

***INCREDIBLE
PREDICTIONS***



Amazing Bible Prophecies Come True

INCREDIBLE PREDICTIONS

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Amazing Bible Prophecies

Know the Future

The Bible has amazingly predicted the rise and fall of the world's greatest empires, culminating in the world's Final Empire. Throughout history various empires have dominated the development of large portions of our planet. In the ancient world Egypt was one of the first great Empires. The Greeks and the Romans built massive empires in Europe and Asia. Mongolia once ruled an empire that stretched from the Pacific Ocean right across into Western Europe, down into the Middle East and up into Russia. During the reign of Queen Victoria, England ruled over one out of every five inhabitants of our planet. Even now the sun hasn't set on the British Empire. In the last half century the United States has dominated the world culturally, economically and militarily.

With such a cycle of great empires that have come and gone over thousands of years, the question arises: *"Is it possible that there could be a final empire that will eventually manage to dominate this planet forever?"*



One of the most astounding prophecies of the Bible originated in the ancient city of Babylon which was located in the country we call Iraq today.

It was two and a half thousand years ago, when one of the greatest emperors that ever lived on this planet had a most fascinating dream. His name was Nebuchadnezzar II and he was the ruler of the Babylonian Empire, the dominant world power at that time. He received a prophetic dream that was interpreted by a young man, named Belteshazzar who would go on to become his prime minister. Belteshazzar is better known by his Hebrew name, Daniel.

The Bible book of Daniel was written around 550BC and this amazing prediction is found in the 2nd Chapter of Daniel's book. The dream predicted that four successive empires would rule the world. *They did.*



It predicted three of the four by name and we will name them in this book. What it predicted is seen in the political state of Europe today.

This prophecy, revealed hundreds of years before Christ, was given to Nebuchadnezzar when he was a young king. It accurately predicted 2 ½ millennia of history right to our day.

Let us have a look at this fascinating dream. In the morning, after having this dream, Nebuchadnezzar was greatly troubled. He sensed the importance of the dream but couldn't remember it. Here is the Bible reference.

Daniel 2:1 *“Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him.” The king was greatly troubled. He called his wise men, magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans to the royal palace. He said to them, “Tell me what I dreamed last night and tell me its significance.”*

“What’s the meaning of my dream?”

All of Babylon’s brains trust were there. There were astrologers —those who attempted to foretell the future by reading patterns in the stars. There were ancient psychics. There were the Chaldeans—the scientific elite - the intellectuals. These men asked the king to tell them the dream.

Anyone could have fabricated a meaning if they knew what the dream was. However, interpreting the dream wasn't the only problem. Remembering it was the first required step! King Nebuchadnezzar was greatly upset. *“I don't remember what I dreamed”* He screamed. The king let them know forcefully that if they could tell him the dream, then he would be able to believe their interpretation. They claimed to be able to see into the future! Now their genuineness was put to the test. They pleadingly protested that no one on earth could tell him what he dreamt, which of course was true. The king became so angry that he decreed that if the wise men could not tell him his dream and its interpretation, then all the wise men in Babylon would be destroyed! They all faced death.

News of the king's command reached Daniel. He wasn't a psychic, but he was one of the youngest of the king's councillors. When Daniel asked why he was to be killed as well, Arioch, the executioner, told him the story of the dream. So Daniel went in before the king and asked for time. Daniel went home that night and did what we would all do under such circumstances – he prayed. God Help us or we die!

That night, the God of heaven revealed the same dream with its interpretation to Daniel, in answer to his prayer. Then Daniel went in to see the Emperor. He reminded him that no wise man, no astrologer, no magician, no soothsayer could reveal the dream.

***Daniel 2:28** “But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar **what will be in the latter days.**”*

This amazing prophecy takes us down the stream of time. Right from Daniel's day, through the world's ancient empires and eventually to the time called *The latter or last days*. This prophecy is the master key to unlock all end time prophecy. The pieces in the puzzle of the end time all fit together magnificently.

Daniel continued.

***Daniel 2:31 – 35** “You, O king, were watching; and behold, **a great image!** This great image, whose splendour was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while **a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.**”*



King Nebuchadnezzar was absolutely astounded. *“Yes, that’s it! That’s it!” he said, “That’s exactly what I saw! But Belteshazzar, what does it mean?”* Daniel then proceeded to pull back the curtain on the future, showing the king a succession of 4 world empires or superpowers from his own day down to the end of time – *our day*.

Daniel explained to the king. ***Daniel 2:38*** *“You are this head of gold.”*

The head of gold represents Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar’s empire. Babylon ruled the world from 605 BC to 539 BC. Gold was indeed a very fitting symbol for Babylon. The city was exquisite. There were the famous hanging gardens of Babylon, one of the wonders of the ancient world. The city was 16 km around. Rome was only 9 km, and Athens 6. The temple of Marduk was 91 m high. Outside it was covered with blue glazed tile. Inside, it was overlaid with gold. In that one temple alone, Nebuchadnezzar used 18 tons of gold. You can see why God used the symbol of gold to describe Babylon. Its chief God, Bel-Marduk, was sitting in a lavish golden temple -

a golden image on a golden throne before a golden altar beside a golden candlestick. 7727 kg of solid gold were used for the altar and throne alone. No wonder God said through Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar, *“you are this head of gold.”*

Daniel continued:

Daniel 2:39 *“But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours...”*

This kingdom is represented by the chest and arms of silver in the great image. This was the Medes and Persians who overthrew the Babylonians. In another vision Daniel had in Chapter 8, he even mentions the Medo Persians by name as the next super power after Babylon.

History reveals exactly how this happened. In Daniel Chapter 5 King Belshazzar, grandson of King Nebuchadnezzar, hosted a drunken feast for a thousand of his lords. As the wine was flowing, the music was playing; long robed men held on to lavishly dressed Babylonian women. In the midst of this drunken debauchery, the enchanting music and the seductive immorality, Belshazzar’s feast was rudely interrupted.

A bloodless hand wrote upon the wall these words.

“MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.”

Daniel was called in and said: ***Daniel 5:26-28*** *“This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.”*

How did the Medes and Persians overthrow the invincible city of Babylon? Cyrus, the leader of the Medes and Persians got a brilliant idea. The river Euphrates ran through the centre of Babylon. Cyrus dammed up the river and dried up the river Euphrates. As he did the water level dropped. He continued damming up the river until it changed course. Cyrus then marched his army straight down the dry riverbed.

They came up inside the city and in one night Cyrus’s soldiers overthrew the Babylonians. Interestingly God had even named Cyrus approximately

150 years before he was born. Isaiah was written around 700 BC. Here is what it says :

Isaiah 45:1 *“Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held— to subdue nations before him and loose the armour of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut.”*

Archaeology also confirms this great event. The Cyrus cylinder is a historical record written in clay. It was discovered by the British in the Middle East. It is the story of Cyrus attacking Babylon, drying up the Euphrates, and allowing Israel to go free. You can read it in the Bible, and you can read it into the baked clay records of Cyrus himself. This is exactly what happened. He dried up the river Euphrates. Marched under the walls and came up inside the city where the inner two leaved gates had been left open.

So Babylon came to an end as predicted by Daniel. Babylon had been so powerful that it became a model for the late Saddam Hussein. His ambition was to bring Iraq into dominance in the middle-east just like Nebuchadnezzar dominated it 2500 years ago. Before the gulf wars you could see huge bill boards with Saddam Hussein and Nebuchadnezzar together. He had even been seeking to rebuild the old city of Babylon

However the Bible said

Jeremiah 51:37 *“Babylon shall become a heap, a dwelling place for jackals, an astonishment and a hissing, without an inhabitant.”*

That is exactly what it is today – mounds of ruins. The prophets even predicted it would be a place for birds to live

Isaiah 34:11 *“Also the owl and the raven shall dwell in it.”*

The Bible predicted it would never be rebuilt:

Jeremiah 51:64 *“Thus Babylon shall sink and not rise from the catastrophe that I will bring upon her. . .”*

Babylon is a city of interest for tourists today but it is not a dwelling place.

Daniel next predicted the emergence of a third empire depicted by the thighs of brass.

Daniel 2:39 ...then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.

What nation overthrew Media-Persia? It was the kingdom of Greece. The book of Daniel, chapter 8, even predicted Greece by name, some 200 years before they came to dominance, as the power that would topple the Medes and Persians. This is uncanny accuracy. Alexander the Great led his armies with their bronze armour. With their bronze helmets, bronze breastplates, bronze shields, and bronze handled swords. The Greek armies dominated the world at this very time.

Little wonder the Bible represented the third empire by brass. Greece however was to be followed by a fourth empire:

Daniel 2:40 "Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron."

It was the empire of Rome that overthrew the Greek empire in 168 B.C. Rome then ruled the world.

The great English historian Edward Gibbon, though not a Christian or Bible-believer himself wrote in *"The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire"*

"The images of gold, silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome."

Indeed, that happened. Rome dominated the world, all of Europe, the Middle East and down into northern Africa from 168 B.C. to 476 A.D. The Roman legions were a formidable fighting machine

But Daniel hadn't finished. He moved from the legs to the feet.

