

*"The
Eternal
Purpose"*

(Ephesians 3:11)

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The word of God is precisely that - the word of God. As such it requires no human comment or interpretation. The word of God reveals as no other source the creation of the universe and its continuing function as well as the origin and destiny of man. Why, then, this book about THAT book?

Humans live and have lived under time arrangements of their own making (the various calendars) and have emerged into various societies apart from one another, thus having their own secular histories. It is the intent to this work to place the teachings and events recorded in the Bible in chronological order as it relates to our present arrangement of time. Many of the events recorded in the Scriptures (although important and most interesting) will not be noted, but those having a bearing on the overall thread of God's eternal purpose will be presented in their descending order down to our present time.

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THE QUESTION OF JESUS' DIVINITY

In 1969 I was in an area north of Jerusalem, in a car being driven by an Arab Moslem. We passed the house of the father of Sirhan Sirhan, the Arab who had assassinated presidential candidate Robert Kennedy. My driver had been to America and had been very successful financially. He spoke English and assumed I was a believer in Christ. During our conversation he asked two very pointed questions which were worded somewhat like this:

"What do you mean that Jesus was God's Son? Who was God's wife?"

"If Jesus had been God's Son, do you expect me to believe that God, realizing His power in creating the universe, would have allowed His Son to be crucified when He could have prevented it?"

Do YOU, my friend, believe that Jesus is the Christ?

If so, then WHY do you believe?

- Because your parents believed?
- Because of our Western influence?
- Because of social acceptance?

Could we be wrong?

Did you know that there were other Christs? Absolutely!

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Mt 24:4-5).

Gamaliel, Saul's former teacher, referred to two such messiahs in Acts 5:34-40:

- Theudas
- Judas of Galilee

One of the most evident was

- Mohammed (570 - 633 A.D.).
- Founder of Islam, one of the world's largest religious movements – alarmingly growing.

Mohammed boldly claimed to fulfill Deut 18:18-19,

- "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I

shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."

But 500 years earlier the Bible claims this of Jesus:

John 1:45, "Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Acts 3:22-26, Peter at Solomon's porch: Quotes this passage from Deuteronomy, states that "all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise spoken of these days" (v. 24), Then applies this all to Jesus.

Acts 7:37, Stephen quotes this passage from Deuteronomy and applies it to Jesus.

More recent is Sun Myun Moon who emerged from Korea.

He teaches that Jesus was the Messiah, but failed in His mission. Moon professes to be a replacement for Jesus.

Why do you believe that Jesus is any different?

We cannot take for granted a matter which has eternal consequence.

THE EXISTENCE OF A SUPREME BEING

Remains of former religions testifies of such a belief.

Egypt - Pyramids,
Location of burial boat in lower Israel
Mayas in Mexico - Pyramid at Chichen Itza
Baal-Beck in Lebanon

Present-day Religions

Shinto
Buddha
Tao
Hindu
Zoroaster
Various pagan religions

Belief in the God of the Bible - far outnumber others
Jewish

Islam
Christianity

Throughout ages it has been the nature of mankind to seek communication with a Supreme Being.

Children of Israel and molten calf (Ex 32:1-4).
Heathens fashioning tree into a god (Jeremiah 10:1-5).
Acts 17:29 to those at Mars Hill, "We ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device."

In most instances it is rather easy to detect their fallacy
Attributing power to a lifeless idol.
Explanations that are not reasonable or without proof.
Present-day effort to seek answers to origin of things without admitting to a Creator.

Consider mans' depraved condition:

He was rebellious.
He possessed no worth with which he could purchase perfection. His good works could never achieve such an exalted goal.

Eccl 7:29, "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions."

Isaiah 59:2, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear."

But while man has vainly sought through his own devices to find the true source for worship - the one true God has revealed Himself through the gift of His Son, Jesus.

God did not bring man up, with all his imperfection and frailty.
God came down to mans' level and set an example for mans' change, thus providing for responsive man opportunity to ascend to God.

Romans 5:6-11 At-one-ment (being at one again with God).

John 4:23, "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."

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

Colossians 1:19-22

God reveals Himself to His creation:

Not by rolling back the clouds of heaven in a dramatic, earth-shaking fashion.

That would have accomplished forced submission, which is contrary to God's desire that man willingly serve Him.

There is coming a time, however, when all mankind will know for a fact that there is a Divine Being.

"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God" (Romans 14:11, from Isaiah 45:23 and Phil 2:10-11).

Not in a wee, still voice or in some mystical way.

But God reveals Himself in two dramatic ways:

The world of nature
His will through a written record

GOD IS VERY EVIDENTLY SEEN IN NATURE

Origin of life -

It is evident that life did not burst forth of itself.
This idea drastically conflicts with what we observe:

Perfection - not gradual evolution.

How would you improve upon the human body, with its marvelous features?

Pattern -

Height of trees, uniformity
Seed, conformity, produces after parent seed

Principles everywhere noticeable in the universe!

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Hebrews 11:3).

Orderly function -

Nature demonstrates handiwork of a Master architect in cycles of:

Seedtime and harvest

Decay and waste

Cycle of water

“All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; and unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again” (Eccl 1:7).

THE VERY MAKE-UP OF THE BIBLE TESTIFIES THAT IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY MAN; ONLY BY A DIVING BEING

The Bible is the only source which is so complete.

Presents detailed record from creation to end.

Written over a period of 1,600 years.

Some forty penmen involved in its composition.

They came from every walk of life - farmers to kings, poor to wealthy, common to elite.

They were divided by cultural differences.

They were separated by geographical difficulties.

They were hindered by language barriers.

Yet not one error has ever been found.

The Bible has withstood ever approach to destroy it.

Ridicule

Outlawed

Death to those who possessed it

Attacked because of faulty, supposed translations.

But it was designed

protected, and

destined to endure.

Luke 21:33, “Heaven and earth shall pass away: but My words shall not pass away.”

The Bible is the only such record without flaw.

Compare with Koran, Book of Mormon.

Evident attempts to duplicate style.

Numerous references to Bible characters in Koran, but an evident failure to accept their teaching.

The Bible is older than Koran, yet it is source of many of its references. In view of this, the Koran unwittingly testifies to the authenticity of the Bible.

Thus, the Bible is the only source of

infallible,

written

Divine proof!

(For a detailed, in-depth study of the authenticity of the Bible, please refer to my booklet, *Is the Bible REALLY the Word of God?*)

The evident,
 continuous,
 deliberate
thread of truth extends from the beginning to the end of the Bible.

The entire scope of the Bible is to present this meaningful and vital thread.

It is our intent in this study to follow that thread in its beautiful revelation.

THE MYSTERY FROM ETERNITY

Note the magnitude of these passages.

Eph 1:4, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."

Col 1:26, "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints."

Rom 16:25-26, "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith."

Eph 1:9-11, "Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will."

Galatians 4:4, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law."

1 Pet 1:19-20, "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."

Rev 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."

Eph 3:9-11, "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, 11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The scope of our subject is of such a magnitude that we must return to the beginning.

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

Yes, but where did God come from?

WHERE DID GOD COME FROM?

Question which boggles our mind.

We are creatures with finite minds who likely could not comprehend the infinite even if we were told.

But the answer does not lie with our ability to reach back into the void before time.

You see, we are speaking of an entirely different dimension.

The problem arises when mere man attempts to solve such mysteries by approaches such as evolution.

He starts with SOMETHING! The question is,
"What infinite FORCE brought
SOMETHING into being?"

A Teacher explained to his class about primeval seas and life eventually emerging from them. Upon being given an opportunity to ask questions, little boy asked the teacher, "But where did all that water come from?"

Consider an absolute fact, which is unquestionably clear!

Heb 11:3, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things

which do appear."

A little seven year old boy from Kentucky, now grown and with a son of his own, wrote to me many years ago this inquiring letter.

Dear Brother Cobb:

How did God get here? Please write back and tell me.

Thank you,

Anthony

Here was my reply.

I was very pleased to receive your letter and to see your concern about God and His importance in our lives. I am happy to answer your question, "How did God get here?"

We do not always understand things as completely as we might like. Almost everything around us is something we can either taste or see or feel or hear, but some things are not so easily explained.

How does an ugly worm turn into a beautiful butterfly?

Why is one rose red and another yellow?

You can't hold a shadow or the moonlight in your hand, yet you can see both and you know they both exist.

Where does the wind come from, and what makes it blow?

There are some things we cannot fully explain, even though we know something about them. The fact that we do not understand them completely does not mean they do not exist, but it merely shows that our minds are not big enough to take it all in.

This is the way it is with God. God is not human, so we cannot expect to understand him as we would humans. God is a spirit, and we humans are not yet able to completely understand where He began.

Perhaps we someday will. Jesus used the wind to explain our relation with God. He taught that the wind blows where it will, and we hear the sound of it, but we cannot tell where it comes from or where it goes (John 3:8).

We do not know how God got here, but we do know He is here!

I heard once of a little boy who was flying a kite so high it was hidden in the clouds. A man who came along asked, "What are you doing, son?" The boy holding onto the string said, "I'm flying my kite."

The man looked up, and not being able to see the kite hid in the clouds, he asked, "How do you know your kite is up there?" The little boy answered, "Because I can feel the tug."

We cannot see God with our eyes, and we do not understand all we might like to about how He got here, but because of His "tug" felt in so many wonderful ways every day, we are aware of His presence and power.

It has been a real pleasure to discuss this question with you, and I hope these thoughts may help us both to better understand our God.

- Harry Cobb

The Scriptures answer our inquiry:

Ps 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

Job 38:2, "Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?"

Then follows a multitude of questions - pointing out the inability to answer the things known and simple to God.

Psalms 90:1-2, "LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God."

We return in the past only as far as we are permitted or can comprehend.

Our source is the book called Genesis.

Through it God has graciously provided the answers.

"IN THE BEGINNING GOD"

We have previously noted that "the beginning" does not contemplate the origin of God. This insight is beyond the ability of man to comprehend.

The beginning under consideration, therefore, has to do with time (as opposed to eternity) and the material universe of which we are a part.

We begin with God as the grand Designer and Architect who is the Source without which nothing could exist.

The Creator is referred to in Genesis 1:1 with this understanding and is simply termed "God" from the Hebrew Elohim.

But throughout the Old Testament He is also known as:

- Adonai (Lord)
- Jehovah (an English name taken from the Hebrew Yahweh)
- EI (Almighty)
- Shadday (Almighty)
- Elyown (Most High).

The New Testament refers to God or Christ as:

- Lord (kurios)
- God (theos)
- Father (pater)
- Emmanuel (God with us)
- Christ (Anointed, the Messiah).

The term "Elohim" in verse one is correctly translated as "God" in our English Bibles, but it will be interesting to note that this word is here found in the plural.

This is understood when we also note that in verse 26 God said, "Let US make man in OUR image after OUR likeness."

Here we become aware that God Himself refers to Someone else being present.

Who else was there?

A Jewish rabbi to whom I once posed this question replied that God was speaking with His angels.

Seeing that angels were indeed created beings, this would be a reasonable answer.

But the proper answer is to be found in records written 4,000 years later in New Testament passages:

John 1:1-3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made."

Colossians 1:13-17

THE CREATION PROCESS INVOLVED SEVEN DAYS

* First day (Genesis 1:1-5).

Involved heaven, earth, no form, a void, darkness, water, and light.

* Second day (6-8).

Waters divided; some above, some below, and in between a firmament called heaven.

* Third day (9-13).

Separation of sea and dry land. Presence of vegetation.

* Fourth day (14-19).

Lights in the heavens: sun, moon, and stars.

A critic might question the moon shining -

Job 25:5, "Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not."

Even back in Job's day, God had revealed that the moon only reflected the light of the sun.

But another puzzling question asks, "What was the source of light on the first three days before the sun, moon, and stars were created?"

Revelation 21:23-25 speaks of the Light of that eternal city.

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there."

Some are of the opinion that since the Lamb will be the light of that eternal city, then He was the light which served God's purpose before the sun, moon, and stars were created and placed in their respective places.

To so conclude is to improperly apply two different factors.

The light of Gen 1 was physical light needed in a material world, while the light of Rev 21 is symbolic in nature and pertains to a dimension which is spiritual and not material in nature.

One is actual,
while the other is figurative.

Darkness was present and complete at the beginning of the first day. It was during this day that God said, "Let there be light: and there was light" (1:3).

Darkness is the absence of light.

Light is the presence of heat, the source from which light emits.

Not only did God have the power to create light, but understanding as we do that He had that power, we should also understand that He could cause light to function as He wished until He provided another source.

