

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

By:
A.S. Copley

PUBLISHED BY:
GRACE ASSEMBLY
4660 Zion Avenue
San Diego, California 92120

Note from Publisher:

Grace Assembly is privileged to publish and post this commentary on our Web Site, www.graceassemblysandiego.com. We believe these commentaries rank among the best for Bible students who desire to learn about the Word of God and the Pauline Revelation. These commentaries were written during the early days of the latter rain outpour of God's Spirit, and they continue to provide enlightenment to the reader. These are the original writings of the authors. Grace Assembly has not made any changes or additions to these writings other than format changes for the convenience of the Bible student. Where the authors have referred to scripture references without quoting the scripture in the text, we have added the King James Bible version of scripture as a footnote. In some places the authors have referred to Bible versions other than the King James. Since Grace Assembly holds to the King James Version as the preserved text, we, therefore, have added in the text the same scripture from the King James Version. We trust these ancillary changes will be helpful to the Bible student.

THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh ... and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" - ¹Luke 21:20, ²24.

Jesus uttered these words shortly before He was crucified. In the same chapter, it is written that He foretold the destruction of Jerusalem which took place in 70 A.D. He also told them of severe persecutions and great distress in the land and of the Jews' dispersion among the nations, and added, "But the end is not by and by"; that is, the end of the troubles would not be immediately - ³Luke 21:9 Revised Version.

"The times of the Gentiles" is a period in history which we wish to consider especially. An important question arises, which should interest every one of us: When will "the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled"? The answer generally given is that they will be fulfilled at the end of the last week (or seven years) of Daniel, when Christ will be revealed to His people the Jews. That cannot be correct, for it cripples a clear understanding of Scriptures related thereto. We herein give a number of Scriptural and logical objections to that view and beg the Bible student to consider them carefully. We also venture to give the correct answer to the question.

"THE FULNESS OF THE GENTILES" (⁴Romans 11:25) must not be confounded with "the times of the Gentiles." The former is entirely RELIGIOUS and began when Peter preached in the house of Cornelius (A.D. 43), and "God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life" - ⁵Acts 11:18. Then and there God began to "visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His Name" - ⁶Acts 15:7, ⁷14. This continues to this day, and will end when Christ will arise to deliver the Jews. Then "there shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob" "THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES" are NATIONAL, and began in 606 B. C. when Nebuchadnezzar became king of the Babylonian Empire. God counted him the first world ruler of the first of four world empires. See Daniel seven. Because of Israel's disobedience to God, He took away their national liberty and made them subject to the nations with which they were flirting. Therefore, Nebuchadnezzar laid siege against Jerusalem, "and the Lord gave Jehoiakim

¹ **Luke 21:20** - And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

² **Luke 21:24** - And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem

³ **Luke 21:9** - But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.

⁴ **Romans 11:25** - For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

⁵ **Acts 11:18** - When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

⁶ **Acts 15:7** - And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

⁷ **Acts 15:14** - Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

king of Judah into his hand" - ⁸Daniel 1:1, 2. That was the beginning of Gentile dominion, or "the times of the Gentiles."

Jehovah had warned His people against departing from Him, saying, "They that hate you shall reign over you." Four times in Leviticus twenty six, He declares the duration of that chastisement and dominion to be "seven times" is seven years. Nebuchadnezzar was deposed from his kingly office and lived in the fields like an ox for "seven times" or seven years - ⁹Daniel 4:16, ¹⁰23. Study Revelation ¹¹12:6, ¹²14. The 1260 days in verse six are expressed in verse fourteen as "a time (360) and times (twice 360) and half a time (180)." Twice 1260 is 2520.

YEAR-DAY COUNTING

The Bible frequently gives prophetic value to the year. Examples: In ¹³Revelation 3:10, the hour will be over six years. "The Lord's day" (¹⁴Rev. 1:10) will be one thousand years. ¹⁵II Peter 3:8 declares with emphasis "that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." This explains Hosea 6:2 - "After two days will He revive us (Israel): in the third day (the Millennial period) He will raise us up, and we (Israel) shall live in His sight." The "seventy weeks" of ¹⁶Daniel 9:24-27 must be reckoned the same way. Each day is a year long. Therefore, each week or seven days, means seven years. "Seventy weeks," or seventy times seven days, means 490 days; but its dispensational value is 490 years. From "the going forth of the

⁸ **Daniel 1:1-2** - In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

⁹ **Daniel 4:16** - Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.

