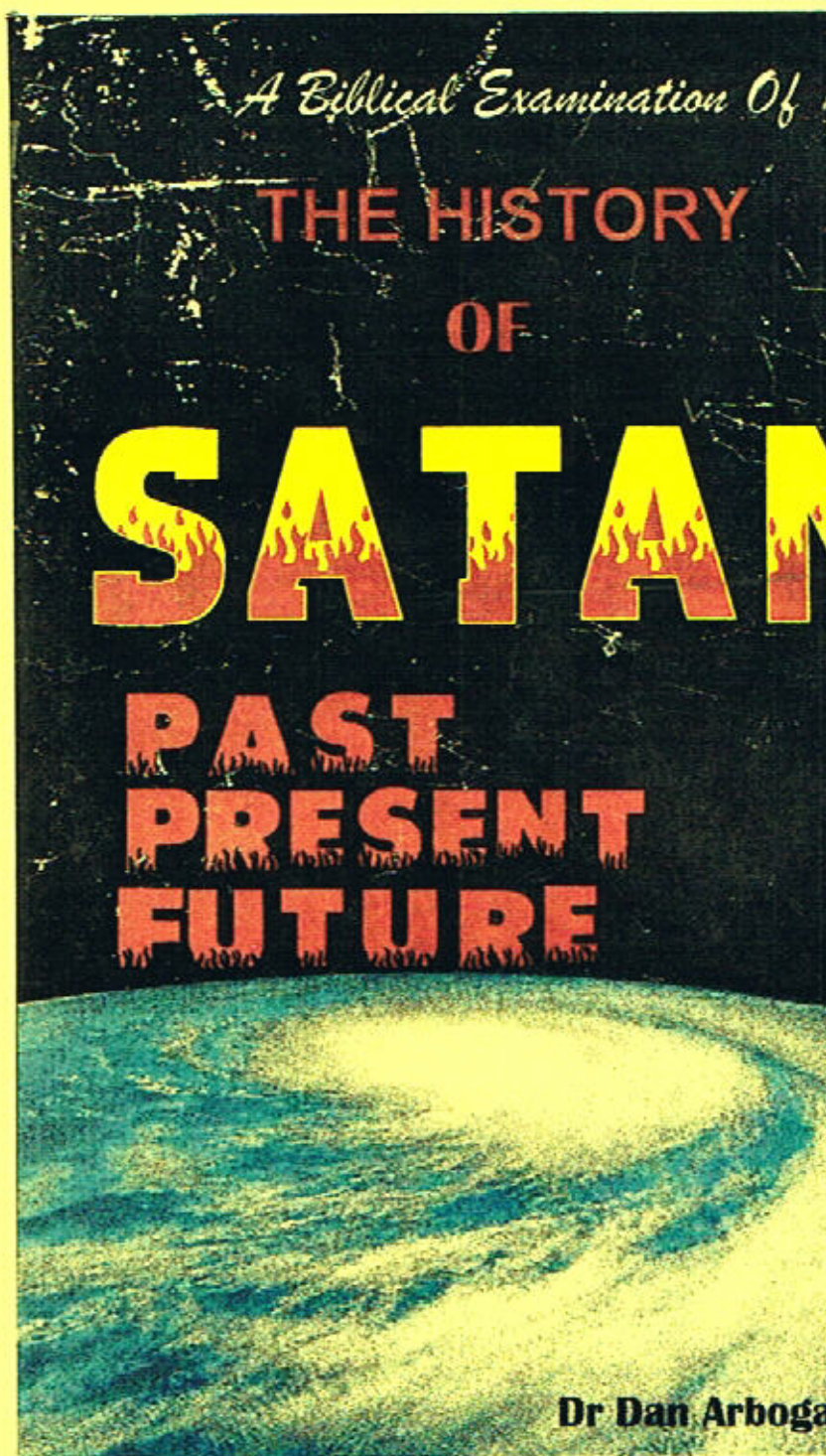


MINI DOCTRINE SERIES FROM



THE DOCTRINE OF SATAN
A STUDY OF REVELATION CHAPTER TWELVE

Christ.

At the end of the book are a series of what is known as prophecy charts. Throughout the commentary we will make reference to various charts in hope that it will enable the reader to better understand Scripture.

We will begin with the basic outline or foundation of the book of Revelation. This is by no means a commentary on the entire book. Yet, it is imperative for the reader to have a knowledge of the book of Revelation to some degree.

Everything needs a foundation on which to stand, and chapter twelve of Revelation is founded on the entire book.

As a matter fact, Satan is part of the reason for Revelation and the coming antichrist, who is also the beast of Revelation thirteen.

CONTENTS

Supplement - Bible Terminology

Pages 1- 25

Commentary on Revelation chapter twelve

Pages 26 - 27

Summary and conclusion

Prophecy chart supplement

BIBLE TERMINOLOGY

some of which are used in this study

Angel - From a word meaning messenger. A created being. There are two kinds of angels. Those who followed satan and are now called demons, or devils. Those who remained faithful to God.

Antichrist - A man who will arrive on scene after the rapture and will take control of world affairs during the seven year tribulation. Also anyone who rejects Christ and is against Christ. (1 John 2:18-22 4:2,3)

Armageddon - A battle that takes place at the end of the tribulation. The kings of the earth will gather together against Christ and his army. (Revelation 16:12-16 19:11-19)

Believer - One who has accepted Christ as their Savior.

Church - Takes in all believers. The church is not a denomination. Anyone who trusts Christ as Savior is part of the church. It is called the body of Christ, and the bride of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:14 Ephesians 5:30-33 Revelation 21:2 22:17)

Cross - Represents the place where Christ gave himself for the sins of man. It was a Roman punishment. The Cross still is symbolic today and an important doctrine to the christian. (1 Corinthians 1:17,18)

Dispensation - A period of time in which God deals with man. We are living in the sixth dispensation which is the dispensation of grace. (Ephesians 3:2)

Doctrine - From a Greek word meaning to teach, or a teaching. The Bible is the word of God and sound doctrine. (Titus 1:9,13 2:1,8)

Gospel - Good news. The gospel is the teaching of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Whosoever believes that Christ died for their sin will be saved. (1 Corinthians 15:1-5)

Grace - God giving to man something he does not deserve. Salvation from sin.

Kingdom - The promise to Israel of a king and a kingdom. Jesus offered the kingdom but he was rejected. The kingdom will be inherited by Israel for 1000 years following the tribulation.

Millenium - Another term for the kingdom. It comes from a word meaning 1000.

THREE VIEWS CONCERNING THE KINGDOM

A. Amillennialism. The belief that there is no literal 1000 year reign of Christ. They believe Christ is now reigning in his kingdom.

B. Postmillennialism. The belief that the world will become increasingly better until the kingdom is ushered in by perfection. Christ's second advent will occur after the millennium.

C. Premillennialism. The belief that Christ will return before the kingdom is established. He will establish the kingdom personally.

A. Pre-trib - The church will be taken before the tribulation.

B. Mid-trib - The belief that the church will be taken in the middle of the seven years. Some believe part of the church will be taken at the beginning of the tribulation, and those who were not living the christian life will be forced to go through the first half.

C. Post-trib - The belief that the church will go through the entire tribulation.

Resurrection - The biblical teaching that everyone will be resurrected. Some into eternal life and others into eternal damnation. In neither resurrection is cessation of existence taught.

Revelation - Means an unveiling.

Tribulation - A period of time set aside by Christ for the antichrist to rule the earth for seven years. It will be a cleansing. It is called the "wrath of God," and "Jacobs trouble," among other terms.

Trinity - The biblical teaching that God is a trinity. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19) Man is a trinity (1 Thessalonians 5:23) Satan will also assume a trinity. (Revelation 13)

THE BASIC OUTLINE OF REVELATION

The book of Revelation is the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, given to the apostle John, (Ref. Revelation 1:1) while John was exiled to the Isle of Patmos because of his testimony for Christ. (Ref. Revelation 1:9-11)

Chapter one shows the glorified Christ in heaven. He is glorified because he went to the Cross and is alive forevermore. (Ref. Revelation 1:11-18)

In chapters two and three we have Christ's warning to the seven churches. These churches represent seven literal churches at the time. They also represent seven types of church doctrine, and seven periods of church history up to the present.

The warning to the churches has to do with their message. False doctrine promotes a false message.

