A Better Resurrection
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Johannesburg R.S.A.
July 3, 2005
Revised July 23, 2005
Addition of Promise to Daniel - August 2006
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In Search of a Better Resurrection

A Waiting Surprise in the Scripture

Hebrews 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

From this divinely inspired scripture contained in the divine cannon of the Christian Faith, we get a glimpse of the distinction between a physical resurrection and what is termed a better resurrection. The dead being raised to life is commonly known as resurrecting the dead. The women received the physical resurrection of a child that had died. The child was brought back from death into its human body, which was reanimated by the child’s soul

1 Kings 17:22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.

The Author of the letter to the Hebrews intimates that there is a better resurrection than the case study above of the answering of Elijah’s intercession. The reason being that the child would still have to face death again during its temporal human life span.

Paul’s Exposition

The Apostle Paul expounds the Better Resurrection to the Church at Corinth. He goes into much detail of this better event than a physical restoration of a human body. There are many religious views in the current world that embraces reincarnation, the return of the human soul into another human body after death at conception. This is an endless cycle of death with a rebirth following it. By this view the human tragedy is repeated time after time, through endless wars, famines, diseases etc, and all are locked into it. One must beware confusing the better resurrection with the myths that prevail in society.

The Eternal Timeframe

This better Resurrection has an eternal timeframe attached to it, which some see as a future event following a future return of Christ, while others declare that Christ returned in Ad70 according to his oath, which may or may not imply that the resurrection is past. This is a question that plagues the view of a past fulfilment of the Apocalypse. This author holds to the veracity of Christ’s words to his followers in Ad30 of the great tribulation they would experience and his promised return within that generation.

Matthew 24:34 Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass, until all these things are fulfilled.

This implies that there is no other return in the scripture, because the Second Coming has already taken place. This leaves one with the dilemma, if the dead were raised when Christ returned, what hope do I have? If we accept the futurist view of dividing the resurrection into two separate events, one at the Rapture and another at the General resurrection of the last judgement, we still have the problem of an uncompleted salvation. This is because Christ has already returned in judgment, to the generation he lived amongst, which implies we are not part of his Church as it has already been removed and raised in the Rapture.

Solving this dilemma of believing the veracity (absolute truth) of Christ’s words means we have to re-
examine our views on the resurrection, lest we be accused of preaching a false hope. Having once held the untenable position of a futurist, of mythical gaps in time frames, stopped clocks, a future tribulation etc, one cannot return to plausible falsehood.

It is this Author’s intention to expound what he has discovered in Paul’s description of the better resurrection in the letter to the Church at Corinth in the first century AD prior to the complete destruction of Jerusalem by AD70 and Christ’s return during those events. To do this one has to stay in Context and avoid one verse contradicting another. The Futurist has avoided this for they strain out single verses to support their untenable position, which makes the scripture a mass of confusion, which only they can piece together.

**Building Jig Saw Puzzles**

If one has ever built a jigsaw puzzle, one will understand that pieces belonging to different parts of the puzzle do not interlock. When attempting to build a composite picture one needs to stay within the section one is working on, all the while considering the broader picture that it compliments.

Scripture supports Scripture and the divine Canon is not a miss mash of isolated verses to be used out of context. Of course there is a reiteration of certain events partly explained under the old Covenant, and completely explained in the New Covenant (testament). This partial understanding is illuminated by the glorious light of the grace and truth given to us by the Lord Jesus Christ through the aid of the ever-blessed Comforter the Holy Spirit of Truth.

As one draws closer and closer to your final moments on this planet, you become more aware of the effects of aging. While young people seem to have a whole life span still ahead of them where the glitz and glamour of this world hypnotizes them and it seems as though tomorrow never comes. But death is an ever-present reality, which so few actually think about. To some it comes as a shock when a beloved parent is wheeled into a chapel for the performing of the traditional last rites.

*Ecclesiastes 7:2* It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.

The Modern American television evangelist’s hang out the carrot of an imminent Rapture, based upon news reports and speculative interpretation of the scriptures, as a solution to the anguish experienced at the loss of a loved one. But coercing others into believing myths is like administering snake oil to a wounded heart. The history of this prevalent myth in Christian circles has a long list of failed speculative predictions that are hidden from the unwary soul and put down to cultic extremes. These predictive speculations all have come about through unsound apocalyptic traditions still held today amongst the various denominations. These all have their roots in an ancient heresy known as Chiliasm, upon which Pre and Postmillennial views of the apocalypse are founded. The basic flaw in these views is that they do not take Audience, setting and timing into consideration when expounding apocalyptic passages. This means that the book of Revelation can be interpreted to fit modern day events almost two millennia after it was written.

**The Historical Relevance**

If the Revelation received by the Apostle John had no relevance to the churches in Asia (Modern day Turkey) at the time of writing, they were mere custodians of a letter that only modern technology could supply the answers too.

*Revelation 3:11* Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.
*Revelation 22:7* Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.
*Revelation 22:12* And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

If the reiteration of Christ’s promised return, to the churches in Asia, in the Apostle John’s Life span, has not been fulfilled then those who oppose the Christian faith have proof of breach of promise by the one we worship and adore. Whichever view of the dating of the writing of this letter to the churches in Asia you hold this stumbling block remains.

Preterists believe it was written prior to the Destruction of Jerusalem (Ad 66-70) and that its contents
have to do with the final fulfilment of the Mosaic Covenant and the proof of a completed salvation found in Christ. The conglomerate beast found in its midst is the Roman Empire headed by Neron Caesar whose name tallies to 666. Modern day interpreters preach a revived Roman Empire, using the European Economic union to support their claims. Then they claim computers will be used in the Great Tribulation to mark or implant silicon chips in the general population bodies, some think it is a bar code branding of people. The view is obviously ridiculous because those Churches to whom the letter was written would not be able to interpret it from its contents. There were no computers in the first century AD and their claim also makes the Letter irrelevant to the Historical setting of its context.

John 21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry (is still alive) until I come, what is that to thee? This is the disciple which testifies of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

Matthew 16:27/28 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

From the Gospels we discover the same Dilemma about a yet future return of Christ almost two millennia after these statements of His were penned. Only a past return of Christ during the human life span of the Apostle John can answer this dilemma. The critics of the Church have ground for a failed promise of Christ should we try to explain away the fact that Christ used an oath to his disciples that they would personally experience his return. This oath is contained in the use of the word “Verily” and sets it as an absolute promise, which no man professing the Christian faith can go beyond. The Pre and Postmillennial views both declare that Christ is still to return at some yet indeterminate date in the near future. The consequence of supporting these views means that Christ never meant what he said.

Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)…. (21) For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Both Pre and Postmillennial views shift the great tribulation, that Christ told the disciples in his presence on that day in AD 30 they would personally experience, to some yet future unfulfilled event. To defend their view they hold to some vague double sense meaning that makes the entire discourse a speculative event, which had no real bearing on the survival of the infant Church. Should the infant church have not heeded Christ’s explicit warning to them and taken flight then Christianity would not have survived. There are some theologians today who would even date the gospels after the fall of Jerusalem which implies that Christ’s prophetic war nings were made up by the writers to support their dissent and revolt from traditional Judaism. Such darkness expounded by apostate men of the cloth should be censured in the strongest possible terms.

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

Time to Re-examine our views

Is it absolute Truth or Fiction? Upon this question the entire validity of the New Testament hangs. This quest of mine for a Better Resurrection hangs upon this balance.

Daniel 5:25 And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.
The Modern Church needs to re-examine its apocalyptic views, for should it fail to do so it will soon, in this time of easy access to the scriptures using computers and the World Wide Web to disseminate them, experience questioning about their double sense interpretations. Tradition can no longer come to their aid only a quest to re-establish the veracity of the scripture will. A modern reformation is in the wings and only the gullible like to have their ears tickled with mere speculation.

We all suffer from shortcomings and without God’s help we are doomed to failure. The space age is upon us and human colonization of other planets may occur before the end of this twenty-first century. Failed speculations of the previous centuries will be abandoned, and only the bringing in of a better hope will survive.

*Hebrews 7:19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.*

**The Better Resurrection in the Gospels**

**The Infinite Wisdom of our King**

The Logical place to start is with Jesus the son of man, for he alone being the Messiah (the Christ) having been in the form of man was God with us. His credentials give him absolute authority over matters of the Christian faith. All must bow the Knee to his infinite wisdom and righteousness.

*1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*

**The Conflicting Views**

The source of Christ’s wisdom is found in the Gospels often when he was in conflict with the religious leaders of his day. In his discourses with the Scribes, the Pharisees and the Sadducees great truths can be learned, for the light of Christ’s replies to them corrects their dark opposing views.

*Mathew 22:23 ¶ The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. And last of all the woman died also. Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her. Jesus answered and said unto them, “Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that, which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine.*

**Redemption and Resurrection**

The Sadducees set out to attack Christ on the link between Redemption and Resurrection, citing the Law of Moses that ensured widows were not left to fend for themselves, but were to be embraced into the family of their deceased husband. This tenet of the Law defines a Kinsman as the one who is to redeem his deceased brothers widow. They unknowingly set the question before Him who is their KINSMAN REDEEMER. Obviously Christ’s earlier discourse on the marriage supper had provoked their attack and attempt to entrap Him.
Mathew 22:1 ¶ And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

Citing a hypothetical case of seven brothers who after the demise of the first of them had all been married to the same woman; they were attempting to prove that the Law of redemption discounted the resurrection. They vainly imagined some conflict between these brothers, if there was a resurrection, as to whom she actually belonged. “Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her”

Christ’s reply astounded those who witnessed event, “And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine”, which draws our attention to the effect of his reply.

Jesus answered and said unto them, “Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that, which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

The Sadducees envisaged that the resurrection entailed that people would retain their sexuality after being raised from the dead. So they did not anticipate Christ’s reply, for he has openly declared that in the resurrection there is a change of State. The word “angels” speaks of the celestial beings commonly called sons of God in some places. In addition by spanning the resurrection across three generations of the Fathers of the tribes of Israel, he has implied that it is not an event that occurs in a single period of time. He also brings eternity into the subject, by stating that Abraham Isaac and Jacob were living eternally and were not dead. Almost two thousand years previously Father Abraham inhabited this planet in a mortal body, Christ’s reply asserted he was still alive in God’s presence. The Sadducees contention that there was neither spirit nor a resurrection was quashed completely.

Acts 23:8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

We should rejoice at this declaration of Christ, that at our resurrection we shall be clothed in angelic splendour.

Reunification of the Kingdom

Mathew 22:1 ¶ And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them, which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, and another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then saith he to his servants, “The wedding is ready, but they, which were bidden, were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage”. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, For many are called, but few are chosen.

It is interesting to note the depth of this section taken from Mathew’s gospel in this day and age when most are straining single verses out. This they do to motivate their congregations by preaching a gospel that is totally devoid of Christ. This section on the marriage supper follows hard on the heels of a previous parable about the returning king giving the Kingdom to someone else.

Mathew 21:37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when
the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

This is the lead up to the parable of the marriage supper, which provoked the Sadducees into attempting to discredit Christ. So we see certain events being repeated, the Return of the Lord, The Judgement of the Husbandmen (Apostate Israel), followed by the question on the Resurrection. This is the common thread running through this section. What strikes me most about the Marriage supper is it is told in a narrative that declares it to be in progress at the time of Christ’s earthly ministry.

“Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage” which is followed by “But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city”.

It is self-evident from this portion of scripture that the events described undoubtedly place it in the period AD66-70 when the Roman Armies came and burnt down the temple. From this we gather that Christ, the Lord of the vineyard, returns in Judgement and the timeframe of his second coming. Because at Christ’s return many hold that a rapture/resurrection takes place, which most set at some yet unspecified future date; they miss the context of the passages entirely.

**A New Covenant Relationship**

Here I really want to point out the following: “And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment”; because being clothed in the resurrection as an angel is the benefit we receive at the supper table of the Lord, by embracing the New Covenant meal of bread and wine in remembrance of him. Here in this parable is an invitation to come into a covenant union with the Son.

“The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, who made a marriage for his son”.

*Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.*

The better resurrection is a Covenant promise from a Covenant Keeping God who has promised to be your God.

“But saith he to his servants,” The wedding is ready, but they, which were bidden, were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage”. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests”.

**The Harvesting of Souls**

Following Christ’s return in Judgement, we see that the Gospel was to continue harvesting souls throughout the world. Highways are the roads that connect nations to nations; commerce and trade rely upon these collecting links. This harvest began in Jerusalem then continued by the bringing in of the Nations (Gentiles) to Christ after Pentecost. The Divine injunction by the King of Kings to the ministering spirits of God fulfils the prophecies of the times of the nations. Ministering spirits are sent into the four corners of the Roman Empire and beyond using their trade routes. Rome was famous for its paved routes, some of which are still evident today. Contextually these discourses are set in the time period when the Promised Land of Canaan was a vassal state of Rome.

*Hebrews 1: 13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*
Two Kingdoms
Because of the Demise of the Kingdom of Israel in the Land of Canaan is implied in these linked portions, by the destruction of the Husbandman, one can only conclude that the Kingdom had been relocated. The messengers sent to furnish the wedding with Guests are the Ambassadors of the Divine Kingdom, the Kingdom of Heaven. Many today fall into the trap thinking that the earthly Kingdom is to be established in the secular state of Modern Israel.

Matthew 21:42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof: And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

The arrival of the King (the Stone) the builders of the then Kingdom of Israel, under the Jurisdiction of an Edomite (Idumeans); namely Herod the Son of Antipater a descendant of Esau; rejected was to spell the end of their kingdom. A new nation was to follow the demise of their nation. This nation would be under the Lordship of the rejected king. The Herod’s had usurped a throne by Roman permission that rightfully belonged to a descendant of the royal lineage of David. The Messiah, the true King and Lord of Israel had stated his intentions against the status quo of the day.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

One Kingdom was in its Last Days and about to see its demise, as the messengers had already been sent forth to gather the guests of the wedding supper to form the nucleus of the Messianic Kingdom. One nation was a visible Kingdom in its death throes, while the other nation formed part of the invisible Kingdom of Heaven. This duality of the two kingdoms in contrasts with one another form the backbone of these sayings of Christ. The heavenly one populated by the resurrection through the new birth, the other dying in its sins, Jerusalem of old about to fall, the Heavenly Jerusalem to becomes the capital of the new nation.

Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

The Imminent Kingdom

Matthew 3:1 ¶ In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel’s hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.¶ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

John the Levite messenger of Malachi, the promised Elijah had proclaimed the imminent arrival of the Kingdom; “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”, that would spell the doom of the existing status quo; “O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”. This he puts in no uncertain terms when we consider the following: “And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”. It’s a statement to them of conquest by a foreign power, an axe in the hand of God.

Isaiah 10:12 Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon
mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks. For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man: And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have I gathered all the earth: and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped. Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself, as if it were no wood.

Today so many miss these sayings and having no comprehension of the Sovereignty of God over the nations of the world; they strain gnats and swallow camels. Like the millennial Kingdom that the dispensationalists and others preach, that purportedly will be established in the modern secular state of Israel. This confusion between; the Heavenly Kingdom, Christ came to establish and an earthly kingdom made up of modern Jews, which is totally devoid of any support from the scripture. They postpone the imminent kingdom, place mythical gaps in Daniels seventy weeks, as though Christ’s kingdom cannot come until the modern day apostates repent and turn to him. Can anyone in his right mind believe that an Absolute Sovereign God’s purposes can be thwarted by mere mortals?

Was the infallible Holy Ghost in error when John proclaimed the imminent arrival of the Kingdom, under his unction, in the first century of the Christian era? God forbid, for that would make him fallible.

Who today has the support not only of Christ but also of the old Covenant prophets to make this claim? Certainly not William Branham or any of the modern dispensationalist’s television Evangelist’s and other cult leaders, who have led so many astray with their flawed understanding of the John the Baptists mission and purpose.

Mathew 11:13  For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye are willing to receive it, this is Elijah, that is to come. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Mal 2:7  For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

Mal 3:1 ¶  Behold, I will send my messenger(John), and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord (Christ), whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger(Christ) of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Luke 1: 11  And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of altar of incense. And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: because thy supplcation is heard, and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

John’s lineage is established for us in Luke’s Gospel, his Father was a Levite priest who ministered in the temple, so only he amongst all humanity past and present could make this claim. There is no one alive today or still to be born that can possibly usher in the Kingdom of God/Heaven.

Covenant Eschatology is the only sound and sane means of understanding the Gospel and its futuristic implications. For it alone offers light amongst the darkness of modern day expositors.

Your bible is divided into two Covenants, the Old Testament (Covenant) and the New. Within these divisions everything must be placed. The old being the Law and the Prophets, the New the Gospel of the Kingdom and the premises the Kingdom is based upon.

Take for example the modern delusion of a rebuilt Temple, the return of the Mosaic Covenant, a millennial kingdom and a reinstitution of the Levitical priesthood with animal sacrifices to atone for apostate Israel’s sin.