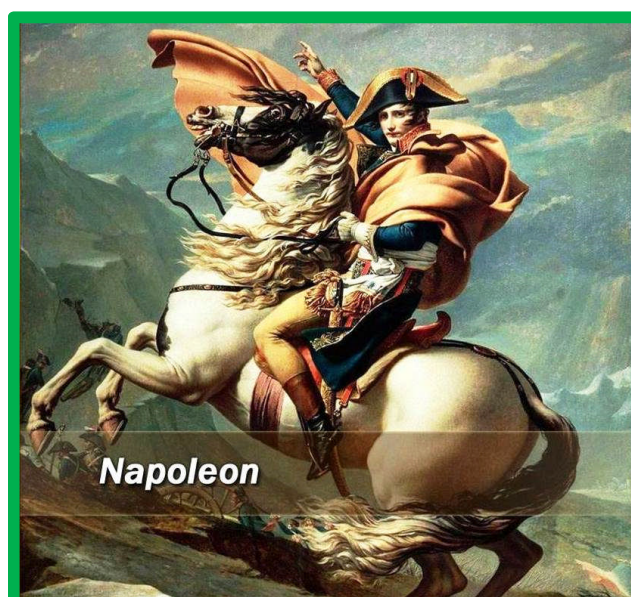
Daniel 2:41,42 *“Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided...so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.”*

The Bible did not predict a fifth ruling empire which would rise after Rome. Rather it predicted a divided empire. Another single world empire would not follow Rome. This is exactly what happened. Europe was divided like the prophecy described it would be. The feet of iron and clay represented the divided Roman Empire which ultimately became divided Europe. Rome had ruled a vast area especially in what today is called Western Europe. However between 351AD and 476AD, barbaric or Germanic tribes invaded the Roman Empire. These various barbaric tribes became the nations of what we call Western Europe today.

Daniel predicted they were “Never to Be Re-United into a super nation again.

Daniel 2:43 *“As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere one to another, just as iron does not mix with clay.”*

Down through the centuries there have been some amazing attempts to reunite Western Europe. For example around 900AD, the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire tried, but failed. In the 1600’s Louis the 14th of France tried but failed. Napoleon Bonaparte of France tried again in the 1800’s. Napoleon was a brilliant general and had great ambitions.



He wrote in his journal: *There will be one Europe. There will be one currency. There will be one language. There will be one government over all of Europe.* However after his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo he said, *“God Almighty is too much for me.”*

God had predicted it nearly 1800 years before and so it was.

Then in the First World War, Kaiser Wilhelm tried to make all of Western Europe one great super state - but he failed.

Then in the Second World War Adolf Hitler said there will be, *“one people, one empire, one leader.”* Like the rest, he too failed, because God had predicted *“THEY SHALL NOT CLEAVE ONE TO ANOTHER”*

This amazing prophecy predicted that they would even try to use marriage relationships to unite Western Europe:

Daniel 2:43 *As you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay, so THEY WILL MIX WITH ONE ANOTHER IN MARRIAGE: but they will not hold together just as iron does not mix with clay.”*

There is a Castle in Denmark, called the Fredricksborg Castle. Inside you see a large painting of the various houses of royalty in Europe showing how they have intermarried in an endeavour to control Western Europe – but it all failed: marriage did not bring unity. 1800 years before, the Bible had predicted: *They Shall Not Cleave Together*

This prediction from 2500 years ago is uncanny in its accuracy: Babylon the head of gold was followed by the silver chest and arms of Medo-Persia, which was followed by the bronze belly and thighs of Greece. Then the Iron legs of Rome ruled but became divided into the nations of Western Europe represented by the feet of iron and clay. *All of this was predicted and has happened so precisely. Therefore, just as surely, the next event WILL HAPPEN! And what is that?*

Daniel talked to Nebuchadnezzar about the rock that struck the image on the feet.

Daniel 2:34,44,45 “You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. And in the days of these kings **the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever...the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. **The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.**”**

The rock represents God’s Empire that will be set up at the return of Christ. It is The Last Empire.

God’s kingdom is to be set up during the time of the divided nations of Europe – **THAT IS THE TIME WE ARE LIVING IN!** The World's Last Empire will soon appear!

What Will the Last Empire Be Like? It is described in part in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 11:15 “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

Revelation 21:4,5 “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.”

God’s empire will be a kingdom with no more tears! No more pain! and no more death! It will be a kingdom with a forever hope.

Daniel 2:45 "The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."



Head of Gold Babylon [B.C. 605 - 539]
Breast of Silver Medo-Persia [B.C. 539 - 331]
Thighs of Brass Greece [B.C. 331 - 168]
Legs of Iron Rome [B.C. 168 - A.D 476]
Feet of Iron & Clay Divided nation of Western Europe [A.D. 476 - 2nd Advent]



Prophecies of the Past

The Bible contains hundreds of prophecies. They all come true unless the prediction is conditional, which is based upon the choice of humankind. For example, in the book of Jonah we see this prophet given a prediction to deliver to the people of Nineveh. The population of this large city had become so corrupt that God pronounced a judgment of destruction upon them. The message to be given by the prophet Jonah was –

***Jonah 3:3-5** Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴ Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, **"Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown."** ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.*

Because the people repented of their sin God did not carry out His prediction of destruction. God is merciful and wants people to change their wicked ways but if they don't, God's promised prediction will always come to pass.

We will look at some past predictions and see their fulfilment.

Consider first, the Bible's claim to be able to foretell the future.



Isaiah 46:9,10 Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure'.

Some Bible prophecies have been entirely fulfilled; some are in process of fulfilment; some are yet to be fulfilled. Approximately one third of the Bible is devoted to prediction. These prophecies stretch like a long avenue of shining lights all the way from Genesis to Revelation.

TYRE

For example let us take a look at Tyre, a flourishing maritime port of the ancient Phoenicians. This large, rich city was wicked in the sight of God. One of their religious practises was to offer babies to the fire god, Molech by placing a living infant on the red hot hands of the image. God made a prediction of doom upon this city.

In Ezekiel 26:7-14 God foretold six things that would happen to Tyre:

1. He would bring Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon against Tyre.
2. Many people in Tyre would be killed.
3. The ruins of the city would be thrown into the sea.
4. The city area would be scraped free of rubble, like the top of a rock.
5. Fishermen would use this site to spread fishing nets.
6. It would never be rebuilt.

This remarkable prediction was fulfilled in every detail. Soon after the prophecy was written, Nebuchadnezzar attacked the city killing many and the rest were locked inside the city walls. The Babylonian army laid siege on the city for 13 years, but they finally broke in, only to find all the people were gone. They had moved to an island a kilometre off shore.

Two hundred and fifty years later, Alexander the Great set off to conquer the world. The people of Tyre felt safe on their island fortress, but

Alexander was determined to overthrow them. He commanded his men to throw the ruins of the old city into the water and build a causeway to the island. The old city was scraped free of rubble like the top of a rock and Alexander marched his army to the island and conquered the new Tyre. Today it is common to see fishermen spread their nets where the old city once stood. Three attempts to rebuild the city have all failed.

Ezekiel 26:14 states, "I will make you like the top of a rock; you shall be a place for spreading nets, and you shall never be rebuilt, for I the LORD have spoken," says the Lord GOD."

EGYPT

Surely Egypt enjoys a glorious past. But what of today? God's word records a prediction.

Ezekiel 29:14,15 I will bring back the captives of Egypt and cause them to return to the land of Pathros, to the land of their origin, and there they shall be A LOWLY KINGDOM. IT SHALL BE THE LOWLIEST OF KINGDOMS; it shall never again exalt itself above the nations, for I will diminish them so that they will not rule over the nations anymore.



Egypt was a super power in past times but this nation has never risen to its former glory. Anciently, Egypt was famous for her supply of Papyrus, or paper to the world. The Papyrus reed grew bountifully along the river Nile, and other waterways. However, God foretold that the paper reeds by the

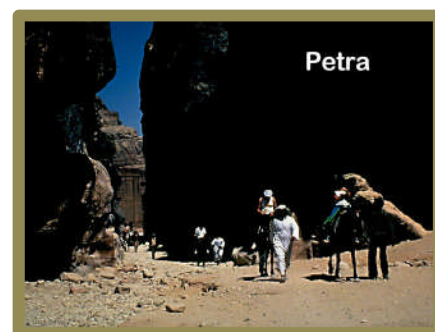
brooks and rivers would wither and vanish away, and be no more in the land of Egypt. Even this small detail has been fulfilled.

Isaiah 19:7 THE PAPYRUS REEDS by the River, by the mouth of the River, and everything sown by the River, will wither, be driven away, AND BE NO MORE.

Today, there are no papyrus reeds in Egypt, except for some carefully tended reeds as a reminder of the past.

PETRA

Petra is a fantastic place. Every building (over 1,000 of them) is carved like a cameo from the living rock. On the highest mountains around the valley are to be found the places of human sacrifice. Here young women were sacrificed to the sun god. God hated sun worship and because of this He predicted the doom of Edom.