The last warning is to the church of Laodicea. Personally, this writer believes we are living in the age of the Laodicean church. We must remember that the seven churches were not what we would consider cults. They were New Testament churches.

The Laodicean church will be the one on earth at the time of the rapture. It is the latter day New Testament church of Christ. It is the church with the watered down message of grace and works.

I believe we are living in the lukewarm message of Laodicea. The gospel of Christ has been watered down with things like; Walking an aisle for salvation .. Asking Jesus into your heart .. Make Jesus the Lord of your life .. Turn from sin .. Say the sinners prayer .. and etc.

This is false doctrine promoted by well meaning men over the years, yet it is still false doctrine.

NOTE: It is hard for this preacher to imagine how anyone gets saved at all in the times we are living. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ is something we do with the thought process, not something we do with the feet or the hands. As soon as we " do " something it becomes works and no more grace. We do not walk, say, turn, make, or ask anything, we simply believe, by faith.

Chapters two and three are a picture of the present day dispensation of the church age which will end at the rapture.

Chapters four and five gives us a glimpse of the scene in heaven just after the church is raptured. This present dispensation of the church age will end at the rapture and the church will be with the Lord Jesus Christ just before the seven year tribulation begins.

We know the church is in heaven because they have received the crowns promised by the Lord. (Ref. Revelation 2:10 3:11 2 Timothy 4:8 James 1:12 with Revelation 4:4,10)

THE BASIC OUTLINE OF REVELATION cont.

We also know the church is in heaven because those who are there are called priests, and they will reign with Christ. This a distinction given to the church. (Ref. 1 Peter 2:7 Revelation 1:6 2:26,27 with Revelation 5:9,10)

When we trust Christ alone for our salvation, we are washed from our sins in his blood and we become priests who will reign with Christ. (Ref. Revelation 1:5,6 12:11)

We are sinful by nature, and do not deserve to reign with Christ, yet, he promises us that is what is going to happen.

Chapter six shows the beginning of the seven year tribulation. Chapter six through chapter twenty two verse five, along with chapters four and five are yet future.

The church and the Holy Spirit are removed and the seven year tribulation begins. In Revelation 6:1 through 6:16 the first six seals are opened during the first half of the seven years. (3 1/2)

In Revelation 6:17 we see it is time for the last half of the seven years to begin. At this time, in the middle of the tribulation, the antichrist, who is also the first beast of Revelation thirteen, sits on the throne in Israel.

NOTE: For a basic outline of the dispensations in God's timetable see prophecy chart number one

We will cover this event in more detail later. However, just to lay the foundation, we will mention that in the middle of the seven year tribulation the antichrist will be physically indwelt by satan, and he is called the beast. (Revelation 13:1-18)

This is called the abomination of desolation by the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 24:15 and is the beginning of the last 3 1/2 years of the tribulation. (Matthew 24:21)

It is a fulfillment of Daniel 9:27 and Daniel 11:31 and mentioned by Paul the apostle in 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4.

Finally, when the seventh seal is opened in Revelation 8:1-6, which is made up of seven trumpets, we see the last half of the seven years ready to commence.

This is the very basic outline of the book of Revelation. Throughout the book of Revelation however, beginning with Revelation chapter seven, we have what is known as a series of parenthesis.

Parenthesis (From The Oxford Universal Dictionary) An explanatory or qualifying word, clause, or sentence, inserted into a passage with which it has not necessarily any grammatical connection.... An interval.... An interlude..

So a parenthesis is an explanatory word or clause which may not seem to have any grammatical connection. In other words, a parenthesis may not seem to fit into the context, yet it may be needed as an explanation or qualifying word.

In order for the Bible student to understand the book of Revelation, he, or she, must be aware of the parenthetic divisions in Revelation.

PARENTHETIC INSERTS IN REVELATION

Revelation 7:1-11 A parenthetic view of the 144,000 Jews who will be saved during the tribulation. They will witness for Christ and many will be saved.

Revelation 7:9-17 Shows a multitude in heaven who are saved and martyred during the last half of the tribulation.

Revelation chapters eight and nine are not parenthetic. In these two chapters the Lord resumes the line of prophecy and reveals the seventh seal, which is made up of the seven trumpet judgements. When the seventh seal is opened, the last half of the seven year tribulation begins.

In chapters eight and nine the first six of the seven trumpets are sounded, which brings six plaques upon all humanity during the last half of the tribulation. The last trumpet remains to be sounded.

Revelation 10:1 through 11:15 is another parenthetic passage of Scripture. We must remember, a parenthesis is, *an explanatory or qualifying word or clause or sentence inserted into a passage....*

All of these parenthesis are explanatory or qualifying inserts. Instead of making Revelation difficult to understand, these inserts make Revelation easy to understand if we know where they appear and why.

Revelation 10:1-7 We see a mighty angel and seven thunders. These seven thunders are the only thing God has not revealed to us. Whatever they are, they must be devastating. We are also told that when the seventh angel sounds, all prophecy will be revealed.

Revelation 10:8-11 We see the apostle John and bitter sweet Word of God.

Revelation 11:1,2 We have the parenthetic view of the building of the temple in Jerusalem.

NOTE: The temple must be built during the first three and one half years to enable the antichrist, who is the beast, to sit on the throne in the temple in the middle of the seven years.

Revelation 11:3-14 is a parenthetic view of the two witnesses who will be martyred by the beast when he takes his place on the throne.

Revelation 11:15-19 The seventh angel sounds and the last half of the seven years begins.

Revelation 12:1-17 To be examined in detail later.

Revelation 13:1-18 Shows the beast who comes out of humanity. He rises to extreme power and institutes the mark of the beast.

NOTE: For a good idea of the plagues as they occur during the tribulation, see prophecy chart number two.

Revelation chapter fourteen is another parenthetic view. Revelation 14:1-5 is another picture of the 144,000 that we saw in Revelation 7:1-8. In 14:6,7 is an angel with the everlasting gospel to preach. Verse 8 shows the future doom of Babylon, which is false religion.

14:9-12 reveals the future doom of those who reject the gospel and worship the beast. 14:13 reveals the joy of those who believe the gospel.

NOTE: Notice if you will, we have the gospel preached in verses 6 and 7. We have false religion and the doom of those who reject the gospel in verses 8 through 11. Then we see the joy of those who believe the gospel in verses 12 and 13.

Revelation chapter fourteen ends with a parenthetic view of the coming battle of Armageddon.

Revelation chapter fifteen shows a scene in heaven with the seven angels who have the seven last plagues. These seven last plagues are what is made up the seventh trumpet.

Finally, chapter sixteen through the rest of Revelation, God resumes the prophecy of the tribulation of mankind. This will conclude the last half of the tribulation. During the last three and one half years, Babylon, who is false religion, is destroyed, the battle of Armageddon takes place, and so forth.

REVELATION CHAPTER TWELVE

Right in the middle of all this excitement and activity is a historical account of the conflict between satan and Israel. Israel is a very special people to the Lord. (ref. Isaiah 5:1-7 Deuteronomy 32:9,10)

God calls Israel the apple of his eye, and his vineyard. The word Israel is used some 3,000 times in the Old Testament alone, and that doesn't count the term Jerusalem and Jacob, which are synonymous with Israel. (also ref. Jeremiah 13:11)

Long before Israel became a nation however, satan was created. Therefore, this commentary on Revelation chapter twelve. We hope the reader prayerfully will consider the things written herein.

Once again we must repeat ourselves. Chapter twelve is a parenthesis in Revelation. A parenthesis is .. *a qualifying or explanatory clause inserted into a passage which does not necessarily fit into the context...*

Revelation chapter twelve is a qualifying or explanatory clause inserted into the book of Revelation. Why?? Why does God insert this parenthesis into Revelation? Because it explains why the seven year tribulation will take place. The conflict between satan and Israel will be complete.

In the Old Testament we see that Israel was a failure in their service to their God. The reason is because of the influence of satan. Therefore, God will conclude their unfortunate relationship with seven years of severe wrath and devastation.

Revelation 12:1,2 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven ---- a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. And she, being with child, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

In these first two verses of chapter twelve, the Lord lays the foundation for the rest of the chapter. The woman is Israel, and the child is the Lord Jesus Christ. She is pained to deliver because satan has been trying to destroy the Christ Child long before he was even born.

The crown of twelve stars represents the twelve tribes of Israel. Concerning God and his relationship with Israel, God says...