¹⁰ **Daniel 4:23** - And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and *lethis* portion *be* with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him;

¹¹ **Revelation 12:6** - And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.

¹² **Revelation 12:14** - And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

¹³ **Revelation 3:10** - Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

¹⁴ **Revelation 1:10** - I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

¹⁵ **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.

¹⁶ **Daniel 9:24-27** - Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

commandment" (Daniel 9:27) is generally supposed to be the same as that seventieth week; but that cannot be. The seventieth week, or seven years, began with the death of Christ and ended in the year 40 A.D. when Jesus was "standing" ready to return if the Jews had received Him - ¹⁷Acts 7:55, 56.

There are other citations of prophetic value. Jacob "bowed himself to the ground seven times" as Esau was approaching him - ¹⁸Genesis 33:3. Thus, he foreshadowed Israel's subjection to the nations for 2520 years. ¹⁹Numbers 14:34 is a striking citation in support of the year - day reckoning - "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." In ²⁰Ezekiel 4:4-6 we find the same sort of counting. The prophet was bidden to bear the iniquity of the nation, "the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days." Hence, the Lord said to him, "I have appointed thee each day for a year." It is recorded in history, that the ten days tribulation of ²¹Revelation 2:10 were ten years (303 to 313 A.D.) of bitterest persecution under the Emperor Diocletian.

PERIOD OF THE GENTILE RULE

It is indisputable that exactly 2520 years, or seven prophetic "times" of 360 years each, were foreshadowed in God's Word to be allotted to Gentile dominion. Therefore, if "the times of the Gentiles" or Gentile world dominion began in 606 B.C. we should have expected them to end in 1914. Why did they not end then? We answer that the beginning of Gentile dominion covered a period of nineteen years. Nebuchadnezzar, by divine direction, took the Jews captive in four distinct deportations, each more severe than the preceding one. Hence, his absolute and culminating authority over Israel, really dated from 587 B.C. On that date, the cup of God's "anger" against His people was filled up and He "cast them out from His Presence" - ²²Jeremiah 52:3. The captivity of Jerusalem was consummated. The temple was burnt. The walls of the city were demolished. Zedekiah the usurper, for he "rebelled against the king of Babylon," was taken

¹⁷ **Acts 7:55-56** - But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

¹⁸ **Genesis 33:3** - And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

¹⁹ **Numbers 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.

²⁰ **Ezekiel 4:4-6** - Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: *according* to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. 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.

²¹ **Revelation 2:10** - Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

²² **Jeremiah 52:3** - For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, till he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

prisoner. Study closely ²³Jeremiah 52:2, 3, ²⁴7, ²⁵13. From that day, Gentile rule had absolute sway - ²⁶Daniel 2:37.

Likewise, the beginning of the end of "the times of the Gentiles" certainly came in 1914. As truly as its commencement covered a period of years, so its ending will cover an undetermined period of time. Such correspondences are some of the marvels of Bible history. Great events always have a beginning, a development, and a full consummation. All the startling social, religious, and national occurrences, from 1914 to the present, combine to show that "the time of the end" (²⁷Daniel 12:9) is upon us. Notable was the deliverance of Palestine from the power of the Turk, which God wrought by means of the first world war; and, since 1948, Israel has been recognized as a nation. Gentile dominion may end at any time God knows. We would not postpone Christ's coming.

"THE HOUR OF HIS JUDGMENT"

The nations will not admit that Gentile domination is over, but will form a seven-headed empire which will attempt to manage the affairs of the world. They will be out of the will of God. They will be usurpers, because their time of national rulership will have ceased. After that federation continues about three years, one man will get complete control and reign as universal despot for three and a half years - ²⁸Revelation 13:1-5.

The Scriptures speak repeatedly of a period of distress and perplexity, unparalleled in history. The heavens and the earth will be in the throes of indescribable confusion, conflict, and pain. The Lord says, "I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; and I will shake all nations" - ²⁹Haggai 2:6, 7. Joel announces that time, saying, "Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come." He describes it as - "A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning

²³ **Jeremiah 52:2-3** - And he did *that which* was evil in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, till he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

²⁴ **Jeremiah 52:7** - Then the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled, and went forth out of the city by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, which *was* by the king's garden; (now the Chaldeans *were* by the city round about:) and they went by the way of the plain.