Jeremiah 49:17,18 EDOM ALSO SHALL BE AN ASTONISHMENT... No one shall remain there, Nor shall a son of man dwell in it.

Isaiah 34:11-13 tells us that fowls and beasts would make their dwelling in the ruins of Edom, and thorns and brambles would grow in the palaces and fortresses of the city. This certainly came true.

ISRAEL

Here is another prophecy, one which every nation in the world has helped to fulfil; the prophecy concerning the people of Israel. In Leviticus and Deuteronomy Moses outlined the political and religious history of this race of people for over 3,400 years – from about 1,500 BC to the present.

Leviticus 26:33-44 I WILL SCATTER YOU AMONG THE NATIONS and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities

waste....And those of you who are left shall waste away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; ...I WILL NOT CAST THEM AWAY, nor shall I abhor them, TO UTTERLY DESTROY THEM.

These ancient people of God have mingled with all nations for over 2,500 years, yet they have always maintained their racial identity. During this same time many other nations have arisen, remained distinct for a while, and then disappeared in the mass of humankind. We need to look only at modern nations, where millions have poured in from other lands. An immigrant group may preserve its nationality for a generation or two, but after that it is lost. Not so with the Jews. They are found in every nation, as the prophecy said they would be, but always and everywhere they are distinct.

The accuracy of these predictions is evidence that a power greater than humankind is behind their fulfilment.



Messiah Predictions

Was Jesus Christ just a good man like Buddha, Mohammed or Jeremiah? Who did He actually claim to be? 2000 years ago He claimed to be the King of Israel, and an emperor of a vast empire. One of His followers named Nathaniel called him the King of Israel, and Jesus affirmed him for his insight.

John 1:49,50 ⁴⁹ *Nathanael answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, **You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!**”*

When Pilate, the Roman Governor who tried Him, called Him the King of Israel, Jesus not only accepted the title but claimed to be the emperor of an empire that extended beyond this world.

John 19:33,36,37 *“Are You a king then? Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am a king.*

John 18:36 *Jesus said, “**My kingdom is not of this world.** If it were, **my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders.** But now **my kingdom is from another place.**”*

Pilate even had the title: *“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of Israel,”* hung on the Christ’s cross. For a Jew to accept such a title was to claim to be God, in human flesh:

Isaiah 44:6 *“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.*

Buddha never claimed to be God! Confucius never claimed to be God! Mohammed never claimed to be God! BUT JESUS CLEARLY DID!

Firstly Jesus of Nazareth was an historical person who really lived 2000 years ago in Palestine. No good historians will doubt that. A number of ancient non-Christian historians and writers wrote about Him. Serapion a Syrian wrote in 73 AD of the *“Execution of the King of the Jews”* Then there was Josephus, a Jewish historian living from 37AD to 97AD. He was an advisor to the Roman General Vespasian. Archaeology has shown that

Josephus wrote very accurately about the fall of Masada in 73AD. So he can be trusted as a non-Christian writer. He also wrote of Jesus Christ. So there is no question, Jesus was an historical person, living 2000 years ago in Palestine

But was He really God? That's another question. What is the evidence that Jesus is God in Human Flesh? Through prophecy Jesus' life is a life written beforehand. It is these fulfilled prophecies that reveal that Jesus was Divine. Most of them were originally written between 500-1000BC. There are prophecies of His birth, the manner of his birth and death, and His betrayal.

Let's begin with The place of His birth. 700 years before His birth, the Bible predicted he would be born in Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

Notice in this text that Israel's leader never had a beginning. He is From Eternity and is therefore Divine or God. Now remember that Mary and Joseph Lived In Nazareth. Nazareth is near the sea or lake of Galilee in the north and Bethlehem is near Jerusalem in the south. The distance between Nazareth and Bethlehem is 130km. Now remember Mary was almost 9 months pregnant and pregnant women who are ready to give birth certainly don't ride donkeys over rough ground for 130km. So how on earth would she end up giving birth in Bethlehem. It's because God had a plan.

Enter Caesar Augustus, who at that very time, issued a decree that everyone must go to their own town for a census and a tax. There were no ifs or buts or babies or any excuse at all. If Caesar said go – you went and pronto. So, just as the Bible predicted 700 years before, Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea as recorded in Matthew 2:1. This means that Jesus is as the text says -*The One from Eternity!*



God with us

Now let's look at some prophecies fulfilled at the end of His life. Firstly there is His betrayal. Around 1000 years before his birth it was prophesied that He would be betrayed by a friend.

Psalms 41:9 *Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.*

Most people have heard of Judas, the friend of Christ who betrayed him. Not only was it prophesied that he would be betrayed by a friend, but about 500 years before Jesus Christ was born, the exact amount of money was prophesied for which he would be betrayed.

Zechariah 11:4,12 *Thus says the LORD...they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.*

30 PIECES OF SILVER

How did the Bible prophet know that in the days of Christ, 500 years after Zechariah, that the price of a slave would be 30 silver pieces? How did the Bible Prophet know silver would even be currency at that time. It wasn't always the trading medium in ancient times. But that's not all; 500 years before Christ, Zechariah also predicted how they would spend the 30 pieces of silver.

***Zechariah 11:13** So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.*

When Judas realized what he had done in betraying the Son of God, he brought the 30 pieces and threw them in the temple before the priests. They took the coins and bought the potter's field in which to bury strangers.

The prophecy is so Precise:

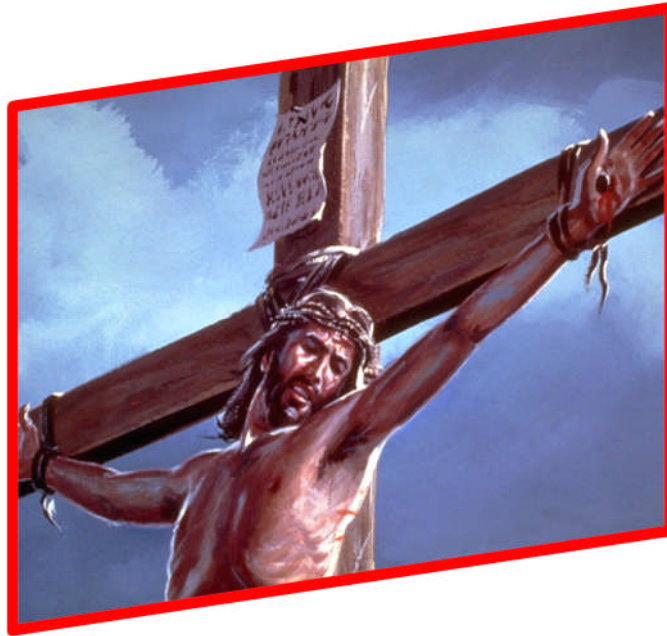
1. The amount for which Christ was betrayed.
2. To where the money was brought.
3. How the money was used.

This was all predicted some 500 years before it happened and was fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ. He is indeed the Messiah. Even the method of torture they would use on Christ was predicted. It was about 700 years before His death that Isaiah prophesied:

***Isaiah 50:6** "Thus says the LORD , "I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting."*

If you have seen Hollywood's "Passion of the Christ" you will know how they spat on him during his torture. Twice Pilate had him scourged with 39 lashes. The Roman lash was made of leather thongs to which bone or pieces of lead were tied. When it came down on a man's back it would tear off pieces of flesh. Christ received 78 such lashes.

Some 1000 years before Christ, the method of death was also predicted.



Psalms 22:16 “They pierced My hands and My feet.

It is common knowledge that this is exactly how Christ was killed. By crucifixion. Crucifixion was practiced only for a relatively short period of time - from 150 BC until 320 AD. Yet King David predicted this around 1000BC.

Then there are prophecies concerning His resurrection. Most biographies end with death, but not for Jesus. About 1000 BC King David predicted:

Psalms 16:10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol (the grave), Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

The Holy One is a name for the LORD – Jehovah, God Almighty!

Isaiah 43:3 For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

Jesus rose from the dead. Christ’s Tomb is Empty. The words on the tomb are true: **THE LORD HAS RISEN**. He’s Alive! The Risen Jesus Is the LORD - God Almighty! These Old Testament Prophecies made hundreds of years before Jesus came the first time and the New Testament Fulfilments reveal that Jesus is God in human flesh.

Christ's Resurrection



Why did He allow Himself to be sacrificed? He died to forgive us for our sins. He died that we might have eternal life.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

To *believe* in Jesus means that, rather than perish, we will receive the gift of everlasting life.



A Time Prophecy with Mathematical Accuracy

This is an incredible prophecy about Christ's first coming. It accurately predicted the exact date of Christ's baptism, the exact date for Christ's crucifixion and also the exact date for the gospel to go to the gentile world. Here is how it is explained in the book of Daniel.

Daniel 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city."

Daniel's people are the Jews and his city is Jerusalem. 70 weeks equals 490 days. These are prophetic days and the Bible uses one day to equal one year when explaining Bible prophecy. So these *symbolic "days"* in prophecy are actually *490 real, literal years*. This method of one day equalling one year in prophecy is explained in Ezekiel 4:6.