Isaiah 62:2,3 And the heathen shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory; and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name. Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

God considers Israel a royal nation. Therefore, the twelve tribes are twelve crowns of glory. Someday God will rule the earth from his throne in Jerusalem for one thousand years. When he does, the world will see the glory of Israel.

NOTE: Many believe the crowns represent the twelve apostles. We know the twelve apostles will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28). However, we believe the crown of twelve stars represent the twelve tribes.

Satan had his beginning long before he was introduced to Adam and Eve and the nation of Israel.

Revelation 12:3,4 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and, behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven and did cast them to the earth; and the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to be delivered, to devour her child as soon as it was born.

After God lays the foundation in verses one and two John sees a great battle in heaven. The dragon, who is satan, (ref. Revelation 12:9) is cast out of heaven unto the earth. He draws one third of the stars with him. These stars are without a doubt the fallen angels who followed satan. (ref. Revelation 12:7-9)

In the Old Testament they are referred to as the sons of God. In the New Testament they are called devils and demons.

Satan was created by the Lord Jesus Christ. All things were created by Christ. (ref. John 1:1-3, 10 Colossians 1:15,16 Hebrews 1:2 Revelation 4:11)

Satan is a created being. He and his angels were in heaven with God. When Christ created satan and the angels he created all things.

Revelation 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

understand Revelation 12:1-5 and the past history of satan.

Considering the difference between God and satan will make it much easier to understand Revelation 12:1-5 and the past history of satan.

Satan, on the other hand, has no power to sustain life. He is not God, he only wants to be. He is called, *darkness*, which means shadow, dimness, and obscure. Satan is the opposite of God in every way. (ref. Ephesians 5:8, 11 6:12 1 Peter 2:9)

Part of the answer lies in the fact that Jesus Christ is *light*, which means to illuminate, manifest, make seen, and rays of light. Because God is who he is, he upholds all life by his own power. (ref. Acts 17:22-30)

place?

This is all history. The question should be, if it is history, when did these events take place?

As we have already seen in Revelation 12:3,4, the dragon, who is satan, drew a third part of the stars of heaven and they were cast to the earth. We also see he was ready to devour the child as soon as it was born.

We will take a closer look at this dispensation later.

Paul calls it the, "dispensation of the grace of God." (Ephesians 3:2) We will take a closer look at this dispensation later.

Revelation 12:1-5 are history. They have already been fulfilled. Revelation 12:6-17 are future. We are living in the interval between verses 5 and 6. It is called the church age, or the age of grace.

SATAN'S BEGINNING

We have taken the opportunity to point out the fact that Christ created all things for two reasons.

The first is to show that Christ was God and that he created all things, even satan. The second is to show that the child satan wanted to destroy in Revelation 12:4 was Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ left his heavenly home, came down to man, took on flesh and blood, and all to die on a cross for the sins of mankind. Yet, satan wanted to devour him.

John 1:1-5 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 anything made that was made.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Genesis 1:1,2 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

We have already quoted verse one. It is very simple, and explains itself. In the beginning, the Word, Jesus Christ, created.

Verse two needs a little more explanation. The first half of verse two says, "the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep."

There are three Hebrew words in the first half of Genesis 1:2 that we need to identify and recognize the meaning. They are .. form .. void .. and darkness.

FORM = Hebrew (*tohuw sounds like too-hoo*) to lie waste, desolation, a worthless thing.

VOID = Hebrew (*bohuw sounds like boo-hoo*) empty, an undistinguishable ruin.

DARKNESS = Hebrew (*choshek sounds like kho-shek*) the dark, darkness, misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, and wickedness.

Since the meaning of all these words are contrary to the very nature of God, there must be some meaning to the first half of verse two. We believe there is.

Isaiah 45:18 For thus saith the LORD who created the heavens, God himself who formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD, and there is none else.

Once again, we are told that God himself formed the heavens and the earth. We are also told that God formed the earth to be inhabited. God also said, "he hath established it, he created it not in vain."

The word vain found in this verse is the same word translated as form in Genesis 1:2.

VAIN = Hebrew (*tohuw*) to lie waste, desolation, a worthless thing.

God said in Isaiah 45:18 that he created the earth to be inhabited. He did not create the earth in vain. (*tohuw*)

Therefore, we conclude, God did not create his original creation in vain, empty, waste, desolate, or in ignorance, sorrow, or wickedness.

The word for "was," in verse two could be translated as became. "And the earth became without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep."

The earth and the earth's atmosphere became waste and empty. It became without form and void.

There is no darkness with God. Yet, the earth became darkness.

The Bible always answers the Bible, and the Bible answers this question. The earth became dark and void because of satan.

NOTE: If Christ saw satan fall from heaven before he was born, he must have been in heaven. Therefore Christ must be God manifest in the flesh!

In Revelation 12:1,2 we have the foundation for the rest of the chapter. Then in verses 3 and 4 we see that satan, who is the dragon, drew a third part of the stars, who are fallen angels, and they were cast to the earth. We also see that the dragon was ready to devour the child, who is Christ, as soon as he was born. Therefore, satan fell from heaven long before Christ was born, because he was "ready to devour her child as soon as it was born."

Before we quote the account of the fall of satan, we need to review what we have already learned.

Please pay close attention to that. In that one verse in Isaiah we have the past, present, and future of satan. Remember, satan has already fallen from heaven, that is past. He is in the process of weakening the nations, that is his present. Someday he will literally be cut down to the ground, that is yet future.

There are three things that happen in this one verse in Isaiah. First of all we see the fall of Lucifer, who is satan, from heaven. Then we see that he weakens the nations, and he is eventually cut down to the ground.

In Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:12-19 is the prophecy concerning the fall of satan. We will quote those verses in their entirety later. However, we need to look at this verse a little closer.

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, who didst weaken the nations!

The question every Bible student should be asking themselves is, when did satan fall from heaven?

There were three points to consider in these verses. The first being that satan and his demons had fallen from heaven and were real. The second being that they were subject to the Lord Jesus Christ. And the third is that we should rejoice in our salvation, because our power and victory over satan is only through Christ.

The Lord reminded them that Satan had fallen from heaven. In other words, if the demons were real, let us not forget that satan is real, and the leader of the demons. When they returned, they were overjoyed because the demons were subject to their commands through the name of Christ.

We have also seen that in the beginning Christ created all things perfect. He created the earth perfect and to be inhabited. However, the earth became dark and void. Christ also created Lucifer and the host of angels in heaven.

Ezekial 28:11-19 Moreover, the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyre, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God: Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

Thou hast been in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and the gold; the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes

was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth, and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

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

By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned; therefore, I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God, and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub; from the midst of the stones of fire.

Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty: thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness; I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, That they may behold thee.

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee; it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee; thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

It should be easy to see from this portion of Scripture that the king of Tyre is a description of satan. He was the anointed cherub. He was in the holy mountain of God. He was perfect until he sinned against God. His sin was founded on pride.

Isaiah 14:12-16 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, who didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north, I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man who made the earth to tremble, who did shake kingdoms,

The word satan, in the Hebrew and Greek, means adversary, enemy, opponent, and accuser. Originally, before his fall from heaven, he was called Lucifer, which means brightness. However, we are told that now there is no light in him and he is darkness. He wanted to be God. Rise above the heights of God. Ascend the throne of God.

God said, "how art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer..."

God gave Lucifer a free will. The right to think for himself. Because of his faulty thinking, he became satan, and the king of the kingdom of darkness.

NOTE: See prophecy chart number three for the account of the creation, the fall of satan, and the re-creation. Also the throne of God and the three heavens.

When satan rebelled against God and was cast out of the presence of God, the earth became dark and void. Evidently, so did outer space and the rest of the original creation. The creation and the re-creation did not include the dwelling place of God. Since God is eternal, so must his dwelling place be eternal. In Genesis 1:6-19 we are given the account of the creation, or the bringing back into existence, of the firmament and the heavens.

When God created Adam and Eve and all living things, he was creating the life he designed the earth for. God did not re-create from nothing. God was bringing the earth and the stars and the heavens back into the original plan. As we have already stated, the word *made*, in Genesis 1:16 has many wide applications. Many of those applications are .. *accomplish, fashion, fulfill, and bring back into existence that which already existed.*

RE-CREATION

In Genesis 1:3 through 2:25 we are given the account of the re-creation, including the creation of man and woman. In Genesis 1:16 the word "made" comes from a Hebrew word meaning to "bring back into existence." God brought his original creation back into existence.