²⁵ **Jeremiah 52:13** - And burned the house of the LORD, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, and all the houses of the great *men*, burned he with fire:

²⁶ **Daniel 2:37** - Thou, O king, *art* a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

²⁷ **Daniel 12:9** - And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

²⁸ **Revelation 13:1-5** - And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months.

²⁹ **Haggai 2:6-7** - For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it *is* a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry *land*; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. And the Lord shall utter His voice before His army: for His camp is very great: for He is strong that executeth His voice before His army: for His camp is very great: for He is strong that executeth His Word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?" - Joel 1:15; 2:2, 11. ³⁰Jeremiah 30:7 terms part of that day, "the time of Jacob's trouble," so great that there has never been any like it. Jesus said of the latter, "For Then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" - Matthew 24:21. Paul calls the entire period a time of destruction, of night, of darkness, of drunkenness, of wrath - ³¹I Thess. 5:3, ³²5, ³³7, ³⁴9. Also read II Thessalonians two. Finally, John forewarns us of "the hour of temptation (trial, R.V.), which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" - ³⁵Rev. 3:10. This is a very, very important citation, as we shall see later. He calls it "great tribulation" (literally, "the tribulation, the great one"), and "the hour of His (God's) judgment" - ³⁶Rev. 7:14; ³⁷14:7. Oh, what a dreadful time that will be! All the prophets of the Old Testament have written elaborately of that time. Revelation 6:1 to 20:10 gives the description of that soon coming day of trial, judgment, and wrath. As referring to the Jews, that period is known as the last week of Daniel or the seven unfulfilled years of ³⁸Daniel 9:27.

As referring to the nations, it is a day of wrath and judgment. As referring to earth-dwellers personally, it is called an "hour of temptation (trial)." "The time of Jacob's trouble," or the "tribulation" of ³⁹Matthew 24:21, will be limited to Palestine; and it will occupy 1010 days of "the great tribulation" or "the hour of trial," of Rev. 7:14 (R.V.) and 3:10 (R.V.), which will be universal. Mark the distinction between "the hour of His judgment" (over six years long), and "Jacob's trouble" or "the tribulation" of Jeremiah 30:7 and Matthew 24:21 (1010 days long).

"THE DAY OF THE LORD"

"And I saw another mighty Angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon His head, and His face was as it were the sun, and His feet as pillars of fire: and He

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

³¹ **1 Thessalonians 5:3** - For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

³² **1 Thessalonians 5:5** - Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

³³ **1 Thessalonians 5:7** - For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

³⁴ **1 Thessalonians 5:9** - For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

³⁵ **Revelation 3:10** - Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

³⁶ **Revelation 7:14** - And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

³⁷ **Revelation 14:7** - Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

³⁸ **Daniel 9:7** - And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

³⁹ **Matthew 24:21** - For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

had in His hand a little book open: and He set His right foot upon the sea (the nations), and His left foot on the earth (the Jews), and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth" - Rev. 10:1-3. This "Mighty Angel" is our Lord Jesus Christ. The "cloud," with which He will be clothed, is the overcomers described in Revelation four and five. In ⁴⁰4:2 John beheld that "a throne was set in heaven, and One sat on the throne." That One is Jesus, in fulfillment of Psalm 2:6. The Father will say, "Yet have I set My King (the Son) upon My holy hill of Zion." This agrees with ⁴¹Isaiah 14:13 - "the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north." When Jesus thus takes His own throne in the heavens, the Father will command the nations, saying, "Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish" - ⁴²Psalm 2:12.

At that time, in that same year that the Lord ascends His own throne in heaven, He will also assert His kingly authority over the whole world, as indicated by His standing on sea and land. Then He will swear by God the Father, "that there shall be time no longer" - ⁴³Rev.10:6. It does not mean that the end of the world will then come, and eternity begin; for the Millennial reign must follow immediately. Indeed, Christ on His throne in heaven, really will mark the beginning of the Millennium. It means that the "times of the Gentiles" shall continue no longer. The seven prophetic times of Gentile national rulership will end, when Christ takes His own throne in heaven. If they continue in power, they will be usurpers. Two rulers, opposed to each other, cannot occupy a throne at the same time. The Greek word "chronos" cannot mean "delay," as the Revised Version says; but "time" as the Authorized Version gives it. In every Scripture it is thus rendered.