Ezekiel 4:6, "I have laid on you *a day for each year.*"

This 490 year period is a probationary time given to the Jews.

This is when Jesus came to His own people and invited them to accept Him as their Messiah but they did not receive Him. Many intellectuals and agnostics have believed the Bible because of the amazing precision of this prophecy. Its exact details leave nothing to guess work. They give evidence of the product of a divine mind.

It is evidently important to know when this time prophecy starts and verse 25 tells us this date. The angel tells Daniel this vital piece of information.

Daniel 9:25 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem..."

When was this command given to restore and rebuild Jerusalem?

In Daniel's day Jerusalem was destroyed, it was in ruins. The Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar had attacked Jerusalem and overthrew it. This was significant to Daniel because he was in captivity to the Babylonians. The

Medes and Persians had just recently overthrown the Babylonians. We can see the beginning time of the prophecy but what is it pointing to?

***Daniel 9:25** “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem... until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks.”*

So it is pointing to the coming of the Messiah who of course is Jesus Christ. When was the decree made to restore Jerusalem? According to Ezra 7, the decree was given in **457 BC**. In that year Artaxerxes passed the decree that begins the whole prophecy.

The prophecy points to the Messiah which means *“The Anointed One.”* Was Jesus ever anointed? When? Jesus was anointed at His baptism. Acts 10 says that when He went into the water to be baptized He was anointed by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, from the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem, predicted by the angel Gabriel that occurred in 457 BC, it would be 69 prophetic weeks until the baptism of Jesus.

Going forward 69 weeks or 483 prophetic days which equals 483 years brings us to AD 27. Historians don't include the year 0 so when going from BC dates to AD dates it is necessary to add one year. Now we will observe that Jesus was baptized on time.

Luke 3:21, records Jesus' baptism in these words,

“When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized.”

What year was this?

Luke 3, verse 1 tells us,

“Now in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar.”

The 15th year of Tiberius' reign was **AD 27**, the exact year of Jesus' baptism predicted by Daniel the prophet. Can there be any doubt that Jesus Christ is the Messiah? Daniel predicted the exact date of His baptism before Jesus was ever born. Here is evidence that the Bible is mathematically accurate. Notice now that His death date is also predicted.

Daniel 9:26 *“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off . . .”*
What does it mean that sometime after Christ's baptism He would be cut off? We know He was crucified. When was He crucified?

Daniel 9:27 *“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week . . .”*

We have noted that 69 weeks or 483 literal years from 457 BC takes you to **AD 27**. Of the 490 years there are 7 years or 1 week left. 69 weeks takes us to AD 27. 70 weeks go to the Jews. So it says, He'll confirm the covenant with many for 1 week.

We start the 70th week immediately after the 69th week in AD 27,

Daniel 9:27 *“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.”*

Never again would a lamb sacrifice have to be offered because He, Christ, brought an end to the sacrifice and offerings in an earthly temple when He, the Lamb of God was offered on the cross. Praise God! And it happened exactly on time. The middle of one prophetic week is $3\frac{1}{2}$ prophetic days or $3\frac{1}{2}$ literal years. Starting at our proposed start of the 70th week in AD 27 and adding 3 years and six months from the fall of AD 27– takes us to the spring of **AD 31**, precisely on the feast of the Passover when Christ was crucified.

Daniel Chapter 9 is about Jesus Christ the Messiah.

The scripture records that Jesus, the Messiah, said in -

Matthew 26, verse 28—“*For this is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*”

Jesus Christ is the Lord of the covenant. Jesus confirms that covenant with His shed blood. He ratifies that covenant on the cross. The day for a year prophecy starting at 457 BC and taking us to AD 31 shows that—

Christ was crucified exactly on time.

This prophecy in the Book of Daniel is so amazing.

That’s why ***Galatians 4:4*** says, “*But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son . . .*”

And Jesus said in ***Mark 1:15***, “*The time is fulfilled*”.

Romans 5:6 says, “. . . *in due time* (at the right time) *Christ died for the ungodly.*”

Jesus confirmed the covenant He made from the beginning of time by dying on the cross and shedding His blood. Never again would the blood of bulls and goats be recognized by God as having any value.

So we note that Christ was baptized on time and He was crucified on time as predicted by the prophecy. Jesus was crucified in 31 AD in the spring, exactly like the Bible said but He still does not reject the nation of Israel. For **3½** more years He reaches out in mercy. He reaches out in love.

Finally at the end of the 70th week in **AD 34** Stephen, one of the first deacons in the Christian church, spoke up and gave a magnificent speech on how Jesus was the Messiah of the Old Testament. See Acts chapters 6 and 7. But the Jewish leaders angrily stoned Stephen. It started a terrible persecution that scattered the early believers and opened the door to the preaching of the Gospel to the non-Jewish nations.

AD 34 marks three points:

1. Stephen's speech that Christ was the Messiah.
2. The Jewish High Priest rejecting Stephen's reasoning that Jesus was the Messiah.
3. The gospel going to the Gentiles.

This 490 year prophecy fits perfectly the life and death of Jesus Christ the Messiah. It is a detailed prediction made almost 500 years before the event, yet came true precisely.

490 DAY – YEAR PROPHECY

457 BC

AD 27

AD 31

AD 34

490 years

3½

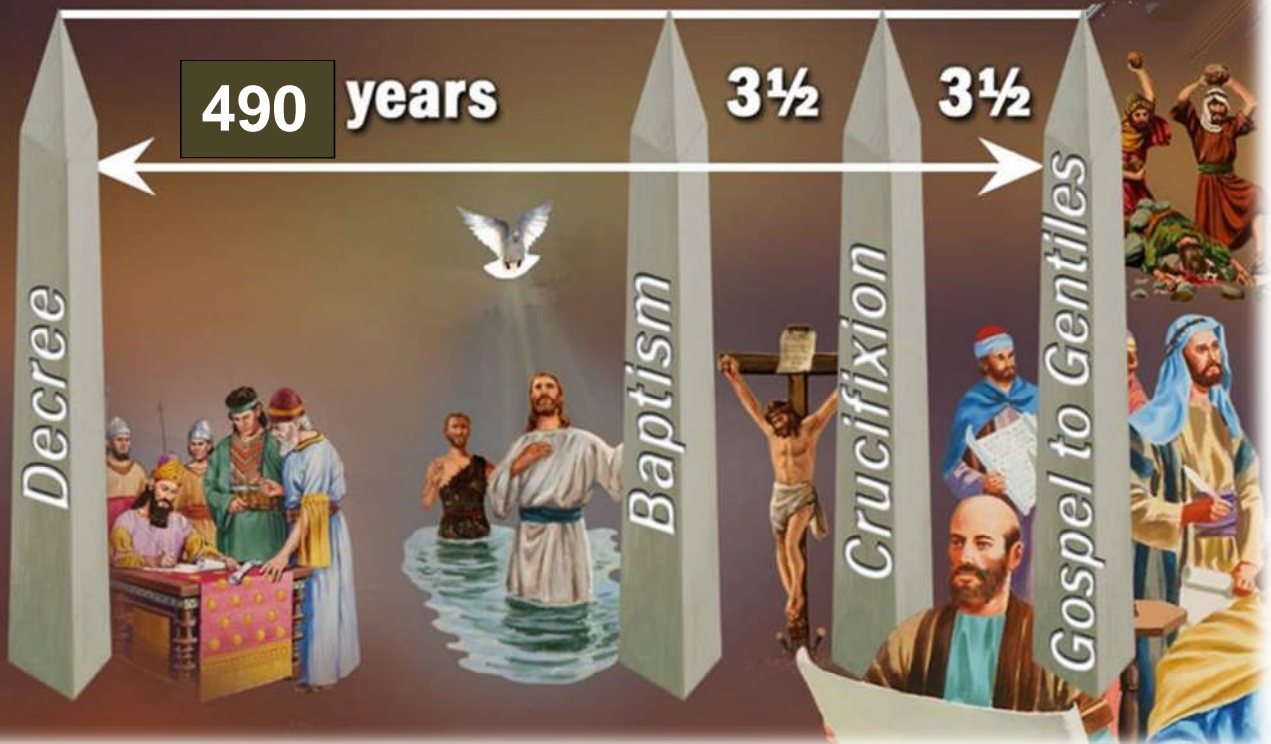
3½

Decree

Baptism

Crucifixion

Gospel to Gentiles



Prophecies of the End Time

According to a growing number of environmental scientists, economists and sociologists, the world is a global time bomb. It is not a matter of, “if” the world as we know it will end, but “when.”

We will now look at some high octane prophecies that reveal the nearness of the termination of our planet. We will discover that we are on the knife edge of eternity!