That source came into being on the fourth day with the creation of the sun,
moon,
and stars.

There are several instances in the creation episode where God later rearranged what He had formerly created:

Light divided from darkness (4)
Waters which were present on first day (2) divided on second day from those above and those below the firmament (6-7) which He called Heaven (8).
Waters under the heaven gathered together on third day into one place and the dry land appeared (9-10).
God took a rib from Adam and from it produced a woman (2:18-25).

It presents no problem in understanding, therefore, that light, which was created on the first day, functioned alternately with darkness in days one, two, and three until on the fourth day God set the heavenly bodies to function as they even now continue to serve His purpose.

* Fifth day (20-23).

Water creatures and fowl.

* Sixth day (24-31).

Earthbound creatures and man.

"Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness" (26)

1. Jesus, before He took a human nature, was present with God in the creation - thus the plural language.

John 17:5, "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

2. "OUR image." Does God look like us?

Man is the only earthly creature with an eternal nature.

Heb 2:7, "Thou madest Him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst Him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of Thy hands."

Eccles 3:21, "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast which goeth downward to the earth?"

The Bible explains that "God is a spirit," (John 4:24).

Jesus said before His ascension, "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have" (Luke 24:39).

Thus, man is not made in the physical image of God, but rather with an eternal soul, the responsibility of knowing right from wrong, and being subject to the judgment.

Source of food for earth creatures and fowl was "every green herb" (30).

* Seventh day (2:1-3)

"Heavens and earth were finished, and all the host of them" (1).

God "rested on the seventh day" (2)

Not because He was tired, for to God creation was not a physical process but rather one of Divine power. As earlier mentioned in v. 1, God ceased His creation because it was "finished."

"And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it" (3).

But note what this verse did not say:

The Sabbath was not at this time given to man to observe.

Moses was writing from 2,300 years in the future, at a the time when God HAD indeed given the Sabbath to be observed by Israel. Thus Moses mentions what he knew would later occur.

Compare with Genesis 3:20, "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living."

But she had as yet given birth to no children. But Moses, the penman, simply knew that she would be the "mother of all living."

Compare with Exodus 16:35, where Moses spoke of Israel eating manna "until they came to...the borders of the land of Canaan" even though they had not yet reached Canaan."

THE FIRST WEEK OF TIME

Our week originated from this first week, and it has never changed.

Each day consisted of "evening and morning" (31).

So used throughout both Old and New Testaments. The pattern for us in spiritual matters in our time.

Word "day" from Hebrew "yom," which is used as:

Twenty-four hours (Gen. 1: 5, 8)

Twelve hours "Light He called day" (Gen. 1:5)

John 11:9, "Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world."

Era of time

John 8:56, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad."

Day as a thousand years

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."

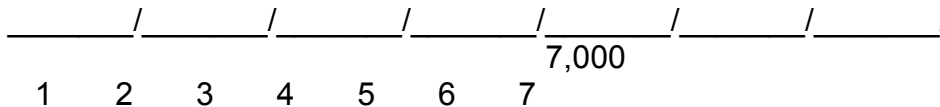
Prophetic day

Ezek 4:6, "And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each DAY for a year."

Creation days were actual and not a long period of time.

LET US TAKE A LOOK AT THE CRITICAL VIEW OF CREATION

The day-age theory suggests the world to have been formed by an evolutionary process perhaps taking billions of years. For the sake of reasoning and rather than considered the day as an actual 24 hour period, consider the possibility that the six days of Genesis were instead long periods of time. Six periods of 1,000 years each, for instance.



But the application of Biblical truth works havoc with mans' theories.

Consider age of Adam

Suppose Adam was born at year 500 of sixth day (500/1,000). He would have been 1,510 years old at the beginning of the eighth day, the day after which creation was completed (Genesis 2:1-2).

But Genesis 5:5 records, "And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died."

It has been suggested, however, that we do not know how long Adam and Eve were in Eden. True, but what difference does that make? Adam still lived only 930 years!

The 1,000 year day just will not agree with either the Bible or evolution!

Consider what creation involves.

Adam did not wear diapers - he was mature enough for marriage.

God did not create an acorn - He created a mighty oak tree.

Gen. 1:12, "And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good."

Vegetation was created on the third day, while animal life was not created until the sixth day.

According to the day-age theory, and allowing for each day to be one thousand years, then plants which required pollination would have of necessity remained non-productive for at least 2,000 years until the bees and the butterflies appeared.

Loaves and fishes of Matthew 14:17 and 15:34.

5 loaves 2 fishes fed 5,000 12 baskets of fragments left
7 loaves few fishes fed 4,000 7 baskets of fragments left

Note carefully the creative power of Jesus. He was not limited to the natural process, but rather eliminated it:

Natural process would have required:

Planting, harvesting, milling, baking of loaves.

Hatching, growth, catching and cleaning, and cooking of fish.

Yet the loaves and fishes were not thus produced.

Observing God's creative power, it is unreasonable to even suggest that God could not have accomplished His purpose in six actual days of creation?

If one accepts the

Maturity of Adam

The presence of a mature oak tree

The miracle of the loaves and fishes

He must of necessity accept the creative record!

THE FOCUS OF OUR STUDY

Job 12:7-9, "But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and

the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?"

CONDITIONS PRIOR TO EDEN

Verses 4 - 6 of Chapter 2 briefly speak of the condition of the earth and the heavens which had been created by God, explaining how the earth functioned prior to that event in day six when man was first formed.

Gen 2:4-7, "In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the earth. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground."

From the arrangement of these verses in some texts (especially the Hebrew as found in a translation of The Hebrew Publication Society of America, Philadelphia, Fourth Edition, 1962, as well as others) it might be understood that man was created before the shrub and grain and rain. But this seeming difficulty is easily explained by these simple observations.

When the Lord proceeded to create the heaven and the earth
and every plant of the field before it was in the earth
and every herb of the field before it grew,
there was no rain yet to sustain them and
there was no man yet to till the earth;
but God provided for the existence of plants and herbs
by allowing a mist to arise from the earth.
Then God formed man from the dust of the earth.

Note that under consideration is the presence of plant and herb,
that these could not exist without moisture,
and that there was yet no man to till the ground in
which plants would prosper.

Before rain and man came into being, therefore,
God provided in their absence
for a mist rising from the ground
to water the plant and herb.

Then, when the proper time came for their presence, God brought forth:
man

rain.

Thus, we determine an absence of rain prior to the flood.

But God provided for moisture with a mist.

Note that the canopy of water "above the firmament" (Gen 1:6-8) eliminated the need for rain as we have it today.

This will be discussed further in Chapters 6-9.

THE FORMING OF MAN

Verse 7 mentions the forming of man, but according to Chapter 1 man had already been formed. Is this the formation of another race?

Some, even those who maintain a firm belief in God and the Bible, believe this to be the creation of another race of man.

R. A. Torey in his *DIFFICULTIES AND ALLEGED ERRORS AND CONTRADICTIONS IN THE BIBLE* (1907, Page 31) says, "There is grave reason to doubt if anything in Genesis I after verse 1 relates to the original creation of the universe. All the verses after the first seem rather to refer to a refitting of the world that had been created and had afterward been plunged into chaos by the sin of some pre-Adamic race, to be the abode of the present race that inhabits it, the Adamic race."

But a much more realistic and truthful explanation is that God in Chapter 2 is simply explaining in more detail the events introduced by Him in Chapter 1.

We often employ this same procedure in our explanations.

The Book of Deuteronomy uses this same approach in repeating what had already been covered in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers.

THE GARDEN IN EDEN

Verse 8 refers to "eastward in Eden," apparently denoting the location of Eden from the area known to Moses. "Eastward" would have been in the vicinity of the Euphrates River, and it is so noted in verses 10-14. While the rivers Pison and Gihon are uncertain, Hiddekel is in Hebrew known as the Tigris (Strong's 2313).

The exact location of Eden is not known, but it appears from these verses that it may have been north of Ethiopia and east of Assyria, where the Euphrates and Tigris presently flow and which were locations known to Moses.

Verse 9 tells of two distinctive trees which were in the garden:

"The tree of life"

"The tree of knowledge of good and evil."

Man was placed in the garden and given responsibility (v. 15-17).

"Dress it and keep it" (v. 15)

"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it"
(V. 17)

Consequence to be expected: "for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17).

Note:

God required obedience to LAW even from the time of creation. It is only reasonable that He continues to require it.

Same law applied to Eve, though at this time she had not been created. Her referring to it in Chapter 3 allows us to know that she realized she was subject to it.

Man was not at this time subject to death.

To violate God's law, however, would result in this consequence.

Verses 18 - 25. Creation of woman.

All creatures other than man apparently created with both male and female roles present (v. 19-20).

Adam allowed to name the creatures (v. 19).

Verses 21 - 22. Manner in which God created the woman.

God's intent expressed in arrangement for marriage (v. 23-24).

Mark 10:6-9, "But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (Also in Matthew 19:4-6).

Verse 25 indicates the purity of innocence, "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."

THE FALL OF MAN

Chapter 3

The last book of the Bible refers to the serpent as does the first, and he is identified by John as "The great dragon...that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan" (Revelation 12:9).

Satan had rebelled unsuccessfully against God (Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:12-19),
he had been cast out of heaven and
he was present on the earth (explained in Rev. 12:7-12)

Earth was the "hell" (tartaros) into which Satan had been cast.
2 Peter 2:4, "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell [tartaros], and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment."

Not hades, the realm of all human dead (Acts 2:27).
Not the eternal "hell" (gehenna as in Matthew 10:28).
But the earth as a place of reservation for fallen angels.
Evident in view of the fact that they remain free to serve Satan's purpose.

Satan continued to oppose God by confronting God's creation.

Satan "knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Rev. 12:12).
Sin was present, but man had not yet sinned.
Thus, the devil sinned before man existed.

Genesis 3:1-10 (read).

Attempt to pass blame:
From Adam to Eve (v. 11-12)
From Eve to serpent (v. 13)

Consequence of this sin:
Serpent (v. 14-15)
Woman (v. 16)
Childbirth. Also 1 Timothy 2:15, "Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."
Submission to man. Also 1 Timothy 2:11-14, 1 Cor. 14:34-35.

Man (v. 17-19)
Banishment from the garden in Eden (v. 22-24).
Misunderstanding of verse 15.
Not a prediction of the coming of Christ and conflict with the devil as is often taught:

Seed of woman - Jesus
Seed of snake - devil
Could not be Satan, for he already existed.

Enmity had already existed and was not a consequence of this incident.

Comments on previous verses have just explained this.

Reference is to the ever-continuing conflict between snakes and humans.
Our experience here and my experience in Africa.

DESCENDANTS OF THE FIRST FAMILY

Chapter 4

Cain and Abel (v. 1-2)

Their offerings (v. 2-7)

No indication that a blood sacrifice was required, for even under the old Law of Moses some sacrifices were of flour and oil (Leviticus 2:1-11, 23:9-14, Numbers 7:19). "And the feast of harvests, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of the ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field" (Ex 23:16).

Hebrews 11:4, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts."

Cain kills Abel, is rebuked by God, and suffers consequence (v.8-14).

God sets a mark on Cain (v. 15).

We are not told the nature of the mark, but "Lest any finding him should kill him" (v. 15) indicates something evident.

Note the progressive nature of sin.

Jealously leads to
Murder which leads to
Lying about it.

"Where did Cain get his wife?"

Genesis 3:20 informs us that Eve "was the mother of ALL living." Cain's wife,

consequently, had to be one born to Eve. Adam and Eve had "sons and daughters" (Genesis 5:4).

Cain's wife would have been either his sister or a niece.

But note carefully what verse 17 actually said. It did not say that Cain went over into Nod and married a wife.

The word "knew" in such passages refers to marital relationship.

Genesis 4:1, "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived and bare Cain"

Matthew 1:24-25, "Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called HIS name JESUS."

Record of Cain's descendants (v. 18-24)

From Cain's descent came:

The first man with two wives (v. 19)

The second murder (v. 23)

Adam and Eve have another son, Seth

CALCULATION OF TIME

Death of Adam at age 930 (Genesis 5:5).

Interesting to note that Adam lived to within 126 years before birth of Noah

Adam's age at death 930

Lamech born in year of Adam 874

Thus Lamech's age at Adam's death 56

Noah born when Lamech was 182

Thus Noah was born after Adam's death 126

Record of succeeding generations (Genesis 5).

From about 4000 B.C. to about 2,250 B.C.