Hebrews 7:14 For it is evident that our Lord hath sprung out of Judah; as to which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priests. And what we say is yet more abundantly evident, if after the likeness of
Melchizedek there ariseth another priest, who hath been made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life: for it is witnessed of him, Thou art a priest for ever. After the order of Melchizedek. For there is a disannulling of a foregoing commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness (for the law made nothing perfect), and a bringing in thereupon of a better hope, through which we draw nigh unto God. And inasmuch as it is not without the taking of an oath (for they indeed have been made priests without an oath; but he with an oath by him that saith of him, The Lord sware and will not repent himself, Thou art a priest for ever); by so much also hath Jesus become the surety of a better covenant. And they indeed have been made priests many in number, because that by death they are hindered from continuing: but he, because he abideth for ever, hath his priesthood unchangeable. Wherefore also he is able to save to the uttermost them that draw near unto God through him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

The first point to note is that the Levitical priesthood is now entirely defunct, having been replaced by Christ our Melchizedek.

The second point to note is that any modern Levite still living’s lineage is now questionable namely is he a true descendant of Aaron and not polluted by intermarriage. At the time of Christ the High Priesthood was already questionable, because Herod the Great and his descendants had taken it upon themselves to appoint them. (see Josephus the Historian).

The third point is that there is no animal sacrifice available to sanctify some obscure future high priest, or a prophet like Moses to re-institute it.

Hebrews 10:4 For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.

Hebrews 8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

The remnant of the priesthood perished at the destruction of the Temple in Ad66-70, and along with it all animal sacrifice under the disannulled law. All had vanished away along with the feasts and the required sacrifices in order for them to appear before the Lord, having been replaced by a mere memorial of them instead of a fulfilment.

Matthew 23:34 ¶ Therefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: some of them shall ye kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city: that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of Abel the righteous unto the blood of Zachariah son of Barachiah, whom ye slew between the sanctuary and the altar.

Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that killeth the prophets, and stoneth them that are sent unto her! how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

There is only one means of Sanctification available to the believer today.

Hebrews 10:10 By which will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Hebrews 10:29 of how much sorer punishment, think ye, shall he be judged worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

The Church, the New Covenant Israel has been sanctified by their Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ. His once only perfect offering that will never be repeated is what declares the Church’s eternal sanctification.

The Church as a body is the Temple of God, and is indwelt by him.

Ephesians 2:19 So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the
saints, and of the household of God, being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.

God is adding to that temple daily and has no intention of demolishing it or removing it.

So we have a Temple, we have a perfect sacrifice, and a royal Priesthood and an Eternal Kingdom. What need do we have of anything else?

1Peter 2:9 But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

If the modern fleshly descendants of Jacob want to see their Messiah (Christ), let them say Blessed is He that cometh in the name (Jesus) of the Lord (Jehovah). Unfortunately they prefer their own delusions of grandeur not having believed in their kinsman Redeemer; they blindly grope in the dark hoping that their sovereign King (Christ) will be replaced by some modern upstart by rejecting all those who call them to faith in the Messiah who dwelt amongst them. Let them welcome our missionaries who call upon them in the name of their Lord.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Christ our Jehovah is the immutable God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Better Resurrection expounded to the Corinthians

The Pre-Requisites

Of all the passages in the scripture this portion in the first letter to the Corinthians describes the pre-requisites to the afterlife most comprehensively. Although the scripture is given to us to mould our moral conduct in this present world, to stop at this point is only half of the truth. The scripture through this moulding also prepares us to inherit an eternal Kingdom. This Kingdom is not the product of human effort, as it was prepared for us from the foundation of the world. The two major requisites for entry into this eternal Kingdom are the gifts from God the Father of his Grace and Faith. The very purpose of God through the scripture is to prepare his predestined elect through the agency of the forever-blessed Holy Spirit for the better resurrection.

Faith, in the veracity of the divine Saviour’s mission to bring us Grace and truth, is a prerequisite. For none of those who fail to believe and follow Christ shall enjoy the benefits of the transfiguration described by Paul in this letter. Those Christ himself knows personally receive this joint inheritance of the saints; the scripture does not describe this as a universal right of every living human being. Notwithstanding this all of humanity shall stand at the Judgement seat of Christ after their demise. Some souls will be clothed in Glory while others will be in shaming nakedness.

The Birth Right of the Saints

This chapter from this letter is for the Church’s edification, and reveals a birthright of the saints.

1 Corinthians 15:12 ¶ Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.
For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead? And why stand we in jeopardy every hour? I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die. Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differs from another star in glory.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthly, such are they also that are earthly: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

And as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.
From the above passage, divided by the editors of the Letter into verses for easy reference we find a composite picture by Paul given to us to comprehend and understand. Its major subject is the resurrection of the dead saints, which he expands to establish the truth about their future resurrection at the time of Christ’s return.

“But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.”

It may pay the reader to refresh his memory of this composite picture by reading through it in its entirety before continuing. For from this point onwards this Author intends to expound it, by examining a verse or section and drawing certain conclusions from them.

Correcting erroneous views

12 ¶ Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

The Apostle Paul obviously from this section had to correct a certain erroneous view held by some that there was no resurrection of the dead. In modern times some still hold to the swoon theory that Jesus never died, and was still alive after the punishment inflicted upon him by the Romans. This of course discredits the Gospel and the entire cannon of the scripture. Our Faith is based upon the scripture and this erroneous view turns the scripture into myth. The Muslims hold this view that Christ never died; hence there was no resurrection of Christ. One must beware of opposing views of those of other faiths, lest one imbibe a poison that destroys the soul and robs you of your birthright.

Without believing in the Resurrection, of our forerunner Jesus after he died, there is absolutely no hope for you after you die. Christianity has embedded in it the hope of an eternal existence in the presence of God. The words “then is Christ not risen” imply the ascension of Christ into heaven after his resurrection. “Because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ” The resurrection and ascension of Christ are an integral part of one another, as the ascension is the result of him being resurrected. Christ has been raised up to the right hand of the majesty on High.

Ephesians 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

Comforting the saints

¶ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.

Paul assures the church that their faith is not in vain, and introduces the great hope of that faith. “Even so in Christ shall all be made alive”. Thus the church is comforted to know that being in Christ, contains the promise of being made alive. Death is obligatory to all men “For as in Adam all die” which he reiterates later. “Thou fool, that which thou sow is not quickened, except it die”, this is a very important part of his discourse for he has reiterated it that there be no conjecture of a rapture before one has died.

Outlining the timing

“But every man in his own order”

Paul also outlines the timing of this event, which excludes the living from it. This order is death burial
resurrection followed by ascension, which follows Christ’s example. Christ is the first fruits to ascend into heaven after his death burial and resurrection. Some contradict the earlier statement “For as in Adam all die”, which is as clear as daylight that everyone must die, by supporting their rapture while they are still alive. Paul reiterates his position again that all must die in the general subject of the resurrection. “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God: neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.” That is anyone still in a flesh and blood body cannot inherit the kingdom of God. My harping on this point is vital to your understanding, that death always precedes a resurrection and its timing is according to human order that is as we each successively die after our allotted timespan on this planet. In fact if you take the time to go through the entire subject as outlined by Paul you will find that it is a common thread running through out it, from which I have extracted a few explicit examples. Eg: “neither doth corruption inherit incorruption”.

Now we are faced with a paradox “; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming” which appears to contradict Paul’s statements that all must die. This implies that some will be left behind at Christ’s return, because they have not died yet. Because the scripture is sacrosanct, we cannot discount Paul’s reiteration that death precedes a resurrection (rapture), as the futurists do by selecting a single verse from the context and portraying it as the entire truth of the matter.

We, who hold that Christ has already returned to the generation he preached to, are some times charged with saying that the resurrection is over and done with. Whereas in fact the scripture supports an ongoing resurrection of the dead, which commenced when Christ returned, and is still in progress today, by the statement “But every man in his own order”. Of course someone will shout, “what about the letters to the Thessalonians”, to which I reply let us find out what Paul’s mindset was before we attempt to expound something which is hard to understand.

2 Peter 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

We need to deal with this progressively, although I have had to jump a bit forward in order to show that views I hold are not uncorroborated. For I expect opposition from those who place a futurist emphasis on their creeds instead of an ongoing fulfilment of them. I reiterate that I was once a futurist. Now in the light of Christ’s oath, “Verily” contained in Mathew Chapter 24:34, when taken in the context of the entire discourse on the end of the Mosaic Covenant, the futurist view is incorrect, and only the Preterist view holds to the absolute veracity of Jesus of Nazareth words.

The Two Major Covenants

Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, until he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that He is the exception, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto Him that put all things under him that God may be all in all.

The scripture is divided into two major covenants, the first is the Old (Mosaic Covenant a Covenant of Works) the second is the New Covenant (the ratification of the promise made to Abraham as reiterated in the prophets a covenant of Grace.) Eschatology must be based upon these two major divisions of the scripture. This is termed Covenant Eschatology.

One of the presumptions of the futurist view is that the Church is in its last days. They hold this view to lend credence to an unfulfilled return of Christ, although it is erroneous and the result of poor exegesis. Their failure to understand the Historical setting and context of the Gospels has led them to the position, where current news reports and political tensions are used to support their views instead of the scripture. Because they fail to see the application of the major Covenants of the scripture, some even go so far as to denigrate the Covenant Christ confirmed at the last Supper in the midst of Daniel’s seventieth week, the Messianic Covenantal time frame.

They have been waiting for an Antichrist to appear to support their deluded views. By splitting up divine fixed time frames and filling those with millennia long gaps they have made many deluded
speculations on the return of Christ etc. They turn the scripture into modern day fiction. Because without understanding the end spoken of by Paul; “Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God”, to the Corinthians they are left in the dark.

The letter was written before the Levitical priesthood was abolished and the sacrificial system abandoned at the demise of the temple AD70. The fulfilment of the Mosaic covenant (end) had taken place and yet the Futurists still shift this, “end”, millennia into the future. This they do by reintroducing the Mosaic covenant prior to the millennium and proclaiming a rebuilt temple and an earthly Kingdom for the modern secular state of Israel in flat contradiction of the scripture.

**Hebrews 8:13** In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

The old covenant was in a state of decay at the time the Letter to the Hebrews was written; its imminent demise is obvious from the words “is ready to vanish away”. Thus today with the abolition of the priesthood of the Levites and their atoning sacrifices at the destruction of Jerusalem, it is patently obvious that this scripture has been fulfilled.

Under the Covenant of Works, redemption was found through the sacrificial offering of a Lamb; Christ being the Lamb of God laid down his life under the Law in order to fulfil the Law. Therefore there is no other offering for sin, because the once only perfect offering of the Lamb of God has accomplished the very purpose of the Law; which is the reconciliation of the aggrieved party (God) to his predestined elect.

**Hebrews 10:11** And every priest standing daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

Because the sacrifice of the Lamb of God was perfect, the Law having been fulfilled perfectly, there was no longer any need for the Aaronic Priesthood. This has been replaced by the coming of Christ our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. Thus the old covenant, which was unable to bring about a perfect reconciliation through human mediators, is now no longer in force. It was fulfilled perfectly by God the Son, because at its core it had the promise of redemption from death. Death was consequence of failure to fulfil the law.

Thus the promise found in the Psalms to the Messiah is fulfilled, of being the Melchizedek High Priest forever, whom the author of the letter to the Hebrews declares as being the accomplisher of our redemption. This redemption includes Christ conquering death on our behalf, and brings the promise of a better resurrection to the church.

“Romans 4:15 Because the law brings wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. “

I Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition (old Covenant Israel), upon whom the ends of the world are come.

It is evident even in Modern Israel today that the end of the mosaic covenant of the law is long past. The temple no longer stands, its priesthood and High Priest are no longer in existence its sacrifices have ceased and been replaced with a rabbinical substitution.

Paul writing about those under the law describes that end of the Jewish economy has come upon them. “When he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power”, Christ’s return spelt the ruin of all in power over the Divided Kingdom of Israel, when he made those enemies, who crucified him, killed his disciples and murdered his prophets, his footstool. Some may object to this failing to understand that Christ’s Kingdom shall never end, therefore there are no last days for the Church as it is part of his everlasting kingdom.

**Isaiah 9:7** Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.
Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Rhetorical Question
Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead? And why stand we in jeopardy every hour? I protest by your rejoicing, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what does it advantage me, if the dead rise not? Let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die. Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

“Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?”

Paul concludes his Proof of Christ’s resurrection with this hypothetical question to those who did not believe in Christ’s resurrection and ascension. That is to ask, “why were you baptized into a still dead Christ”, we are not baptized into the dead Christ, but into the ascended resurrected Christ. There are still some cults that baptize their followers on behalf of a dead relative in order to secure their salvation. There is obviously no support for this based on Paul’s rhetorical question in the context, which it is made to support the resurrection of Christ.

Comparing Proofs of the Resurrection
35 ¶ But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God gives it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Paul now goes into a comparison stage on this subject, where he separates the fleshly resurrection from the spiritual resurrection. Using the prophetic mode of similitude’s to illustrate a divine truth. “But some man will say, how are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” Here he gives us as composite an answer as is humanly possible to what the resurrected ascended human spirit will be clothed with.

“And that which thou sow, thou sow not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God gives it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.”

If one were to hold a acorn, one cannot avoid, by looking at its present image, the foreknowledge that one day it will be a mighty oak. Paul’s likening the body you are presently living in to the mere grain of something greater is the example he sets here. The seeded body through death and resurrection becomes something greater than that which was sown. This discounts the imagination that everyone returns to a seed stage when he is resurrected. If you have ever grown something from a seed you will discover that the acorn seed you planted no longer exists in its original form having been replaced by
the Oak Tree.

“All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.”

Paul by setting comparison’s here is getting across the idea that there is more than one type of clothing for the soul. He is not preaching reincarnation in the earthly realm, but the distinguishing between that which inhabits the earth in its three realms (Land, water, air) and that which inhabits the heaven of heavens. There is a body equipped for living in the Celestial realm and a body equipped for living in the earthly realm, which he reinforced by his comparison of men and beast’s versus fishes and birds.

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

Paul is now likening the radiance of the glorified resurrected body by comparing it to the sun moon and stars also a radiance that is dependent upon our distance from it. Here by using the Sun, which is brightest, gives us a glimpse of the resplendent splendour of Christ that blinded him on the Damascus road.

Acts 9: 3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and

Revelation 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Matthew 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

Revelation 22:8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel, which showed me these things. Then said he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. And he said unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”

Paul continues his comparisons of the difference between a physical body and a spiritual body. By these comparisons he cast down those imaginations of men who think they shall be glorified in an earthly body that is only designed to inhabit this planet. The earthly body he describes as corrupt, and the heavenly as incorrupt (a state of perfection) which offers great hope for those who have lived as cripples or have been maimed in life, or are mentally deficient etc. The heavenly state is one of eternal Glory, while the earthly state is one of diminishing vigour and the emaciating results of aging.

**Summarising the resurrection**

” There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body “

This is the summary of all that he has compared in likeness, to those who are desiring to have their old bodies back in the resurrection, I say keep them. I desire the perfection of a spiritual body after my death, you can burn my remains and scatter them to the four winds for my naked soul will be clothed
with the immaculate wedding garment he has prepared for me that I may appear in his presence unashamed. I shall glow with the glory of an angel as my Messiah has promised.

The Promised Redemption

_And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly._

Our natural body we inherit from Adam, our spiritual body we inherit from the glorified resurrected Son of the Living God who in splendour exceeds the radiance of the Sun at midday in the middle of the Sahara Desert in the height of summer.

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

Without the change made within us through the earnest of the Holy Spirit, we cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The rebirth precedes the entry into this Kingdom, for the resurrection is the culmination of the conception of Christ within us. We may proclaim by faith we are born again, but the manifestation of fully-fledged Son of God only occurs at the redemption of our body, which is the great hope of salvation. To those who think they are already manifesting what they in fact hope to be, I say go back and read the context in the book of Romans.

_Waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body._

There is much erroneous teaching amongst Pentecostal sects about being a manifested son of God. Having totally missed the point that at the redemption of the physical body (I.e.: the Resurrection) one then becomes like an angel (A Manifested Son of God). But this manifestation occurs in the Heavenly Jerusalem the city of the Living God. The descendants of Adam, who are the creation spoken of here, are groaning to be clothed with immortality. Adam being created in the image and likeness of God, thorough transgression brought his future descendants (creation) into the bondage of sin and the resulting aging process (corruption) that leads to our death. If Paul was still hoping for the resurrection (I.e.: the redemption of his body) how can these blind guides make the claim that they are presently one of the manifested Son’s of God?

The Imminent Change of State

“Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Perhaps at this point you may have caught a glimpse of this great mystery of the Gospel. Men try to hide this from the unlearned, to keep them in bondage to the regalia and pomp and splendour of deftly clothed Evangelist’s and other self-proclaimed prophets.
“We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

Not everyone will have tasted death when Christ returns (has returned) but all in the Christian faith will be changed. Paul declares the imminence of Christ’s return in these words to Corinthians “Behold, I show you a mystery: we shall not all sleep”, which limits the return to occurring within the lifespan of the congregation he was writing to. This unexpected event within their life spans is declared a mystery. Those who shift the return into the distant future far beyond the expected life span of the audience, the time of Paul’s writing, blind their congregations to the fact that Paul had asserted that he himself saw it as an imminent event. It has remained a mystery to the blind futurist’s until this day. The mystery is we are in a Post rapture time frame to think otherwise turns the discourse into a myth.