In ⁴⁴Revelation 5:5 Jesus is called "the Lion of the tribe of Juda" because He, the Jew of destiny, shall sit on the throne of universal empire and reign as "King of kings, and Lord of lords" - ⁴⁵Rev. 19:16. As a Lion, He has been couching in His den ("whom the heaven must receive" - ⁴⁶Acts 3:21), lying in wait for His prey - ⁴⁷Genesis 49:9, 10. Now being roused by the cry of His longing people the Jews, and by the ferocity of His enemies, He roars after His prey and seeks His meat from God - ⁴⁸Psalm 104:21. The Lord "shall cry, yea, roar; He shall prevail against His

⁴⁰ **Revelation 4:2** - And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne.

⁴¹ **Isaiah 14:13** - For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

⁴² **Psalms 2:12** - Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him.

⁴³ **Revelation 10:6** - And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

⁴⁴ **Revelation 5:5** - And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

⁴⁵ **Revelation 10:16** - And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

⁴⁶ **Acts 3:21** - Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

⁴⁷ **Genesis 49:9-10** - Judah *is* a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*.

⁴⁸ **Psalm 104:21** - The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.

enemies" ("He will do mightily against His enemies" - R.V.) - ⁴⁹Isaiah 42:13. He will roar out His purpose to possess at once His promised possessions, even "the heathen" (the nations) for His "inheritance" on earth - ⁵⁰Psalms 2:8.

REJECTERS, USURPERS, OFFENDERS

Why will "the day of the Lord" be a day of darkness, gloominess, and wrath, as ⁵¹Joel 1:15 and ⁵²2:2, ⁵³11 declare? Why will it be a time of judgment and destruction? If the Millennium is due to begin when Christ is enthroned in heaven, and His reign is to be a reign of peace and righteousness, how is it that the prophets say that it will come in with unparalleled distress and sorrow? I will tell you. It is because the world will not be willing to receive Him. Three powerful forces, three companies of His creatures, will refuse to own His Lordship. Therefore, He will be compelled to gain the sovereignty over the earth by force. He must fight for His Kingly rights.

REJECTERS. Jesus said to the Jews. "I am come in My Father's Name, and ye receive Me not." He said further, "If another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive" - John 5:43. These two statements will be fulfilled when Jesus takes His throne in heaven and attempts to take control of affairs on the earth. The Jews as a nation will accept the overtures of a ruler called "the prince that shall come" (⁵⁴Daniel 9:26) who "shall confirm the covenant with many (the Jews) for one week," that is, seven years - Daniel 9:27. But their acceptance of that agreement will plunge them into the direst trouble they ever experienced. That "prince," nearly three years afterward, will prove to be the anti-Christ - the "man of sin ... the son of perdition, who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God" - ⁵⁵II Thess. 2:3, 4. He will break his covenant with the Jews in the middle of that "week" of seven years. At that very point, ⁵⁶Jeremiah 30:7 will begin - "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble."

⁴⁹ **Isaiah 42:13** - The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies.

⁵⁰ **Psalms 2:8** - Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession.

⁵¹ **Joel 1:15** - Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD *is* at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

⁵² **Joel 2:2** - A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, *even* to the years of many generations.

⁵³ **Joel 2:11** - And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp *is* very great: for *he is* strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD *is* great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

⁵⁴ **Daniel 9:26-27** - And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

⁵⁵ **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** - Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

⁵⁶ **Jeremiah 30:7** - Alas! for that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it: *it is* even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

Our Lord informed His people of that same day - ⁵⁷Matthew 24:15-22 - "... For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake (those who will not bow to anti-Christ) those days shall be shortened." They will be shortened about eight months. John said, "The holy city shall they (the Gentiles) tread under foot forty and two months," or 1260 days - ⁵⁸Revelation 11:2. Many Jews will be slain for refusing the mark of the beast. The very prince, who will make that firm agreement with the Jews, will afterward "make war with the saints, and ... overcome them" - ⁵⁹Revelation 13:7; ⁶⁰12:17; ⁶¹6:8, ⁶²10.

Why all that dreadful calamity for those three and a half years? Because, when Christ will begin to reign, the Jews will not accept Him as their Messiah and King but will receive another in His stead. Their national freedom would be assured and perfected if they would receive Him; for as said before - "the times of the Gentiles" will end, and Jewish times will begin, when Jesus is crowned in Heaven. Therefore, the Jews' rejection of Christ at that moment will be the great cause of the terrible times coming. Their acceptance of Christ would at once put an end to gentile domination, and the foretold sorrows could not come; for, their decreed chastisement will end, when decreed Gentile rule ends. Peter shouted to his people, "Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the Presence of the Lord; and that He may send the Christ who hath been appointed for you (or, before proclaimed to you), even Jesus: whom the Heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things" - ⁶³Acts 3:19-21 R.V. Oh, how much depends upon the Jews' attitude toward Jesus Universal blessing to the world through Him cannot come until they receive Him.