Satan and his angels were cast out of the presence of God and the earth became dark and void. Another insurmountable period of time elapses and God recreates. There is no way man may know how much time elapses because we are not told.

Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Genesis 1:2b And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Sometime after the original creation, the earth became dark and void. Satan and his angels were cast out of the presence of God. When they were, God withheld his light and the earth became dark and void.

Between verse one and verse two is a period of unknown time. In the beginning God created all things perfect, including the angels. (ref. Job 38:1-12 Psalm 115:15,16 147:4 148:1-6 Isaiah 40:12,13,21,22,26,28 45:18 48:13)

Genesis 1:2a And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Lucifer failed and was cast out of heaven. As satan he is busy today in an attempt to destroy humanity. In reality he is doing a pretty good job.

Part of the prophecy concerning satan is history and part is future. In Isaiah 14:12-16 we have the "I will's" of satan, and in Ezekial 28:11-23 we have the "I will's" of God.

THE THIRD HEAVEN

Satan was cast out of the presence of God. Yet, we know he has the ability to roam about space as he will. He is called the prince of the power of the air. (Ephesians 2:2) He roams about seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

Paul the apostle wrote ...

11 Corinthians 12:1,2 It is not expedient for me, doubtless, to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth) - such an one caught up to the third heaven.

Then Paul states that in the third heaven was paradise. (vs. 4) Even though God is not contained to any one place, and all things are his, the third heaven is the dwelling place of God. It is where paradise is.

Therefore, according to the word of God, there are three heavens. Satan resides in a dimension we cannot comprehend. It is a spiratual realm. The third heaven is a dimension mankind cannot see or understand, yet it exists.

Throughout the Bible we are told God is in heaven, or in the heavens. Jesus Christ said in Matthew 6:9 *"After this manner, therefore, pray ye: Our Father, who art in heaven.."*

Satan was created perfect. He was in the third heaven until iniquity was found in him. He and one third of the angels were cast out of the presence of God, the third heaven.

When they were, the earth became dark and void. We are not told how much time elapsed from the original creation until the fall of Satan.

At some point in time God re-created. He took what he had already created and fashioned it into mans dwelling place. Once again, we are not told how much time elapsed from the fall of Satan until God re-created.

In Genesis 1:2 we see *"And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."*

This is the beginning of the account of the re-creation. In Genesis chapter one we are also given the account of the creation of the first two heavens. The first two heavens is where Satan and his angels are allowed to roam. The first two heavens are the earths atmosphere and outer space. We will quote the account given in Genesis.

THE FIRST HEAVEN

In Genesis 1:6-10 we are given the account of the creation of the first heaven. It includes the earth and the atmosphere that surrounds the earth. In verses six and seven God calls it "firmament." The word firmament means an expanse. Then in verse eight we are told that, "God called the firmament heaven."

Genesis 1:9,10 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.
And God called the dry land earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he seas: and God saw that it was good.

The first heaven includes the earth and the expanse, (firmament) around the earth. The earths atmosphere.

THE SECOND HEAVEN

In Genesis 1:14-18 we are given the account of the creation of the second heaven. This includes the stars, sun, and the moon. In verse fourteen God said, "Let there lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night." In verse fifteen we are told they would be for light unto the earth.

Genesis 1:16-18 And God made two great lights; The greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.
And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,
And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness:
and God saw that it was good.

We make a point of the three heavens for a very good reason. The reason is: Satan and his angels are allowed to wander about the first and second heavens at will. They are not allowed in the third heaven.
Someday, they will be cast to the earth.

However, before that event takes place, sometime in the future, there is a lot of prophecy in Revelation chapter twelve that has and will be fulfilled.
Remember, in Revelation 12:1,2 we have the foundation of the chapter. It shows the conflict between Christ, Satan, and Israel.
Then in Revelation 12:3,4 we see the dragon, who is Satan, and his angels being cast to the earth, or out of heaven. We also see that he is standing before the woman ready to devour her child as soon as it is born.

We must remember however, there was no woman until God created Adam and Eve. Eve was called the mother of all living, and especially Israel, his chosen nation.
The first account we have written concerning the warfare between the woman and Satan is given in Genesis 3:15.

After the old serpent, Satan, deceived Eve in the garden, God pronounced a curse that has not yet been completely fulfilled.

WARFARE

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The word enmity means warfare. The seed of the serpent is all those who reject salvation by faith in Christ as Savior. The seed of the woman is the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan bruised Christ when he nailed him to the Cross. Satan has been trying to bruise the seed of the woman from the beginning. He had Cain kill Abel. He thought he had won the battle. However, neither of them was the Messiah. Christ was the Messiah. Once again Satan thought he had won the battle. Yet, Christ rose from the grave and defeated the old serpent. Satan has already been defeated. His final defeat will be in the future. (ref. Romans 16:20)

Revelation 12:4b ... and the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to be delivered, to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Satan uses anyone who can fulfill his desire to destroy Christ. Even before he had Christ nailed to the Cross he tried to destroy the Messiah, the seed of the woman.

In Matthew chapter two we have the account of the proclamation of Herod. In an attempt to kill Christ, he had all the children of Israel, two years old and under, put to death. This attempt of Satan was a failure. It was not a failure for God however. Both events were a fulfillment of prophecy, and God will not be denied or defeated.

THE CHILD IS BORN

Revelation 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Between verse four and verse five is a period of some 4000 years. Satan stood before the woman to devour the Christ child from the very beginning. From Adam and Eve to the birth of Christ is 4000 years. The birth of Christ is a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. (ref. Isaiah 7:14 9:6 and many more; along with 1 Timothy 1:15 3:16 and many more New Testament references.)

Jesus Christ was born to die on the Cross of Calvary. It is a fulfillment of Genesis 3:15. Satan bruised his heel, yet, it was supposed to be so.

Revelation 12:5 covers a period of roughly 33 years. Christ was thirty three years old when he died on the Cross.

However, since Christ was God in the flesh death could not hold him. He was buried, and rose again the third day. After being visible to many for a period of time he ascended into heaven and to his throne. He is on his throne today. When he left this earth he sent the Holy Spirit who indwells all believers. (ref. Acts chapters 1 and 2)

Jesus Christ shed his blood on the Cross for the forgiveness of sin. It is the blood that covers the sin of all those who have faith in him. (ref. 1 Peter 1:18,19 Revelation 1:5 12:11 Hebrews 9:11,12,22,26 10:12,14,19)

A BRIEF SUMMARY

In Revelation 12:1,2 we see the foundation for the rest of the chapter. It shows the woman, who is Israel, and the Child, who is Christ. It shows the conflict between Satan and the woman, and the child.
She was pained to be delivered because the old serpent was always there trying to "devour" the child.

In verses three and four we are shown how Satan drew a third part of the stars (angels) from heaven when he sinned and was cast out of the presence of God.

Personally, this writer believes the Bible teaches that is when the earth became dark and void.

Then, in Revelation 12:5, we see the birth, life, and death of Jesus Christ. After his resurrection, on the day of Pentecost, he ascended into heaven and to his throne.

Two thousand years have passed since verse five. Verse six is yet future. We, the church, are living in the interim between verse five and six. It is called the church age, or the age of grace.

This present dispensation will end when the church is translated, which is what many people call the rapture.

After the rapture of the church, the seven year tribulation begins. The rest of Revelation chapter twelve takes place during the seven year tribulation.

JACOBS TROUBLE

Revelation 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

As we have already seen, the woman is Israel. One thousand two hundred and threescore days (1260) represents the first half of the seven year tribulation. God has already determined the seven year tribulation.

Old and New Testament prophecy will be fulfilled during the seven year tribulation. That is the reason for chapter twelve of Revelation. It is a parenthesis, or an explanatory insertion into the book of Revelation.

Therefore, it is important to take a quick look at some of the prophecy concerning this future event.

It is also important to remember that satan is very busy today, during the church age. His goal is to make mankind reject the gospel of Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:1-6 11:13-15 Ephesians 2:2,3)

He was also busy during the Old Testament times. He succeeded in causing Israel to be disobedient to God. Therefore, the warning to New Testament christians not to follow their example. (1 Corinthians 10:1-11 Hebrews 3:1 - 4:11)

Concerning all of this we need to take a look at Old Testament prophecy dealing with Israel and this coming event in prophecy.