Methuselah begat Lamech at age	187	Continued 782 years	Died	969
Lamech begat Noah at age	182	Continued 595 years	Died	777

Noah's three sons from his age 500 Continued 100 years to flood Noah
Continued 350 years Died 950

Thus:

Methuselah was 369 at birth of Noah.

Lamech died five years before the flood, thus five years before his father.

Methuselah died same year of the flood.

Considering life span of each person prior to Noah, we conclude that flood occurred:

About 1,656 years after creation

About 2350 B.C.

CONDITION OF WORLD AT TIME OF NOAH

Genesis 6:1-7

No indication whatsoever of marriage between angels and human women, as supposed and taught by some.

"Sons of God" (v. 2) - human beings who served God, not fallen angels. Contrary reasoning by some likely based upon similar usage in Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7, Psalms 89:6, and Daniel 3:25.

But:

Verse 3 referred to the condition as being "with man" and does not concern angels.

Matthew 24:38-39 and Luke 17:26-27 referred to the time of Noah and of there being "marrying and giving in marriage," which according to Jesus, angels do not do (Matthew 22:30, Luke 20:35).

Gen 5:22 and 24 states that "Enoch walked with God,"

while Gen 6:9 informs us that "Noah walked with God."

New Testament contains references of those who were walking with God as "sons of God."

"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" (Phil 2:14-15).

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God” (1 John 3:1).

Also Romans 8:14 and 1 John 3:2.

"Daughters of men" (v. 2) in contrast refers to those with worldly aspirations, such as in Isaiah 3:16,

“Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet.”

Note the corruption which existed among Cain's descendants in Genesis 4:16-24

"An hundred and twenty years (v. 3) does not refer to the length of a man's life as does

Ps 90:10, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

It refers rather to the extent of time which God will yet allow man to exist before his destruction, as noted in 1 Peter 3:20,

"When once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing."

"Giants in the earth" (v. 4) simply refers to men of great stature such as were also referred to in Numbers 13:33,

"And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."

Goliath was from a family of giants (2 Samuel 21:15-22). In fact, he was the son of a giant and had four brothers who were also giants.

The condition which so badly displeased God (verses 5-7).

“BUT NOAH FOUND GRACE IN THE EYES OF THE LORD” (v. 8).

Explanation of God's displeasure and intent to destroy His creation (v. 9-14).

Provision of the ark for the righteous who would listen to God (14).

Details for the ark's construction and arrangement (v. 15-16).

Gopher wood (uncertainty of present name)

Rooms

Pitched within and without with pitch

Length 300 cubits (450 feet)

Breadth 50 cubits (75 feet)

Height 30 cubits (45 feet)

Cubit determined as distance between man's elbow and tip of his
finger - 18 inches or about 45 centimeters

"A window...and in a cubic shalt thou finish it above"

A door set in the side

Three stories

As it might have appeared.

"Window...in a cubic shalt thou finish it above" (v. 16).

No pointed bow or rudder - for it was not intended to steer.

"This is the fashion" (v. 15).

Would you have dared to do otherwise?

To have done otherwise would have been to disobey God.

Explanation of God's intent (v. 17-22).

Noah complied (v. 22)

THE FLOOD (Gen. 7:1 - 8:17)

Again, "And Noah did according unto all that the Lord commanded him" (v. 5)

Time:

Noah and seven others were in ark seven days before the flood (7:10).

Rain began six hundredth year, second month, seventeenth day (v. 11).

Waters prevailed upon the earth 150 days (7:24).

Waters returned for 150 days (8:3).

Tenth month, first day - tops of mountains seen (8:5).

Forty days later, window of ark opened (8:6)

Raven sent forth (v. 7).

Dove also sent, but returned (9).

Seven more days Noah stayed in ark, then sent forth dove again (v.10)

Dove returned with "olive leaf plucked off" (v. 11).

Influence of this Bible event upon world society in use of dove and
olive branch to represent peace.

Seven days dove sent again and did not return (12).

"Six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month.the face of the ground was dry" (v. 13)
 Noah leaves the ark "in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month" (v. 14-16).

Thus, Noah occupied ark one year and seventeen days.

Source of waters:

"Fountains of the great deep broken up" (v. 11)

Waters which had been retained underground.

Some think with an eruptive force.

"Windows of heaven were opened" (v. 11))

Remember the remarks in Gen. 1:7-8,

"And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven."
 Basis for our understanding of an enveloping vapor canopy around the earth.

Wisely designed by God with intent for: Bringing forth the flood.

Basis also for explaining longevity of early man.

After flood mans' life rapidly descended in years.

DECLINING AGES

Name	Age	Verse	Time Factors
Adam	930	Gen 5:5	4004 B.C.
Seth	912	:8	
Enos	905	:11	
Cainan	910	:14	
Mahalaleel	895	:17	1,656 years
Jared	962	:20	10 generations
Enoch	365	:23	
Methuselah	969	:27	
Lamech	777	:31	
Noah	950	Gen 9:29	
	600	Gen 7:11	2353 B.C.
	350	Gen 9:28	
Shem	600	Gen 11:11	
Arphaxad	438	:13	
Salah	433	:15	
Eber	464	:17	

Peleg	239	:19	427 years
Reu	239	::21	10 generations
Serug	230	:23	
Nahor	148	:25	
Terah	205	:32	
Abram	175	Gen 25: 7	1926 B.C.

Ten generations after Noah, Abraham lived to be only 175.

Enveloping vapor canopy served to filter and prevent harmful rays from sun, thus permitting man to live for a longer period.

"The RAIN was upon the earth forty days and forty nights" (v. 12).
As discussed earlier, rain had not heretofore been known.

Depth of the waters:

Genesis 7:19-20

Fifteen cubits times 18" in a cubic equals to 22 feet 6 inches.

But this is the depth ABOVE the mountains.

Where did the water go when the flood was ended?

With the exception of the vapor canopy around the earth, the waters:

Filled those underground caverns from which they had come.

Returned to form the seas which we now know.

Retained in clouds.

Formed the ice caps which cover our arctic regions.

(8,000 feet thick in some areas (*Encyclopedia Americana*)).

70% of worlds FRESH water supply is frozen in arctic region.

Note that this FRESH water did not come from present day salty seas.

How did Noah gather such a large number of animals?

"Two of every sort shall COME UNTO THEE" (Gen. 6:20).

"There WENT IN two and two UNTO Noah into the ark" (Gen. 7:10).

Two unclean, male and female.

But of clean, either seven pairs (14) or three pairs (6) plus one which was to serve as source for sacrifice (Gen 8:20).

Could the ark hold all those animals?

Species of animals were under consideration, not all the multitude of varieties and sub-varieties existing today (Reference, *The Genesis Flood*, Whitcomb and

Morris).

From the wild rock pigeon of the European coasts, for instance, has been developed some eleven variations: Pouter - Leghorn runt - Fantail - Tumbler - Owl - Turbit - Swallow - Carrier - Nun - Jacobin - Homer

From a few wild dogs have developed over 200 distinct varieties 32 of dogs, from the dachshund to the collie.

Taking the measurements of the ark (300 cubic length, 50 cubic breadth, and 30 cubic height) the volume would be 1,396,000 cubic feet.

This is equivalent to 8 freight trains of 65 cars each or 522 railroad cars.

So very many of these animals hibernate, thus eliminating some of the problem in caring for them.

What about the dinosaur?

Who said that mature adult animals were to be selected?

AFTER THE FLOOD (Gen. 8:15 - 9:17)

Moses built an altar and sacrificed (Genesis 8:20-22).

First time an altar is mentioned.

Seasons to continue.

Counteracts old fable about "budding of trees and falling of leaves."

Man dominant over earth (9:1-2).

Flesh given for food, in addition to herbs (9:3)

But blood is specifically forbidden (9:4)

Also true under the Law (Lev 17:10-14, Deut 12:23-24) and in Christian era (Acts 15:20, 29).

Killing condemned (9:5-7).

Repopulating the earth commanded (v. 7).

Rainbow given as token of God's covenant (v. 8-17).

"I will remember MY covenant" (v. 15).

RELIABILITY OF FLOOD RECORD

Confirmed by various ancient writings and legends from around the world.

Sumerians, *Light from the Ancient Past* (1946 Princeton U. Press).

Mesopotamia, *Epic of Gilgamesh*.

The Ark of Ararat (LaHaye and Morris) records some 214 cultures which

have a flood legend.
Encyclopedia Americana.

Confirmed by Jesus:
Matthew 24:37-39
Luke 17:26-27

Mentioned in Hebrews 11:7,
“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared a ark to the saving of his house.”

Referred to by Peter:
“When once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water” (1 Peter 3:20).

“And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly” (2 Peter 2:5).

2 Peter 3:5-6

Vividly detailed in Psalms 104:5-9

DIVISION OF THE EARTH AS IT NOW IS

“And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his day the earth divided” (Genesis 10:25).

Possible existence of Pangea, the land mass prior to the division into continents as they now appear.

TOWER OF BABEL (Gen. 11)

Note that the building of this tower as in direct disobedience to what God had required,

“Be fruitful, and multiply, and REPLENISH the earth” (Genesis 9:1).

Beginning of different languages

Possibly the beginning of races as well, as evidenced in racial grouping of those who were scattered (V. 9).

It is thought by some that remains of this tower continues to exist at Babel in the Euphrates valley, not far from Bagdad in present day Iraq.

ABRAHAM

God blesses Abram (Gen 12, 1926 B.C.).
Instructions to leave and journey into new land (1).

Promise (2-3)

Repeated at least five additional times to Abram

Verse 7

Gen 13:14-17

Gen 15:1-5

Gen 17:1-8

Gen 18:9-14

Hebrews 11:8-10, "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. 9 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: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

Abram journeys into intended land (Gen 12:8).

Builds an altar near Bethel (8).

Continues on to the South (9).

Famine makes necessary journey into Egypt (10-20).

Separation from Lot (Gen 13).

Lot's capture (Gen 14).

Meeting with Melchizedek (Gen 14:18-20).

A king and a priest of God

Mentioned again - Ps. 110:4, Heb 5:10, 6:20, Heb 7.

Refer to publication by H. Cobb, *The Two Priesthoods*.

Another incident involving the Promise.

Promise of an heir (Gen 15:1-4).

Illustration by comparison with stars (5-6).

Promise of land (7-8, 18-21).

Abram is foretold coming events (13).

Abram's personal standing with God (Genesis 15:15).

Descendants

To serve as slaves in strange land.

Time to last for 400 years (13).

Deliverance with abundance (14).

Come out in "fourth generation" (16).

Insight into purpose of slavery (16).

Time allowed the Amorites.

Compare principle with Genesis 18:23,

“And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt Thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?”

Land again mentioned and designated (18-21).

SARAI, HAGAR, and ISHMAEL

Arrangements for Hagar to be Abraham's wife (16:1-3).

God's provisions do not need human intervention.

Ishmael was born (15) when Abram was 86 (16).

PROMISE OF ISAAC

Abram aged 99, Sarai 89 (17:1).

Covenant of circumcision given (17:9-14).

Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18 - 19)

ISAAC

His unusual birth (Genesis 21:1-8)

Conflict involving Sarah, Hagar, and Ishmael (21:1-8).

Conflict continues to this very day.

God requires sacrifice of Isaac (Gen. 22:1-19).

Abraham sends eldest servant to secure wife for Isaac from among his kinsmen in Haran (Gen 24).

Rebekah is selected through God's provision.

Isaac and Rebekah have two sons: Esau and Jacob (Gen 25:19-28).

Esau sells his birthright to Jacob (Gen 25:29-34).

Isaac is deceived and bestows birthright upon Jacob (27:1-40).

Conflict between Esau and Jacob (Gen 27:41-46).

JACOB

Jacob journeys to Rebekah's brother in Padanaram to secure a wife (28:1-7).

Jacob is deceived by Laban, his father-in-law (Genesis 28:16-30).

As a consequence Jacob marries Leah and then Rachael, each who have maids, Zilpah and Bilhah.

Through these four wives are born thirteen children, twelve sons and one daughter, Dinah (although at this time only eleven sons).

Jacob and his family journey to the promised land (Genesis 31 through 33).

Jacob's name is changed by God to ISRAEL (Genesis 32:28).

JOSEPH, THEN ISRAEL PLACED IN EGYPTIAN BONDAGE

Conflict between Jacob's older ten sons and Joseph (Genesis 37 and 39).

Joseph at seventeen years of age sold to Ishmeelites (37:18-30).

Joseph's coat, spoiled with goat blood, brought to Jacob (31-35).

Joseph sold to Potiphar, captain of Pharaoh's guard (36).