One of the greatest structures of the ancient world was Herod’s Jerusalem temple of the 1st century BC. Some 2000 years ago as Jesus the Messiah was leaving the temple his disciples called his attention to its magnificence. How surprised they were to hear His cryptic prediction:

Matthew 24:2 *And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, **not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.**”*



Later that day they came up to the Mount of Olives overlooking the city of Jerusalem. His followers, still thinking of what he had said about the stones of the temple, asked him,

Matthew 24:3 *“Tell us, when will these things be...?”*

Jesus predicted that Jerusalem would be besieged, its temple completely demolished, its inhabitants slaughtered and scattered among the nations, and the city occupied by non-Jewish people. Exactly 40 years later, the Romans attacked the city, completely destroyed the temple, killed thousands of Jews, drove the rest from Israel to the four corners of the earth, and turned the city into a non-Jewish centre. Historians and archaeologists have discovered the amazing reliability of Christ’s predictions.

Having predicted the future of Jerusalem with pinpoint accuracy, Jesus proceeded to answer the second part of His disciple’s question.

Matthew 24:3 *“Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age (world)?”*

So we ask Jesus Christ - what events will signal the meltdown of our civilization to the setting up of Christ’s eternal kingdom? The signs Jesus gave some 2000 years ago read like today’s newspapers. They sound like listening to the daily TV news.

Signs in the Natural World

First of all Jesus spoke of signs in the natural world. He predicted famines.

Matthew 24:7 *And there will be famines...*

How often do we see images of starving emaciated children? Many are not aware that over 900 million people go to bed hungry every night. 24,000 people die every day from hunger. That’s one person every 3.6 seconds –

a shocking statistic. The global grain harvest has increased by an average 1.1 percent, yet global population has increased by 10%. The escalating population increase of Earth will not only lead to famine but also to insurrection and war.



Famines

Then Jesus spoke of earthquakes.

Matthew 24:7 *And there will be...earthquakes in various places.*

The recent earthquake in Christchurch New Zealand killed 181 people. Comparatively speaking this was a small one. 222,000 people died in the Haiti earthquake in 2010. The Japanese earthquake of 2011 took more than 15,000 people. The tsunamis that hit Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India took over 230,000 lives in just a few hours. In 2015 more than 9,000 lives were lost in Nepal.

Looking at the big earthquakes over 7 on the Richter scale in history, we can see a remarkable increase in more recent years. There was a big quake in the 9th century, then the next five centuries were quite peaceful. Another big quake came in the 16th century. Two followed in the 18th century and one in the 19th century. From 1900 to 1975 there were 9 major earthquakes. Then just in the three following years there were a further 9 major earthquakes. The last 10 years of the 20th century saw 42 earthquakes over 6 on the Richter scale and then in the first 10 years of

the 21st century we had 217 recorded earthquakes mostly over 7 on the Richter scale. This is an escalating increase. The death rate has also increased dramatically.

Jesus couldn't have been more correct! He also predicted tsunamis, cyclones & floods. Nations are anxious today about such terrifying events.



Luke 21:25 And there will be...on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, ***the sea and the waves roaring.***

Signs in the Political World

Matthew 24:6 And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars.

Jesus predicted international conflicts on a global scale.

Matthew 24:7 For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom.

In addressing the end-times, the book of Revelation stated it very succinctly.

Revelation 11: 18 The nations were angry . . .

In the twentieth century there were 180 million deaths from war alone? Currently there are 38 wars or conflicts going on in or between nations.

Some years ago Newsweek Magazine reported that in one decade alone there were 35-39 wars per year. 'Wars Without End' was a good title. World leaders fear the big one – nuclear conflict. Terrorism is the major fear of the world today.



Signs in the Social World

Then Jesus predicted Signs in the social world. He spoke of moral decay in society just before His return.

Matthew 24:12 *And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*

One of Christ's followers, Paul, made some mind boggling predictions about society in the end. It reads just like our evening newspapers. Notice what he predicted.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,*

having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

He clearly predicted a lawless and loveless age just before the end. Is It happening today ? We could share a litany of statistics on the moral decay in society, but let's make a comparison in schools with the 1940s compared to our world of today. Some of the top problems in schools in the 1940's were -

- Talking Out Of Turn
- Chewing Gum
- Running In The Hall

Today we don't see these as serious problems.

But notice the top problems in the 2000's.

- Drug Use
- Alcohol Abuse
- Suicide
- Rape

It doesn't seem we are on the same planet today! All this change has come about in just 60 years. We are not getting better, but worse, just as Jesus and Paul predicted. Today in Australia 1 in 6 boys, and 1 in 4 girls, are sexually abused before the age of 18. What tragedy. Genuine love is shrinking in our world today. Jesus' predictions are so amazingly accurate.

Signs in the Financial World

The Bible even predicted that greed would be the fundamental cause for an end-time global financial collapse:

***James 5: 1 – 7** Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted . . . Your gold and silver are corroded . . . **You have heaped up treasure in the last days.** Indeed the wages of the labourers . . . which you kept back by fraud, cry out . . . You*

have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury . . . You also be patient . . . for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Uncanny accuracy, for it is well known that the primary reason for our current global financial crisis is individual and corporate greed. We have seen these signs in recent times with some countries facing economic meltdown. Even USA had great difficulty recovering from their disastrous housing collapse.

Signs in the Religious World

Jesus first warned of deceptive signs and wonders that would abound toward the end:

Matthew 24:24 *For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*

The Bible has recorded many miracles but in the book of Revelation Jesus again warned of an abundance of deceptive miracles in the end time.

Revelation 16:13 *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs (miracles)...*

Here we see that even the demons can work miracles. A miracle does not guarantee something is of God. In fact Jesus made this very clear.

Matthew 7: 21 – 23 *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*

MIRACLES

Can you see what Jesus predicted here? Sadly in the end-times, even Christians by name (they call him Lord) will work miracles – casting out demons - by the power of the devils. Many are not aware that miracles, signs and supernatural events are rapidly increasing around the world today in both Christian and non-Christian religions. In Eastern religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and also in Catholicism and Evangelical Christianity. From such diverse beliefs and practices they cannot all be from God. Jesus predictive warning of religious deception in the end of time was so timely.

Jesus predicted that the last sign before His Second Coming would be

The Global Spread of the Gospel.

Matthew 24:14 *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

The secular Time Magazine ran an amazing article on the spread of Christianity noting that if Christians really believed the words of Jesus, they should believe the end is near. It then showed how rapidly Christianity is spreading globally. While there appears to be some decline in western countries the gospel message is exploding in countries like South America, Africa, The Philippines, Russia and India. People here are finding a forever hope. They are finding peace of mind, new meaning and purpose.

Many people used to scoff at this prophecy. *“How could the gospel go to atheistic communist bloc nations,” they asked?* But now many former Communist lands like China, where for years they had been taught there was no God, Christianity is expanding rapidly. Millions have found a new life and hope. Today Christianity is also steadily impacting Islam due to the availability of information technology.

Matthew 24:33 *Jesus promised, “...when you see all these things, know that it (His return) is near—at the doors!”*

The question we must personally ask ourselves is this; are we listening to the warning signs?

*Are we
listening to
the warning
signs?*



The Prophecy of Christ's Glorious Second Coming

Some years ago Philip Adams wrote an interesting article in "The Weekend in Review" entitled, "It's Apocalypse Now, But How?" In it he presented 10 scenarios from thinking people as to how the world will end.

The first was a terrorist nuclear or biological attack. The second was that super germs will wipe us all out. The third was the enlarging hole in the ozone. The fourth concerned oxygen depletion – we are all going to asphyxiate. The fifth was that asteroids would do the job. The sixth was that genetic bio-engineering would bring us to an end. The seventh suggested that religious extremists would end it all. The eighth was ethnic cleansing. The ninth was over-population and the tenth was starvation by water depletion.

If you have read the previous chapters of this book you will have discovered that Bible prophecies are reliable. They come true. With a 100% batting average we can be sure that the end of this world will occur at the time the Bible says; when Jesus Christ returns the second time.

Why Is Jesus Christ coming back? He is coming to raise His friends from death to life and to re-unite us with our friends and loved ones who were separated from us by death.



1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and **the dead in Christ will rise first**. Then we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to **meet the Lord in the air**. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

What a day that will be when Jesus we see. Imagine the reunions that will take place on that great day. We will once again unite with the loved ones cruelly separated from us by death in this life. We will also be lifted up to meet with Jesus. He will give His friends new bodies that will live for eternity.