Throughout the Old Testament, the God of Israel promised them a kingdom. There are 30:18-24 31:1-40 (note Jeremiah 31:31) Daniel 2:44,45 7:27 and many more.

The Lord uses the term redeemer and redeemer concerning his relationship with Israel. He says he will redeem a remnant of Israel (Isaiah 1:9 Ezekiel 6:8 Joel 2:32).

The Lord not only promised a kingdom, he promised that he would be their King (Zechariah 14:1-21).

The King, of course, was the Lord Jesus Christ. During his public ministry Christ offered the kingdom to Israel. John the Baptist proclaimed the King and the kingdom. Israel rejected their King and lost their kingdom.

Israel was plagued with trouble throughout their history, and it is not over yet. God told them what the consequences of their disobedience would be. (Deuteronomy chapters 28 through 31)

The words of this prophecy are still in effect today. Yet, before Christ sets up the kingdom promised to Israel, they must endure seven years of the most terrible time the world has ever known.

Jeremiah 30:7 *Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.*

The word Jacob, is used synonymous with Israel. Israel has suffered many hardships over the years, but this will be even greater.

Before Israel was ruled by kings, they were governed by judges. A judge was an intermediary between Israel and God. In essence, God was their ruler and their government. The last judge over Israel was a man named Samuel.

In 1 Samuel chapter eight we have the account of the real downfall of Israel. In 1 Samuel 8:5,6 the rulers of Israel came to Samuel and requested a king to rule over them like the rest of the world.

In verse 7 the Lord told Samuel it was not Samuel they rejected but it was the Lord. 1 Samuel 8:7b...but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

In verses 8 through 17 the Lord tells Samuel to inform Israel of the king they will receive. Israel has had many kings since then, but his king who God has promised is yet future. Many have tried to assume the king mentioned in these verses is Saul.

However, God is the one who chose Saul (1 Samuel 10:24) Israel will chose this king (1 Samuel 8:18)

1 Samuel 8:18 *And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king whom ye shall have chosen; and the Lord will not hear you in that day.*

It is a done deal. Israel does not know it, but they have already chosen this king. He is the antichrist of the book of Revelation.

In Revelation 6:1,2 he rides a white horse and offers peace to Israel and the world. He is the "king whom ye shall have chosen."

Daniel 9:27a And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week; and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease,

As any student of the Bible knows, a week in this portion of Scripture represents seven years. He, the antichrist, will confirm the covenant with many for one week. Israel will accept the antichrist as their long awaited Messiah. He will confirm the covenant with Israel and will be acknowledged as their king.

Remember, Jesus Christ was their real King. They rejected him. They rejected him in 1 Samuel.

Then we are told that "in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease." In the midst of the week (3 1/2 years) Israel will regret their decision. They will cry out to God, but, "the Lord will not hear you in that day."

The antichrist, who will be a manifestation of the personality of satan, will sit on the throne in Jerusalem and demand total worship. (ref. 11 Thessalonians 2:4,9)

THE FOUNDATION FOR DESTRUCTION

Why the tribulation? It is called "the day of Jacob's trouble." (Jeremiah 30:7 Romans 11:26) It is also called the Lord's day, and the day of the Lord. The wrath of God, and the day of vengeance.

The tribulation is a period of time set aside for Israel and the rest of the world that rejects the gospel of Christ. But, why the tribulation, and why Israel?

The answer is false religion and satan. Satan deceived Israel into false religion. They followed other gods. They rejected their God. They had a form of worship, and a religious zeal, but it was not founded on faith in God and Christ.

Jeremiah 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.
(ref. Isaiah 3:8-14 65:1-5)

Israel rejected the Lord Jesus Christ, the fountain of living waters, (John 4:6-15) and followed after religious acts. False doctrine will not hold water. It is a broken cistern, and satan is behind it.

The New Testament church of Christ has laid the same foundation. We are fortunate we are not destined for the tribulation. The Lord has promised to deliver his church from the wrath, but we do not deserve to be delivered. The reason is false religion, and satan is still behind it.

We are the Laodicean church. We have mixed the gospel with so much junk it cannot be understood. Therefore, it is a lukewarm message. We have mixed the gospel with water baptism, walking an aisle, the sinners prayer, asking Jesus into your heart or life, making Jesus the Lord of your life.

We use the word repent out of context and tell people they must quit sinning in order to be saved. Then we tell them they are not saved if they commit a little sin after they are saved. WORKS!!!!

We claim to believe in the New Testament doctrine of grace verses works, then we add

Between verse 5 and verse 6 is the church age. To this point in time it is around two thousand (2000) years. Revelation 12:1-5 is history. Revelation 12:6 is future.

The woman is divinely protected for 1,260 days. This is the first half of the seven year tribulation. God said a remnant of Israel shall be saved.

Revelation 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

THE TRIBULATION BEGINS

Revelation 12:5 In verse five the child is born. He is the Christ, the Messiah. Between verse five and verse four is a period of some four thousand (4000) years. From the creation to the cross is a period of about four thousand years.

However, verse five in itself covers a period of some thirty three years. It covers the birth, life, death, and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then we have the re-creation, and the creation of mankind. Adam and Eve. In the latter part of Revelation 12:4 satan is ready to devour the child, who is Christ. Satan has been trying to devour Christ ever since.

Revelation 12:3,4 We see the dragon, who is satan, as he draws one third of the stars, who are fallen angels, out of heaven. This writer believes that when that event took place, God's original creation became dark and void.

Revelation 12:1,2 In these two verses we see the woman who is Israel, and the child who is Christ. It is also the foundation for the rest of the chapter.

REVIEW

We are told to consider Israel as an example. (1 Corinthians 10:1-11 Hebrews chapters 3 and 4)

MANKind IS A RELIGIOUS FOOL!!!

Denominations are man made religious organizations, which generally, have their own rules and guidelines, that are never biblical.

The New Testament church has also laid the foundation for destruction. When we mention the church, we are not talking about denominations. God is not impressed with denominations. The church is everyone who has trusted Christ as their Savior.

Because Israel desired a man and rejected God, they were led into captivity into Babylon. Israel, as a nation, has had no peace since. But for Israel, it gets worse.

The most horrible crime a man can commit against God is to forsake him and go after false religion.

The reason is, they rejected God, and followed after false doctrine. It is a cistern that holds no water.

Israel laid their own foundation for destruction. They asked for a man to be their king. so much works, it is almost impossible for anyone to be saved. Satan is having fun with the body of Christ.

After the church age comes to a close with the rapture of the church, a new time period in God's calendar will be ushered in. It is seven years of the most terrible time in history. During the first three and one half years the Jews who have trusted Christ as their Savior will be divinely protected.

This writer believes those are the "oil and the wine" of Revelation 6:6. The oil and the wine are the fruit of the fruit. The olive tree produces an olive. The olive produces olive oil. The vine produces the grape. The grape produces the juice of the grape. This is oil and wine.

During the first half of the tribulation the two witnesses of Revelation 11:3-13 and the 144,000 of the tribes of Israel (Revelation 7:1-8 14:1-5) will preach the gospel of Christ. A multitude of Israel will be saved. They will be protected so they may inherit the kingdom on this earth. After the seven years are ended, Christ will establish the kingdom on earth for Israel for one thousand years.

The first half of the seven years will begin with the first seal being opened (Rev. 6:1, 2). A man the Bible refers to as the antichrist will arrive on the scene. He rides a white horse showing that he comes in peaceably. He is the, "king ye shall have chosen."

Israel will accept him as their long awaited Messiah. He will "confirm the covenant with many..." (Daniel 9:27)

During the first half of the seven year tribulation the first six seals are opened. It is a terrible time, but the worse is yet to come. (Revelation 6:1-17)

Revelation 12:7-12 And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels,

And prevailed not, neither was their place found anymore in heaven.

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

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, who accused them before our God day and night.

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

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

In verse six we saw that the woman fled into the wilderness where she was protected for 1,260 days, or the first half of the seven year tribulation. The first half of the seven years, which is three and one half years, comes to a close and we see a war in heaven between Michael and his angels and satan and his angels.

Satan and his angels prevailed not. They lost the battle. Even though this battle is yet future, because it is written in the Word of God, John sees it as a done deal.