Joseph blessed by God and favored by Potiphar (39:1-6).

But Potiphar's wife attempted unsuccessfully to entice Jacob and then lied about his refusal to submit to her (7-19).

Joseph had refused, saying to her, "How can I do this wickedness, and sin against God?" (9).

His integrity maintained.

Cost of integrity.

Gloom and despair!

Joseph cast into Pharaoh's prison where he gains favor (20-23).

Episode with Pharaoh's butler and baker (Genesis 40).

Dreams interpreted

Butler restored

Baker hanged

Joseph requests of butler that he mention Joseph to Pharaoh and attempt to secure his release (14-15).

Two years later Pharaoh has dreams (Genesis 41:1) of:

Seven fat kine followed by seven lean kine (2-4)

Seven good ears of corn followed by seven thin ears (5-8).

None of Pharaoh's magicians or wise men could interpret (8).

Butler speaks, "I do remember my faults this day" (9-13) and relates the earlier episode with himself and the baker (9-13).

Joseph is called for by Pharaoh

The dream is interpreted by Joseph telling Pharaoh that
"God hath shewed Pharaoh what He is about to do" (v 25).
Joseph appointed over entire realm under Pharaoh (39-45).
Thirteen years had passed for Joseph was now thirty (46).
No more gloom and despair; patience, ultimate success.

Due to famine, Jacob sends his ten older sons to purchase corn in Egypt (42:1-4).

It had now been at least twenty years since Joseph had been sold into slavery (13 + 7 = 20). Joseph was now at least thirty-seven.

Confrontation between Joseph and his brothers who did not recognize him (42:2-28).

Brothers return to Egypt for additional corn (Genesis 43-44).

Joseph reveals his identity (45:1-15)

Pharaoh provides for Jacob's family to come into Egypt (45:16-46:1-7).

Jacob dies and is carried back to be buried in the cave at Machpelah, in which was also buried Isaac and Rebekah and Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 49:29-31).

Just prior to his death, Jacob predicts the future of his sons (Genesis 49:1-28).

Note: Jesus to come through line of Judah (Genesis 49:8-12).

Joseph dies at the age of one hundred ten, is embalmed, and "put in a coffin in Egypt" (Genesis 50:26).

But before this he has these noble words for his brothers.

Read Genesis 50:17-21

FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY YEARS

Promise given to Abram (Gen 12:1-3)

But first a period of slavery before fulfillment.

Gen 15:13 "And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years." (To be precise, four hundred and thirty - Ex 12:41, Galatians 3:17).

Ex 12:40-41, "Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt."

Gal 3:17 "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."

Fulfilment (Mt 1:3-4, Luke 3:33 and other passages noted).

Abraham - promise	) 4	
Age at promise (Genesis 12:4)	75)	1926 B.C.
Age at birth of Isaac (Gen 21:5)	100 25)	

Isaac -	) 3
Age at birth of Jacob (Gen 25:26)	60 60)

Jacob -)
Age at death (Genesis 47:28)	147) 0
Years lived in Egypt (Gen 47:28)	17)
Age upon entering Egypt	130)

Israel enters Egypt after promise	_____)	215)	1711 B.C.
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"In the fourth generation they shall come hither again" (Gen 15:16).

Line of Levi	Line of Judah	Num 26:57-59	Matthew 1:3-4
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Levi	Judah
Kohath	Phares
Amram	Esrion
Moses	Aram
	Amminadab

)	Moses, who led Israel, was the fourth generation	215
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Total years from promise to fulfillment	_____))
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(Exodus 12:40-41, Galatians 3:17)

430

1496 B.C.

TIME FULFILLMENT OF THE EXODUS

Genesis 15:13, 16, "And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them FOUR HUNDRED YEARS;...16 But in the FOURTH GENERATION they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full."

This Promise Involved Two Basic Prospects (Gen. 12:1-3, Gen. 17).

Coming of a great nation
Coming of the Messiah

But This Promise also Involved Two Predictions as to Time

Genesis 15:13 - Four hundred years of bondage.

But this is in general terms, even as we often speak in our day, not intending to be exact.

"Forty years ago, when I was a child"

"Two hundred years ago when our nation was founded"

Exodus 12:40-41 records the precise time as 430 years.

Paul is precise in Galatians 3:17, "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."

Thus, the number of years to be involved would be 430

Reference	Event	Age	Accumulative years
Gen. 17:19	Abram given promise of son (Isaac),	99	24
Gen. 21:5	Isaac is born to Abraham and Sarah,	100	1
Gen. 25:26	Jacob born to Isaac and Rebekah,	60	60
Gen. 47:9	Jacob's age upon entering Egypt,	130	130

215 of original 430 years had already transpired when bondage began 215

Of this original 430 years, remainder was to be spent in bondage. It was during this period that the four generations would arise 215

Genesis 15:16 - Israel was to go into bondage, and in the FOURTH GENERATION experience an exodus to the promised land.

Generations of Judah, through whom the Messiah was to come:

Judah	Gen. 46:12	Mt. 1:2	Luke 3:34	
Pharez	Gen. 46:12	Mt. 1:3	Luke 3:33	
Hezron	Gen. 46:12	Esrom	Mt. 1:3	Luke 3:33
Ram	Ruth 4:19	Aram	Mt. 1:3	Luke 3:33
Amminadab	Num. 1:7	Aminadab	Mt. 1:4	Luke 3:33
Nahshon	Num. 1:7	Naasson	Mt. 1:4	Luke 3:32

But it was Levi's line which was prominent in the exodus.

Genealogical chart

Jacob

Reu Sim Levi Judah Iss Zeb Ben Dan Nap Gad Asher Joseph (Exodus 1)

Gershon Kohath Merari

Amram Izhar Hebron Uzziel

Aaron Moses

Direct line of descent involving EXACTLY four generations.

Levi	Exodus 6:16	1 Chr. 6:1
Kohath	Exodus 6:18	1 Chr. 6:1
Amram	Exodus 6:18	1 Chr. 6:2
Moses	Exodus 6:20	1 Chr. 6:3

It was precisely in this FOURTH GENERATION, as God had predicted, that Moses did lead Israel in the exodus (Exodus 12:51).

THE EXODUS

THE SETTING

Events foreseen by God (Exodus 1:6-10)
Taskmasters set over Israel (11-14)
Midwives instructed to kill sons (15-21)
Pharaoh's decree to throw all new-born son into river (22)

MOSES

Moses' parents, Amram and Jochebed (Ex 6:20, Num 26:57-59), Tribe of Levi.

Moses' mother protects him by placing him in an ark made of bulrushes and placing "it in the flags by the river's brink" (Exodus 2:3).

Discovery by Pharaoh's daughter (Ex 2:5-6).
Moses' sister secures Moses' own mother to rear him (Ex 2:7-10).

Incident with an Egyptian slaying an Hebrew (Ex. 2:11-12).

Incident following day with two Hebrews (Ex 2:13-14).

Moses flees to land of Midian, southeast of Egypt (2:15).

Moses marries Zipporah and has two sons.

Incident of burning bush (Ex. 3 and 4)
Moses' reluctance, but God's provision (Exodus 4:10-12).
Read verses 10-11.

Beautiful summary in Acts 7:17-38 and Hebrews 11:23-27.

MOSES AND AARON APPROACH PHARAOH

Refusal of Pharaoh to heed Moses' and Aaron's appeal (Ex. 5).

Ex 5:2, "And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go."

God brings signs and pestilences to force Pharaoh to his knees.

1. Aaron's rod turned into a SERPENT (7:1-10).
So did Pharaoh's magicians (v. 11), but Aaron's serpent swallowed the others (v. 12-13).

2. Next morning Aaron stretched rod upon waters and they turned into BLOOD - but so did Pharaoh's magicians (7:14-25).

3. Some eight days Aaron again stretched forth the rod over the waters and FROGS came to cover the land, but Pharaoh's magicians did likewise (8:1-15).

4. Dust became LICE (Ex 8:16-17), but magicians could not duplicate this or any further pestilence (18).

"Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, THIS IS THE FINGER OF GOD: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said" (Ex 8 :19).

5. Swarms of FLIES (Ex 8:20-32).

6. Death of CATTLE among Egyptians (9:1-7).

7. Plague of BOILS (9:8-12).

8. Rain of HAIL mingled with fire (9:1-35).

9. LOCUSTS to cover the face of the earth (10:1-20).

10. DARKNESS for three days, except among Israelites (10:21-29).

During these ten earlier tests Pharaoh's heart had been hardened and he refused to allow Israel to leave. But now he is to THRUST them out.

Ex 11:1, "And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether."

11. DEATH of the firstborn (Ex 11:1-10).

EXPLANATION AND PREPARATION FOR PASSOVER (Exodus 12) +

Conditions required of the Israelites:

Borrow of his neighbor (Ex 11:2-3, 12:35-36)

Passover (which became the beginning of their months - Ex 12).

Lamb to be kept-up from tenth until fourteenth day (3-6)

Fourteenth until twenty-first day - unleavened bread (15-18)

Flesh of male sheep or goat roast with fire.

Unleavened bread.

Eat in haste, fully dressed, with shoes on, and with staff in your hand (v.

11).

Strike lintel and two door posts with blood (v. 22).

None shall leave house until morning (v. 22).

God delivers Israel from their bondage:

Death of the firstborn, Exodus 12:29-33 (Read).

Note that term "death angel" is NOT mentioned, even though it is often used by commentators.

Israel thrust out, as God had predicted (read 31-33).

Number of Israel

"And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children" (Exodus 12:37).

Had numbered seventy some two hundred fifteen years earlier (Genesis 46:27, Exodus 1:5, Deut 10:22). But Acts 7:14 mentions 75 including Joseph's family.

Bones of Joseph, as instructed in Genesis 47:30

"And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you" (Exodus 13:19).

People led by Lord (read Exodus 13:21-22)

Pillar of cloud by day

Pillar of fire by night

JOURNEY TOWARD SINAI (Exodus 14)

Incident at Red Sea (read Exodus 14).

"And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt: 18 But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt" (Exodus 13:17-18).

Some critics question route as being instead the REED sea.

But note especially verse 17-18 with view to present day discoveries.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE, December 1982, confirms the Biblical record. Six Egyptian fortresses discovered in 1968. Excavations hindered in 1971 by problems in the Middle east and in 1973 by Yom Kippur War, but they were finally completed in 1977. Fortresses DIRECTLY IN THE PATH which would otherwise have been taken by the Israelites - had not God led them the long, more difficult way as described by Moses!

Egyptians pursue Israel (Exodus 14:5-9).

Israelites murmur in fear, but God saves them (v. 10-13).

“Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord.”

Egyptians are destroyed in the sea (v. 19-31).

Difficulties along the way.

Bitter waters at Marah (Exodus 15:23-26)

People murmured (v. 24)

Waters sweetened when Moses instructed by God to cast certain tree into water.

People murmur about their food (v. 2)

Manna provided by God (Ex 16:1-36).

MURMURINGS OF ISRAEL

1. Increased burdens
Ex 5:19-23, 6:1-13
Ex 14:12
2. Egyptians pursuing
Ex 14:10-14
3. Bitter waters of Marah
Ex 15:22-26
4. Complaint about food in wilderness of Sin
Manna - Ex 16
Flesh in addition to manna - Num 11:1-33
5. Water at Meribah
Ex 17:1-8
Num 20:1-13
6. Moses' delay in coming down from mount
Ex 32
7. At report of spies
Num 14:1-4
8. Rebellion of Korah
Num 16:11
Plague related to the matter of Korah
Num 16:41-50

9. Water at Kadesh

Num 20:1-5

10. Fiery serpents at Mt. Hor

Num 21:4-9

11. Whoredoms

Num 25

Note Paul's comments in 1 Corinthians 10:10-12, "Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

NOTE CAREFULLY THE TIME SCHEDULE

God's people had left Egypt "in the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even" (Ex. 12:18).

30 days in a month less 13 days already passed, leaves remaining 17

"Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, "on the fifteenth day of the second month" (Ex 16:1).

But the journey does not end here, so we include the entire month 30

"And it came to pass on the third day in the morning..." (Ex. 19:16)

This fiftieth day became known as Pentecost, from the Greek word meaning fifty 50

GIVING OF THE LAW AT MOUNT SINAI (Exodus 20)

Beginning with Chapter 20, thirteen chapters detail

the Law,

Its requirements, and

Its provisions.

Additional details recorded throughout Ex, Lev, Num, and Deut.

To whom did the Law apply?

Ex 31:16-18, "Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. 17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed. 18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had

made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God."