Paul has brought the final act of redemption into the life spans of the congregation he was overseeing. “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump” these words introduce a finality to the resurrection he has been describing to them. The Corinthian church being a mix of the descendants of Jacob and the Gentiles who have been brought into the promises and covenants of hope, they are themselves a sign of the end of the time of Jacob’s travail. The last trumpet signalling the end of one covenant age and the introduction of a new covenant age to the children of the promise was about to sound within their life span..

Galations 4:21 ¶ Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

The New Jerusalem, which is above was about to be populated, the earthly Jerusalem was about to be cast out, the children of the promise born of the free woman (the Church) was about to inherit a city made without hands. The old Covenant had a promise within it of Final redemption from its greatest enemy, which was “Death” which laid claim to all under the “Law”. The Last Trumpet signalled a victory of this greatest enemy of mankind. The old Generation would pass away at the clarion call of the trumpet and be succeeded by the New Creation.

Luke 21:32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

Passing over the great divide

Christ, replacing the old Passover that celebrated their redemption from the Egyptian bondage, had introduced a New Covenant Passover. The old celebrated their freedom from the tyranny of foreign dominion over them and the new life in the promised earthly land, this being the mere shadow of the better hope to be found in the Messianic Covenant age. Resurrection restores the right of freedom and escape from this world into the world of the new creation found in Christ.

Matthew 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.

1 Corinthians 11:25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.
During communion we are told to bring into our remembrance the focal point of our faith that is the Death, burial and resurrection/ascension of Christ our Saviour and Lord. Not only does he save us from this world, but also he brings us his victory over Sin and Death. Passover was a feast instituted originally and celebrated under the Law of Moses, but after Christ’s return we are still required to celebrate it in memory of his covenant keeping Fathers kingdom promise. Today we should be celebrating our resurrection/ascension through him as the glorious hope set before us. Paul is explicit to the Galatians that we are not to return to the Law of Moses. This may seem as paradox to many, but the New Covenant scripture is full of this type of duality, we are naturally earthbound but spiritually we are seated with Christ at the right hand of the Father. This duality can be illustrated from the following passage.

Joshua 3:17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

The Covenant remains firm until all Israel had passed over into the Promised Land. A slow moving column with some already in the Land of promise, while others are still beholding it by Faith that entails a duality to those who are still in a land that is not yet theirs. By faith we see beyond the Jordan and our future inheritance as a joint heir with Christ who has passed over ahead of us. Where the Head of the body has gone the tail is sure to follow. The first sounding of the trumpet to cross over (Passover) begins the progressive journey of the whole body of Israel with the Jews first then the Gentiles (a numberless multitude) following. The trumpet sounded in the Generation Paul preached to and each successive generation of Christians have followed Christ into the promised Kingdom.

Hebrews 10:37  For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report.

We no longer have to wait for a returning Christ as he has returned and has not tarried for thousands of years, and the church is steadily following those who have gone on to be with the Lord, by faith in Christ we follow the Captain of our salvation, who has returned to lead us Like Joshua and Caleb our forerunners into the promised Land in our Father’s Kingdom.

Hebrews 11:39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

Hebrews 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

This promise of a Better resurrection into the New Jerusalem in the Fathers Kingdom is the prize at the end of a life of Faith founded upon the great hope of the Redemption from our Mortal Bodies.

Supporting the resurrection of the dead

Because Paul has been explicit throughout his discourse that death precedes the resurrection the change has to be one that occurs over a progressive period of time from Christ’s return at the fall of Jerusalem.

1. “But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen” death preceded Christ’s resurrection and Ascension.

2. “¶ But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou
fool, that which thou sowed is not quickened, except it die:” self-explanatory.

3. “It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power” A seed when it is sown is buried under the soil.

4. “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order:” no human exceptions to this rule.

5. “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God: neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.” Your human bodies while still alive cannot ascend into the Kingdom. There is a difference between being in the spirit and being in the flesh, the apocalyptic visions of John were in the spirit, while his body was still in Patmos.

6. “the dead shall be raised incorruptible” self explanatory.

7. “John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.” Christ’s oath upon the matter.

8. “John 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.” Christ’s oath here denotes a period of time longer than a single instance as an Hour is made up of 3600 seconds or 7200 half seconds. The length of the twinkling of an eye being the fraction. In one hour Babylon the great whore (Jerusalem) was destroyed. “Revelation 18:19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate”. Yet the Roman siege lasted three and a half years. This event cannot be pushed multiple millennia ahead, because the Hour had already started in Ad 30.

Matthew 27:52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

These were the first fruits of the old covenant saints having gained the redemption of their bodies through faith in the promises of the Messiah within the law and the prophets.

Following the Sounding of the Trumpet

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed”

Having established from this discourse on the resurrection that death always precedes the change that takes place following the sounding of the last trumpet. Because it is evident that this trumpet signalled the return of Christ at the destruction of Jerusalem in Ad 66-70 it is also patently obvious that the resurrection is an ongoing event from that time.

Matthew 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Matthew 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

From Christ’s oath that within the life spans (Generation) of those he ministered to, while on the earth the sounding of the great trumpet would take place. The unknown time and hour of the return was limited to a period within that generation of mankind.

When a farmer puts the sickle in to gather his field he begins at a point and continues working his field until his entire crop is harvested.

Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.
Revelation 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

The Gaining of a victory over death

“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The victory we gain from Christ is his victory over death, and we only experientially taste that victory at our death. Then in the twinkling of an eye at our last gasp we will understand in the courts of glory the fulfilment of the passage “O death where is thy sting”.

Reinforcing the Resurrection

2 Corinthians 4:13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

¶ For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.”

Even if we lose our physical body that houses our spirit, we are assured of the Spiritual Body (our house from heaven) that will clothe our naked spirit. Paul’s confidence of this stretches to the point where he declares outright “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”, and the reader should note it is not a isolated statement but part of Paul’s reiterating the resurrection in his second letter to the Corinthians to establish their faith. “(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”. Our appearance at the Judgement seat of Christ follows our resurrection for the Judgment seat of Christ is where the Disciples of Christ sit.

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve
Regeneration is the process whereby that which is mortal puts on immortality. (i.e.: The resurrection of the dead). Here the creation (Adams Progeny) becomes the New Creation in Christ the second Adam.

The Judgement Seat

Human court procedures deal with cases one at a time, and some imagine that billions upon billions will suddenly arrive in heaven in an instant and be judged. It is totally an illogical imaginary scene they set having failed to see a continuous resurrection of Christ’s followers since His return.

1 Corinthians 6:1 ¶ Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

It is interesting to note that Paul declares that the Church will judge angels, this harmonizes with Christ’s words, that we shall be as angels in the resurrection neither giving in marriage or taking in marriage. There will be no sexual differences visible in the spiritual body.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

In the natural body we are still separated by these differences, but when we are clothed with our glorified body, that which we have now by faith, we shall then have in reality.

Because futurists believe that Christ has not returned yet, they look for two imaginary future events, one a rapture the second a general resurrection. By ignoring Paul’s distinction of two differing kinds of bodies they loudly proclaim we shall be raised in a physical body, at what stage of life they do not declare, implying that women will still have their sexual differences after being raised. This is much like the Papacy claiming that Mary is the mediatrix between men and God, which is a totally unfounded claim. They also make claims of her appearing as a female apparition to her devotees.

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

Of course we have to take the heathen into consideration, when discussing a future state after death. It is sufficient to say their spirits will appear naked, without a wedding garment on, not having clothed themselves in Christ’s righteousness, but in the fig leaves of human endeavour.

Covenantal Union

Matthew 22:11 and when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: and he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

If one studies the timing of the parable of the Marriage Supper one discovers it is an ongoing event. It accords well with an ongoing resurrection of those who have partaken of tokens New Covenant at the Lords supper table, where the Bride is brought into Covenantal union with the Bridegroom and inherits his righteousness as the Garment that adorns her.

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him and he with me.

Many evangelists use this passage above in a different sense to the actual words, which are an invitation to sup with Christ by eating the spiritual food he has provided in the New Covenant meal.
Obviously the Laodicean’s church had not accepted the New Covenant, and it was still naked and unclothed under the old covenant. Christ had been shut out of a church that had returned to the weak beggarly elements of the law.

Galatians 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Paul had similar problems with those who were advocating circumcision as the seal of the New Covenant to the Galatians.

Now we shall deal with the like passage in Thessalonians having understood Paul’s mindset on the matter for the letters were circulated amongst the churches.

The Better Resurrection for the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 4:13 ¶ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we, which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together (also) with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The timing of the Event

When you read the passage above, you find Paul comforting the Thessalonians who were mourning the death of their members and revealing a hope before them. In this context the passage should be fairly easily understood. Paul reveals a very near event that would cheer up the mourners, which he declares as something that will occur in their own life spans.

The word “we” is used five times in the passage and its use is obviously directed to people alive at the time of its writing. If the word “they” was used in its place then and only then can this event be shifted into a yet future time frame. To declare almost two thousand years later that these people now all dead and buried will still be raptured at some indefinite future date, is to accuse Paul of misleading those he ministered to.

Only a resurrection /rapture occurring in their personal life spans lends credibility to Paul’s assertions. It is obvious that Paul was convinced that some of the Thessalonians would be still alive physically at Christ’s return, “that we, which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord”, only those who make excuses for an still unfulfilled promise by a man who was dead and buried before AD70 can attempt to prove otherwise.

The Basis of the Resurrection

Paul in this discourse also reminds the Thessalonians of the basis of the coming resurrection to be established upon Christ’s death, burial, resurrection and ascension, which is supported by his discourse to the Corinthians. Having understood that death precedes a resurrection according to Paul and Christ one cannot jump to the conclusion that this is an exception to the rule of faith. The purported exception of the dispensational futurist who somehow manages to exclude the death of the members of Thessalonians Church from this requirement is exposed.
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him (KJV)

1 Thessalonians 4:14 For, if we believe that, Jesus, died, and rose again, so, also will, God, bring forth with him, them who have fallen asleep through Jesus; “Rotherham Translation of the New Testament”

The vagueness of the KJV, of the event, the Rotherham translation clarifies. For within it we see that just as God the Father raised Christ, so to he will through Christ raise those who have died in the infant Church. The KJV through its vagueness appears to imply that the dead saints return with Christ at the resurrection/rapture. It also seems to imply that the Father will leave the throne and be present at the event. There is no other scripture to support this, without the required two or three witnesses to confirm the KJV, the alternate translation is superior.

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep” once again Paul draws the distinction that the livings do not precede the dead during the event. The archaic word “prevent” does not mean to stop them, but to be ahead of those that follow afterwards.

The Reunification of resurrected souls

“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air”

There is a word contained in this sentence, which is often overlooked as though it were written this way: “Then we which are alive shall be caught up together with them in the clouds”. There is a distinction between the example and the actual, because the example omits the word “REMAIN” which denotes a period of waiting until they themselves have died. Which also implies that the return of Christ would occur during the life-span of the members of the church he was writing to, for Paul does not use the phrase “they which are alive” but includes himself by using the phrase “we which are alive”.

Secondly the word “together” from the Greek “Hama” is used differently in various places in the scripture; I believe Paul’s use of it here should be translated “also” so that it harmonizes with the other scriptures on the resurrection.

The NIV translation has “After that we who are still alive and are left” which denotes two separate events occurring, one which follows the other.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Afterwards we who are alive and are still on earth will be caught up in their company amid clouds to meet the Lord in the air.(Weymouth)

The Weymouth translation separates this into two distinct events. The dead being raised first and the still living following afterwards. It also uses the words “will be “explaining the catching away which does not necessarily imply a simultaneous event. Notice also where the KJV uses “remain” this translation uses “and are still on Earth”. Also there is more clarity as to where the re-unification of the resurrected souls takes place. They are seen to be amid the clouds, the carnally minded assume that this occurs in the earth’s atmosphere and witnessed by the entire world. When Paul saw the resurrected/ascended/glorified Christ those in his presence did not see it.

Acts 9: 3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice,
but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

To be amid the Clouds is to be in the New Jerusalem. The Clouds prophetically speak of the Glory of the transfiguration-taking place at the time.

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ...22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Daniel 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord”

Air is all around us, it touches the surface of the planet, it can be found under the ground in the Mines of this world. Paul’s us of it here is metaphorical, and signifies being in the visible presence of God or rather in the sense of being in the Atmosphere of God’s Presence. So may go so far as to imagine this to be the arrival of a mother ship from an alien culture like they do when reading the prophet Ezekiel. Spiritual things are discerned spiritually and not naturally.

1 Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Paul declares to Timothy that Christ our King and our God is immortal and invisible to the Naked eye. So in the resurrection that which was only visible in the Spirit on occasions, becomes eternally visible when this mortal becomes immortal in the spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

The Collapse of the Modern Rapture hypothesis

From these comparisons we see that the instant Rapture theory of the dispensationalist’s view of yet future rapture before the great tribulation or after it is only supported by two fragmented portions from Corinthians and Thessalonians and is subject to how it has been translated. The view that the tribulation is a still future event occurring after the deaths of those who listened to Christ’s Olivet discourse (Mat 24), millennia later is not supported by the scripture.

Thus the Dispensational view collapses when one takes audience, context and setting into consideration and understands that the Great tribulation occurred during the period Ad 66-70 and was the culminating judgement ending the appended Law to the promise of the New Covenant given to Abraham. Thus the Mosaic Priesthood, it’s atoning sacrifices and temple disappeared forever, never to be re-instituted again.
For we have in its place the once only perfect sacrifice of God, the Melchizedek High Priesthood, The Eternal Jerusalem, the eternal King of Kings reigning in an everlasting Kingdom. The old Mosaic Covenant fully replaced by the glorious New Covenant our Lord and Saviour confirmed by shedding his blood as the permanent seal of it’s eternal validity.

There are some amongst those deluded dispensationalists who vainly imagine that the New Covenant still has not been ratified, and can only take place in the modern secular state of Israel after the Temple is rebuilt and the Mosaic Covenant is revived from its death knell. Taking the promises of God as promises to the modern secular state of Israel instead of the spiritual Israel (the Church) they stumble in gross darkness and lead many astray. The true Israel is made up of both Jew and Gentile and is the church, so the promises cannot be treated as exclusively for the secular state.

_Ephesians 2: 14_ That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

**A Better Resurrection in the Psalms**

<<TO THE CHIEF MUSICIAN, A PSALM FOR THE SONS OF KORAH.>>

_Psalm 49 ¶_  
Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world: Both low and high, rich and poor, together. My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. I will incline mine ear to a parable: I will open my dark saying upon the harp.

Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about? ¶ They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)

That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption. For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish. This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah.

Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling. ¶ But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him. Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself. He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light. Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.

Calling the Worlds Attention

“Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world: Both low and high, rich and poor,
together. My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. I will incline mine ear to a parable: I will open my dark saying upon the harp."

The Psalmist calls the entire world’s attention to this ode of his. This is not something only for the elite, but for all no matter what their status in life. By describing it as wisdom and the product of much meditation, a dark saying, something that common lot of humanity fail to perceive. He writes it as an ode to humanity a song to be considered using a parable that reveals the state of mankind.

"Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."

Why we need Redemption

"Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about? ¶ They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:"

His discovery of indwelling sin that plagues his journey through life brings a certain fear to mind. The question is “who will redeem my soul”? No amount wealth or the trust in it to purchase the redemption of a soul will suffice. God cannot be bribed by earthly status to redeem your relatives or purchase the position of an office in the Church that will ensure their redemption. The cost of redeeming a soul is priceless, beyond human ability and the loss of your soul has an eternal consequence.

Mathew 16:24 ¶ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

"That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption, for he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish. This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah."

Redemption would require something that the natural man does not possess, that is immortality that prevents the decay of the human body. Wise men and fools go to the same destiny, thinking that they will live forever in the memory of the next generation. By leaving behind some human legacy they hope that posterity will remember them. No matter what their station in life is, they are no different from a dead dog.

Death is at work in this world and soon any honour they have gained disappears along with them. That which excited their souls in this life is of no worth in the next life. International colours and the accolades of the men that exalt them soon become a dim memory of past achievements. The path they have chosen with the reward of human adoration is the path of the foolish, even if all concur with them.

"Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.¶ But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah."

Redemption of the Soul

Often those in the Christian faith are considered fools by the worldly, for they seek the Kingdom of God and the redemption of their souls from the power of the grave. Death feeds on all who are worldly and their perceived beauty soon perishes. For all that shall be left is an emaciated corpse. A light burst’s forth like the first rays of the dawn amidst this dark saying of the psalmist. Mankind is
concerned with adorning the tombs of the lifeless corpses, while he looks forward to the redemption of his innermost being (his soul) not his corpse.

Acts 2:25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne: He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

The upright one (Christ) the only man who was sinless, would have dominion over their souls in the dawning of the new Day. His identification with Christ’s resurrection as the redemption of his soul was the hope he puts forth in the psalm. “But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.”

Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; for when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him. Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself. He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light. Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.

Human Glory does not follow one into the grave and clothe one’s naked soul. Many perish that fail to understand that redemption from the grave is found in Christ the Light of the world. For throughout this psalm he has put forth that man is a sinner and cannot redeem himself.