Notice also in verse eight (8) it states that "their place" was not found anymore in heaven. At this time they have no place in the heavens!

When satan sees he has just three and one half years, he really persecutes the woman, Israel. She is divinely protected by God. (Revelation 12:13-17)

NOTE: For those who have been wondering why we use a capital "S" and sometimes a small "s." It depends upon the context used. It is not usually based upon good grammar or english. We do not feel satan deserves to be capitalized at all times.

This beast, who is the antichrist, will have power to cause mankind to worship him. His power comes from the dragon, who is Satan.

He has just three and one half years left to glorify himself. he was originally cast out of heaven because of his attempt to glorify himself. Now the Lord is giving him three and one half years to do so.

We know this takes place in the middle of the seven years because of the way Scripture uses terminology. (Daniel 9:27 11 Thessalonians 2:4 Revelation 12:13,14 13:5)

When satan indwells the antichrist, he will no longer be able to roam about the world as the antichrist as he did Judas.

Satan has been manipulating the world through the antichrist for three and one half years. At this time he will not merely manipulate the antichrist, he will literally indwell

He is the same beast Daniel saw in Daniel 7:1-6.
In Revelation 13:1,2 John sees a beast rise out of the sea. This is not the Loch Ness monster. It simply means that a man rises out of the sea of humanity. He is called the beast because of his nature. He is the antichrist who has already arrived on the white horse.

THE BEAST OF REVELATION

At this future time in history, satan will be cast "into the earth."

When satan is cast out of the third heaven, the place of the throne of God, he still has power to present himself before God and stand as the accuser of God's children. (Job 1:6-12 2:1-7 Revelation 12:10,11)

He has great wrath because he knows he has a short time. He has just three and one half years to sit on the throne and claim to be God. (11 Thessalonians 2:4 Revelation 11:2 13:1-5)

God said in Revelation, "woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil has come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." (Revelation 12:12)

The war in heaven takes place in the middle of the seven year tribulation. This writer believes, according to this portion of Scripture, that satan and his angels are literally cast out of the heavens and into the earth's atmosphere.

Satan has always wanted to reign supreme. He was cast out of the third heaven because he wanted to rise above his creator. He wanted the throne of God to be his own. He finally gets what he wanted in the middle of the seven year tribulation.

Make no mistake about it, satan is a powerful being today. But he is not God. You and I could never defeat satan. But he is not God.

THE TRINITY

God is a trinity. He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (ref. Matthew 28:19)

We will not take the time and space in this study to quote all the Scripture references to prove that. There are many great Bible scholars who have books available on the subject.

However, Jesus said in Matthew 28:19 to, "teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Spirit)."

God the Father and God the Holy Spirit cannot be seen by mankind. The only way God can be seen is through Jesus Christ. Christ took on physical appearance in order to be seen in the Old Testament, and he took on a flesh and blood body in order to be seen in the New Testament.

Not only did he become visible, he literally took on a birth in order to be like man. He had to be physical in order to die and shed his blood for humanity.

John 1:14 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 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

The Word became flesh. Jesus is the Word. Yet, as he was flesh, he was still "in the bosom of the Father." He had to be God in the flesh, or he could not have been in the bosom of the Father while he was flesh and blood.

And then in 1 Timothy we see that "God was manifest in the flesh", and "justified in the Spirit".

We cannot comprehend it, but God is a trinity.

NOTE: When God said he "created man in his image", what he meant was that man is also a trinity. (ref. 1 Thessalonians 5:23)

THE UNHOLY TRINITY

God is holy and just. He is absolutely perfect and sinless. He is loving and kind and righteous.

Satan is not, and neither is man. That is why Christ died on the cross. To redeem man

if man wants to be redeemed. It is free will. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Satan imitates God and wants to be God. In his attempt to be God he was cast from heaven. He does not want anyone to be saved. That is why he distorts the gospel of Christ. He tells mankind that Christ was an imposter. He tells mankind that we can be as God, and God is in us all. That is what he told Eve. "Ye shall be as God."

In the middle of the seven year tribulation, the old devil will have his chance to be a trinity. It will only last for three and one half years. However, it will be the worse three and one half years the world has ever seen.

Ezekial 28:17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty; thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness; I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

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

We know this takes place in the middle of the seven years because in Revelation 12:6 we see the woman, Israel, has fled into the wilderness for a thousand two hundred and threescore days. Three and one half years. The first half of the seven year tribulation.

In Revelation 13:3 we see the beast, who is the antichrist, suffer a deadly wound and appears to have a resurrection. When he does, "the world wonders after the beast."

This is Satan's imitation of the Lord Jesus Christ who dies on the cross and rises again.

Remember, Jesus Christ the Lord was, "God manifest in the flesh." This is called "the mystery of godliness." (1 Timothy 3:16)

Satan will also be manifest in the flesh.

11 Thessalonians 2:7,8a For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now letteth will let until he be taken out of the way.

And then will that wicked one be revealed.....

Ezekial 28:17b I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Satan will be made manifest in the flesh. However, it will not be the mystery of godliness, it will be the "mystery of iniquity."

The power of the beast comes from satan, the dragon. (ref. Revelation 13:4 11 Thessalonians 2:9) This is his imitation of God the Father.

Then in Revelation 13:11-18 we see another beast rise out of the sea of humanity. This second beast causes everyone to worship the first beast. he performs miracles and exalts the first beast.

This second beast causes everyone to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. (Rev. 13:11)

He does miracles and wonders, and makes an image to the first beast, and literally forces people to worship the first beast. If they do not, they are put to death. (Rev. 13:12-15)

This second beast is satan's imitation of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we have the unholy trinity. We have the old Devil, who is satan, who imitates the Father. We have the first beast, who is indwelt by satan, and has an apparent resurrection. This is the imitation of the Son. Finally, we have the second beast, who completes the unholy trinity.

TRUTH vs. THE LIE

Concerning the Holy Spirit, notice the words of Jesus Christ.....

John 14:26 But the Comforter, who is the Holy Ghost, (Spirit) whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said unto you.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me;

John 16:13,14 Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself, but whatever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come.

He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.

The Holy Spirit is sent from God. He is the truth, and leads to truth. He is also a Comforter, and he glorifies Christ.

Remember in Revelation, the second beast performed wonders and miracles to cause people to worship the first beast. The second beast, who is an imitation of the Holy Spirit, attempts to glorify the first beast.

Listen to what God has to say about the antichrist, who is the first beast of Revelation chapter thirteen.

11 Thessalonians 2:9-12 Even him whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie,

That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness

The first and second beast of Revelation have power from Satan to do many mighty wonders. However, God calls them lying wonders.

Notice also, in Revelation 13:14 that he, " deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do.."

The miracles he performed were deceitful because they will be a lie. They are nothing more than a glorified magicians trick. Satan is a liar, and the father of it. (John 8:44)

The world that faces the beast of Revelation will be forced to worship him without option. Otherwise, they will face death. They will be forced to take the mark of the beast, or perish. The second beast will cause everyone to worship the first beast. He will glorify the first beast.

The lie will be believed, and they will be judged. The first beast will seem to have a resurrection. However, this writer believes it will be a lie. God calls it a, "lying wonder."

Jesus Christ is the truth and the resurrection. Only God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, may have the resurrection. Those who trust Christ as their Savior will also have a resurrection. But, it is God who raises them from the dead. (ref. Romans 6:5-9 8:9-13,23 1 Corinthians 15:12-57 11 Corinthians 4:14 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

The resurrection is by the power of the Holy Spirit of God.

Satan is a powerful being. However, he is not God. He is too powerful for you and I to deal with. Therefore, we must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit for protection and comfort, and truth.

666

Numbers in the Bible have significance. The number seven is the number of completion and perfection. It is the number we give to God because it means perfection. On the seventh day God rested from creating, and he sanctified the seventh day. (Genesis 2:1-3)

We are told there are seven spirits before the throne of God. (Isaiah 11:1-5 Revelation 1:4 4:5)

The number six however, falls short of perfection. On the sixth day God created man. Because of Satan, man is a sinner and does not attain God's standard of perfection.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God,

God is perfect and righteous. He does not demand to be worshipped, but he would like for man to accept and acknowledge him as their Savior. In doing so, we automatically worship him, just by accepting him. He gives us a free will.