Ezekiel 20:10-12, "Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness. 11 And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them. 12 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them."

Deut 5:13-15, "Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 14 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou. 15 And REMEMBER that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out hand: THEREFORE the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day."

But the principles of the law, except for the fourth which concerned the sabbath, have been applicable since Eden and continue even today. Romans 13:9 (Matthew 22:37-40)

Evening and morning)

Seven day week) Genesis 1 - 2

Marriage) Genesis 2:18-25

"In the beginning..." (Matthew 19:9)

Offerings)

Envy)

Murder) Genesis 3 - 4

Lying)

Adultery) A, S, & Pharaoh) Genesis 12:13

Abimelech) Genesis 20

Isaac, Rebekah,)

Abimelech) Genesis 26:7-12

But while most of the same principles do apply:

We are no longer under the Law.

The details of the old Law are not binding upon us.

Gal 5:1, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

Verse 4, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are

justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

Some examples which do not apply to us today:

Ex 21:2, "If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing."

Deut 22:5, "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God."

Deut.22:10-11, "Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together. 11 Thou shalt not wear a garment of divers sorts, as of woolen and linen together."

Galatians 3:16-19, "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. 17 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. 18 For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. 19 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."

Additional notes if desired (and which are included later in material relating to the time of Christian assembly):

"Till All be Fulfilled" (H. Cobb, June 6, 1996)
Sabbath Changed to Sunday (H. Cobb, May 20, 1991)

ISRAEL WANDERS FORTY YEARS

Spies, one from each tribe, sent to look-over land of promise (Num. 13).
But evil report given (Numbers 13:28-29)
Caleb disagrees and encourages forward march (Num. 13:30).
Consequence of rebellion (Num. 14:28-39).

DEATH OF MOSES; JOSHUA SUCCEEDS HIM IN LEADING ISRAEL

Deut. 34:7-12, Joshua 1:1-9
God's instructions to Joshua and assurance of His blessings and presence.

AFTER FORTY YEARS WANDERING, THE PROMISED LAND IS ENTERED

Conquest of the promised land

- Jericho (Joshua 2), Rahab and spies
- Crossing Jordan (Joshua 3-4)
- Circumcision of Israel (Joshua 5:2-9)
- Ceasing of manna (Joshua 5:10-12)
- Conquest (actually gift of God) of Jericho (Joshua 6)
- Sin of Achan and incident at Ai (Joshua 7-8)
- Deception from Gibeon (Joshua 9)
- Defeat of various kings (Joshua 10-12)

ISRAEL'S LAND INHERITANCE

Dinah was defiled by Shechem (Gen 34:1-4). Her brothers Simeon and Levi took revenge by slaying Shechem, his family, and all the city (Gen 34:25-31). In his predictions as to the twelve sons, Jacob speaks harshly in Gen 49:5-7 about this evil deed of Simeon and Levi. The question has been raised as to this affecting the distribution and land inheritance of these two tribes. Contrary to what some commentaries teach about this matter, there is no indication that such was the consequence.

Previous provision for distribution had been made by God with Moses (Numbers 32:1-42).

The two tribes of Gad and Reuben and the half tribe of Manasseh inherited their portions on the east side of Jordan (Num. 34:14).

This was allowed on condition that they would send their men to assist the other nine and half tribes in settling their territories (Numbers 32:1-41).

For the remaining nine and half tribes, their portion was to be on the west side of Jordan.

"And Moses commanded the children of Israel, saying, This is the land which ye shall inherit by lot, which the LORD commanded to give unto the nine tribes, and to the half tribe" (Num 34:13).

The Levites did not inherit as did the other tribes, not because of their blame in the incident concerning Dinah, but because they were the special tribe of priests and were given the suburbs of 48 cities (which included the six cities of refuge, three on the west of Jordan and three on the east).

Consider Joshua's related comment in Joshua 13:14 and 33,
"Only unto the tribe of Levi he gave none inheritance; the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as he said unto them...33 But unto the tribe of Levi Moses gave not any inheritance: the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance, as he said unto them."

Deuteronomy 10:8-9 makes a similar statement.

Joshua 18:7 explains why Levi had no land inheritance, "But the Levites have no part among you; for the priesthood of the LORD is their inheritance."

Cities of Refuge

Numbers 35:1-29

Six for manslayers

Forty-two additional cities of refuge

Joshua 20:1-9

Three east of Jordan (Joshua 20:8)

Bezer (east of head of Dead Sea)

Ramoth (old Ammon, Jordan)

Golan (due east of Sea of Galilee)

Three west of Jordan (Joshua 20:7)

Kedesh (north of Sea of Galilee)

Shechem (present-day Nablus)

Hebron (west of Dead Sea, SSW of Jerusalem)

THE DISTRIBUTION

First two and one-half tribes on east of Jordan:

Reuben (Joshua 13:1-23)

Gad (Joshua 13:24-28)

Half Manasseh (Joshua 13:29-32)

Joshua 18:7, "Gad, and Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh, have received their inheritance beyond Jordan on the east, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave them."

Then two tribes on west of Jordan:

Judah (Joshua 15)

Joseph (Joshua 16)

Ephraim (Joshua 16:5-10)

Manasseh (Joshua 17)

Seven tribes remained to receive their inheritance:

Joshua 18:2, "And there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes, which had not yet received their inheritance."

Note carefully that JUDAH was to be divided into SEVEN parts in order to achieve this distribution.

Joshua 18:4-9, "Give out from among you three men for each tribe: and I will send them, and they shall rise, and go through the land, and describe it according to the inheritance of them; and they shall come again to me. 5 And they shall divide it into seven parts: Judah shall abide in their coast on the south, and the house of Joseph shall abide in their coasts on the north. 6 Ye shall therefore describe the land into seven parts, and bring the description hither to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD our God. 7 But the Levites have no part among you; for the priesthood of the LORD is their inheritance: and Gad, and Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh, have received their inheritance beyond Jordan on the east, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave them. 8 And the men arose, and went away: and Joshua charged them that went to describe the land, saying, Go and walk through the land, and describe it, and come again to me, that I may here cast lots for you before the LORD in Shiloh. 9 And the men went and passed through the land, and described it by cities into seven parts in a book, and came again to Joshua to the host at Shiloh."

Thus not only Simeon, but the other seven as well were to share the inherited land at first given Judah. Note their distribution:

Benjamin (18:10-28)
Simeon (19:1-9)
Zebulun (19:10-16)
Issachar (19:17-23)
Asher (19:24-31)
Naphtali (19:32-39)
Dan (19:40-48)

Israelites from east of Jordan return after accomplishing their mission (Joshua 22:1-6).

BUT CAREFULLY NOTE - THERE IS NO INHERITANCE YET AWAITING ISRAEL!

Land promised to:

Abram, Genesis 13:14-18
Moses, Deut. 11:22-25
Joshua, Joshua 1:2-5

Reason for promise:

Deut 9:5-6, "Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 6 Understand therefore, that the LORD thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou art a stiffnecked people."

Land involved:

Genesis 15:18-21
Deut. 1:5-8
Joshua 1:3-4

Warnings against losing this land inheritance:

Deut. 28, especially verses 58, 64-65 (Genesis 15:16) Joshua 23:14-16

Promise FULFILLED!

Joshua 21:43-45, "And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. 44 And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. 45 There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass."

1 Kings 4, especially v. 20-25
2 Chron. 9:26

But their position was later lost because of disobedience:

Jer. 32:21-23, "And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror; 22 And hast given them this land, which thou didst swear to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey; 23 And they came in, and possessed it; but they obeyed

not thy voice, neither walked in thy law; they have done nothing of all that thou commandedst them to do: therefore thou hast caused all this evil to come upon them."

Nehemiah 9:7-8, 33-37

Thus, contrary to modern-day teaching, Israel can no longer look for a coming land inheritance.

DEATH OF JOSHUA - LEADERSHIP OF THE ELDERS

Judges 2:7-10

RULE OF THE JUDGES

Extending 450 years (Acts 13:20) from Joshua and elders until about 1100 B. C.

Fourteen judges:

- Othniel of Judah (3:8-11)
- Jair of Gilead (10:3-5)
- Ehud of Benjamin (3:12-30)
- Jephthah of Gilead (10:6 - 12:7)
- Shamgai (3:31)
- Ibzan of Bethlehem (12:8-10)
- Deborah (Judges 4-5)
- Elpon of Zebulun (12:11-12)
- Gideon of Manasseh (Judges 6-9)
- Abdon of Pirathon (12:13-15)
- Tola of Issachar (10:1-2)
- Samson of Ramah (Judges 13-16)
- One woman, Deborah, aided by Barak (Judges 4-5).

Ruled for life, not immediately succeeded by another.
Could arise from any of the tribes.

Beautiful story of day-to day life during time of Judges - Ruth.

GENESIS GENEALOGY

Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 37 - 50)
Israel's Egyptian bondage (1711 B.C.)

KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

Moses, the Exodus, Ten Commandment Law (1496 B.C.) (Exodus
(Leviticus
(Numbers
(Deuteronomy

Joshua, promised land (1456 B.C.) (Joshua

Elders (Joshua 24:31)

Judges (450 years, to 1100 B.C.) (Judges
(Ruth

Request of people for a king (1 Samuel 8:1-18).
People again state their desire.
1 Sam 8:19-20, "Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; 20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles."

God allows them to have their way.
1 Sam 8:21-22, "And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. 22 And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city."

Kings

Saul (Benjamin, 40 years, 1100 - 1060 B.C.) (1 Samuel
(2 Samuel

David (Judah, 40 years, 1060 - 1020 B.C.) (2 Samuel
(1 Kings
(1 Chronicles
(Psalms

Solomon (Judah, 40 years, 1020 - 980 B.C.) (Proverbs
(Ecclesiastes
(S. of Solomon

Rehoboam (Judah, began to reign 980 B.C.)

DIVIDED KINGDOM

Judah	980 B.C. 1 Kings 12	Israel
980 Rehoboam		(Jeroboam (
963 Abijah		(Nadab (1 Kings
960 Asa		(Baasha (Elah (Zimri (Omri (Ahab (1 Chronicles

919	Jehoshaphat ((
		..... ( Ahaziah	(
894	Jehoram ((
		..... ( Jehoram (Joram)	(
886	Ahaziah	.....	(
		..... ( Jehu	(
885	(Athaliah, mother of Ahaziah) ((
879	Joash	..... (	( 2 Kings
		..... ( Jehoahaz	(
		..... ( Joash	(
839	Amaziah ((
		.....S...JONAH..... (Jeroboam	(
		.....JOEL.....O..... A... (Zachariah	(
810	Uzziah	..... H...M	.....
		..... A...A..... E..... - Shallum	(
		..... ( Menahem	(2 Chronicles
		..... I..... S..... (Pekahiah	(
		..... A..... H.. - Pekah	(
758	Jotham	..... O.... A...	(
742	Ahaz	..... S..... C....	(
		..... I..... H..... I..... - Hoshea	(
726	Hezekiah	M	<u>ASSYRIAN CAPTIVITY</u>
697	Manasseh	H	721 B.C.
642	Amon	A	9 Dynasties
640	Josiah	NAHUM, ZEPHANIAH	I 19 Kings
609	Jehoahaz	HABAKKUK	M
609	Jehoiakim	E	
598	Jehoiachin	R	
598	Zedekiah	E	
	<u>BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY</u>	J	(Daniel
	587 B.C.		(Ezekiel
	1 Dynasty		(Lamentations
	20 Kings		(Obadiah
	Judah Returns from Babylonian Captivity (539 B.C.)		(Ezra
	Zerubbabel, Governor of Judah (Haggai 1:1, Ezra3:2)		(Haggai
	Temple Rebuilt (517 B.C.)		(Zechariah
			(Esther
			(Nehemiah
			(Malachi
	Four hundred silent years between the testaments.		

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF PROPHETIC SCRIPTURES

Before Assyrian Conquest (721 B.C.)

Jonah	about 800 B.C.
Joel	800 B.C.
Amos	800 B.C.
Hosea	800 B.C.
Isaiah	800 - 726 B.C.
Micah	750 B.C.

Between Assyrian Conquest (721 B.C.) and Babylonian Captivity (587 B.C.)

Nahum	
Zephaniah	630 B.C.
Jeremiah	627 - 587 B.C.
Habakkuk	

During Time of Three Babylonian Invasions (606 - 587 B.C.)

Daniel	
Ezekiel	592 B.C.

During Time of Babylonian (Seventy Year) Captivity (587 - 539 B.C.)

Lamentations
Obadiah

Scriptures undoubtedly taken with Jews to Babylon and preserved.