Just as David looked forward to the redemption he saw in the upright one, we also should look to the Glory of Christ, as that which will redeem our priceless Soul from the power of the grave.

The Better Resurrection in the Prophets

The Benefits of the New Covenant

One may think that the resurrection is merely a new Idea that arrived with Christ. But it is a long held view of one of the benefits of the coming new Covenant that Christ confirmed.

Isaiah 66: 5 ¶ Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name’s sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies. Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God. Rejoice ye with
Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem. And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.¶ For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many. They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine’s flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD. For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.

“Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.” Before Zion (the Church- Christ’s Kingdom) travailed Christ the Son of Man was caught up to God in the ascension.

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.

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

Before the commencement of the Great tribulation the Son of Man was caught up to God and his throne. Heavenly Israel portrayed by the symbol of the Sun and the Moon and the twelve Stars that gave the fruit of her virgin daughter’s womb (Mary) to the world, was soon to suffer her pain.

John 16:21 A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

The Rhetorical question about the New Nation

“Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God.”

This piece in Isaiah has a rhetorical question, which follows the birth and glorification of the Son of Man. The answer to the question is obvious, that a nation is produced as the population of a tribe grows over a period of time through successive generations. A single Couple may be the cause of a nation, but the populace that makes up that nation is something that has accrued over a period. Is the womb shut after the birth of the first of many siblings, again the answer is no. Due to Christ being the first to ascend into the Kingdom of Heaven, those who follow afterward continue until a nation exists in its fullness. Here the ongoing resurrection/ ascension is revealed in Isaiah as the rest of the passage deals with the future destruction of Christ’s enemies.

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

The Birth of the New Nation of Israel

The Church is called a Holy Nation and a Royal priesthood in the epistles, and here Isaiah points to the Gentiles being grafted into the Kingdom as part of the nation that is born over a period of time.

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

During the preceding century of the 1900’s, much emphasis has been placed upon this oath of Christ.
The term born again became a cliché for the work of regeneration begun by the Holy Spirit in the followers of Jesus. The flaw of this mode of thinking is to assume that receiving the earnest of the spirit was the be all and end all of Christianity. Some even go so far to declare that it is an act of human ritual that causes this to take place. Failure to understand, that birth is the end result of being born by ones parents into this world, that conception is a primary decision of a willing father, leads to many misnomers. Following conception within the realm of a mother’s womb a child only sees the earthly realm after delivery nine months later. Within the womb it cannot see the human glory of modern Day City like Paris, with all its parks, boulevards and other attractions.

*John 3:4* Nicodemus said unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?

In the language of the day Nicodemus understood that to be born again necessitated the need for someone else (his mother) to carry him for nine months. In his mind he had no thoughts of an instant birth at the moment of conception. Christ never corrected him on this but expanded this into the realm of the spirit, comparing the natural with the spiritual.

*John 3:5* Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

In this analogy a circumcision takes place, for when a child is birthed it is separated from its mother by the cutting off of the life supporting umbilical cord, that which sustained it in its previous realm of the womb. In our travail with death we are also cut off from that which sustained us namely the world, the corporate society that sustained our existence.

The end/object of spiritual regeneration has a similar object in view, that is to be born into the kingdom of God. Only after our resurrection shall we behold the glory of the New Creation, the Heavenly Jerusalem in the Kingdom of God. The Church is the womb of Christianity and within it we are fed with the milk that nourishes us to eventually present us perfect in Christ. In one sense we are being born again by mother church (the earthly Kingdom), which nourishes us spiritually to finally enter the Heavenly Kingdom.

*Revelation 1:5* And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten (born) of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Just as Jesus explains to Nicodemus that the Son of Man must be lifted up (crucified) before all are drawn to him as part of his explanation of being born again, likewise Christ is the first born of many brethren.

*Romans 8:29* For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Isaiah prophetically under the unction of the infallible spirit of God, portrays the Church as Mount Zion travailing in birth to bring forth a nation of Kings and priests, Paul portrays God’s predestined purpose of many brethren making up the elect of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a Church that is within the womb of the Blessed Holy Spirit who carries us into our Fathers House. Because the Holy Spirit is an ever present reality, there is ongoing regeneration taking place daily in the natural world of the church, along with an ongoing delivery of children into the Heavenly kingdom of God as they are cut off by death. Regeneration and Resurrection are the Alpha and Omega of the Christian faith. Christ calls us to follow him and through this call we are invited to partake of death by being baptized into Christ that we might be raised with him.

*Romans 6:4* Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be
destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

The Primary Object of the Christian Faith

The Christian faith’s primary object is the Resurrection and ascension of Christ, and by faith it has a great hope of being delivered after death into the Kingdom of God in like manner.

Philippians 3:8 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

¶ And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

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

If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. ¶ Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

The Apostle Paul was fully persuaded that in his own lifetime he would accomplish being resurrected. To him it was an imminent event that all the Church should be aware of. That is he expected to experience his resurrection at the return of Christ. The question arises if one is a futurist. “Was Paul deluded?” The imminent return of Christ is a major theme that the early infant church was well aware of. Some of this fervour, which I term “Rapture Fever”, has been re-instilled in the ill informed modern church.

The Preterist view that Christ has already returned based upon the weight of evidence for it in the Gospels and the Historical events at the fall of Jerusalem, reintroduces the same hope Paul had of being resurrected upon our death. The Gospel’s begin with the Conception of Christ in the blessed virgin’s womb by the Holy Ghost and ends with the Death, burial and Resurrection/ascension of Christ. This is the primary model of faith for the Christian Church. Raptures while still alive in the flesh are the mere supposition of deluded dispensationalists, who spuriously and continuously have made false predictions of it from the first century AD after the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. Church history is full of the results of the effects of these false prophets’ delusions throughout history.

Rejoicing in the New Jerusalem

“Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem. And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies”

Isaiah under the unction of the ever-blessed Holy Spirit extends this vision of Israel in mourning for the Destruction of their Mother City Jerusalem, by announcing the coming of the Comforter to Jerusalem who would extend the gospel to the Gentiles (the nations) as her consolation. This vision of the church being conceived by the coming of the Holy Ghost and expanded to the Gentiles would bring Joy to the inheritors of the New Jerusalem. He follows this with Gods Favour upon the Church and his indignation against the enemy of the Church, namely the apostate descendants of Jacob who handed
Jesus over to be crucified. Note that the flow of the Gentiles into the New Jerusalem is likened to that of a river, which once started it continues through countless generations. Just as rivers endlessly flow into the sea and are reunited with the source of the rain that sustains its flow so to the resurrection once started continues on unabated.

Acts 2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Isaiah’s Preview

Isaiah multiple centuries before outlines the events leading up to the ongoing resurrection of the Church.

1. The Ascension of Christ the man-child.
2. The Coming of the Comforter.
3. The engrafting of the Gentiles into the Church.
4. The destruction of the enemies of Christ and the tribes of Israel in Mourning for the loss of the mother City.
5. The Chariots of God surrounding Jerusalem.
6. The Continuous ascension into the Kingdom of Heaven of resurrected saints of both Jews and Gentiles.

¶ For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many. They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine’s flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD. For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.

The Chariots in the clouds are part of Josephus’s historical account of the portents in the heavens at the destruction of Jerusalem. Josephus the leading Jewish Historian, whose works are available today, lived amongst the generation Christ preached to. From his writings we have a full historical account of the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of Herod’s Temple. Isaiah a major Prophet in the divine canon closes his book with this glorious revelation of the coming of the Lord in Judgement at the destruction of Jerusalem.

Josephus War of the Jews Book 6 Chapter 5 section 3. (288) Thus were the miserable people persuaded by these deceivers, and such as belied God himself; while they did not attend nor give credit to the signs that were so evident, and did so plainly foretell their future desolation; but, like men infatuated, without either eyes to see or minds to consider, did not regard the denunciations that God made to them. (289) Thus there was a star [d] resembling a sword, which stood over the city, and a comet, that continued a whole year. (290) Thus also, before the Jews’ rebellion, and before those commotions which preceded the war, when the people were come in great crowds to the feast of unleavened bread, on the eighth day of the month of Xanthikos [e] [Nisan], (Niese: April 25, Capellus: April 8) and at the ninth hour of the night, so great a light shone around the altar and the holy house, that it appeared to be bright daytime; which lasted for half an hour. (291) This light seemed to be a good sign to the unskilful, but was so interpreted by the sacred scribes as to portend those events that followed immediately upon it. (292) At the same festival also, a heifer, as she was led by the high priest to be sacrificed, brought forth a lamb in the midst of the temple. (293) Moreover, the eastern gate of the inner [court of the] temple, which was of brass, and extremely heavy, and had been with difficulty shut by twenty men, and fastened with iron-bound bars, and had bolts sunk very deep into the firm floor, which was there made of one entire stone, was seen to be opened of its own accord about the sixth hour of the night. (294) Now, those who kept watch in the temple, came hereupon running to the captain of the temple, and told him of it;
who then came up there, and not without great difficulty was able to shut the gate again. (295) This also appeared to the common people to be a very happy prodigy, as if God thereby opened to them the gate of happiness. But the men of learning understood it, that the security of their holy house was dissolved of its own accord, and that the gate was opened for the advantage of their enemies. (296) So these publicly declared that the signal predicted the desolation that was coming upon them. Besides these, a few days after that feast, on the twenty-first day of the month of Artemisios [Iyyar], (Niese: June 8, Capellus: May 21) (297) a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared: I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those who saw it, (298) and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sunsetting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armour were seen (299) running about among the clouds, and surrounding the cities. Moreover, at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner [f] court of the temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise, (300) and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, “We are departing from here.”

1 Thessalonians 5:1 ¶ But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

The coming destruction of Jerusalem at the Lords return is well supported in the Gospels. Paul’s reason for not producing a Dispensational diagram outlining the mythical gap between the sixty-ninth and seventieth week is obvious from the copies of the Gospel’s that would be in the Thessalonians possession.

Luke 11:51 From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.

Luke 21:32 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

They were well aware that it was something that would occur in the generation alive at that time. Here this author’s object is to show how Isaiah foresaw the travail of Israel and the ongoing resurrection, should any be interested to know in detail, there is a major treatise by James Stuart Russell on the Parousia that covers the return of Christ.

Daniel’s Outline Isaiah’s Conclusion

Daniel the prophet outlines the consummation to us.

Daniel 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

The consuming wrath of God poured upon the abandoned City of Jerusalem brings a close to Isaiah’s prophecy after the glorious New Covenant was confirmed by the once only perfect sacrifice of the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world. The temple lay desolate at the time of Gabriel’s appearance to Daniel. The rebuilt temple became desolate when the veil was rent and the Shekinah glory departed. The consummation closed the chapter on the Natural Kingdom in the control of the usurping Herodion dynasty the descendants of the hated Esau. In its place a gathering of all nations and tongues into the Heavenly Jerusalem of Mount Zion commenced as the Lord of Glory spread the gospel of the confirmed and ratified New Covenant to a thousand Generations.

Deuteronomy 9:8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keeps covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations; And repays them that hate him to their face, to destroy
them: he will not be slack to him that hate him, he will repay him to his face.

Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels. To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect. And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

“For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.”

This glorious conclusion by Isaiah foreshadowing the inauguration of the Eternal Kingdom of Christ our Lord and Saviour that commences with the ingathering of resurrected men into the Eternal City in the Heaven of Heavens. Just as the gospel has been continuously preached of the Eternal City made without hands amongst mankind, following the destruction of the earthly city at its final trumpet, so to the resurrection has continued unabated populating mount Sion with the spirits of Just men made perfect.

The Promise to Daniel

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

Understanding the Historical Time Frames that point out the fulfilment of the promises made to Daniel is the key that unlocks the much-debated verses that follow. Herod the Great and his dynasty set up their palaces and occupied them on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. This sets the time frame from the Birth of Christ (Herod the Great on the Throne) to the Destruction of Jerusalem. (Refer: Phillip Mauro: The seventy Weeks of Daniel and the great tribulation Chaps 9-10)

Daniel 12:1 ¶ And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.

The Generation of People alive at Christ’s earthly ministry would live to see the fulfilment of these promises to Daniel. That this is not a worldwide event is obvious as it has do with the Children of Israel (Daniel’s people) and the then nation of Israel.

Mark 13:18 "But pray that it may not come in the winter. For those will be times of <suffering the like of which has never been from the first creation of God’s world until now,> and assuredly never will be again; and but for the fact that the Lord has cut short those days, no one would escape: but for the sake of His own People whom He has chosen for Himself He has cut short the days.(Weymouth)

Christ instructions to the Infant Church in Ad 30, to ensure their preservation, are outlined to Daniel. The Deliverance of the Elect remnant of Israel who consists of the people found written in the Book. This book is Lamb’s book of life. Linked to this time of trouble and following it is the commencement of the resurrection. “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

John 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

During Christ’s earthly ministry He announced the arrival of the hour of the resurrection. As no man had yet ascended into heaven since Elijah’s departure, he re-introduces the great hope of the scripture i.e.: the redemption of the human soul.
John 11:24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.
Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Christ’s declaration to Martha is an eternal declaration of just who He is. He is not a future resurrection or a past resurrection but the eternal state of being the resurrection. To be in Christ is to be part of his eternal state of being, which is to be party to his resurrection power, which conquers death. The resurrection life imparted to us by Christ is what will raise us from the grave. It is His Life that conquers the death at work in our fleshly state, which we inherited from Adam. Adam’s and his descendant’s transgressions, are overcome by Christ’s perfect obedience to the will of the Father. Christ’s righteousness (all ways doing the right thing at the right time in the right way at the right place) is imputed to us. We are declared through our faith in him as being alive.

John 11:11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

The friends of Christ are to expect his appearance to them with joy knowing he is their resurrection. “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Yet the enemies of Christ and the gospel can only expect the shaming nakedness of their continued transgressions damning them for all eternity.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned

John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.”

Daniel is shown once again the great hope of the Covenant Promise to Abraham that his seed should be as the Stars of Heaven for multitude. Which promise Paul extends to the Gentiles, declaring that Christ had confirmed the Covenant promises to Abraham. For when we drink of the Cup of the New Covenant in Christ’s blood, we become partakers of the resurrection life found within it. And the promises to Abraham are fulfilled in our life, for we shall be as Angels in the Resurrection, the metaphorical stars of heaven.

Hebrews 11:9 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

The Time of the End

Daniel 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

One of the problems many face when expounding scripture is to stay in context of what is being discussed. Our question here is what end the Angel to Daniel is speaking of some 483 years before
Christ’s baptism by John. This portion from verse 11:45, “yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.” is the Key that opens the seal on the book. When Herod’s dynasty loses their power over the land of Israel then the validity of these promises will be found. Herod the Edomite’s descendants usurping kingdom lost all their rule and reign over Jerusalem and Israel at the destruction of the temple in Ad 66-70. For Christ the resurrected King of Glory breaks all the seals of the old covenant having become their fulfilment. Christ like the prophets before him brings the Old Covenant Law suit against apostate Israel.

Matthew 23:35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

Here Christ has declared the nations guilt and unleashes the Curse of the Law upon them. God’s vengeance for their continued transgressions and wilful disregard for his Law now will break forth upon the heads of the Status quo. The Dynasty and all that enjoyed the favour of it would come tumbling down. The seat of the Kingdom Jerusalem and the Pharisees power base would all come to its end. Jerusalem’s demise would be their demise.

Daniel 12:5 ¶ Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

This verse above much maligned by cults and futurists, who claim it is unfulfilled and have shifted its context millennia into the future has only led to great confusion amongst Christ’s body. For the end and the timing of the end has to do with the end of a Monarch upon the earthly throne in the palaces on the temple mount.

Matthew 24: 15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:…..21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.

The major failure of the futurist’s is to recognise that Christ personally told those seated around him in AD30 in sight of the temple mount, that they would see the Abomination of desolation in their own lifetime. If the infant Church had not seen it or heeded Christ’s instructions then they too would have perished in the conflagration.

Luke 21:20 ¶ And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

If only these futurists would stop straining gnats and swallowing camels they would understand, that the Roman Legions marching through Judea to surround the Temple mount and desolate it with fire, was the warning Christ was giving his flock, to ensure their salvation from the wrath to come.

Matthew 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

John the Baptist in preparing the way of the Messiah brought a covenant Lawsuit against the Status quo, which was reiterated by Christ throughout his ministry.
Daniel 12:8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

Daniel had been given the timeframe of the Days of Vengeance (The fulfilment of the old Covenant Lawsuit), which is distinguished by the end of the Levitical Priesthood and the termination of the daily sacrifice to atone for the sins of Israel. Once removed the Old Covenant ended and redemption under it was closed. Shut for all eternity. A three and half year period, that would bring about God’s vengeance upon the enemies of Christ.

Mark 12:36 For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool. David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly. And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.

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

Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, Daniel 12:1 ¶ And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble

The Church fled after the resurrection/ascension of Christ when they saw the Roman ensigns in the Land of Judea and the power of the holy people was scattered. They left in their droves before the siege began.

Ad66-70. “And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished”

Revelation 12:14 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.