1 Corinthians 15:51,52,54 *Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but **we will all be changed in a flash**, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, **the dead will be raised imperishable**, and we will be changed. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”*

Philippians 3:20,21 *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, **will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body**.*

Jesus is coming to take his friends to live with him in heaven. Jesus said,

John 14:1-3 *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms...I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and take you to be with me** that you also may be where I am.*

The Father’s house is in Heaven. Remember the Lord’s prayer: *“Our FATHER Who is in HEAVEN...”* Yes, Jesus is coming back! We are not forgotten! What an incredible hope! Rescued from death in this world to live forevermore. He loves His believing children. He died for them on the

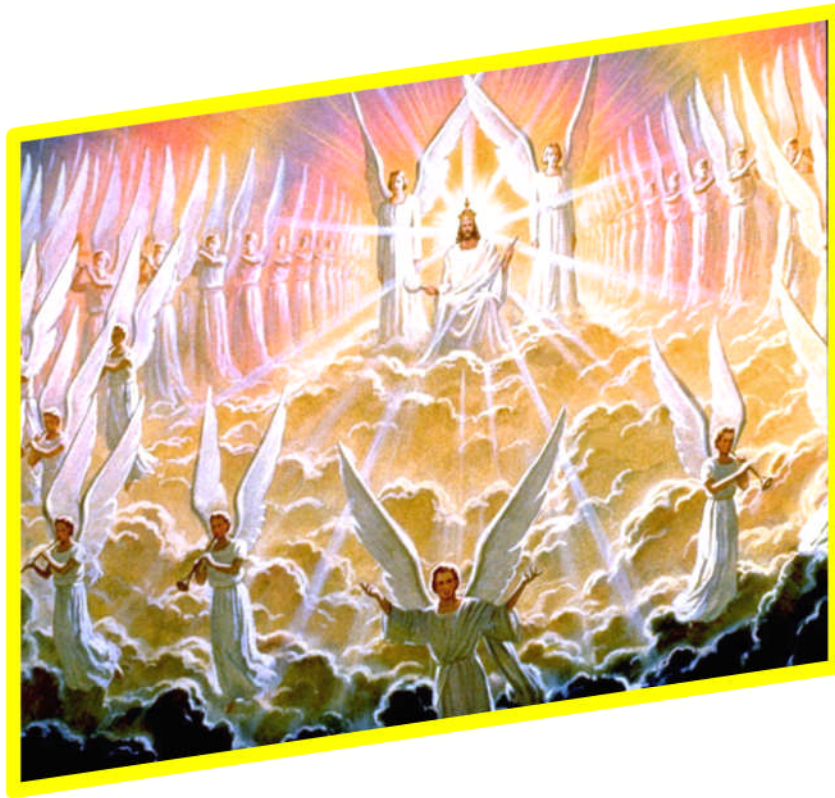
cross to take away their sins. Now He gives them everlasting life in Paradise.

But there is a sad side to the Second Coming of Jesus. Eternal life is offered only to those who believe in Him and accept Him as their personal Saviour. Those who have rejected His pleading invitation will be lost for eternity. They have chosen to cling to their sin and the ways of this wicked world. Their unwise choice will cost them the gift of eternal life. Many of these have even been harsh enemies of God's true children. The book of Revelation reveals how unbelieving people will re-act at Jesus' return.



Revelation 6:14-17 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place...every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, **"Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"**

The Return of Jesus is a great day of wrath to the unbeliever but a day of deliverance to God's friends. In Revelation 19, using the imagery of a King going into war on a horse to fight to deliver his people, Christ is pictured as a mighty warrior coming to rescue His followers.



Revelation 19:11,14,15 *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him...judges and makes war...and His name is called The Word of God...Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations...He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

There will be no place to hide on that day. It is a day of destruction for the enemies of God's friends. There are no second chances – no time to convert after Christ returns, because the enemies of God's friends are all destroyed. God tells us these things because he loves us and wants everyone to make a course correction. We must hide ourselves in Christ today while there is still time because to be ready means that the Second Coming is a blessed hope rather than a day of wrath.

Titus 2:13,14 *While we wait for the blessed hope - the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

What will happen when Jesus returns? It will be the world's most spectacular sound & light show ever seen. Lightning is dramatically visible.

Matthew 24:27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew 24:30,31 “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when **they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.** And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

This event is no secret. It is like the flashes of lightening and the blast of a trumpet. Christ’s coming is unexpected but when it occurs everybody will know.



Revelation 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and **every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him.** And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Matthew 24:42-44 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on **what day your Lord will come.** But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you

also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Jesus is coming personally, publically, plainly and powerfully. There will only be two groups on the day Jesus returns. The Saved and the lost! The most important question in life is how can I be ready for that day?

Jesus died for you personally when He died on the cross at Calvary. His blood paid the price for your sin. He is calling you to come to the cross just as you are. When you believe in Him and give your life to Him He will transform you into a new person. As one of His children you will then be ready on the great day of His Second Coming.



The Millennium Prophecy and the Final Judgment

The one thousand years Bible prophecy is bounded by two resurrections. First of all there is a resurrection of life at the beginning and secondly a resurrection of damnation or destruction at the end of this time period. Jesus Himself mentioned these two resurrections:

*John 5:28,29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth— those who have done good, to **the resurrection of life**, and those who have done evil, to the **resurrection of condemnation**.*

Beginning with the resurrection of life, we read in the book of Revelation :

*Revelation 20:5,6...This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and **shall reign with Him a thousand years**.*

This is the resurrection that takes place at the return of Jesus Christ.

*1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first**.*

This is an incredible day! Death will not have the last say for God's friends. But the good news for Christ's true hearted believers is that the same Jesus who forgave their sins and gave them a new start in life is coming to wake them up to live for ever – never to die again! Their hopes are now fulfilled. The good news is that Jesus is coming to raise His followers to life and re-unite them with their loved ones. The same Jesus who reunited Lazarus and Mary and Martha will do it for us too! But it gets even better – Christ takes them home to Heaven to be with Him. Note this verse again -

John 14:1-3 *In My Father's house are many mansions...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.*

He is coming to take us to His Father's house, which we have seen is in Heaven:

"Our Father, Who is in heaven..."

I will come again," said Jesus, which is why Christ's return is called The Blessed Hope. He is coming to take us to His Father's home so we can be with Him - the one who loved us even to the point of death.



**1000
YEARS**

But what of those taking part in the *second* resurrection? This takes place at the end of the one thousand years.

Revelation 20:5 *But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished...*

Then there is Satan, the instigator of sin and rebellion against God. What will happen to him during the millennium period?

Revelation 20:1-3 *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is **the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years**; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.*

How can a spirit being be chained by physical chains? What is a bottomless pit? The Greek word abussos is translated as Bottomless Pit. The Bible says concerning the creation of planet Earth, when first of all there was no life on it, says that it was without form and void. The Greek word abussos is used to describe this chaotic condition. It is used again in Jeremiah's description of the state of the world when Christ returns:



Jeremiah 4:23-26 *I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, And all the hills moved back and forth. I beheld, and indeed there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled. I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, **And all its cities were broken down At the presence of the LORD, By His fierce anger.***

The broken up Earth at Christ's coming is called the bottomless pit. Satan is bound, not by literal chains but by being imprisoned on a desolate earth with no humans to tempt for one thousand years. We have noted that the saved are in heaven with Christ and the wicked or unsaved have been destroyed at Jesus' coming. They will remain dead until the second resurrection takes place at the end of the millennium.

While Satan is bound by circumstances on the earth what are God's people doing in Heaven for one thousand years?

***Revelation 20:6** But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*

Revelation 20:4** And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them...And **they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

They reign in the sense of participating in judgment. This should not surprise us because Paul wrote of such a day coming. He said:

***1 Corinthians 6:2,3** Do you not know that **the saints will judge the world...**Do you not know that we shall judge angels?*

In other words there is coming a day, when God's people will take part in judging the evil angels and humans who have clung to sin. In that judgment process God will answer every question we have regarding His justice. We will be satisfied that God has been just and fair in His decisions! Never again will the Universe experience another rebellion like that of Satan!



Here is a summary of the Events during the 1000 years or millennium.

1. The Earth is desolate and devastated
2. The unsaved are dead - slain at Christ's coming
3. Satan is bound to this planet
4. The saved are in heaven judging with Christ

What then happens at the end of the 1000 years?

Revelation 20:7-9 *Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city.*

You may be wondering, “Where did the deceived nations come from? Remember what the Bible says, “there are two resurrections” – The resurrection of life at the beginning and the resurrection of damnation or destruction at the end. Notice that it says there will be a large number in this fatal resurrection. This is very sad. Jesus did say that the way to His kingdom was straight and narrow and the way to destruction was a broad way taken by the majority of earth’s inhabitants.



The next question we ask is - where did the city come from?

***Revelation 21:2** Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

When the city descends Satan attempts to take it by force. He has the numbers. Those saved in the city are far less than the unsaved outside the city. The one thousand years has not changed his evil nature. He is still rebelling against God. Those assisting Satan are also unchanged and they are prepared to fight against God. But now Christ enters the battle. He comes in His great white throne for the last phase of God's final judgment.

***Revelation 20:11,12** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it...And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And **another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.** And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.*

This is a unique moment in earth's history. All who have ever lived on the Earth will be gathered together at this time. They will either be on the inside with Christ or outside with Satan. This is the time of the great final judgment.

Romans 14:10 *"For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*

Revelation 16:7 *"...Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."*

All will see that God's judgments are just and fair and right.