After Persia Defeats Babylon, Retains Control of Israel (539 - 517 B.C.)

Ezra	538 B.C. (History rather than prophecy)
Haggai	520 B.C.
Zechariah	520 B.C.

During Time of Rebuilding Under Persian Rule (517 - 445 B.C.)

Esther	483 B.C. (History rather than prophecy)
Nehemiah	457 B.C. (History rather than prophecy)

After Judah's Return from Seventy Year Captivity (445 B.C.)

Malachi

"THE ETERNAL PURPOSE"

Having traced "the eternal purpose" of God from the creation through the period of the patriarchs (elders of the families)

) Place - Jerusalem
Isaiah 2:2-3)

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES OF THE MESSIAH AND THEIR FULFILLMENT

No corruption -

Psalms 16:10, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

Acts 2:31-32, "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."

Acts 13:35, "Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

"My God, My God" -

Psalms 22:1, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?"

Mark 15:34, "And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Also Matthew 27:46).

"Part garments...cast lots" -

Psalms 22:18, "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."

Mark 15:24, "And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take" (Also Mt. 27:35, Luke 23:34, John 19:23-24).

"Gall...and...vinegar" -

Psalms 69:21, "They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."

Mt 27:34, "They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink" (Also verse 48, Mark 15:23, Luke 23:36, John 19:29-30).

Nature of Christ's mission -

Isaiah 2:1-4

Acts 8:4, "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word."

Acts 13:47, "For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth."

Romans 10:18, "But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world."

Matthew 20:21-28, Two disciples who desired preeminence of being on Jesus' right and left side, but His teaching about the nature of His disciples.

Born of virgin -

Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Matthew 1:18-21, Angel appears to Joseph and explains situation.

Suffering of Christ -

Isaiah 53

Mt 26:36 through Chapter 27,

Mark 14:32 through Chapter 15,

Luke 22:21 through Chapter 23,

John, Chapters 18-19

Acts 8:26-39, Phillip's teaching of the eunuch.

Lamentation, weeping, and mourning -

Jeremiah 31:15, "Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not."

Matthew 2:16-18

During the days of Roman prominence -

Daniel 2:44, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."

Luke 2:1, "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed."

Determination of time -

Daniel 9:24-27

Seventy Weeks of Daniel

Setting for understanding this prophecy.

World dominating kingdoms of Daniel 2, 7, 8, 11:
Babylon fell to Media-Persia (538 B.C.)
Persia fell to Greece at Arbela (in Iraq) (331 B.C.)
Greece fell to Rome at Pydna (in Macedonia) (168 B.C.)
Rome took control of Jerusalem (64 B.C.)

First temple (Solomon's) destroyed in 587 B.C. Judah to be carried away as captives into Babylon for seventy years (Jeremiah 25:11-12, Jeremiah 29:10).

Second temple rebuilt during days of Zerubbabel Ezra 6:15 (517 B.C.) and later destroyed by Romans (70 A.D.).

"Seventy weeks are determined" (23).

70 weeks x 7 days in a week = 490.

Considering Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:5-6 as a pattern, a day in prophecy often equates to a year in actual time. This may be viewed, therefore, as 490 actual years, which does in fact agree with history.

Concerning whom?

"Upon thy people and upon thy holy city"

For what purpose?

"To finish the transgression"

"To make an end of sins"

"To make reconciliation for iniquity"

"To bring in everlasting righteousness"

"To seal up the vision and prophecy"

What is to be the result?

"To anoint the most Holy" (24)

"Unto the Messiah" (25).

the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

Mt 2:1-6, Episode between Herod the king and the wise men.

John 7:41-42, "Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? 42 Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"

"Riding upon an ass" -

Zechariah 9:9, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass."

John 12:12-15, "On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. 14 And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, 15 Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt."

PROPHECIES OF THE PRIOR COMING OF JOHN, THE BAPTIST

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

Malachi 4:5-6, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

Mt 11:13-14, "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come."

Mt 17:10-13

Mark 1:1-8

Luke 17:19-30

UNSPECIFIED PROPHETS AND THEIR MESSAGES

Acts 3:24, "Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days."

THE FULNESS OF TIME

Malachi was the last of the Old Testament penman. The last two verses of his writings, and consequently the last two verses of the Old Testament, occurred some four hundred years before their fulfillment and the silence which followed them.

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse" (Malachi 4:5-6).

This is again mentioned after the four hundred year silence when the angel Gabriel said the Zacharias, the husband of Elisabeth,

"But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. 14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. 15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. 16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. 17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:13-17).

THE PERSON AND WORK OF JOHN

John 1:6-34

It might be interesting to note the greatness of John as a prophet but that there is no record of his every performing a miracle. It is plainly stated, however, "And many resorted unto him, and said, JOHN DID NO MIRACLE: but all things that John spake of this man [Jesus] were true" (John 10:41).

In accord with his prophetic teaching regarding the coming of Jesus, the

Messiah, John also very forcefully taught,

"Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2). It should be noted in particular that John, as well as other prophets through the ages, tied together:

The coming of the Messiah
The coming of the kingdom of the Messiah.

John's mission being completed in only thirty short years, having:

Prepared for the coming of Jesus and His kingdom
Pointed out the Messiah.

John was executed for having taught the truth (Matthew 14:1-10).

JESUS CONTINUES TEACHING THE MESSAGE OF JOHN

After John had been placed in prison (Matthew 4:12), Jesus continued to teach,

"Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt 4:17).
"The kingdom of God is at hand" (Mark 1:14-15).

Note that the kingdom had not been established by John

After John had been killed
("And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison," Matthew 14:10), Jesus continued to teach the coming of the kingdom,

"Upon this rock I WILL BUILD my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 16:18-19).

Note that the kingdom had not been established even after the death of John. Thus, John was not in the kingdom.

Luke 7:28, "For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

In Jesus' teaching to His disciples about His person and mission (Matthew 16:13-19) carefully note that Jesus tied together:

His atoning death

("the gates of hell shall not prevail against it")
The kingdom
("I will build My church...and I will give unto thee the keys of the
kingdom")

Haggai 2:6-9

THE TIME WAS IMMINENT, BUT NOT FULLY RIPE

Galatians 4:4, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son."

Mt 5:18, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Jesus' plain and unmistakable prophecy of the imminent presence of the "fulness of time."

Luke 9:27, "But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God."

Even closer timing:

Luke 24:44-49 "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until..."

Acts 1:7-12

PUTTING TOGETHER THE PIECES

Prophecies regarding the coming Messiah

No corruption (Psalms 16:10)

"My God, My God" (Psalms 22:1)

"Part garments...cast lots" (Psalms 22:18)

"Gall and vinegar" (Psalms 69:21)

Nature of Christ's mission (Isaiah 2:1-4)

Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)

To come from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

Suffering of Christ (Isaiah 53)

Lamentation, weeping, mourning (Jer 31:15)

Determination of time (Daniel 9:24-27)

Prophecies regarding the coming kingdom

Days of Roman prominence (Daniel 2:44)

Babylon (606 B.C.), succeeded by

Media-Persia (539 B.C.), succeeded by
Greece (331 B.C.), succeeded by
Rome (168 B.C.), during whose reign the prophecy was
Fulfilled (Caesar Augustus, Luke 2:1)

ACTS 2 MARKS THE FULFILMENT OF GOD'S INTENT AND PREPARATION OF THE AGES

Comment especially on Verse 16.

Acts 2: Joel:2:28-32)

Time - Last days, afterward v. 5, 14
Who - All nations, all flesh, peoples v. 17 Micah 4:1-2)
Event - Outpouring of Spirit, new law v. 37-42
Place - Jerusalem (Luke 24:49) v. 5 Isaiah 2:2-3)
Acts 11:15

In precise fulfilment of God's "eternal purpose" (Ephesians 3:11), the Second Chapter of Acts:

1. Marks the completion of the purpose for which Jesus died.
2. Records the establishment of Christ's church which "He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28) and which is composed of the saved (Acts 2:47).
3. Ushers in the last era of time, bringing to completion the effect and purpose of the Old Testament (Hebrews 8:13, 9:9-10).

THE IDENTITY AND NATURE OF THE LORD'S CHURCH

The patriarchs such as Adam, Noah, and Abraham were spoken to directly by God and were specially identified because of their obedience to Him.

Gen 22:18, "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

Gen 26:5, "Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

This arrangement continued for about 2,500 years. It is commonly referred to as the Patriarchal Period or the Era of the Patriarchs.

The descendants of Abraham, called by the name of Abraham's grandson, Israel, became God's people through natural birth into this family. This was their mark of distinction, separating them from all others who also inhabited this earth.

They were directed through a law first written on two tables of stone, and to which God added many applications.

This arrangement continued for about 1,500 years. Because the Law was given by God through Moses, this period is commonly referred to as the Mosaic Dispensation or the Era of the Law.

As an intended and deliberate outgrowth of this background, God established His final and most perfect arrangement for mankind - the church or the Christian Era.

Christ's church is destined to continue until the end of time (Daniel 2:44) and then be delivered "up to God, even the Father" (1 Cor 15:24).

THE CHURCH

Unlike every institution and organization of man, the Lord's church is an entity composed of those who have been spiritually (symbolically) born-again of God's Spirit and the water of baptism (John 3:3-8).

1. The church does not save, it constitutes the saved.

One does not join the Lord's church as he would a denomination.

No application is made.

No vote is taken.

But he is added by the Lord when he complies with the will of God.

Acts 2:37-38, 47

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

Since one enters into Christ through baptism, and
as one is also added to the church through baptism,
then it is evident that
being in Christ is also
being in the church.

Salvation is in Christ and those who are in Christ are known as His church.

The Lord's church, therefore, is the identity of the saved; the fellowship of those who belong to Christ.

"And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women" (Acts 5:14).

“And much people was added to the Lord” (Acts 11:24).

“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47).

2. How does one enter into Christ and His church?

a. Jesus said, “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

Nicodemus asked Jesus, “How can a man be born again when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?” (John 3:4).

Then Jesus explained, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of the water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I say unto thee, Ye must be born again.”

This is vividly demonstrated in Peter’s answer to those who asked, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37).

Peter responded, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost [Spirit]” (Acts 2:38).

Note both water (baptism) and the Spirit in Peter’s instructions.

Except in one place (where the Spirit is spoken of as “it”) the Spirit is always spoken of in the masculine sense, while water is always spoken of as feminine.

John 14:16-17, “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for HE dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

Jonah 1:15, “So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.”

Note the male and female presence in this symbolic new-birth.

Those thus renewed, not by physical birth as were the Israelites, but by purposely submitting to the will of God through baptism, become His

children and consequently compose His family.

It is a matter of spiritual will, not of fleshly birth.

Peter wrote further about the new birth, "Seeing you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the of word of God, which liveth and abideth forever" (1 Peter 1:21-23).

By means of this new spiritual birth we become children of the heavenly Father and members of His family, the church.

As in a natural birth children are born into the human family of their father and mother. They are not born and then allowed to choose a family to which to belong.

Even so, those born again to the heavenly Father are born into His family, His church, and they do not seek to join a denomination which they prefer. Denominations were unknown in Bible times and they are displeasing to God in our times.

Being born spiritually into the same spiritual family (the church) and having the same spiritual Father, we possess a spiritual relationship to all others who are also children of the Father.

"God is faithful, by Whom we were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Cor 1:9).

- b. But there are some who question the necessity of baptism. Let us consider what the Bible has to say.

In every example of conversion in Acts, where the details are recorded, baptism is always remembered. Not one exception!

Baptism was a requirement in Peter's response to the question, "Men and brethren, What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).

Saul was instructed by Ananias (Acts 22:16), "And now why tarrist thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins."

Peter wrote of the flood in Noah's day, "Wherein few, that is eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us" (1 Peter 3:10-21).

- c. Then some respond, "But we are saved by the blood of Christ and not water."

How very true is this statement!

Jesus' blood is that which takes away sin.

"The blood of Christ Jesus His Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

"The church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).

"In Whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14).

But how does one make contact with Jesus' blood?

Jesus' blood was sacrificially offered two thousand years ago.

You were not there.

You have never seen or touched Jesus' blood.

It cannot be literally applied to our sin as one would an ointment or taken as a medicine.

But Paul explains in Romans 6:3-6 how contact is made with Jesus' blood.

Baptism serves as a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection - and it is in baptism that Jesus' blood is symbolically contacted.

As the bread and fruit of the vine are symbols of Christ's body and blood in communion.

As the hair in 1 Corinthians 11 serves as a symbol of subjection.