John’s revelatory vision of the Woman’s (the infant Mother Church) flight, reveals the swiftness of it in response to Christ’s explicit instructions. This he does by using the eagle, as his metaphorical example, that nests in the mountains.

Matthew 24:16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

The Infant Church flees from the face of the Serpent, the representatives of Caesar, the subtle beast of the field, coming to desolate Jerusalem and the surrounding countryside of Judea.

All that now remained was the commencement of the ongoing resurrection...” But go thou thy way till
the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.” The promise to Daniel of being resurrected and the timing of the fulfilment of it had been given to him, “At the end of the one who planted his tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain “.

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

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

Revelation 18:24 And in her (Jerusalem) was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth. ¶ And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

The Better Resurrection in the History of the Kings

Just as I started with the writer to the Hebrews declaring the hope of a better resurrection using Elijah’s raising of the woman’s child as the example of a physical resurrection, we shall examine Elijah’s resurrection.

The Song of Redemption

There is a spiritual song with the words “Swing low sweet chariot, coming forth to carry me Home” and with this in mind we shall look at the parting of Elisha and Elijah.

2 Kings 2:1 ¶ And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel. And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho. And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on. And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan. And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground. ¶ And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. ¶ He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him. 16 And they said unto him, Behold now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master: lest peradventure the Spirit of the LORD hath taken him up, and cast
him upon some mountain, or into some valley. And he said, Ye shall not send. And when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, Send. They sent therefore fifty men; and they sought three days, but found him not. And when they came again to him, (for he tarried at Jericho,) he said unto them, Did I not say unto you, Go not?

Under the Mosaic Covenant we have this example of the catching away of Elijah, who later appeared on the mount of Transfiguration in a glorified state with Christ.

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

¶ And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

This section in the Gospel is one of the many supporting proofs of the Preterist view of a fulfilled return of Christ. It is interesting to note that Christ’s oath (verily) to those in his company that some will not have died before his return with the angels of God. Including the supporting instruction to them about the vision, that was not to be revealed to any until after his personal resurrection/ascension into heaven. So in the context of the passage we have a glimpse of the Glorified state of the resurrected Moses and Elijah in the light of Christ’s promised return. So bright did their faces shine that the disciples wanted to start building an earthly temple for each of them. With the Cloud of God the Father’s Glory instructing them to follow Christ and pay attention to his words. The reader should also heed and take note of it, because it gives them a glimpse of their future state.

The Glimpse of the Future State

The disciples had a glimpse of the Future state of those who heed God’s words, the state of the Glory that we inherit as a bond of the New Covenant. Here the better resurrection is revealed for the entire world to see. Elijah is no longer earth bound but able to travel across the boundaries of time and space in an instant. One minute upon the Mount the next vanished into the Kingdom.

John 17:2121 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.  And the glory which thou gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:  I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. ¶ Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou loved me before the foundation of the world.

Christ’s intercession for us, who believe, contains the request for our glorification, and our perfection, and this we know is part of what is termed a better resurrection.

Understanding the theme of the Song of Redemption

In the light of Isaiah speaking of the resurrection being accompanied by the coming of the chariots of God and his whirlwind, and Josephus’s historical account of it at the fall of Jerusalem, perhaps we now may understand the song writers theme of the Chariot coming to carry him home.

Isaiah: “¶ For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many. They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine’s flesh, and the abomination, and
the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD. For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.”

Elisha: “And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee: but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. ¶ He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.”

Josephus: “Besides these, a few days after that feast, on the twenty-first day of the month of Artemisios [Iyyar], (Niese: June 8, Capellus: May 21) (297) a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared: I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those who saw it, (298) and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sunset, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armour were seen (299) running about among the clouds, and surrounding the cities. Moreover, at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner [f] court of the temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise, (300) and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, “We are departing from here.”

The Songwriter: looking over Jordan into the Promised Land: “Swing low sweet chariot, coming forth to carry me home”

Let the reader ponder this for I conclude that like Elijah, when our time comes to depart this planet, we will join the company of a great cloud of witnesses clothed in the Glory Christ obtained for us by his petitioning of our Heavenly Father.

Mark 12:25 for when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage: but are as the angels which are in heaven.

The Better Resurrection in John’s Revelation

Psalms 84:10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

The First Resurrection

Revelation 20:1 ¶ And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Understanding the Metaphorical Sense
The book of Revelation in the divine canon is often used to support all sorts of fanciful End Time Scenarios by modern Pentecostal Churches. One of the major problems that many encounter when trying to expound it is the failure to understand the metaphorical sense contained in this portion.

The Key to understanding this is contained in the following portion: “This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power”.

For the subject is what Christ has given us power over in the resurrection. The Apostle Paul enlightens our understanding of it by informing us of the victory Christ accomplished for us:

1 Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The second Key is to understand what the term “the first resurrection” is. Its usage here is a metaphorical representation of Christ.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified

John 3:13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

Christ being the first to ascend into heaven over whom the second death has no power, and throughout the Epistles we discover that we have a dual Identity with Christ. Firstly that of being a believer still present on earth while the scripture declares we have been raised with him. Figuratively this speaks of the head of the Church and his body as being part of the first resurrection.

Romans 6:9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

Because death no longer has any dominion over those who are identified as the body of Christ they shall not die a second time. Because they have already died in Christ (figuratively) when they were baptised into his death, they shall rule and reign with him in life (everlasting).

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?……For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Once we have grasped these fundamentals of the Christian faith we can now begin to look at what this metaphorical period of thousand years really is. Because if the head of the Bodies Kingdom has no end, then the body must rule and reign with him for all eternity. So here we encounter a Paradox, on the one hand it implies that the glorified saints only reign for a thousand years but do not die a second death, on the other it seems to contradict the New Testament statements of an eternal inheritance found in Christ.

This is why one should have a good grasp of the scripture before proclaiming that this is a mere millennial earthly reign with Christ. The Apostle Peter gives us the clue as to what we are ignorant of.

2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
In order to understand what Peter was talking about we have to go back to the origins of the elect of God.

1 Corinthians 15:22  For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive….45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Because we need to understand the origin of death that required the first resurrection, the second Adam, sharing his eternal life with us, we must look at the first Adam’s life span. This is because God declares the end from the beginning. The thousand years is condensed into a single day thus the first resurrection harmonises with our identification with Christ’s ascension into heaven even though we follow after him multiple millennia later.

Ephesians 5  Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages(future generations) to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

According to the scripture we are dead in sins, because we inherited sin from Adam’s transgression of the first law ever given to the elect.

Genesis 2:17  But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Any one reading the bible from the beginning will discover that Adam lived longer than a single twenty-four hour day. Again we have a paradox “Why didn’t Adam drop dead before he had any children”? He lived almost a thousand years according to the Genesis account.

Genesis 5:1 ¶  This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created. And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth: And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters: And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.

Here we discover the source of the Apostle Peter’s wisdom, because Adam died in the day he ate the fruit, and that day was 930 years long. I.e.: almost a thousand.

Now let’s summarise what we have discovered:

In the First Resurrection (Christ) we shall live instead of dying within one day (a thousand years) and after that there shall be no second death. Because Christ (his body the church included) cannot be overcome by death again it will survive longer than the single day of Adams lifespan.

Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

1 Corinthians 12:12  For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

Isaiah 9:7  Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

**The Eternal Throne of Christ**

Those who are ignorant of their inheritance and the eternal throne Christ occupies should stop preaching a millennial reign of Christ in the modern secular state of Israel upon a second hand throne that the modern imaginary Antichrist has soiled. They denigrate my Messiah to
some kind of Demigod who needs to still fulfil their imaginary promises to a non-existent earthly Kingdom. The earthly Kingdom of Israel, at present is a secular state, has not had a true King upon its throne ever since Antipater and his son Herod’s descendants (The descendants of the hated Esau) occupied it. And since the Kingdom the Idumeans ruled was vanquished in AD70 by the Roman rod of Iron in Christ’s hands, no one can today make a claim to re-establish it. The populace of the modern secular state called Israel got permission from the United Nations to occupy the Land.

Psalm 89: 3 I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed (Christ) will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations.

Only the Eternal throne occupied by Christ, who came to announce the arrival of the Kingdom of God/Heaven, has fulfilled this promise to David. There will never be another earthly throne for an imaginary thousand years (temporary in the time scales of eternity). Neither will there be a resumption of animal sacrifice for the atonement of apostate Israel’s sin.

Those who are encouraging the secular State of Israel to do so may bring even greater calamity upon them. They vainly imagine a reinstating of the Law of Moses, which for almost two millennia, has been superseded by Christ our Passover and His blood of the New Covenant shed for the remission of our sin.

How I ask will animals ever replace what Christ has already accomplished? Let these modern Judaisers who seek the return of a failed system show me one scripture in the New Testament, which declares that there will be another Temple built on that mount of Desolation. The Muslim religion practises animal sacrifice and has adorned the mount with a mosque. Let their false prophet who has exalted himself above Christ have it the Christian faith has no need of it. There is no peace in the Middle East because of it.

Acts 7:48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things? Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Hebrews 10:12 But this man(Christ) , after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins

Isaiah 57:20 But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.¶ Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

There is no peace in the Middle East, because it is a hotbed of false religion.

Jude 1:21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Christian stand your ground, preach the Gospel of Christ’s everlasting Kingdom to these Apostates, if God open’s their blinded hearts perhaps you may yet save a few from the everlasting second death.

The Resurrection of the body of Christ

The reader may at this point wonder why I chose the resurrection of the Body of Christ to expound this
passage. The discerning reader will note that there is a section (a parenthesis passage) within a section in this discourse of the Apostle John. This is discovered by taking note of the preceding Chapter that deals with the destruction of Jerusalem (Babylon the Great) and the elect rejoicing at its fall.

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

This is the follow on of what the result of the Destruction of Babylon (Jerusalem) the mother of Harlots is. The elect are enthroned with Christ and the blood of Christ’s messengers is avenged.

Revelation 19:1 ¶ And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great; And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy

From this we begin to understand the time frame of the demise of the diabolic trinity: the Serpent, the False Prophet and his Empirical Kingdom (The Beast). The Loss of his Capital City his harlot bride (Jerusalem) broke his hypnotic sway over the nations of the world.

Mathew 22: 1 ¶ And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.

By noting the timing of this parable of Christ on the wedding (Marriage Supper) we see it as an ongoing event at the time of Christ earthly ministry Ad26-30. The Destruction of Jerusalem Ad66-70 along with the consummation of the marriage also follows it. This is in the same order as the destruction of the whore and enthronement of the bride alongside the King in the hall of Judgement. During this event the binding of the man without a wedding garment on occurs. Noting that Satan is bound for a thousand years we see that both occur at the destruction of Jerusalem.

There once again is a duality in this concerning the Kingdom of Darkness (The tree of the Knowledge of Good and evil) made up of the reprobates.
Ephesians 2:1 ¶ And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 ¶ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition: Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 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 shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,  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.

Two trees in opposition with one another one the Tree of Life the other the Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil. The tree of life a corporate body made up of Christ and the elect, the other a corporate body made up of the Serpent and the reprobates. The discerning reader will know that even in this present day and age both trees make miraculous claims. Some use the Shamans and the ancestral spirits to solve their problems, while others turn to Christ.

The Thousand year Day

Understanding that the thousand years is a figurative day, we need to grasp the day spoken of in the scriptures.

Hebrews 3:7  Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus(Joshua) had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. ¶ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

The day of rest spoken of here is the day of our resurrection, for then only do we cease from our labour for the spread of the Gospel of Christ. While we are here we are encouraged to continue labouring for Christ.

So at this present time it is still called “today”, that is the day of Christ. So here the thousand year period in the scripture is represented by a day, although the day started when Christ rose from the Grave and ascended into heaven forty days later (Ad 30). Thus this day of rest has continued for almost two millennia to date.

Hosea 6:2  After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

The period of the patriarchs, from Adam to Abraham is approximately 2000 years. From the Covenant Promise made to Abraham of the substitute ram for Isaac, to Christ we have approximately 2000 years. Thus in the third day from the promise to Abraham, Christ; the seed of Abraham; is made as the stars of heaven for multitude. Hosea prophecy finds is fulfillment literally on the third day when Christ rose from the grave, and metaphorically in the first resurrection at the destruction of Herod’s Temple.

1. Adam to the flood 1656 years, plus 417 years to Abraham.
3. Israel in the Wilderness 40 years.
4. 440 years to the Commencement of Solomon’s Temple 1 Kings Chap 6
5. 7 years to construct temple, 13 years to dedication 1 Kings Chap 7.
6. Balance of Solomon’s reign 17 years followed by the divided Kingdom 1 Kings 11:42.
7. Ezekiel lays on his side for Israel’s iniquity 390 days and 40 days for Judah’s. 1 day for a year. 430 years in total. Ezekiel Chapter 5.
8. Babylonian captivity 70 years Jeremiah 25:11
9. Daniels 70 weeks. 7 weeks of years to rebuild temple (49), 62 to the Messiah (434)(AD26), 3.5 to the Last Supper, 3.5 to the coming in of the Gentiles.
10. Times of the Gentiles (coming in) 40 years from Ad33 to Ad 73, Great tribulation Ad 66-73.

Summary 30 Jubilees (30x50) to Christ from the Egyptian Passover (The beginning of Months); the first celebrated in promised land; to Christ also proclaiming the acceptable year of the Lord at age 30.

Luke 4: 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Note: these timeframes are given as an overview, and are subject to revision, because our secular history is fraught with calendar revisions, the Romans lengthening one year to correct the seasons and also the change to the Gregorian calendar for the same reason. To come to a precise dating is fraught with difficulties. One must bear in mind that the ancient Israelite calendar was a based on a lunar cycle with an extra month being added in to align the seasons at the priesthoods discretion. This normally took place at the conjunction of the sun and moon in the vernal equinox. The appointed feasts had to be celebrated in the correct seasons. Those who use a 360 day year for their computations and claim infallibility are seriously deluded.

Quote from A. Edersheim on the festive cycles “As the year of the Hebrews was lunar, not solar, it consisted of only 354 days 8 hours 48’ 38". This, distributed among twelve months, would in the course of years have completely disordered the months, so that the first month, or Nisan (corresponding to the end of March or the beginning of April), in the middle of which the first ripe barley was to be presented to the Lord, might have fallen in the middle of winter. Accordingly, the Sanhedrim appointed a Committee of three, of which the chief of the Sanhedrim was always president, and which, if not unanimous, might be increased to seven, when a majority of voices would suffice, to determine which year was to be made a leap-year by the insertion of a thirteenth month. Their resolution (6) was generally taken in the twelfth month (Adar), the additional, or thirteenth month (Ve-Adar), being inserted between the twelfth and the first.”

Philippians 2:14 ¶ Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

John 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.
From Christ’s words we gather the imminence of the hour of the resurrection. The timing of our entry into that Day commences at a certain hour. So let us return to the martyrs that lost their lives for Christ and whose blood was avenged at the time of Christ’s return. So that we may understand Christ’s triumph in that Day and its importance to us who follow him through death burial and resurrection.

Revelation 18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon(Jerusalem), that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

The Martyrs under the Altar

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

These martyrs would not recognise Caesar as their God and paid the ultimate price for it. The human head (Caesar) no longer had jurisdiction of them. Figuratively speaking they had gained a new Head, Christ the head of the body of the Church. Anyone reading the Revelation will discover many symbols and figures of speech that symbolise events. When taken literally by the uniformed they hide the secret Council of God from them. John wrote the book in troublesome times (pre AD66 when the temple was still standing: Revelation 11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.) during the reign of Nero Caesar and it was predestined and spread to the oversight (Angels of the Churches) of the infant Church in the Roman province of Asia. So by using Symbols and pictures he would protect the body of Christ lest the manuscripts fell into their adversary’s hands.

Revelation 6:9 ¶ And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

The martyrs were under the Altar of God, as their blood had been shed as a sacrifice for the cause of God and his truth. While the Altar of Sacrifice still stood on the temple mount in Jerusalem they cried out for the days of vengeance.

Matthew 23:34 ¶ Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

Matthew 23:38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

Luke 21:22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Excerpt from Josephus War of the Jews Book 6 Chapter 5 section 3. (296) So these publicly declared that the signal predicted the desolation that was coming upon them.
Besides these, a few days after that feast, on the twenty-first day of the month of Artemisios [Iyyar], (Niese: June 8, Capellus: May 21) (297) a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared: I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those who saw it, (298) and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sunsetting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armour were seen (299) running about among the clouds, and surrounding the cities. Moreover, at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner [f] [court of the] temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise, (300) and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, “We are departing from here.”

Tacitus (A.D. 115) - Roman historian

"13. Prodigies had occurred, but their expiation by the offering of victims or solemn vows is held to be unlawful by a nation which is the slave of superstition and the enemy of true beliefs. In the sky appeared a vision of armies in conflict, of glittering armour. A sudden lightning flash from the clouds lit up the Temple. The doors of the holy place abruptly opened, a superhuman voice was heard to declare that the gods were leaving it, and in the same instant came the rushing tumult of their departure. Few people placed a sinister interpretation upon this. The majority were convinced that the ancient scriptures of their priests alluded to the present as the very time when the Orient would triumph and from Judaea would go forth men destined to rule the world.” (Histories, Book 5, v. 13). Comp. Tacitus, Annals, xiv, 12, 22; xv, 22, 47; xvi, 13)

John 10:34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

The Commencement of the Day

The commencement of the Day of the Lord (Thousand years) started at the desolation of Jerusalem. Thus we know when the millennium began and the first resurrection commenced the Souls under the altar of God were the first to depart in a better Resurrection. Because their blood was being avenged, by the destruction of Christ’s enemies, He had sent them and his enemies killed his servants. Their “little season” of waiting was now over; the days of vengeance had been fulfilled.