The beast of Revelation chapter thirteen will demand to be worshipped. He will not accept no for an answer. He will establish the mark of the beast. Everyone will have to take the mark or die.

It will be the number 666. There is nothing difficult to understand about this number, for God gives us the meaning. It falls short of perfection. It is the number of man.

Revelation 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred three-score and six.

The antichrist will be a man who will be indwelt by Satan. The second beast will just be a man who receives his power from fallen angels, and Satan himself will be lowered to

being just a man because he is contained to the physical body of the antichrist. Therefore the number 666, he's a man, he's a man, he's a man!

We have already seen in Revelation 12:6 that God protects Israel during the first half of the tribulation, from the antichrist.

Now, in verses 13 through 17 God has to protect her again from the beast, who is the antichrist, now indwelt by satan. At this time, in the middle of the tribulation, the beast will sit on the throne in the new temple, and claim to be God. He will demand to be worshipped. Not only by all Israel, but by the entire population of the world.

There are some things we need to remember at this point. At the end of the seven year tribulation, Jesus Christ will establish his kingdom for 1000 years. It is the kingdom he promised to Israel long ago. The kingdom will inhabited by those who are saved only.

There will be no one go into the kingdom who is lost. That includes Jew and Gentile alike. At the end of the tribulation the world be judged and separated immediately following the battle of Armageddon. (Matthew 24:36-41 25:31-46 Revelation 19:11-21)

1 Samuel 8:18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king whom ye shall have chosen; and the Lord will not hear you in that day.

In this portion of Scripture there seems like a contradiction. God says in Revelation chapter twelve that he protects Israel, and in 1 Samuel 8:18 he says there is no help.

We must remember that the gospel is preached during the seven year tribulation. (Rev. 14:6,7) It is preached by the two witnesses, (Rev. 11:3-13) and by the 144,000 who are of the twelve tribes of Israel. (Rev. 7:4-8 14:1-4)

Because of their preaching a multitude of Jews and Gentiles will be saved and protected. They will be protected so they may inherit the kingdom physically. The kingdom will be established by flesh and blood.

God does not protect Israel as a nation. he protects those who trust Christ as their Messiah.

Revelation 12:13-17 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman who brought forth the man child.

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.

And the serpent cast out of his mouth water like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.

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

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

This is who God protects. The remnant who have the testimony of Christ. Not all Israel will be saved and protected. Only those who trust Christ as Savior.

Someday the battle between Israel, Satan, and the Lord Jesus Christ will end. Until it does, God is true to his Word, and it must come to pass. He has it written in what we call the Bible and the Word of God. Just as God fulfilled his Word and came and died on the cross for the sins of man, he will fulfill his Word and come again. Believe it!

Finally, satan will be cast into the lake of fire where the first and second beast have been for one thousand years. There, they will remain for all time and eternity. (ref. Revelation 20:2,3,7-10)

Satan himself will be bound in a bottomless pit for one thousand years. This is the thousand year reign of Christ. The millennium kingdom. After the thousand years Satan will be loosed for a short time. Once again, he will deceive the world and gain another army. It is hard to understand humanity. After one thousand years of peace with the Lord Jesus Christ, the world will follow the Devil to their destruction.

At the end of this battle, the nations are judged, along with the first and second beast. Those who are alive and have not trusted Christ as Savior will be cast into the lake of fire. This will be the only time in history, except for the great white throne judgement, that man will be cast directly into the lake of fire. The beast and false prophet (the second beast) will also be cast into the lake of fire. (Matthew 24:36-42 25:31-46 Revelation 19:20,21)

The first and second beast will bring the nations of the earth to battle against the Lord Jesus Christ. (Revelation 17:10-13)
This is what is called the battle of Armageddon. (Revelation 9:13-18 14:14-20 19:11-19)

of man made doctrine that makes void the gospel and the grace of Christ. (Revelation 16:17 - 18:24)

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

When Christ was nailed to the cross, half of Genesis 3:15 was fulfilled. Satan bruised the heel of the seed of the woman. The woman is Israel and Christ is the seed.

Someday, Christ will bruise the head of the serpent, and the rest of that prophecy will be complete. Satan is already defeated, but there is a final blow to be dealt. (Romans 16:20)

In the meantime, we are living in the age of grace, the church age. This age will end with the translation of the saints.

We believe the rapture of the church is very soon. We have no idea when it will take place, we only know it will take place.

There are various reasons why we believe this event is coming soon. The first reason is that the entire earth has been populated and replenished according to the command of God. (Genesis 9:1)

The second reason is that Christ said in Acts 1:8, "*But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*"

The United States is the last world to conquer. The gospel has reached the uttermost part of the earth, and Acts 1:8 has been fulfilled.

The third reason is that the power of satan is gaining momentum. Our society is antichrist in it's thinking. Morals are criticized and corrupt morals are condoned.

The world is poised for a one world government and a one world religion. This is the idea of the Tower of Babel. It is the idea that we do not need God, and that we are gods.

The one world order is being established at this very moment.

The fourth reason is sin itself. Homosexuality is promoted as a normal lifestyle. God said it is abomination. (Leviticus 20:13) Abortion is performed at an amazing rate.

There are so many abortions performed we are losing count. This is nothing short of mass murder, and the United States government, along with the rest of the world, thinks this is alright.

We have rules and regulations for the law abiding citizen that should not even be in existence, (the seat belt law for instance) while the criminal has his rights.

Because of our immoral society, young people have nothing to relate to. Mom and Dad are not heroes because they have not shown their children anything in their own lives except drugs and alcohol.

There is nothing for our young people to identify with unless we lead them to Christ.

That leads us to the fifth and the most powerful reason we are looking for the imminent return of Christ for his church. That is the worse sin of all.

Abortion and murder are a terrible sin against God, but it is not the sin that God hates the most. Homosexuality and other abominations are terrible sins against God, but they are not the sin that God hates the most.

The United States of America along with the rest of the world is doomed because of the worse sin man can commit against God.

said, " It is abomination, and a smoke in his nose." He also said, "it provoketh me to anger," and it promotes a holier than thou attitude. (Isaiah 3:11-15 9:14-16 28:1-15 65:1-7)

We have perverted the gospel of Christ. Denominations have perverted the gospel of Christ with confessing sins to a man, praying to some saint, or to Mary, water baptism as a requirement for salvation, and many other perversions.

We have people walk an aisle as part of the salvation process. We are asked to, "turn from sin," and "ask Jesus into your heart," and "make Jesus the Lord of your life," and many other perversions.

We tell people they must make a public confession or they are not saved. When will our preachers realize they have perverted the simple gospel with man made, "holier than thou," religious acts.

This is the reason we believe the return of Christ is imminent. The sin of all sins is false religion and it comes from the master magician, Satan.

The Bible says we are sinners and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:10,23)

The Bible also says I may be saved from my sin just by believing in Christ as my Savior. (John 3:15,16 5:24 6:35,40,47 Acts 16:31)

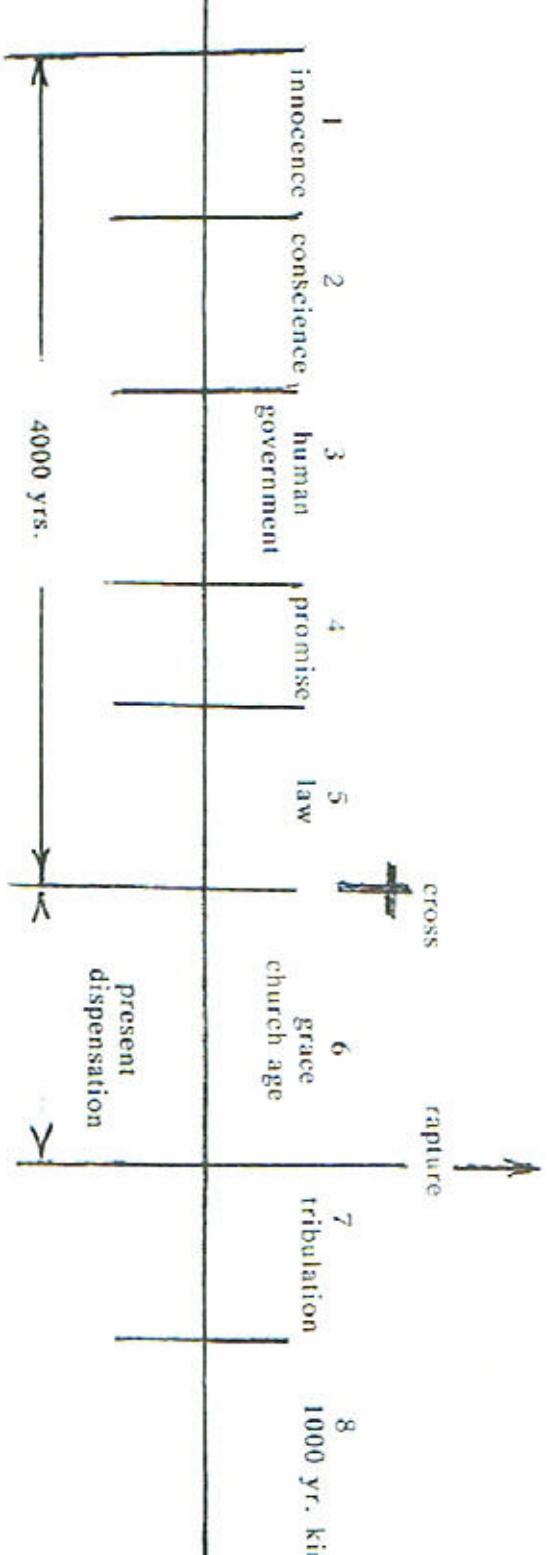
Many christians will stand before the judgement seat of Christ and lose their rewards because they followed the influence of Satan and preached a perverted gospel of works.