So baptism serves as a symbol of our conforming to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

As Paul said in verse 4, "We are buried with Him by baptism into death."

IDENTITY OF THE CHURCH

The Lord's church is properly termed the children of God:

Romans 8:16-17, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Romans 8:21, "Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

Gal 3:26, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

Eph 5:1, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children." "Behold what manner of love the father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1 John 3:1).

Thus, we are understood to be the spiritual family of God.

Eph 3:14-15, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."

1 Timothy 5:1-2, "Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; the elder women as mothers; the younger a sisters, with all purity."

Often in Scripture, God is referred to as the heavenly Father.

But in other language figures, the Lord's church is also known. Note that the term used denotes a certain characteristic or relationship.

The church; in Greek, "ecclesia," the called out -

Acts 2:47, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Those "called out" from the world into a favored relationship with God.

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

In Scripture the church is never referred to as a building or a place of meeting.

Christ's kingdom; His spiritual kingdom -

Matthew 16:19, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Christ's body; and we as individual members -

1 Cor. 12, but especially verse 27, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

A spiritual city -

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."

Brethren -

"I beseech you therefore, brethren" (Romans 12:1).

"Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of the promise" (Galatians 4:28).

People of God -

Heb 4:9, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light: which in times past were not a people, but are now the people of God" (1 Peter 2:9-10).

Saints - From a word denoting purity of life.

"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not once be named among you, as becometh saints" (Eph 5:3).

"To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints" Romans 7:1).

Way of truth -

"The way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (2 Peter 2:2).

"And the same time there arose no small stir about that way" (Acts 19:23).

Disciples - those who learn from and follow a teacher -

Acts 6:7, "The number of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly."

Christ's kingdom -

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son" (Col 1:13).

In Rev 1:9 John wrote that he was "in the kingdom." Thus, the church is Christ's kingdom - a kingdom then and now in existence; not something yet to come.

Christians -

Acts 11:26, "The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."

Churches of Christ -

Romans 16:16, "The churches of Christ salute you."

Church of God -

1 Cor 1:1, 2 Cor 1:1, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth."

Any other term used when the situation called for an appropriate designation -

"Churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 2:14).

"To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse"
(Colossians 1:2).

But God's people in the First Century were never referred to by terms such as are now used to designate denominational and sectarian parties.

In fact, such terms and divisions were not only unauthorized, but they were condemned:

John 17:20, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; 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" [Jesus].

1 Cor 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?"

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

MISUNDERSTANDING

The true identity and nature of the Lord's church was misunderstood in Jesus' day, and among most professed Christians it remains misunderstood in our day.

King Herod misunderstood and attempted to kill Jesus as a child (Matthew 2:3-12).

Those who heard Jesus teach also misunderstood.

“Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that Prophet that should come into the world. When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take Him by force to make Him a king, He departed again into a mountain Himself alone” (John 6:14-15).

Mother of James and John misunderstood (Matthew 20:21-27).

Disciples at Jesus' ascension misunderstood.

“Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6).

All these expected the kingdom of God to be something comparable to that with which they were accustomed.

The Lord's church is not a place, a building, or something of a material nature.

Jesus made this clear to the woman at the well (John 4:1-26).

Not at Jerusalem

Not in the mountains of Samaria

But those who “worship the Father in spirit and in truth” (v. 23).

Christians may assemble in a building, but the building is not holy.

Early Christians assembled in:

An upper room (Acts 20:8)

House of Priscilla and Aquila (Roman 16:5)

House of Nymphas (Colossians 4:15)

House of Archippus (Philemon 2)

On Mar's Hill Paul taught, “God dwelleth not in temples made with hands” (Acts 17:24).

The Lord's church is not a denomination, nor is it affiliated with any other religious movement.

The Lord's church was never spoken of as being composed collectively of sectarian groups.

“Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Saviour of the body” (Ephesians 5:23).

Ephesians 4:4, “There is one body.”

Colossians 1:18, “He is the head of the body, the church.”

Thus,

There is but one church, Jesus’ spiritual body.

Jesus is the Saviour of His church.

Other religious movements have no promise.

The Lord’s church is not like brands of soap or soft drinks. we may have a preference of Coca-Cola over Sprite, but we are not allowed a preference with churches. The Lord has but one.

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 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” (Galatians 3:27-28).

The Lord’s church is not an organization of a worldly type.

It has no earthly headquarters.

Marker located in front of a small building near Griffin, Georgia,
“International Headquarters of the Congregational Holiness Church, Inc.”
(July 15, 1979).

Tendency of most to follow customs and traditions, but Jesus said to Pilate, My kingdom is not of this world: if My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My kingdom not from hence” (John 18:36).

Each congregation is completely independent.

A friend, treasurer of a prominent denominational church and knowing of our independent status, once inquired of me, “How can you people ever get anything done?” I explained that in adhering to the same rule book (the Bible) we were bound together through mutual respect for and submission to the same principles.

When everyone submits to the authority and will of God, the result is unity and cooperation.

Paul wrote of cooperation among the churches
of Galatia and Corinth (1 Cor 16:1)

of Macedonia (2 Cor 8:1-4, 9:1-2, Romans 15:26).

The universal church was simply independent brethren bound together by a common relationship to God. It may exist anywhere the seed (Luke 8:11) is planted.

There existed no man or group of men as ecclesiastical hierarchy.

Each congregation was led by men of knowledge, experience, influence, and pure manner of life termed in 1 Timothy 3:1-13

(and Titus 1:5-9) as

elders (denoting one of mature age)

deacons (denoting one who serves).

The elder was also recognized by other terms which designated his intended work among the brethren:

Elder (denoting one of mature age, 1 Timothy 3:6)

Presbytery (I Tim 4:14)

Bishop (one who oversees, 1 Tim 3:2, Titus 2:7)

Overseer (Acts 20:7, 1 Peter 5:2)

Steward (Titus 1:7)

Shepherd (one who tends the flock, 1 Peter 5:1-4, 1 Cor 9:7)

Pastor (related to shepherd, Ephesians 4:11)

“Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints which are at Philippi, with the elders and deacons.”

But even these did not hold absolute authority.

Concerning elders Peter wrote, “Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:3).

Jesus’ teaching regarding request of James and John (Mark 10:42-45, Matthew 20:20-28).

Condemnation of Diotrephes who sought preeminence (3 John 9-10).

There is no record of any man or group of men who exercised central control.

There was no

Director

Chairman

Nor even a pastor as common in the denominations.

If any one ever claims to be a director, chairman, superintendent, or such-like, be cautious of that man as likely one who seeks self-glory.

Each brother had a voice and was free to speak.

“For ye may all prophesy one by one” (1 Cor 14:31).

Baptisms, weddings, funerals, and communion may be conducted by any brother.
Restricted only by secular law.

THE FUNCTION AND ACTIVITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The church of our Lord was evident as the force which dwelt in the hearts and lives of Godly men - and so it is today.

2 Cor 6:16-18, "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. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and my daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

1 Cor 6:19-20, "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Their dedication to God and His purpose through them was characterized by:

Proclaiming the message of truth -

"Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:5).

"They took him unto them, and expounded unto him the word of the Lord more perfectly" (Acts 18:26).

"And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogue of the Jews" (Acts 13:5).

Attention to the needs of others -

Acts 6:1-7

Romans 15:26, "But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints. For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem."

Purity of their own lives -

Titus 2:12, "Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and Godly, in this present world."

2 Cor 7:1, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

James 1:27, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Assembling on the first day of the week -

Acts 20:7, "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them."

Heb 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching."

1 Cor 16:1-2, "As I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week..."

The First Day as Opposed to the Sabbath

As there is considerable misunderstanding among many regarding the Sabbath, it would likely be well that we comment briefly regarding why among early Christians we NEVER read of the church assembling on the Sabbath.

It is evident, of course, that Paul, Barnabas, and other early Christians sometimes attended the Jewish synagogues on the Sabbath (Acts 13:14, 17:1-2, 18:4). Their purpose, however, was to take advantage of the Jews' gathering in order to preach to them the message of the gospel - not as members of a Christian assembly. We do the same today where opportunity allows us to go among sectarian churches even on Sunday to teach the truth. I have personally attended assemblies at a Jewish synagogue and a Moslem mosque - but as an observer and not as a worshiper.

There is no record that the Sabbath was ever observed by man until the time of the Egyptian exodus. It was given by Moses to the Israelites as the fourth of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11) and they were specifically told:

"Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath....it is a sign between Me and the children of Israel" (Exodus 31:16-17).

"Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness. And I gave them My statutes, and shewed them My judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them. Moreover also I gave

them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them” (Ezekiel 20:10-12).

“But the sabbath day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou. And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm; therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day” (Deuteronomy 5:14-15).

To the contrary, mention is made in both Acts 20:7 and 1 Corinthians 16:2 that Christians in the First Century did assemble on the first day of the week. Being their practice and having set this precedent disciples today who follow the Bible pattern assemble on this day.

The word “sabbath” may present a problem, however, in some languages such as Chichewa of Malawi and Mozambique. Upon discussing this matter with brethren there, we have had them point to the word “sabata” as the translation of Acts 20:7. Investigation of this translation revealed that in Chichewa there is no word for our “week.” Rather they speak of the first day of the week as the first day of “the seven.” Since sabbath refers to the seventh, then the matter of their “sabata” is easily explained as simply the seven days which comprise what we refer to as a week and not to the Sabbath day.

Details of the assembly are found in 1 Cor 10 - 16.
(It would be well to discuss each item in detail).

Lord's supper (1 Cor 10:16-17, 11:16-34)
Singing (1 Cor 14:15, Heb. 2:12)
Prayer (1 Cor 14:15)
Teaching (1 Cor 14)
Women in silence (1 Cor 14:34-35, 1 Tim 2:11-15)
Men speaking “one by one” (1 Cor 14:31)
Contribution (1 Cor 16:1-4, Rom 15:25-26, 2 Cor 9:1-7)

THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS DESIGNED BY THE LORD TO FUNCTION IN TWO AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The Lord's church of the First Century functioned in two and in only two capacities:

as the individual
as an assembled body.

Never did it function through
institutions
organizations, or
societies apart from these two identities.

This is well demonstrated in two Bible examples

Acts 18:24-26 - that of the dedicated, committed INDIVIDUAL.

Acts 20:7 - that of such individuals ASSEMBLED together.

Any other organization or institution is unauthorized.

Heb 8:5, "See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount."

1 Cor 4:17, "For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church."

In these two capacities alone the early church fulfilled its mission:

- Care of widows and orphans (Acts 6:1-6, James 1:27)
- Aid to other congregations in distress (1 Cor 16:1-4, Rom 15:26)
- Missionary efforts (Acts 13:1-3)
- Discipline (1 Cor 5:11-13)
- Misunderstandings (Acts 15)
- Teaching in the assembly (1 Cor 14)
- Teaching as individuals (Acts 8:1-4)
- Role of women beautifully pictured as one of guiding the home (1 Peter 3:1-6, Titus 2:3-5, 2 Tim 1:5)
- Children - responsibility of parents (Eph 6:1-4)

The Lord's church never functioned through agencies or institutions - always in these two capacities only.

Unknown to the early church were:

- Sunday schools
- Women teaching publicly
- Benevolent societies
- Missionary societies
- Centralized control
- Earthly headquarters
- Pastors in our modern sense

APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES

Many departures from the Bible pattern have tarnished the beauty of the Lord's church. As it was observed time and time again regarding Israel of the Old Testament and as it has been true throughout the centuries, "God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions" (Ecclesiastes 7:29).

Sunday School

is a prime example of a departure from the Bible pattern. Rather than conduct the assembly as did the early disciples and as the Bible directs, the Sunday school permits the assembly to be divided into classes according to age or sex or other designations. The classes are taught in an arrangement contrary to Paul's instructions in 1 Corinthians 14:31 that, "Ye may all prophesy [teach] one by one, that all may learn and all may be comforted." Under Paul's inspired arrangement the entire congregation gathered in one assembly will learn from every speaker.

With this invention of men the congregation is divided into groups, some even being taught by women. This is in direct violation of verses 34-35 where Paul instructed,

"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

Paul further explained the reason for this limitation in 1 Timothy 2:11-15 when he made an evident distinction between the roles of men and women. Priscilla taught Apollos, an eloquent MAN, in Acts 18:24; so it certainly was not then (and it is not now) improper for a sister to teach a man. Timothy was taught by his grandmother and mother (2 Timothy 1:5). But these women all beautifully fulfilled their God-given roles as individuals, not in a man-made arrangement designed where the Christian woman may violate God's arrangement.