Acts 7:56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man’s feet, whose name was Saul.

Traditionally Stephen is the first Christian martyr and his blood was avenged at the Destruction of Jerusalem.

Once we understand the time frame that is obvious from the destruction of the Harlot many pieces begin to fall into place.

Revelation 19:1 ¶  And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia

We also see that many people were in heaven at the commencement of the thousand years (Day) when Jerusalem fell.

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them”

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration (resurrection) when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Romans 14:10  But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we
shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Adams Day
Adams Day had come to a close, Sin had reigned in all the descendants of Adam, now righteousness would reign in all the descendants of the second Adam in His Day.

Romans 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

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

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Just as Adam was the progenitor of the Old Creation and its Father, The Second Adam is the Everlasting Father of the New Creation.

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

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Adams Day had reigned for four thousand odd years, and the Covenant of Death because of Sin had reigned during that period. But that day came to close when Christ triumphed over death for us.

Romans 5:17 For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Adam as the Head of all Flesh broke the first commandment ever given to mankind, and Christ the Head of the New Creation perfectly fulfilled the Law. Humanity in their depraved condition throughout the scripture continuously followed in the footsteps of THEIR FLESHLY FATHER AND STILL DO TODAY.

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

The Promised Covenant
Abraham was given a promise that his Seed would be as the Stars of Heaven for multitude, Moses introduced a Codicil to that promise; namely the Law of Moses. Christ fulfilled the Codicil and obtained the Promise for us. This promise was the coming of the Life Giving Comforter, the Holy Ghost who regenerates all that believe the Gospel and follow Christ through Earthly service to humanity, then death, burial and Resurrection/Ascension.

Galatians 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that
we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man’s covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto. Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

John 8:56 your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

Thus the Day of Christ would run until all the Seed in Christ (figurative :The Stars of Heaven) are accounted for.

Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;
Revelation 19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth

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

At this point we need to consider that those who partake of The New Covenant, become part of the First Resurrection (Christ) for we have become his Body and his Blood. His body is the Church scattered like the broken bread throughout the world we presently live in. We become his Blood: that is we are grafted into the tribe of Judah as a Blood relative of Christ. The Resurrection Life of Christ becomes our Life. We become the bride and are Clothed with Christ, our nakedness is covered. The marital bond is sealed when one becomes a Partaker of the Blood of the New Covenant, our sins are remitted and like the Prodigal we are clothed with Christ’s righteousness, and given the ring containing the seal and the Authority to use his name.

But the corollary is also true, that those who are not called and chosen are still wed to Adam. Christianity is not an Arminian universalistic religion. One cannot believe any old myth and expect salvation.

Colossians 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.
1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

The resurrection is the inheritance of the elect, predestined saints of God that began with the martyrs under the Altar and continues along while it is still called today. The promise to Abraham was to make him a Father of many NATIONS.

Romans 4:18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.
Galatians 3:29 And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Once this is understood then we understand that in this world the two trees in the Garden of Eden are symbolic of Kingdoms. Christ’s the tree of Life, The other Satan’s Kingdom a tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The faith of Christ is a Heavenly relationship, the other religions of this world an earthly code of conduct. Truth only reigns in the one, while deception in the all the others.

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

Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

The deception of Satan is restricted, to the reprobates, the Nations in Christ are those promised to Abraham, over whom Satan has no sway.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Satan is cast into the realm of the uncircumcised in heart the ancestral spirits of the Ancient Serpent Religion. The counterfeit of the Holy Spirit is the spirit of Divination that is predominant amongst the remnants of Idolatrous religion.

Deuteronomy 18:10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch.

But in all discourses of a Christian Nature we have to deal with Satan and his brood of vipers.

Mark 3:27 No man can enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.

Augustine proposed the Amillennial view that Satan would be bound for a thousand years and then Christ would return. This view led people to sell their goods and go to Jerusalem expecting Christ to return at the Mount of Olives. They were sadly disappointed. Because of this many today think the thousand years is an undefined lengthy period of time. Not understanding that the strong mans house was Jerusalem and at its destruction in AD66-70 it was spoiled.

Matthew 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here. When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The Demise of Satan

Johns Revelation though has three accounts concerning the demise of Satan.

The First Account.

Revelation 12:5 And she brought forth a man child (Christ), who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Following the Ascension of Christ, some time later the infant Church fled into the wilderness and was preserved there during the Roman siege of Jerusalem Ad66-70.

Luke 21:20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the
**days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.**

The Infant Church in Judea had heeded Christ’s warnings and fled to the mountains (Pella), at the advance of Titus the Roman Leader and his legions.

**Matthew 22: 2** The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

**Revelation 12:7** 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 any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

**Daniel 12:1** And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

When the Man Child (Christ – the seed of the Woman) ascended into heaven he bruised the serpents head.

**Genesis 3: 14 ¶** And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

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**Excerpt from Josephus War of the Jews Book 6 Chapter 5 section 3.**

(296) So these publicly declared that the signal predicted the desolation that was coming upon them. Besides these, a few days after that feast, on the twenty-first day of the month of Artemisios [Iyyar], (Niese: June 8, Capellus: May 21) (297) a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared: I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those who saw it, (298) and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sunsetting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armour were seen (299) running about among the clouds, and surrounding the cities.

Tacitus (A.D. 115) - Roman historian

"13. Prodigies had occurred, but their expiation by the offering of victims or solemn vows is held to be unlawful by a nation which is the slave of superstition and the enemy of true beliefs. In the sky appeared a vision of armies in conflict, of glittering armour.

**Isaiah 66:14** And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.¶ For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

From Isaiah and these Historians we have the record of what happened in the Heavens at the time. (Ad 66-70) of Christ’s return in Judgement. **The war was on two fronts one in the Heavens visible to all in the Promised Land, the other on the earth with the Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem.**

**Revelation 1:7** Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him(those who rejected Christ for Caesar): and all kindreds of the earth(Palestine) shall
wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

John 19:15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar (The Human God).

The petition for the Coming of the Kingdom given to the infant Church known today as the Lord’s Prayer was being fulfilled. The Kingdom and Authority had been given to Christ.

Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 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. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

Mark 9:1 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

Luke 10:12 But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day (day of Christ) for Sodom, than for that city.

Luke 17:31 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.

Christ’s promise to his disciples, that they would be reunited after his death burial and resurrection/ascension was fulfilled. One needs to remember that many of them had been martyred for preaching the Gospel.

John 16:17 Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father? They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith. Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me? Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. ¶ And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

REVELATION 12:2 AND SHE BEING WITH CHILD CRIED, TRAVAILING IN BIRTH, AND PAINED TO BE DELIVERED.

Isaiah 66:6 A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies. Before she travailed, she brought forth: before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Now let us recap:

1. The infant Church in the Land of Israel flees at the commencement of the Destruction of the Harlot(Jerusalem), thus the Christian Gospel is preserved for posterity.
2. The war in Heaven takes place and Satan loses his Access to God, he can now no longer bring a railing accusation against the Church. In the Book of Job we see his accusation against Job in the presence of God. (Job 1:6 ¶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?)

3. Satan’s seat of power; his earthly throne; sat on by the Descendants of the hated Esau, the usurping Herodion Dynasty; is lost. (Malachi 1:3 And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.)

4. The Blood of the Martyrs under the Altar is avenged. And the Resurrection of the Saints (the living) commences.

5. The Day of Christ the Lord (Thousand Years) has commenced.

6. The imminent Eternal Kingdom of God/Heaven had arrived.

Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

7. The remaining Disciples saw Christ again coming in the power of the Kingdom

The Second Account

Revelation 20:1 ¶ And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled and after that he must be loosed a little season.

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

Ezekiel 31:18 To whom art thou thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? yet shalt thou be brought down with the trees of Eden unto the nether parts of the earth: thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Many today want to understand the Book of Revelation, the unveiling of the secrets of God (the Apocalypse) and they dive into it with gusto and no knowledge of the ancient texts. The divine Canon of the Scripture is a composite whole made up of many pictures of Christ and his Adversaries. Much like a Jig saw puzzle as each section forms a complimentary picture that supports the entire canvas of the Supreme Master Artist’s love of his elect.

One cannot rewrite the entire canon, but one has to stay in context when expounding the great truths within it. Isolated verses can be used to produce a jumbled picture that only leads to confusion and deception. This we must avoid like the plague, and babes in Christ often espouse things that have no warrant from the scripture.

1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.
Perhaps you may be wondering where this digression is leading. Because the Subject is so vast one cannot in a few paragraphs detail every thing. So dear reader we must review some parts of the master’s artwork.

In the unveiling of the Secrets (The Apocalypse-Revelation) we need a basic understanding.

1. Trees in the scripture are symbols of Kingdoms.
2. Beasts in the scripture are Symbols of Empires.
3. The Serpent is often the reigning monarch of a Kingdom in control of an Empire made up of Vassal Kingdoms designated by heads and horns.
4. The Body of Christ is a conglomerate of the elect of many Nations in the unity of the Holy Spirit.
5. The Body of the Beast is a conglomerate of the reprobates in the unity of the Spirit of Divination.
6. The corollary of Faith in Christ is unbelief. The one faith Saves eternally the other unbelief Damns eternally.

The Beast of the Apocalypse comes from the Sea (the unregenerate nations). It is a composite beast created by one empire subduing another. The Ancient Babylonian Empire of Daniel’s time were swallowed up by the armies of the Medes and Persians, the Greeks in turn swallowed them up and the Romans conquered them. At the time of John’s writing Nero Caesar (A Human god) was the reigning monarch of the conglomerate Roman Beast with Seven Heads and Ten Horns.

Daniel 7:1 ¶ In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another ……7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

Genesis 3:1  Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Anyone today who has beheld the majestic Monuments of the Ancient Beast, in the Land of Egypt, will grasp that Pharaoh was the Father of Human Godhood. He was the epitome of the Ancient Idolatrous Serpent religion. The founder of Empires crowned with two Serpents on his headgear.

Genesis 3:5  For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Today the Scripture is under attack by modern Science and Jewish Apostates, who think that man is god. From Bones and other Artefacts they set out to prove that the bible is in error. They examine the human genome consisting of the twin DNA codes to find their primordial Adam and Eve.

The Human Lineage of prime importance in the Scripture is the Lineage of our Messiah the Lord Jesus Christ. God providentially preserved this Lineage for all humanity to see that Peters Declaration was not based upon Myth.

Luke 3:23  And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli, Which was the son of Matthat, which was the son of Levi, which was the son of Melchi, which was the son of Janna, which was the son of Joseph, Which was the son of Mattathias, which was the son of Amos, which was the son of Naum, which was the son of Esi, which was the son of Nagge, Which was the son of Maath, which was the son of Mattathias, which was the son of Semei, which was the son of Joseph, which was the son of Juda, Which was the son of Joanna, which was the son of Rhesa, which was the son of Zorobabel, which was the son of Salathiel, which was the son of Neri, Which was the son of Melchi, which was the son of Addi, which was the son of Cosam, which was the son of Elmodam, which was the son of Er, Which was
the son of Jose, which was the son of Eliezer, which was the son of Jorim, which was the son of Matthat, which was the son of Levi, Which was the son of Simeon, which was the son of Juda, which was the son of Joseph, which was the son of Obed, which was the son of Booz, which was the son of Salmon, which was the son of Naasson, Which was the son of Aminadah, which was the son of Aram, which was the son of Esrom, which was the son of Phares, which was the son of Juda, Which was the son of Jacob, which was the son of Isaac, which was the son of Abraham, which was the son of Thara, which was the son of Nachor, Which was the son of Saruch, which was the son of Ragau, which was the son of Phalec, which was the son of Heber, which was the son of Sala, Which was the son of Cainan, which was the son of Arphaxad, which was the son of Sem, which was the son of Noe, which was the son of Lamech, Which was the son of Mathusala, which was the son of Enoch, which was the son of Jared, which was the son of Maleleel, which was the son of Cainan, Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.

Matthew 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

The scripture we now have is the Heavenly Fathers proof that Jesus is truly the promised Messiah.

Only Scripture, Only Faith, Only Grace

Satan’s strategy is to deny the veracity (Absolute Truth) of the Scripture.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

The Gagging of Satan

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

A bottomless pit implies a state of constant falling away from God and the veracity of the scripture. Impious minds seek every opportunity, to question the veracity of Christ. Satan in many senses describes the adversaries of God and his Christ.

Hebrews 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Mt 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Satan’s religious deception was the deifying of humanity. Egypt is full of temples to Human Gods, adorned with the Idols of now dead Pharaoh’s.

While Moses received the Law on Mount Sinai, Idolatrous Israel built a golden calf, the symbol of the Sacred Apis Bull, which the Egyptians worshipped. They declared that this Idolatrous image was their deliverer.

Exodus 32:8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them; they have made them a molten calf; and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods,
O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Satan had stirred up the unregenerate rabble once again, seeking to deceive the very elect.

Throughout the Old Testament we see Israel going Apostate and adopting the practices of the Heathen nations.

Jeremiah 22:6 For thus saith the LORD unto the king's house of Judah; Thou art Gilead unto me, and the head of Lebanon: yet surely I will make thee a wilderness, and cities which are not inhabited. And I will prepare destroyers against thee, every one with his weapons: and they shall cut down thy choice cedars, and cast them into the fire. And many nations shall pass by this city, and they shall say every man to his neighbour, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this great city? Then they shall answer, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshipped other gods, and served them.

The destruction of Jerusalem (Babylon the Great Harlot) and the Diaspora of the unbelieving Israel was the result of their continued Idolatry.

2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

1 Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

The Christian Gospel spread like wild fire throughout the Roman Empire (The Beast of Revelation) to the descendants of Japheth the gentiles, turning them from Idols and Human godhood to the Living God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

The ancient serpent religion was dealt a deathblow, as Satan was effectively bound and cast into the pit amongst the uncircumcised in heart. The pagan religions of the gods that pervaded Europe and the Middle East bears testimony to this by the ancient decaying ruins of the temples of Satanic Idolatry that originated in Egypt.

The Idolatrous Beast religion lost its adherents as Christ triumphed over them. In its place the Christian Church rose up and became the faith of the Gentiles.

Satan had been gagged until the effects of the Day of Christ on the Gentiles had been fulfilled.

Japheth the first born of Noah had not been forgotten, and the western world gained the Inheritance from Shem whose descendants like Esau had sold their birthright once again.

Genesis 9:8 ¶ And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed(Christ) after you;

Isaiah 66:19 And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pail, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

The Release of the Serpent

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

Matthew 13:24 ¶ Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed
tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Mathew 13: 36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man(Christ); The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Christian perseverance in the midst of trial and opposition is the absolute mandate of the Church. We who hold to past fulfilment of the scripture must never arrive at the point where we say everything has been accomplished; now we can rest on our laurels and go to sleep. If we are Christ’s seed then our ministry to humanity must be active, not mere discussion of the merits of scripture with nothing left but idleness.

Europe went to sleep when Church and State had reached the climax of Apostasy. Martin Luther the great reformer awoke the Church out of its Idolatry and set all Europe ablaze for the cause of Christ and his gospel. Satan would soon lull you into a false sense of security with the opiate of modern mind science.

The results of the reformation are to be found by the Gospel being spread beyond the borders of self-indulgent Europe.

Satan has been loose for a while now, and is seeking to put us back to sleep with the opiate of worldly goods and wealth, while he stirs up the heathen with false religion and promises of paradise through the murder of innocents by self-martyrdom.

Is the world entirely Christian?
Has Christ failed?

Let those who think the task is over and that there is nothing left to do think again.

We can never become like the Apostate Israel of old or the modern Israel who thinks their false religion is only for them?

God is a covenant keeping God and a jealous God. Judgment is not reserved for Israel alone, because Apostasy breeds contempt and Judgement Follows.

Isaiah 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

If anyone thinks that it all ended in Ad 70, then they are the blind leading the blind. The Sons of Japheth have lost their lives, because the church has not fulfilled the mandate of CHRIST. How long must our youth be culled in warfare, while we squabble over the scriptures. Who is paying the price in Afghanistan, Iraq etc ? The Sons of Japheth who face the fanatics of false religion every hour.

Their blood is required of us, for we have forgotten the cause of Christ. Evangelise! Evangelise! Evangelise! Is the cry of the hour!
Isaiah 51:9  Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?

We are now living in the season of Ham and his descendants. Ishmael is extending his Kingdom and aggressively rallying troops to his cause.

History repeats itself, and if we fail by sitting in the pews Sabbath after Sabbath and doing nothing, how shall we answer Christ?

Matthew 25:25  And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Christ after his ascension rules and reigns in the Kingdom of Heaven, he no longer reaps or sows, we are called to follow Him and sow where he has not sowed, and reap where he has not gathered, and disciple and teach where he has not strawed.