⁵⁷ **Matthew 24:15-22** - When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

⁵⁸ **Revelation 11:2** - But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty *and* two months.

⁵⁹ **Revelation 13:7** - And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

⁶⁰ **Revelation 12:17** - And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

⁶¹ **Revelation 6:8** - And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

⁶² **Revelation 6:10** - And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

⁶³ **Acts 3:19-21** - Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

"Seventy weeks (490 years) are determined (decreed, R.V.) upon thy people and upon thy holy city" - ⁶⁴Daniel 9:24. We have already seen how that determined period ended in 40 A.D. I want to show you that the last seven years of that 490 years - called "the last week of Daniel" - would have been fulfilled from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (⁶⁵Matt. 21:1-11) to Stephen's death, if the Jews had only received Christ. All that Daniel 9:24 announced was accomplished from Calvary to Pentecost, in God's reckoning; even as Elijah came in the person of John the Baptist, if Israel had received him - ⁶⁶Matthew 17:12. BY THE CROSS, the Lord finished transgression, made an end of sins, and made reconciliation for iniquity. BY CHRIST'S RESURRECTION, He brought in everlasting righteousness, and sealed up the vision and prophecy in Him, and the most holy (place) was anointed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In the seventh year after Pentecost, Stephen saw Jesus standing at God's right hand ready to return to be their Messiah and King, if the Jews had accepted Him - ⁶⁷Acts 7:55, 56. But they rejected Him, in slaying His servant Stephen; therefore, He "sat down" by His Father on His throne - ⁶⁸Hebrews 1:3; ⁶⁹Revelation 3:21. Daniel 9:24 was fulfilled, and awaits Israel's acceptance thereof. Why was the Spirit not poured out upon the Gentiles in Cornelius' house until after the above happenings? Because the Lord could not begin with the Gentiles until He had filled up His promise to His chosen people Israel.

We repeat that Daniel 9:24 was fulfilled, and it will not be fulfilled again. The year of our Lord's crucifixion and of Pentecost was the fiftieth year, a year of jubilee, in fulfillment of Leviticus twenty-five. Hence, the disciples had all things common. The blessings then falling were Millennial blessings. Those first seven fruitful years beginning with Pentecost, would have been the beginning of the thousand-year reign, if the Jews had accepted Christ. His triumphal entry into Jerusalem and His iron-like authority and power in the temple indicate that fact. Read

⁶⁴ **Daniel 9:24** - Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

⁶⁵ **Matthew 21:1-11** - And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose *them*, and bring *them* unto me. And if any *man* say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them. All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass. And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set *him* thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed *them* in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

⁶⁶ **Matthew 17:12** - But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.

⁶⁷ **Acts 2:55-56** - But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

⁶⁸ **Hebrews 1:3** - Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

⁶⁹ **Revelations 3:21** - To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Matthew twenty-one and marvel. ⁷⁰Daniel 9:27 and the scores of other prophetic warnings of coming judgment would never have been written, if Gentile dominion had ended in 40 A.D.; for then Jesus would have taken the dominion. Jerusalem would never have been sacked and destroyed by the Romans. But God knew what the Jews would do; therefore, He continued with His plans for the Church Age. Christ must begin His Millennial dominion with judgment. The Jews' rejection of Him and their acceptance of a usurper, compel Him to do this. Jesus must thresh the nations, in order to deliver the Jews. Then in the seventh year of that dreadful hour of wrath, the Jews will receive Him and accept the seven blessings of ⁷¹Daniel 9:24 which were accomplished during His first advent.

AN UNFULFILLED WEEK

Because the Jews did not accept Christ then, it generally is supposed that Daniel 9:24 will have to be fulfilled again as suggested by verse twenty-seven. But that is a mistake. Daniel 9:27 must be fulfilled, but not as a repetition of verse twenty-four nor as the fulfillment of the last seven years of the 490 decreed years or seventy weeks. The facts outlined in verse twenty-seven stand by themselves, and refer to a period which has nothing to do with the seventy weeks of verse twenty-four. Let us read verse twenty-seven - "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate (desolator)."