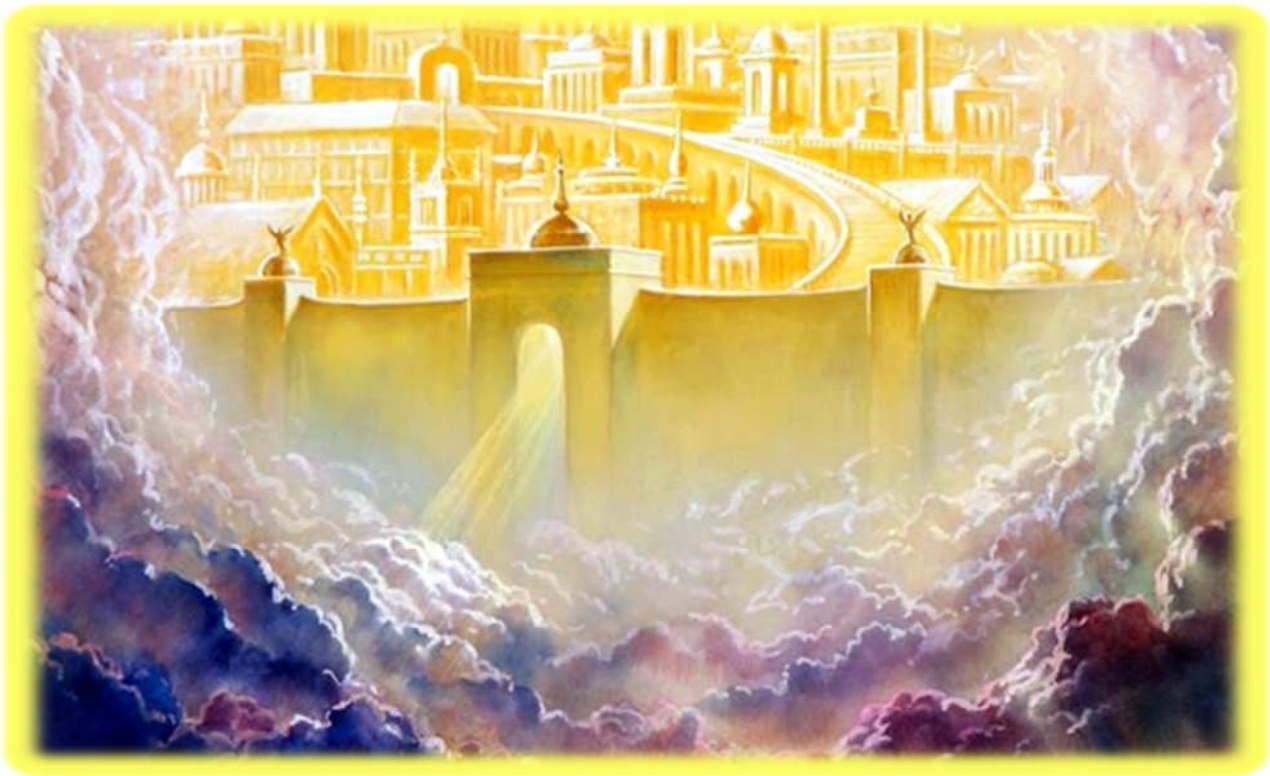
Revelation 15:4 *"...For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested (revealed)."*

This judgment process will ensure that sin will never again arise in the Universe and God's kingdom will be established forever. It will be a kingdom of Love for God is love.

Then God performs His strange act. When Jesus foresaw the destruction of Jerusalem He wept. Now God will weep again as sin and sinners are destroyed by fire. God has no pleasure in the destruction of the wicked. His great desire is that all humans would believe and live. They have had the opportunity to choose life but at this stage it is too late.

Revelation 20:9,10 *And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.*

This is the final cleansing fires of hell. All evil is reduced to ashes. The fires will go out when they have done their consuming work. Then God will make a new world out of the old one.



***Revelation 21:1** Now I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. also there was no more sea.*

The day is indeed coming when there will only be two groups. They consist of the saved on the inside of the city and the lost on the outside of the Holy City. While there is still time, today is the day to choose our eternal destiny. How can we be certain of being safe inside the great city? The secret is to cling to Jesus our Saviour and to forsake cherished sin in our life for clinging to known sin forfeits eternity

***1 Corinthians 6:9,10** Do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor*

covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

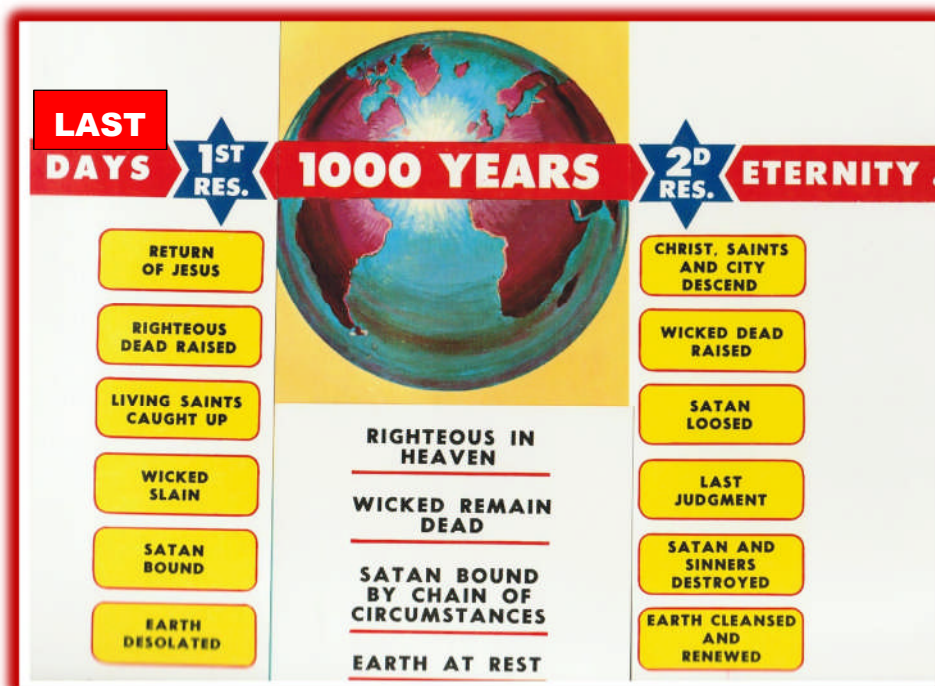
Today there is good news to those who choose to be followers of Jesus.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. **Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.**

Jesus said to a woman at Jacob's well who had been clinging to known sin:

John 4:13,14 "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

She accepted Christ's offer and turned away from the world of sin, then became a true believer in Jesus. He is your life support system. Accept Him today and determine to follow Him and His truth wherever it leads. He invites you to give Him your life and follow Him. If you choose Jesus you will be safe inside the great New Jerusalem on that incredible day.



Prophecy of the Promised Land

What is the Reality of a coming new world? Is there really a heaven and a new world? According to the Bible, this is one of the great certainties of eternal life. Notice what the Bible says about the certainty of a new world. In Hebrews 11, Paul talked about a royal line of faithful ones who looked forward to this wonderful new world.

Hebrews 11:13,14,16** These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that **they seek a homeland...that is, a heavenly country.

And notice what Moses believed.

***Hebrews 11:24-26** By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*

So sure was Moses of the marvellous future that God promised, he turned down all the wealth and pleasures of the opulent Egyptian palace. Peter certainly believed it was a real fact. There was no doubt in his mind.

***2 Peter 3:13** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

On the day of Pentecost Peter exclaimed.

***Acts 3:20,21** And that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until **the times of restoration of all things**, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

Peter boldly announced that all the prophets of the Old Testament looked forward to this day, a time when God would restore everything to what it was before this horrible nightmare began. How we need a day when all things will be restored. The world is groaning for restoration.



Jesus Christ made a pristine world for Adam and Eve but one day the devil sneaked into the garden. Speaking through a snake our first parents were deceived by this liar and murderer. Sin quickly multiplied and the world became so corrupt that God had to start again after Noah's flood. After the flood sin soon multiplied again and has been wreaking havoc ever since.

It was the forever hope of Jesus that His great sacrifice on the cross would enable many to enjoy this new eternal land. What will life be like in this new world? We are told that words are inadequate to express the beauties of God's promised land. The Bible says:

1Corinthians 2:9 Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him.

The very best in this life comes nowhere near the glories of heaven. It will be a place of eternal peace. The Bible says:

Isaiah 60:18 *Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, Neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; But you shall call your walls Salvation, And your gates Praise.*

Isaiah 11:9 *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.*

Just imagine a world with no more war. No more violent crimes like robberies, rape, or physical and sexual abuse. It will be a world of eternal health with no more sickness or hospitals. There will be no more blindness or glasses or hearing aids or wheel chairs.

Isaiah 33:24 *And the inhabitant will not say, "I am sick"*

Isaiah 35:5 *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened...*

Isaiah 35:5 *And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped*

Isaiah 35:6 *Then the lame shall leap like a deer...*

Philippians 3:20,21 *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

It will be a place of eternal life where we will all have new bodies like Christ's. Death, sorrow, crying and pain will be no more.