The Care of Widows and Orphans

is another responsibility intended by God to be carried-out through individuals, not through institutions designed and supported by the church for that purpose. God intended for orphans to be reared as members of a family - not as a ward in an institution.

Mission Efforts and Joint Ventures

were conducted by brethren supported by various independent congregations

and not by an organizational arrangement having centralized control. Saul and Barnabas, for instance, were sent forth by the brethren at Antioch (Acts 13:1-4) without consulting or receiving authority from some central committee. Paul was often supported directly by different congregations and individuals (Philippians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 16:17). There was no other divinely authorized arrangement.

Congregations of the Lord's church were independent and worked together in harmony because they were led by the same words of inspiration. This is evidenced by Paul's instructions regarding the contribution in 1 Corinthians 16:1 and as explained in 1 Corinthians 4:17, "As I teach every where in every church." We have those words today written in the New Testament.

The Result of Having the Lord's Church

function through arrangements other than as directed by God's word often encouraged preeminence among brethren (3 John 9-10), resulted in digression, and eventually led to development of the papacy and denominationalism. That same digressive trend will have the same hurtful result among God's people in our day.

DIGRESSION AND FALL OF CHURCH

I. First Century Marked the Lord's Church

Founded and Functioning in Accord With His Will

Acts 2:44-47, "And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. 46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, 47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

As the church had its beginning, "The number of names together were about an hundred and twenty" (Acts 1:15).

The number of disciples continued to increase.

Acts 2:41, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

Acts 4:4, "Many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand."

Acts 5:14, "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women."

But the gospel message was reaching basically those around Jerusalem. Through persecution, the Lord allowed that message to reach into the far distances of the earth.

Acts 8:1, "And Saul was consenting unto his [Stephen's] death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles... 4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word."

We then read of the disciples at:

Samaria (Acts 8:5)

Gaza (Acts 5:26)

Damascus (Acts 9:2)

Joppa (Acts 9:36)

Caesarea (Acts 10)

Acts 11:19, "Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only."

Asia Minor (Acts 13)

Philippi, first time in Europe (Acts 16:12-15)

Although at various locations and with no central earthly headquarters, these churches were bound together by a common allegiance to the words of inspiration.

"As I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye" (1 Cor 16:1).

"For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church" (1 Cor. 4:17).

II. But Peace, Tranquility, Unity, and Faithfulness Were Not to Last

**DESPITE THE BEAUTY AND COMPLETENESS OF GOD'S
ARRANGEMENT THE CHURCH WAS DESTINED TO FOLLOW THE
PATH OF HUMAN HISTORY - DIGRESSION !**

God knew the hearts of men, and He predicted through inspired penmen:

2 Peter 2:1-3, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall

they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."

Acts 20:28-31, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Tim 4:1-6, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. 4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: 5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. 6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained."

2 Thess 2:1-12 speaks of a "falling away" before what he terms "the day of Christ" (verses 3 and 4).

But the amazing thing is that this was prophesied in DETAIL in Daniel 7:15-28 (especially 24-25), some 500 years before the church was even established.

III. Nature of the Departure from Truth

Unscriptural practices and the approximate date of their entrance:

Holy water, 120

Lent and Easter, 140

Penance, 157

Creed, 190

Development of clergy and title of priest, 200

Purgatory, 220

Sprinkling, 250

Confirmation, 250

Sign of the cross, 253

Vestments, 253

Councils

Prohibition of marriage , 303

Capital moved from Rome to Constantinople, 326

Likely step toward division between East and West

But about this time some favorable developments as well:

Edict of toleration, 313

Fifty copies of Scriptures authorized, Constantine, 330

Three copies remain:

Vatican and London

Mass, 350

Christmas, 360

Infant baptism, 370

Confession, 390

Centers of influence

Jerusalem, Antioch, Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria Reached
climax in 533 with declaration of Justinian, emperor of Roman
Empire, declaring bishop of Rome as lord ecclesia).

Instrumental music, 666

IV. Historical Record

Rise of men seeking preeminence.

Moving of seat of Roman Empire to Constantinople, 326 A.D.

Allowed rise of papacy, which emerged from previously unauthorized
positions in the church.

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth
[Rome] will let, until he [Rome] be taken out of the way" (2 Thess 2:7).

The rise of such a dominant position would no doubt have earlier been viewed as
a danger to the Roman powers.

Proclamation of Justinian, 533 A.D., that the bishop of Rome was to be "lord
ecclesia."

Once digression had reached this point predicted in Scripture, there would be a
period of 1,260 years of unscriptural domination.

Daniel 7:17-28, especially verse 25, "And he shall speak great words against the
most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change
times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and
the dividing of time."

Predictions of Revelation 11-13 -

Rev. 11:2 Holy city "Forty and two months"

Rev. 11:3 Two witnesses "A thousand two hundred and threescore
days."

Rev. 12:1-6 Woman "woman fled into the wilderness...a thousand

two hundred and threescore days."

Rev. 12:14 Woman "Woman...into wilderness, into her place...for a time, and times, and half of time"

Rev. 13:5 Beast Beast "to continue forty and two months"

Rev. 13:18 Number "Six hundred threescore and six.."

Understanding these predictions -

The time elements:

Num 14:34, "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise."

Ezekiel 4:6, "I have appointed thee each day for a year."

Thus, 1,260 years was to have been the time in which the Lord's church would be in the wilderness (Dark Ages).

The number "six hundred threescore and six:"

"Number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six" (Rev 13:18).

This was to identify "a man."

Roman Numerals	V	5	V
I - 1	I	1	I
U, V - 5	C	100	C
X - 10	A		A
L - 50	R		R
C - 100	I	1	
D - 500	U	5	
	S		
<hr/> 666	F		O
	I	1	F
	L	50	
	I	1	C
	I	1	H
			R
	D	500	I
	E		S
	I	1	T
		<hr/> 666	

*(Formatter's note: Vicarius Filii dei = Representative of Christ
Name given in antiquity to the Pope.)*

History records almost unbelievable incidents of
dominance and power
physical harm and even death
financial corruption
institution of unscriptural beliefs and practices
all in the name of Jesus!

Identifying characteristics of these predicted developments:

“Forbidding to marry”
Celibacy among Catholic priests.
“Commanding to abstain from meats”
“Change times and laws”
Pope Gregory X111 changed Oct 5 to Oct 15 in 1582
Oppose God and exalt himself
Doctrine of papal infallibility (Pope Pius X1, 1846-1887)
“We hold upon earth the place of God Almighty”
(Pope Leo X11, June 20, 1894).
Title of Vicarius filii Dei (666).

During this period of time, in 800 A.D., Charlemagne formed of ten European nations the Holy Roman Empire. These became in effect a secular arm of the Roman Catholic Church and the “ten horns” of the “seventh head” of the beast spoken of in Rev 17:9-15.

During the 1,200 years period, the Roman Catholic Church, now strengthened by the Holy Roman Empire, exercised complete domination of the western world.

V. Where was the Lord's Church During this Period?

When the apostate church fully developed in digression, the Lord's church was placed by God in “the wilderness” for 1,260 years,
protected by God so that she would be preserved.
Daniel 2:44 had predicted 1,000 years earlier that God's kingdom would be “a kingdom which shall never be destroyed... and it shall stand forever” (2:44).

Obscure, not prominent, hidden in effect by God until the time when such oppression would cease and she might again proclaim the truth openly.

Rev 11:3, prophesying "clothed in sackcloth."

Rev 12:6, "into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God."

Rev 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."

Of this departure from the truth and the pattern of the early church, Jesus had said to James and John when they requested special preference (Mt 20:26), "It shall not be so among you."

The early church did exactly what we would again do ourselves!

"Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set" (Proverbs 22:28).

COMING OUT OF THE WILDERNESS

Rev 17:16-18, "And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. 17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil His will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast until the words of God shall be fulfilled. 18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth"

But first, "these shall make war with the Lamb" (v. 13 - 14).

Dark ages of 1,260 years

Holy City tread under foot (11:2) 42 months -	1,260
Two wit. prophesied in sackcloth (11:3) 1,260 days -	1,260
Woman fled into wilderness (12:6) 1,260 days -	1,260
Woman nourished (12:14) time, times, half a time -	1,260
Beast to continue (13:5) 42 months -	1,260
Little horn (Dan. 7:25) time, times, div. of time -	1,260

But these ten horns will turn on the whore (v. 16 - 17).

As God used

Pharaoh of Egypt,

Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon,

Cyrus of Persia,

Even so will He use these ten kings to break the papacy.

Remember that a duration of 1,260 years has been mentioned six times by God's word. After this period, then we can expect:

The holy city to cease being trampled
The two witnesses to again prophesy openly
The woman to emerge from the wilderness
The woman no longer need be nourished in her wilderness place
The beast to be restricted in his opposition
The beast shall have his dominion taken away.

Note from world history the marvelous fulfilment of these prophecies!

Peter Waldo's opposition to papacy at Lyons, France, 1170 A.D.

John Wycliffe of Oxford University making Bible available in common language.
So opposed that his body was dug up, burned, and the ashes thrown in the Avon River, 1384

John Hus' opposition to Rome, burnt alive July 6, 1415 But he delivered Bohemia (later Czechoslovakia) from the clutches of Rome.

Martin Luther, Wittenberg, Germany, October 31, 1517

King Gustavus Vasa of Sweden, under whom ideas of the Restoration were established as Swedish law in 1527

Huldreich Zwingli, Switzerland 1529

Henry VIII, England, requested of Pope Clement VII that his marriage to Catherine of Aragon be dissolved so that he might marry instead Anne Boleyn. While the pope was hesitating, Henry had Parliament decree the divorce. Receiving excommunication, Henry proclaimed himself head of the Anglican Church. 1534

John Calvin, Switzerland, France, and Germany 1536

John Knox, Scotland (Presbyterians) 1561

Netherlands, first Reform synod held at Dort 1574

Gabriel Comenius, Tuttlebank, England, under reign of Charles II 1669

John Glas, Scotland 1726

France 1793

Victor Immanuel, Italy 1870

Such movements may correctly be referred to as the Reformation.

Attempt to reform Rome.

But God's intent was to bring His true church out of the wilderness and restore its purity, simplicity, and original beauty. This may correctly be referred to as the Restoration.

Gabriel Camelford, Tuttlebank, England, under reign of Charles 11 1669

John Glas, Scotland 1726

Manakintown, Virginia. James O'Kelly and Rice Haggard break from the 1792 General Conference of the Methodist Church at Baltimore. Abandonment of creeds, Bible as only guide. Christian as a name. December 25, 1792

Hartland, Vermont, Abner Jones left the Baptist.

New Hampshire, Elias Smith left sectarianism. Their work blended at Portsmouth, N.H. 1801

Barton W. Stone, Cane Ridge Meetinghouse, Kentucky 1804

Presbyterian meetinghouse site suggested by Daniel Boone, erected 1791

Ashlock, Kentucky. Result of congregation at Rock Springs allowing innovations 1805

Thomas Campbell, Washington, Pennsylvania 1807
Back in Scotland, son Alexander reaches same conclusions.

John Mulkey, Thompkinsville, KY. November 18, 1809

Goshen, Georgia (Oak Grove Church at Rincon remains) 1819

Walter Scott, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 1820

John Smith, Little South Fork, Kentucky 1825

Boundary Line, Indiana 1836

Record of those in Eastern Europe

Restoration - a return to Scriptures as source of instruction and authority, a rejection of things not found therein.

Atmosphere ideal along the American frontier.

Intent of restorers to unite rather than divide into sects.

John 17:20-23

1 Cor. 1:10

Example of house being changed and later restored.

Seed - the word of God (Luke 8:11).

Never a time when the Lord's church did not exist. "And it shall stand forever" (Daniel 2:44).

"Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set" (Proverbs 22:28).

The Lord's church, having fled into the wilderness for 1,260 years, has now been permitted by the heavenly Father to once again flourish in all its strength and beauty. It continues this day (and will until the end of time) to serve God's purpose as the identity of His people.

The church of Christ is found around the world among those who simply and humbly submit to His will in baptism and continue to follow the faith and practice of that same church as recorded in the New Testament. It has no earthly headquarters nor ecclesiastical hierarchy, but it consists of those who compose local congregation which cooperate together through a common respect for and obedience to the teachings of the New Testament.

It is not a sect or a denomination but rather the church which came into being as a result of Jesus' death (Acts 20:26) and the same church to which the early disciples belonged. The seed (Luke 8:11) planted in the heart of honest men today will produce the same church which it produced two thousand years ago.