Christ’s ministry was confined to the Promised Land; your ministry is the entire world.

The Preterist view by looking at the past is good, the futurist view has merits as well but a combination of the two will change the world we live in. Our Eschatology must be sharpened to the point where it pricks the Church into action.

We are the Ambassadors of Christ and we must offer all political asylum from those who wish to strangle the Christian church into Complacency in this perilous hour.

Championing the view that everything is over can only lull the church into sleep and inactivity again.

Revelation 3:3  Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee

Dispensational Pre-millennium views amongst the Charismatic and modern Pentecostals has spurred them into action while I cannot find a Preterist Congregation in the city I live in. They have worldwide television coverage and we are still struggling to compete.

Up to the point of the Destruction of Jerusalem, Preterist views are a fait accompli. Beyond that only some form of futurism offers a little light. This is a return to God’s Sovereignty over the destiny of Humanity. And ultimately the glorious triumph of Christianity.

2. The Great tribulation is over correct. Yet many generations since then have experienced some or other form of tribulation, through endless wars, the black death etc.
3. The Resurrection Commenced and is still happening correct.
4. The 1000 years is 40 Years I disagree. The 40 years are the times of the Gentiles commencing AD 33 ending AD 73. Christ had confirmed the covenant with many (Israel) for one week. AD 26-33. Then Peter and Paul spearheaded the conversion of the Gentiles until the consummation. AD 66-73 being the seven year judgement upon apostate Israel.
5. The symbolic battle of Gog and Magog is still unfulfilled.
6. Satan is loose, self-evident from the condition of the world.
7. God is still a God of Judgement and the lesson to be learned, from the destruction of Babylon the great harlot, is that when nations apostatise, then an axe will be wielded against them.
8. There is always another generation waiting in the wings, to be schooled in the Doctrines of Christ.

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

We must never think that Christ’s dominion and Kingdom is only restricted to Palestine. For Christ rules and reigns with a Rod of Iron.

When Adolf Hitler declared the Third Reich (thousand years) and Germany followed another human god, a mighty axe was wielded and the Armies of Christ soon deposed the madman.

Isaiah 10:12 Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks. For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man: And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have I gathered all the earth: and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped. Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself, as if it were no wood. Therefore shall the Lord, the Lord of hosts, send among his fat ones leanness; and under his glory he shall kindle a burning like the burning of a fire. And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day;

Matthew 3:10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

John the Baptist’s arrival was to declare the fall of Israel, and the coming of the Roman Axe in the hand of God to exact vengeance upon them. Christ reiterated this and confirmed it. If there is a lesson to be learned from this, it is that God is a master chess player, and he forces his opposition to commit the mistakes that bring about their demise. His Omnipotent Sovereignty rules over all creation administering mercy to his elect and judgement to the reprobates.

The Middle East has been a flash point of the wars of the twentieth century; some may ask why does God not stop it? But he is seen in the heat of the Battle accomplishing his predestined purposes with the Sons of men.

Mankind vainly imagine that they are the Sovereigns in this world they live in, and Human Government by democratically elected men is the answer to the world’s problems. Their failure to solve the sin question and human rebellion against authority has exposed the myth time and time again.

Daniel 4:25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles’ feathers, and his nails like birds’ claws. ¶ And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and my understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What dost thou?: At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Shall God wink at rampant atheism, pornography, sexual deviation, false religious doctrine, the abuse
of the environment, the murder of unborn infants etc? Shall the new gods, of stage and screen replace the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? Shall science declare that he is now totally irrelevant in modern society? God Forbid that I should live to see such human blindness come to fruition.

Is there another Catastrophic Apocalypse in the wings?

Remember the wars in Europe after the Reformation, remember the First World War, remember the Second World War, remember Hiroshima and Japan, remember Korea then Vietnam. Look at Afghanistan and Iraq and the secular state of Israel fighting for Survival.

The Kettle has been boiling for more than a hundred years, and mankind has the ability through nuclear proliferation to destroy the entire planet.

Will God Intervene or is He stirring up the nations for a final confrontation?

The devil and the hounds of hell have been loosed, who will restrain his insane desire to destroy the planet we live on? He has not forgotten the beating or the incarceration he suffered at Christ’s hands.

Are you at ease Christian? What of your grand children, how can you sleep when your beds are burning!

Will the apostate Americans succeed to stall the inevitable again? How many of their sons shall pay the ultimate price for our false sense of security?

Some may say God is Love brother, and you have no love! My reply is spare the rod and spoil the child! Love is not found in human complacency sitting around a table eating chocolates and watching soap operas, while your neighbour’s house is on fire! Do something and get off your rump and proclaim the word of God. Perhaps you may push back the forces of darkness that wish to overwhelm the apostate modern generation, whose only concern is to confess and possess more luxury for their comfort and ease.

Exodus 15:3 The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.

Jonah 3:10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

The Gathering of Gog and Magog

Revelation 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

This symbolic imagery of John the revelatory prophet of the New Covenant is borrowed from Ezekiel chapter 38. But as we now live in the twentieth century, Ezekiel’s vision of armies in conflict with bows and arrows no longer fit the scenes of modern warfare. So the expositor of the scripture is left to conclude that it happened in the past. The book of Esther some say provides the answer to this. But John has borrowed this imagery to warn the New Covenant Israel (The Church) of a future battle after the destruction of Jerusalem (the great harlot).

The Event occurs after the commencement of the first Resurrection at the fulfilment of the Day of Christ.

Because John has drawn his imagery from the Old Covenant that closed at the fall of Jerusalem AD66-70, we need to unveil whom he is referring to.

Gog is an enigma in the scripture; Ezekiel calls him the chief prince.

Ezekiel 38:2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and
Tubal, and prophesy against him,

1 Chronicles 5:1 ¶ Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he was the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father’s bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright. For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph’s;) The sons, I say, of Reuben the firstborn of Israel were, Hanoch, and Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. The sons of Joel; Shemaiah his son, Gog his son, Shimei his son,

Reuben was the Chief prince of the Sons of Jacob, and John is bringing to mind an ancient enmity (Jealousy), brought about by the loss of the birth right. This birthright would have entitled him to the throne of Israel.

Revelation 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Romans 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God

To Day those who call themselves Jews are in prominent positions of Authority wielding huge amounts of Capital and have a sway in world opinions.

The reader must understand that I am not Anti-Semitic; my Saviour was a Jew and is called the King of the Jews. I am trying to explain a hidden mystery in the scripture.

Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Part of the population of natural Israel was blinded at the first advent of Christ, while the remnant made up the infant Church, the new covenant Israel. Multitudes had followed Christ and they formed the foundations of the Church, the New Jerusalem. They were the living stones built upon the stone the builders rejected.

1 PETER 2:4 ¶ To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious. Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

At the destruction of Jerusalem, the unbelieving part of Israel were carried away captive by the Romans, some were sold into slavery.

This brings us to the parallel history of Gog the Son of Reuben. History had repeated itself again.

1 Chronicles 5:6 Beerah his son, whom Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria carried away captive: he was
prince of the Reubenites. And his brethren by their families, when the genealogy of their
generations was reckoned, were the chief, Jeiel, and Zechariah, And Bela the son of Azaz, the son of
Shema, the son of Joel, who dwelt in Aroer, even unto Nebo and Baalmeon: And eastward he inhabited
unto the entering in of the wilderness from the river Euphrates: because their cattle were multiplied in
the land of Gilead. And in the days of Saul they made war with the Hagarites, who fell by their
hand: and they dwelt in their tents throughout all the east land of Gilead.

The Hagarites were the descendants of Hagar the Egyptian servant of Sarah the wife of Abraham.
Hagar bore Ishmael and Sarah Isaac. And there was enmity between these two Sons, because the
Birthright was given to Isaac the youngest and Ishmael the first born was sent away with his mother
with a day’s sustenance.

Genesis 21:9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham,
mocking. Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this
bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac. And the thing was very grievous in
Abraham’s sight because of his son. And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight
because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto
her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called. And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a
nation, because he is thy seed. ¶ And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a
bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away:
and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

Paul the Apostle likens the unbelieving Israel to the Son of the Bond Women.

Galatians 4:22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a
freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was
by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount
Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and
answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is
above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not;
breath forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which
hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was
born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what
saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be
heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of
the free. ¶ Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled
again with the yoke of bondage.

This grouping of Ishmael’s descendants with Reuben’s (the unbelieving natural Israel) reveals two
disenfranchised Sons claiming the blessing promised to Abraham namely the throne promised to the
Seed of David (the son of Judah).
“For Judah(Christ) prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler”

The descendants of the disenfranchised Esau, whose desire to rule and reign the world from Jerusalem
was dealt a deathblow, after they occupied King David’s throne at the time of the destruction of
Jerusalem. Esau’s capital now became the possession of the Roman Empire.

The Judaic Christian religion was formalised by 3rd Century AD.

The unbelieving Israel formed a new religion, based on the oral traditions and the Talmud which was
put together while captive in Babylonia. This was finalised by the 5th century AD (The Encyclopaedia of
Religion).

Mark 7:9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep
your own tradition.

In seventh Century AD, another new religion arose amongst the descendants of the disenfranchised
Ishmael, and they laid claim to the title promised to the seed of Isaac (Christ). They promptly built two
mosques on the temple mount in Jerusalem. Thus signifying to the world that they had reclaimed a lost birthright, and laid claim to the Promised Land the Descendants of Esau had lost to the Romans in AD70. This religion was also based on mixed oral traditions.

These two new Religions set the scene for the final confrontation over the Camp of the Saints.

In the twentieth century, Lord Allenby vanquished Jerusalem and the Promised Land became the protectorate of the British Empire.

In 1948 Gog (the Children of the ten tribes of Israel) returned from Captivity and by 1967 had recaptured Jerusalem by warring against the Hagarites and the secular state of Israel was becoming a major player in the History of the world.

Now we have another enigma to contend with and that is who Magog is?

Genesis 10:2 The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras. And the sons of Gomer; Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah. And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.

From the scripture we discover that Magog appears to have no offspring, and in the time of Peleg the borders of the Nations formed by the Descendants of Noah’s Son’s were determined.

Genesis 10:25 And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother’s name was Joktan.

Deuteronomy 32:8 When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.

So Magog in the scripture refers to the people who lived in the region apportioned to the childless patriarch. Magog predominately consists of the Semitic people in Modern day Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia.

Ezekiel 38:2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

Revelation 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

The Sand of the Sea

When Abraham received the promise of the Covenant that would make him a father of many nations, from His God, they were separated into two distinct categories. Those that would be as the Stars of Heaven, the heavenly Sons and Daughters, and those who would be as the Sand of Sea for multitude, the earth bound Sons and daughters.

Philippians 3:17 ¶ Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Genesis 22:15 ¶ And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time. And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not
withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore: and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

This promise concerning his descendants was made to Jacob (the man of the Flesh) as well. Jacob became Israel (the man of Heaven) after wrestling with the Angel, who declared his new name.

Genesis 32:9 ¶ And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee: I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands. Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children. And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

Elsewhere in the Scripture the term is also used to describe the enemies of the natural Israel.

Judges 7:12 And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.

1 Samuel 13:5 And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Bethaven.

Satan’s purpose is always deception. So he gathers these two new Earthly Religions, Judaism and Mohammedanism into a confrontation over the birthright. He sows enmity between the brethren.

Revelation 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

The Camp of the Saints at the time of Johns writing the final book of the divine canon was in Jerusalem. But in a broader sense it is also the Christian Faith.

Acts 11:22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

Now some may agree by seeing a broad picture of the controversy that always seems to dominate the Middle East. Jerusalem always seems to be brought into the picture, from Julian the Apostate, The Muslim Dome of the Rock, the Crusades and the periods of foreign domination. Is modern secular Israel really the enigmatic Gog the chief prince?

Only time will tell who the real victor in the final confrontation between these three camps will be.

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¶ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Magog has no SON, Judaism disowns the Son, and Muslim’s exalt Mohammed above the Son.

The camp of the Saints declare:

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.
1 John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

1 John 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

If we go back to the beginning of the Divine Canon, we discover an ancient enmity that divides humanity.

Genesis 4: 3 ¶ And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell…..8 ¶ And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him;¶ And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother’s keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother’s blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

Perhaps you may wonder what caused God to smile on Abel’s offering and pay no respect to Cain’s. Both were the process of religious endeavour to appease God, yet only one is acceptable in the sight of God.

Abel sacrificed an innocent substitute for his Sin, believing that it had to die in his place that he might find the favour of God. He knew they were under the curse of a broken law. Cain brought the results of human effort and toil and hoped to purchase right standing with God.

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Is mankind any different today? There are still tares and wheat in the field and the gospel net often contains inedible creatures. Capitalism, Communism, Humanism, Socialism, False Religion and Atheism all believe they can accomplish heaven on earth. That ultimately human government will alleviate the problems mankind faces, as though money is the cure all. They all bow to the Political thrones they put in place. Apostate Israel in the time of Christ’s earthly ministry was no different. Authority and Power devolved from Nero Caesar, the god of the Beast Empire, through vassal kings descended from Esau upon the throne of Israel, down to the priesthood, and the major religious parties, the Pharisees, Sadducees and the scribes. They had no King but Caesar.

John 19:15 but they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar “.

The elect of Christ however know the Great Shepherd King’s voice and no amount of human persuasion can sway them from the Absolute Assurance that Christ was slain to reconcile them to God the Father.
And this enmity of the reprobates continues unabated to day.

The Third Account

Revelation 20:10  And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Just as the tree of Life is bearing its fruits, through the ongoing resurrection, so to the tree of the knowledge of Good and evil is being pruned at the judgement seat of Christ.

John 15:1-8 ¶ I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered: and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Corporate Judgement and Corporate Salvation.

Society as whole has an influence upon the individuals within each localised community. The individuals within the communities are influenced by friends, neighbours and the behaviour of strangers. The accepted norms of society set the moral standards for individuals within the corporate body; made up of multiple communities.

Abnormal behaviour patterns are nearly always influenced by sources within a community. One rotten apple in a basket turns all the others rotten. Society as a whole is judged by the actions of the individuals within it. One corrupt leader can sway a nation, to behave reprehensibly in the site of others. This is termed peer pressure. Group behaviour patterns develop from the peers within the group.

Crimes against society in general are the result of the influence others have upon the individual. When the individual is found guilty society as whole is guilty for failing to protect victims and perpetrators.

There are things one does in life that bothers our conscience. When trying to understand why we behaved irrationally and the cause of the behaviour that is causing the remorse, one can take the entire blame for ones failure. In reality the problem is often deeper rooted than ones own psyche. Close family, friends, strangers and the corporate media very often are the root influences causing the chain reaction that set the individual upon the path of transgression.

Daniel 9:16  O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.

Daniel prays for the nation, acknowledging their corporate guilt and the righteous judgement upon Israel, which resulted in the destruction of the temple and the Babylonian Captivity.

Sin and iniquity in the scripture requires a Corporate Judgement. The individual is guilty and the influence of the other individuals within society at large is also guilty for their part in the matter.

Romans 3:23  For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
Romans 5:12  Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Salvation from Eternal Judgement is firstly corporate then secondly extended to the individuals within the groups that make up society.
Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
Romans 5:8 But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
1Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
1John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Christ having borne the guilt and shame of Corporate Society took the individuals punishment of which it comprises for the transgressions upon himself.

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Salvation is corporately proclaimed and experienced by the individual’s response to it. Thus the offer of grace and mercy is extended to all the world and open to every tribe, language group and nationality. The eternal benefits of this freely offered pardon are obtained by believing the good news (Gospel) of Christ’s payment for our sins.

Within the context of God’s dealing with the Corporate body of humanity, we discover that he always extends his Covenant relationship through a federal male head to be the mediator of the promises contained within the conditions of the agreement.

Genesis 17:1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

Christ having borne our corporate guilt and shame invites us to share corporately within the New Covenant community, the individual benefits of the covenant. The ratification of the covenant promises to the individual taking place by the celebration of the communal meal that brings them into a common union with the Church visible and invisible that is wedded to Christ the Bridegroom.

Heb 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

Those outside of the Covenant relationship are still under the Corporate Judgement and have excluded themselves from the offer of grace and mercy to the individual, and God's promise to be your God.

2Co 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ga 3:29 And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Mt 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament (Covenant), which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

**Corporate entities**

When dealing with difficult passages in the scripture one needs to understand the major corporate entities within it. Namely that which is called metaphorically: Light and Darkness. So when looking at
the adversary of God we discover not only a head but also a corporate identity.

Matthew 4:16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Taking note we see a corporate grouping of the Head, the Body, and the belief systems in this third account of the demise of darkness. That which began with the fall of the prostitute, the mother of harlots, is culminated with a final judgement. As the glorious light of the Gospel of Christ advances it expels the darkness. Just as sunlight progressively moves across the globe dispelling the darkness and announcing the new day, so to this ultimate conquest of all false religion and its followers becomes the greatest hope of an end to all of human tragedy.

Progressive removal of the tares in the field, results in their burning and everlasting remorse.