Revelation 21:4 *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.*



Isaiah 35:1 *And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.*

Whatever we do there we will enjoy. The Bible says:

Isaiah 65:21 *They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.*

We will do creative things in the new world. We will be able to study the marvels of outer space and probe the incredible workings of all things. In whatever we do we will be able to reach our full potential. It will be a place of eternal joy.

Isaiah 35:10 *And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And **sorrow and sighing shall flee away.***

It will be a place of fellowship and worship, especially on each Sabbath day.

Isaiah 66:23 *And it shall come to pass That from...one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the LORD.*

One could imagine the spine tingling angelic choir and the joy of meeting with the saved of all ages such as Moses, Esther or Paul and especially Jesus. Before Jesus returned to heaven He made a promise to His disciples. Let us look at this text again.

John 14:1-3 *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.*

As we have previously mentioned, the Lord's prayer clearly informs us that God lives in Heaven.

"Our Father, Who is IN HEAVEN..."

So Jesus is going to take His friends first of all to Heaven where they will live for 1000 years with Christ then after the 1000 years, Heaven will be in this world. Jesus said:

Matthew 5:5 *Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.*

So this world will become our final home and the capital will be the New Jerusalem : the Holy City.

Revelation 21:2 *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*



The New Jerusalem is a marvellous city having 12 gates made of 12 giant pearls. The streets will be made of gold and the foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones...

***Revelation 21:14** Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

***Revelation 21:19,21** And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.*

The city is valuable because we are so valuable to God! He is actually going to live with us. This world will become the centre of the universe!

***Revelation 21:3-4** And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and **He will dwell with them**, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.*

The Holy City is more beautiful than we could ever imagine - a city that shines like the sun with the appearance of glowing gold. Try to visualize the walls of jasper and the foundation of precious stones. Twelve gates made of twelve great pearls and streets paved with transparent gold. In

this life we cannot fully picture the scene. We have not yet seen the wonderful things God has prepared for those who love Him. We do know it is most glorious. We know it is worth striving for. Furthermore, the flush of youth will be on every face of those who dwell there. There will be no sickness, no death and no curse. With the surge of eternal life flowing through incorruptible bodies, the saved cry out in victory, "Death; where is your sting: Grave; where is your victory?" 1 Corinthians 15:55



What do we need to do to be there?

Revelation 21:27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but ***only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.***

1 John 5:11,12 God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life.

Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour? The moment we come to Christ by faith we are pardoned of our sins and accepted by Him as one of His precious children. He is prepared to forgive every sin we have ever committed no matter how bad it is. If we give our lives to Jesus our names

are then written in the Book of Life. We need to keep our names in that book because the Bible is clear that names can be taken out.

Revelation 22:19 *If anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city...*

Our names remain in the Book of Life as we obey God's commandments.

John 15:10 *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*

While we cannot earn the free gift of salvation by obedience it is an outward sign that we are faithful to Jesus and is a true indication that our names are written in the Book of Life. In a nut shell it means we *have* eternal life and will partake of God's new world if we trust and keep following Christ wherever He leads.

In the land beyond tomorrow the saved will forget their former trials and sufferings. They will behold the crystal river, the green fields and the waving trees. They will delight in the living fountains, the shining city and the white robed singers. It is a world of beauty that no artist here can picture or describe. This is the home of the saved, known only to those who behold it.

Christ assured His disciples that He was going to prepare mansions for them. True believers have some understanding of the heavenly home but in reality the human mind is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. Finite minds cannot comprehend the glory of Paradise. The redeemed will eat of its fruit and grow to their full height as designed in God's original plan.

Even the animals will live in perfect union with each other for there will be no death or hurting in this perfect place. The saved of all ages will be there including the many martyrs who died bravely for the true faith. We can all

be there if we so choose. It is through Jesus alone that we can enter this wonderful land. To love Him now will secure an eternity of bliss. We will experience joy throughout the ceaseless ages.

There will be no tree of knowledge of good and evil there. There will be no tempter or temptation. There will be no possibility of doing wrong and none will ever be susceptible to the power of evil. In the home of the redeemed there will be no funerals, no tears, no sickness and no sin. Happiness will roll on for all eternity. We will rejoice in being the sons and daughters of God.

There will be no night in the Holy City. We shall ever feel the freshness of the morning. We will possess boundless energy at all times. The light of the Holy City will be ever glowing with a pleasant dazzling brightness. No voices of contention mar that holy place. Sorrow grief and argument will be no more but sympathy and love will reign in every heart

The Lord will lead His people to fountains of living waters and we will partake of the Tree of Life. God's children are home at last for this is their true home. This is where they truly belong.

*Isaiah 60:21 Also your people shall all be righteous;
They shall inherit the land forever,
The branch of My planting,
The work of My hands,
That I may be glorified.*



All mysteries will be revealed. In the new earth we will have pure communion with holy beings and enjoy a harmonious social life with the angels and the faithful. The family in the new earth will be one of the greatest experiences to enjoy forevermore. There will be music and song there such as no mortal ear or mind has ever conceived.

***Isaiah 24:14** They shall lift up their voice, **they shall sing;**
For the majesty of the Lord*

***Isaiah 51:3** For the Lord will comfort Zion,
He will comfort all her waste places;
He will make her wilderness like Eden,
And her desert like the garden of the Lord;
Joy and gladness will be found in it,
Thanksgiving and the voice of melody.*

Life on earth is but the beginning of life in heaven. Our time on earth is the beginning of our life in eternity. Working with God in this world prepares us for the wider privilege of working with Him in the world to come. In God's eternal land one rich tide of happiness will flow and deepen as eternity rolls on. Yes we are homeward bound. He who loves us has prepared for us a city. The New Jerusalem will be our place of rest. It will not be long before we see Him in whom our hope of eternal life is centred.

*Hebrews 10:37 "For yet a little while,
And He^[a] who is coming will come and will not tarry.*

***James 5:7-8** Therefore **be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.**
See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting
patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸ You also be
patient. Establish your hearts, for **the coming of the Lord is at hand.***

A little longer and we shall see the King in His beauty. A little longer and He will wipe all tears from our eyes. A little longer and He will present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. It will only be

a little while before Jesus comes to save His children. Soon He will bestow on us the finishing touches of immortality. When this mortal will put on immortality. When this corruptible body puts on incorruption. When the graves are opened and the dead come forth proclaiming, death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory?

The redeemed will then ascend to heaven and the gates of the city will open wide and all who have kept the truth will enter in. The lovely voice of Jesus extends His invitation.

Come you blessed of my Father – inherit the kingdom

Yes, we are homeward bound. Let us each one be certain of our destination. What do we need to do to be there?

***Revelation 21:27** But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.*

***1 John 5:11,12** God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life.*

Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour? The moment we come to Christ by faith we are pardoned of our sins and accepted by Him as one of His precious children. He is prepared to forgive every sin we have ever committed no matter how bad it is. If we give our lives to Jesus our names are then written in the Book of Life. We need to keep our names in that book and remain faithful.

Yes we cannot earn the free gift of salvation by obedience but it is an outward sign that we are faithful to Jesus and it is a true indication that our names are written in the Book of Life. In a nut shell it means we have eternal life and will partake of God's new world if we trust Him and keep following Christ wherever He leads.

What does the fulfilment of all these prophecies mean?

In this book we began with the prophecy of Daniel chapter 2 where the rise and fall of nations was predicted in exceptional detail with the fulfilment coming true. No human could have made this accurate prediction. We also looked at some ancient prophecies and saw how they also came true. Then we saw how the prophecies of Jesus Christ the Messiah were also fulfilled in detail even though the predictions were written hundreds of years earlier. The time prophecy of Daniel chapter 9 came true to the very year, even predicting exact dates. Then we looked at end-time predictions from the Bible. We can see them unfolding before our very eyes today. Finally we looked at future prophecies such as the Second Coming of Christ, the Millennium and the promise of Heaven and the New Earth which will be the reward of all those who believe and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of humankind. The logical conclusion is that if all these past prophecies have been so accurate we can be certain that these future predictions will also come true.

An Appeal

The important question is: what will you personally do with this information? My friend, give your allegiance to the Son of God; Jesus Christ. He loves you and desperately wants to save your soul for all eternity. Remember these words from Jesus Himself.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

The purpose of His first coming was to die on the cross as a sacrifice for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Through His shed blood you can receive forgiveness for all your sins, but only if you choose to give your life to Him. If you do He will give you a purposeful life here and now and a glorious hope of an eternal future.

The story is told of a boy badly injured in a car accident where medical assistance was limited. He had lost a lot of blood and none was available for him in this remote area. A test showed that his father's blood was compatible and blood was transferred directly from father to son. As the father looked at his dear son lying there he said to the doctor "Take all my blood doctor if it is necessary". Of course it wasn't all required but the father loved his son so much he was prepared to give his all.

When Jesus died on the cross at Calvary He gave His all for you and for me. He gave His life and His blood in order that your sins could be forgiven and that you could have everlasting life. He died in your place. He didn't have to but He chose to suffer in order that you might live in His eternal land forever and ever. He did all this because He loves you. All He wants is your love and allegiance in return.

Will you accept Jesus into your heart today? _____



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