z'00-97
Mustard Seed — Matt. 13:31, 32; Z'00-153
New Wine, Old Bottles — Matt. 9:17; Z'98-45
New Cloth, Old Garment — Matt. 9:16; Z'98-45
Pounds — Luke 19:11-27; Z'96-98; Z'98-263; Z'00-361
Prodigal Son — Luke 15:11-32; Z'96-71; Z'00-300; Z'01-14
Rich Man and Lazarus — Luke 16:16-31; E, 396; Z'96-85; Z'00-99
Sheep and Goats — Matt. 25:31-46; Z'98-141; Z'00-101; Z'01-201
Sower and Seed — Matt. 13:1-8; 18:33; Z'00-140
Talents — Matt. 25:14-30; Z'01-58
Ten Virgins — Matt. 25:1-16; C, 91; Z'98-265; Z'01-57
Two Creditors — Luke 7:41-43; Z'97-240; Z'00-138
Two Debtors — Matt. 18:23-25; Z'98-125; Z'00-216
Unjust Steward — Luke 16:1-13; Z'00-315
Vine — John 15:1-11; Z'99-108; Z'98-308
Vineyard — Luke 20:9-19; Z'96-115; Z'01-14
Wedding Garment — Matt. 22:1-14; C, 197; Z'98-136
Wheat and Tares — Matt. 13:24-30; 36-43; C, 135; Z'98-77; Z'00-152
Wicked Husbandman — Matt. 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19; Z'95-86;
Z'96-47; Z'01-14

Practical Applications of the Truth

Pressing Toward the Mark — Z'95-249; Z'01-6
Sobriety, Vigilance, Steadfastness- Z'95-200
The One Thing Desirable — Z'96-8
Gold Tried in the Fire — Z'96-43
Trials of Faith, Why Permitted? — Z'96-54
Tests and Privileges of Discipleship — Z'96-287
Raiment White and Clean — Z'997-159
If You do These Things — Z'97-145
The Sum of all Graces is Love — Z'97-244
Living the New Life — Z'97-263
Secret Faults and Presumptuous Sins — Z'98-243
To the Pure all Things are Pure — Z'99-214
Self-denial and Cross-bearing — Z'00-116
Christian's Course Delineated — Z'00-280
Proper Christian Daily Living — Z'00-332
Patience as an Element of Christian Character — Z'01-115
Finishing Touches of Christian Character — Z'01-323
Decision in Character Building — Z'02-230
The Memorial Supper — Z'03-118
Grow in Grace — Z'03-199
Christ in You the Hope of Glory — Z'03-374
You Know Your Calling, Brethren — Z'03-405

Key to The Chart of the Ages

“From paradise lost to the times of restitution...” (Acts 3:19-21; Luke 3:6)

Dispensations (Bold arcs)

- A First Dispensation or “the world that was” (2 Peter 3:6)
- B Second Dispensation or “the present evil world” (2 Pet. 3:7; Gal. 1:4)
- C Third Dispensation or “the world to come” (2 Peter 3:13)

Ages (Arcs)

- D Patriarchal Age — God deals with patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc.
- E Jewish Age — God deals with Israel under the *Law covenant*
- F Gospel Age — Church developed under the *Oath-bound covenant*
- G Millennial Age — Christ reigns and rules to bless all the families of the earth under the *New covenant*
- H Ages to come with “no more death, sorrow, crying, pain...” (Rev 21:4)

Planes of Existence (Horizontal lines) and Key Events

- K Plane of *Glory* or Divine nature
- L Plane of *Perfect Spiritual Being*
- M Plane of those *Begotten of the Spirit*
- N Plane of *Human Perfection* or Perfect human nature (Adam and Eve before fall, Jesus, and eventually world of mankind)
- P Plane of *Typical Perfection* (justification); Cross — Sacrifices under the law typical of the sacrifice of Christ “The hidden mystery” class
- R Plane of *Depravity and Sin* of the imperfect, fallen race (ruined) — Corresponds to “the
broadway”
- S The time of trouble
- W *The World* of mankind lifted up to human perfection and life

The Tabernacle

- T The gate
- u The brazen alter in court of the tabernacle
- v The laver in court of the tabernacle
- x The golden candlestick in the holy of the tabernacle
- y The table of show bread in the holy of the tabernacle
- z The golden (incense) alter in the holy of the tabernacle

Classes and Individuals (Complete or partial pyramids)

- a *Adam* in perfect condition for two years
- b *The world* — Adam and imperfect race before flood
- c *Abraham* justified by faith in God
- d *The world* on the depraved plane unjustified
- e *Israel* — Jewish nation typically justified by sacrifice of bulls and goats
- f *A time of trouble* at the end of the Jewish age

Christ Jesus (Glory light)

- g *Jesus* as the sin-offering, perfect humanity sacrificed, not spirit begotten
- h As a sacrificing new creature, now spirit begotten, three years later than g
- i Resurrected from the dead in Divine nature
- k Glorified 40 days after resurrection
- l Glory during Gospel Age

Gospel Age Nominal Church

- m The Great Company
- n The Little Flock
- p Faith justified during Gospel Age (fail to go on to consecration)
- q Those who only outwardly profess to accept, hearts that the devil takes, “wolves”

Gospel Age Harvest

- r Resurrection of Little Flock
- s Little Flock during the harvest
- t Great Company separated from Little Flock
- u Justified lose justification
- v Hypocrites (mere professors of Christianity)

Millennial Age

- w Christ head and body 144,000 and one, Jesus and Church glorified “marriage of the Lamb”
- x Christ head and body reign over the earth
- y The Great Company before the throne
- z *Israel restored*, Ancient Worthies, Youthful Worthies, and fleshly Israel (faith-justified believing Jews)

Dates (Vertical Lines) and Associated Events

1. Nov. 2872 B.C. End of the flood (B, 381)
2. 1813 B.C. Death of Jacob
3. 29 A.D. Jesus is baptized
4. 33 A.D. Jesus is crucified
5. 36 A.D. Beginning of casting-off of the Jews at end of exclusive favor
6. 69 A.D. Destruction of Jerusalem and of Jews’ national polity
7. 1874 Advent of Messiah as King
8. 1878 Resurrection of the saints, beginning of casting-off of the Church
9. 1881 End of exclusive favor to the Church
10. 1914 Full loss of favor to Churchianity
11. 2874 (End of second death period is 2914)

See A, Chapter 12; Z, [271, 3575]; E16; GPP, Vol. I, Chap. III; B, 219. For a full explanation of the work of each period see A, B, and C.