Matthew 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

The Coming Judgement

Today in the modern world we have Governments supporting the rights of freedom of worship and assembly, unfortunately this runs right against the grain of the entire contents of the divine cannon. Within the scripture religious apostasy always brings judgment.

Judgement is progressive and ongoing; this is why we find many judgements, and the divine canon closing with an ultimate final judgement.

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

The Sovereign Master Chess player sets the board, moves his pawns and forces the opponent’s moves; he strikes through knights, converts through his bishops places his castles and corners his opponents to give his Queen (the Covenant Bride of Christ) the ultimate victory. The game has taken millennia and the path to ultimate victory is well documented to those who are in his care.

If we look at the board, we see the endgame in progress. The fall of Jerusalem, in ad66-70, is the future symbolic fate of all those who oppose Him. It begins with the individual and culminates in a greater corporate judgement, and the total demise of the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Matthew 3:10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Acts 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.
The Historical Account of the Start of the Better Resurrection

We shall now examine the secular historical witness of Josephus at the destruction of Jerusalem. In order to examine this section our minds need to be refreshed from the scripture, that we may establish the evidence from which we will draw a conclusion.

1. The Thief in the Night

1 Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

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

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:

Firstly we note that Christ returns as a thief in night, and by his own description it is to remove some property, and to kill his enemies and destroy their house. So his return will be at evening time.

Zechariah 14:7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.

Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Christ reiterates Zechariah’s personal understanding of the Day of the Lord.

2. The Shout that raises the Dead

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

Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Matthew 12:29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

His return is to collect his saints in the strong mans house.

3. The Place of his Return.

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

42 days after commencement of Pesach before Pentecost Christ ascended into Heaven and the return is in similar manner.

Matthew 24:29 Immediately after (GRK: "Meta" S/be read “ with”) the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

The sign of the Son man that the Magi (three wise men) followed was a star in the heavens. So in like manner at Christ’s Return there shall be a similar sign in the Heavens and a falling star.

Note: In order to Harmonize this with Luke 21:28, ”And when these things begin to come to pass, then
look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh”, this Author favours the translating of the Greek word “meta” as with. In every other passage in the four Gospels where the equivalent Greek word for “Immediately” is used “Meta” is translated as “with” instead of “After”.

3. The Opening and Closing of the Eastern Gate (Beautiful Gate)

**Isaiah 24:12** In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction.

**Matthew 16:18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

**Ezekiel 46:12** Now when the prince shall prepare a voluntary burnt offering or peace offerings voluntarily unto the LORD, one shall then open him the gate that looketh toward the east, and he shall prepare his burnt offering and his peace offerings, as he did on the sabbath day: then he shall go forth; and after his going forth one shall shut the gate.

**Psalms 24:9** Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

There is a tradition held by modern day Judaism that when the Messiah comes he will enter in by the Eastern Gate.

4. Bolt of Light shining in the temple

**Matthew 24:27** For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

5. The Redemption of the Purchased Possession

**Luke 21:28** And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Should one read through the 21st Chapter of Luke, we understand that Christ was dealing with the same event’s that signalled the coming Apocalypse and his Parousia. From the above verse we establish a time frame for the beginning of the redemption of our Bodies. This is not to be confused with the redemption purchased by Christ for us through his sacrificial death.

**Romans 8:23** And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

6. The Day to be Remembered

**Exodus 13:1** ¶ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine. And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten. This day came ye out in the month Abib (Nisan).

And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee, a land flowing with milk and honey, that thou shalt keep this service in this month. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to the LORD. Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters.

And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto
me when I came forth out of Egypt. And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a
memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD’S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath
the LORD brought thee out of Egypt. Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year
to year.

And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, as he sware unto thee
and to thy fathers, and shall give it thee. That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the
matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD’S. And
every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt
break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem.

And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto
him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage: And it
came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of
Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that
openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem.

And it shall be for a token upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of
hand the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt.

Israel is given an express command by the Lord of Glory to remember the day of Redemption of the
firstborn through an annual feast in the month of Nissan. So Israel’s redemption in the promised land
was to be remembered and taken special note of. The required Sacrifice would be a lamb. The timing
of this event is significant for it would take place forty years later in the Promised Land. From the time
John the Baptist Declared “Behold the Lamb of God” to celebration of this feast at the beginning of
the Roman siege forty years elapsed. The Law being a mere shadow of the fulfilled redemption of the
elect remnant of Israel.

Romans 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we
ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

The final stage of our redemption is when our human body is changed (redeemed). Redemption begins
in the spirit, transforms the Soul and resurrects the body. This feast celebrating redemption occurred 42
days after commencement of Passover. This in the Christian Calendar is celebrated as Ascension day.
Christ being seen Alive on the third Day, his appearances continued for forty days.

7. The sealing of the remnant of Israel.

Revelation 7:1 ¶ And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth,
holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on
any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he
cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying,
Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their
foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and
forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

In this section from the Apocalypse we note that a remnant of Israel made up of a 144000 of Israel
receive the seal of their redemption.

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of
redemption.

8. The Divine Order of the Gospel

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to
every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 2:10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also
to the Gentile:
John 4:21  Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 5:25  Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

John 5:28  Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice.

Salvation includes the victory over death and the imminence of that Hour of redemption that commences first with the Jews and then gathers in the Gentiles is part of the order Gospel.

Revelation 7:9  After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

In the Apocalypse we note that an unfulfilled number (Numberless Multitude) from the nations of the world are to find redemption following the Jews. That they are in a resurrected state is obvious from the text, for they are in the Heavenly Jerusalem that has no need of the Sun to give it Light. Because they follow after the sealing of the remnant 144000 firstborn of Israel and are declared numberless we reiterate the ongoing Salvation/resurrection taking place amongst the nations of the world.

Romans 11:4  But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompense unto them: Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back always.

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness? For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: If by any means I may provoke to emulation them, which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?

So little of election is preached today, even though this doctrine was one of the primary causes of the
Reformation, this is one of the reasons why the futurists who preach salvation by works lead so many astray. I cannot within this discourse expound election and predestination, which are the primary cause of our redemption/resurrection in Christ. So when the remnant are raised from the Dead (received into Heaven) and the apostates are Cast away then the nations of the world will follow and their personal reconciliation with God will be complete. The destruction of the old covenant people at the time of God’s indignation brings in the Hope of a better resurrection for the nations of the world by their embracing of the New Covenant.

Revelation 14: 1 ¶ And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sang as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. These are they which were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,


Isaiah Chapter 25-26 (wise and foolish) hide until indignation is over for the blood of the prophets.

Isaiah 26:9 With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD. LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them. LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us. O LORD our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us: but by thee only will we make mention of thy name. They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise: therefore hast thou visited and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish. Thou hast increased the nation, O LORD, thou hast increased the nation: thou art glorified: thou hadst removed it far unto all the ends of the earth. LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them. Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD. We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have had as it were brought forth wind: we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen. Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead. ¶ Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Mathew 25:1 ¶ Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.
Mathew 23:35  That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

AT THE TIME OF GOD’S JUDGEMENT OF APOSTATE ISRAEL THE ELECT ARE CALLED TO DEPART AND HIDE THEMSELVES UNTIL GOD’S INDIGNATION WITH HIS CHOSEN NATION IS OVER.

The Historical Account in comparison to the scripture.

Excerpt from Josephus War of the Jews Book 6 Chapter 5 section 3.

(288) Thus were the miserable people persuaded by these deceivers, and such as belied God himself; while they did not attend nor give credit to the signs that were so evident, and did so plainly foretell their future desolation; but, like men infatuated, without either eyes to see or minds to consider, did not regard the denunciations that God made to them. (289) Thus there was a star [d] resembling a sword, which stood over the city, and a comet, that continued a whole year. (The sign that proceeded Christ’s birth was a Star, secondly the most significant event in Gospel was the cross upon which Christ was crucified, which resembles the shape of a sword these two are both known traditionally as the signs of the Son of Man also Christ’s return is portrayed as when the stars are visible see 3 above.)

(290) Thus also, before the Jews’ rebellion, and before those commotions which preceded the war, when the people were come in great crowds to the feast of unleavened bread, on the eighth day of the month of Xanthikos [e] [Nisan], (Niese: April 25, Capellus: April 8) and at the ninth hour of the night, so great a light shone around the altar and the holy house, that it appeared to be bright daytime; which lasted for half an hour. (291) (This great light shining in the entrance of the house at the altar through into the Holy of Holies would travel from east to west as the temple was laid out in this fashion see 3,4 above) This light seemed to be a good sign to the unskilful, but was so interpreted by the sacred scribes as to portend those events that followed immediately upon it. (292) At the same festival also, a heifer, as she was led by the high priest to be sacrificed, brought forth a lamb in the midst of the temple. (This feast is culminated by remembrance of Israel’s Redemption; of which the Lamb is the symbol of according to Moses’ injunction to Israel, the final redemption is the resurrection see 6 above.)

(293) Moreover, the eastern gate of the inner [court of the] temple, which was of brass, and extremely heavy, and had been with difficulty shut by twenty men, and fastened with iron-bound bars, and had bolts sunk very deep into the firm floor, which was there made of one entire stone, was seen to be opened of its own accord about the sixth hour of the night. (294) Now, those who kept watch in the temple, came hereupon running to the captain of the temple, and told him of it; who then came up there, and not without great difficulty was able to shut the gate again. (The Messiah enters by the Eastern Gate like a thief in the night and after his departure the Gate (Door) is closed see 3,1 above ) Note see Addendum Alfred Edersheim’s description and Graphic picture of Herod’s Temple

(295) This also appeared to the common people to be a very happy prodigy, as if God thereby opened to them the gate of happiness. But the men of learning understood it, that the security of their holy house was dissolved of its own accord, and that the gate was opened for the advantage of their enemies. (Christ’s ministry was concentrated amongst the common people, but the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees rejected him. The common people were lifting up their heads for their promised redemption was coming see 5 above)
So these publicly declared that the signal predicted the desolation that was coming upon them. Besides these, a few days after that feast, on the twenty-first day of the month of Artemisios [Iyyar]. (Niese: June 8, Capellus: May 21) (297) a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared: I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those who saw it, (298) and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sunsetting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armour were seen (299) running about among the clouds, and surrounding the cities. Moreover, at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner [court of the] temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise, (300) and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, “We are departing from here.”

(In Isaiah 66 we have the Chariots of God as well as at Elijah’s resurrection (Refer to previous Sections). An earthquake accompanies the resurrection of the two witnesses in the book of Revelation. Tacitus describes this as a superhuman voice (see below) see 2,7 above). This is the departure of the elect remnant the 144000 see 8 above)

Tacitus (A.D. 115) - Roman historian

“13. Prodigies had occurred, but their expiation by the offering of victims or solemn vows is held to be unlawful by a nation which is the slave of superstition and the enemy of true beliefs. In the sky appeared a vision of armies in conflict, of glittering armour. A sudden lightning flash from the clouds lit up the Temple. The doors of the holy place abruptly opened, a superhuman voice was heard to declare that the gods were leaving it, and in the same instant came the rushing tumult of their departure. Few people placed a sinister interpretation upon this. The majority were convinced that the ancient scriptures of their priests alluded to the present as the very time when the Orient would triumph and from Judaea would go forth men destined to rule the world.” (Histories, Book 5, v. 13). Comp. Tacitus, Annals, xiv, 12, 22; xv, 22, 47; xvi, 13. ( The coming in of the Gentiles (Orient) is part of Isaiah’s description of the Day of the Lord)

Summary

There is sufficient proof from these two Historians accounts of the Prodigies occurring during the apocalyptic destruction of Jerusalem to conclude that the words of the Lord Jesus Christ have been fulfilled. I have endeavoured by drawing as much as I can from my limited knowledge of the scripture to support my views on the better resurrection. Some may differ, because the traditional creeds of men have a different opinion.

Dear reader I have put forth my case, the decision to accept or reject it is in your hands.

Mathew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

I Believe the Lord Christ has fulfilled what he has promised to do. And my Faith in the veracity of my Saviours’ words has been strengthened by this exercise of mine, I hope yours is as well. If we never meet in this life, I hope to see you in the better resurrection clothed in the Glory of the wedding garment at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Yours in Christ,

David Harry Hume

2007.
Addendum

Mosaic Feasts

**The ‘Beautiful Gate’**

These eight side gates, as we may call them, were all two-leaved, wide, high, with superstructures and chambers supported by two pillars, and covered with gold and silver plating. But far more magnificent than any of them was the ninth or eastern gate, which formed the principal entrance into the Temple. The ascent to it was from the terrace by twelve easy steps. The gate itself was made of dazzling Corinthian brass, most richly ornamented; and so massive were its double doors that it needed the united strength of twenty men to open and close them. This was the ‘Beautiful Gate’; and on its steps had they been wont these many years to lay the lame man, just as privileged beggars now lie at the entrance to Continental cathedrals. No wonder that all Jerusalem knew him; and when on that sunny afternoon Peter and John joined the worshippers in the Court of the Women, not alone, but in company with the well-known cripple, who, after his healing, was ‘walking and leaping and praising God,’ universal ‘wonder and amazement’ must have been aroused. Then, when the lame man, still ‘holding by’ the apostles, again descended these steps, we can readily understand how all the people would crowd around in Solomon’s Porch, close by, till the sermon of Peter—so fruitful in its spiritual results—was interrupted by the Temple police, and the sudden imprisonment of the apostles.

**The Levitical Calendar**

For the convenience of the reader, we subjoin a calendar, showing the occurrence of the various festive days—

1—Nisan

Spring Equinox, end of March or beginning of April.

Day 1. New Moon.
Day 15. First Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
Day 16. Waving of the first ripe Omer.

2—Iyar

Day 1. New Moon.
Day 15. ‘Second, or ‘little’ Passover.

Day 18. Lag-le-Omer, or the 33rd day in Omer, i.e. from the presentation of the first ripe sheaf offered on the 2nd day of the Passover, or the 15th of Nisan.

3—Sivan

Day 1. New Moon.
Day 6. Feast of Pentecost, or of Weeks—7 weeks, or 50 days after the beginning of the Passover, when the two loaves of first ripe wheat were ‘waved, commemorative also of the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai.

4—Thamus

Day 1. New Moon.
Day 17. Fast; taking of Jerusalem on the 9th by Nebuchadnezzar (and on the 17th by Titus). If the 17th occur on a Sabbath,
the Fast is kept on the day following.

5—Ab

Day 1. New Moon.

6—Elul

Day 1. New Moon.

7—Tishri

Beginning of Civil Year

Day 1&2. New Year’s Feast.
Day 10. Day of Atonement; Great Fast.
Day 15. Feast of Tabernacles.
Day 21. Close of the above.
Day 22. Octave of the Feast of Tabernacles. (In the Synagogues, on the 23rd, Feast on the annual completion of the Reading of the Law.)

8—Marcheshvan or Cheshvan

Day 1. New Moon.

9—Kislev

Day 1. New Moon.
Day 25. Feast of the Dedication of the Temple, or of Candles, lasting eight days, in remembrance of the Restoration of the Temple after the victory gained by Judas Maccabeus (BC 148) over the Syrians.

10—Tebeth

Day 1. New Moon.

11—Shebat

Day 1. New Moon.

12—Adar

Day 1. New Moon.
Day 14. Purim, or Feast of Haman.
Day 15. Purim Proper.

* The Megillath Taanith (‘roll of fasts’), probably the oldest Aramean post-biblical record preserved (though containing later admixtures), enumerates thirty-five days in the year when fasting, and mostly also public mourning, are not allowed. One of these is the day of Herod’s death! This interesting historical relic has been critically examined of late by such writers as Derenbourg and Gratz. After their exile the ten tribes, or at least their descendants, seem to have dated from that event (696 BC). This appears from inscriptions on tombstones of the Crimean Jews, who have been shown to have descended from the ten tribes. (Comp. Davidson in Kitto’s Cycl. iii. 1173.)
Footnotes:

[1] These are: the first and the seventh days of the ‘Feast of Unleavened Bread, ‘Pentecost, New Year’s Day, the Day of Atonement, the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, and its Octave.


[3] Because on a Thursday Moses had gone up to Mount Sinai, and came down on a Monday, when he received for the second time the Tables of the Law.

[4] The only public offerings, with ‘imposition of hands, ‘were the scapegoat on the Day of Atonement, and the bullock when the congregation had sinned through ignorance.

[5] This happened therefore on eighteen days of the year. These will be specified in a subsequent chapter.

[6] Tradition has it, that neither high-priest nor king ever took part in these deliberations, the former because he might object to a leap-year as throwing the Day of Atonement later into the cold season; the king, because he might wish for thirteen months, in order to get thirteen months’ revenue in one year!

Excerpt from "A Edersheim “The Temple”

Bibliography

All scripture inserted into this text is by means of the Online Bible to which this author expresses his gratitude to those who have made this possible. This includes the Historical Account from Josephus’s war of the Jews. Their Internet address is www.onlinebible.net.

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2. The Parousia by James Stuart Russel.
4. Adam Clarkes commentaries by Gary Gallant.
6. The Temple ministry and its services by Alfred Edersheim.
7. Revelation Articles by Arthur Ogden.

All scripture is from the 1769 Authorised King James Version except where other translations are specified. In some places this author to add clarity to the meaning has upgraded the archaic words.