We can only say in our final words, in light of all of this, " even so come Lord Jesus."

PROPHECY CHART # 1 THE DISPENSATIONS

A dispensation is a period of time in which God deals with man with respect to his sin and responsibility

- 1st dispensation .. innocence .. from creation to the fall of Adam. the judgement.. Genesis 3:24
- 2nd dispensation .. conscience .. from the fall to the flood. the judgement .. Genesis 7:11,12,23
- 3rd dispensation .. human government .. from the flood to Babel .. the judgement .. Genesis 11:5-8
- 4th dispensation .. promise .. from the call of Abraham following mans failure at Babel to the giving of the law to Moses. .. the judgement .. Exodus 1:8-14
- 5th dispensation .. law .. from the giving of the law at Sinai to the Cross.. The first five dispensations ended at the cross and covered a period of some 4000 years.. the judgement .. Matthew 23:33-39
- 6th dispensation .. grace .. from the Cross of Calvary to the rapture of the church. (yet future) the judgement .. 11 Thessalonians 2:3-12
- 7th dispensation .. (many do not count it as a dispensation), tribulation .. from the rapture to the kingdom.. (7 years) the judgement .. Daniel 9:27 1 Samuel 8 Revelation 6:1- 19:21
- 8th dispensation .. the kingdom .. the 1000 year reign of Christ as promised to Israel.



The church is taken in the rapture and the seven sealed book is opened in heaven

PROPHECY CHART # 2 THE TRIBULATION

The first seal is opened and the antichrist appears on the scene (Revelation 6:1,2
1 Samuel 8:10-18 Daniel 9:27)

The second through the sixth seal is opened during the first half of the tribulation (Revelation 6:3-6:16)

During the second 3 1/2 years the wrath of God will be poured out upon the earth. (Rev. 16:1) It begins with the opening of the seventh seal. (Rev. 8:1,2) The seventh seal is made up of seven trumpets and the seventh trumpet is made up of seven vials of wrath. (Revelation 16:1-21)

At the end of the tribulation the battle of Armageddon takes place. (Rev. 16:13-16 19:11-19) following which the beast, false prophet, the world living at that time that has rejected the gospel, will be cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 19:20,21 Matthew 24:40,41 25:31-46)

3 1/2 yrs.

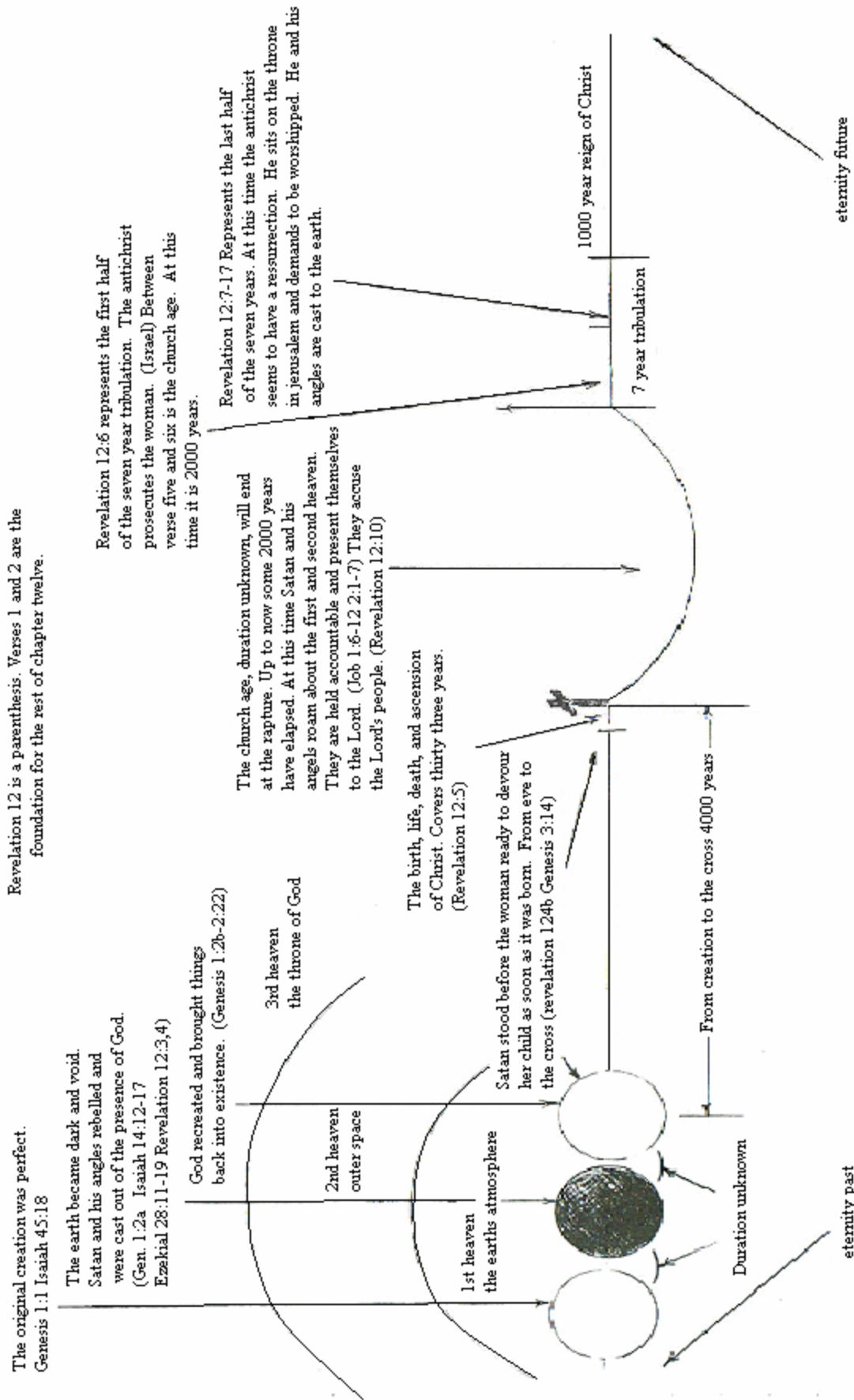
7 years

3 1/2 yrs.

In the middle of the tribulation

1. The antichrist will sit on the throne claiming to be God
2. He will seem to have a resurrection
3. He will demand to be worshipped
4. He will institute the mark of the beast 666 (Daniel 9:27 11 Thessalonians 2:4 Revelation 11:2 13:1-18)

PROPHECY CHART # 3 REVELATION CHAPTER TWELVE THE CONFLICT BETWEEN SATAN, ISRAEL AND CHRIST



Visit us on the web at

www.geocities.com/christianbibleinst/homepage.html

or write to

Christian Bible Inst
P.O. Box 261
Geneva, Ohio 44041

Earn a three year level Master of Bible
(Associate in Biblical Studies)
From Christian Bible Inst.
\$265.00

Special thanks to Jason Brandt for
establishing and updating our web site