Verse twenty-four promised blessings only, and all those proffered blessings came. Verse twenty-seven offers no blessing, but betokens distress and desolation. The "one week" of verse twenty-seven is not said to be the last week of the seventy. It must mean some other week or seven years. The last week of the seventy weeks was "determined" or decreed, with the other sixty-nine; but it is not said that the "one week" of verse twenty-seven was determined, upon the desolator. The Lord grants the gracious things of verse twenty-four. But "the prince" (⁷²verse 26), whose ancestors (the Romans) destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D., will be the cruel actor of verse twenty-seven. He will not act by divine authority; but will act squarely against divine authority, and incited by Satan. Hence, "the end thereof shall be with a flood" (verse 26); that is, in judgment, wrath being poured upon him as the desolator. He will be an abominable usurper; and the Jews will make themselves partakers of his crime by accepting his overtures, and will bring

⁷⁰ **Daniel 9:27** - And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

⁷¹ **Daniel 9:24** - Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

⁷² **Daniel 9:26** - And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

upon themselves unspeakable anguish and pain. They ought to accept "the Messiah the Prince" (⁷³verse 25), who will be the rightful King.

USURPERS. A gigantic and formidable organized company of usurpers will be arrayed against Jesus Christ after His enthronement. Study Psalm two, which applies wholly to that period. "Why do the heathen (nations) rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His Anointed, saying, Let us bresk their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us" - Psalm 2:1-3. Verse six proves that this will be AFTER Jesus is on His throne - "Yet have I set My King upon My holy hill of Zion." Verses seven, eight, and twelve show that CHRIST is meant, and not David. Also, ⁷⁴Isaiah 14:13, 14 with ⁷⁵Ezekiel 28:14 make plain that "the sides of the north" or "the holy mountain" here means the place of His throne in Heaven in agreement with ⁷⁶Revelation 4:2 - "A throne was set in Heaven, and One sat on the throne."

Why will the kings rage against Christ? Because, from His throne on high, He will assert His rights to universal dominion; and they will refuse to surrender. What is the purpose of the seven-headed league of nations, of ⁷⁷Revelation 13:1, 2? "The times of the Gentiles," that is the divinely allotted tenure of Gentile rule, will be ended; and the Millennium will be due. They will seek to introduce the Millennium by announcing, "Peace and safety" - ⁷⁸I Thess. 5:3. They are even now preparing terrible war implements, with which to enforce peace and insure safety. But they will be usurpers.

They will be absolutely out of divine order, and yielding to the devil. The kings of this world want a millennium without Jesus Christ, because they do not want to be born again. The old creation insists on having sway. They would rule God and His Son out of the universe today, if they could. Their last desperate effort to do so will be during those nearly seven years of awful gloom, darkness, and judgment.

⁷³ **Daniel 9:25** - Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

⁷⁴ **Isaiah 14:13-14** - For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

⁷⁵ **Ezekiel 28:14** - Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

⁷⁶ **Revelation 4:2** - And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne.

⁷⁷ **Revelation 13:1-2** - And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

⁷⁸ **1 Thessalonians 5:3** - For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

INSPIRED BY SATAN

"And there was war in heaven." That has not yet happened. John only saw it in vision as if it had happened. "Michael and his angels (more than one hundred million - ⁷⁹Rev. 5:11) fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven" - Rev. 12:7, 8. Without doubt, when Jesus arises from His Father's throne (⁸⁰Rev. 3:21) to set up His own throne, that war between Michael and Satan will begin. Satan's domain evidently is in the very region on high, which the Church shall occupy. Our "high calling" (⁸¹Phil.3:14) wicked spirits "in the heavenly places" - ⁸²Eph. 6:12 R.V. Satan is "the prince of the power of the air" - ⁸³Eph. 2:2. By translation, we shall "meet the Lord in the air" - ⁸⁴1 Thess. 4:17. Hence, there will remain no place for Satan and his host up yonder. Michael must cast him out. It will not surprise me to learn some day that Michael and Lucifer have been locking horns ever since 1914; for that date doubtless was the beginning of the end of this age. Oh, think of it! If two-thirds of the angels in Heaven marshaled on one side by Michael the angel of power will be arrayed in fierce combat against one-third of the angels led by Satan the angel of light on the other side, can we wonder that there will be signs and fearful sights in Heaven and sleepless unrest and death-seeking frights and perplexity everywhere - "the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth"? Ah! The heavens will be shaken indeed, and the dragon will be shaken out to return no more forever. If Satan is not a usurper in heaven now, he certainly will be, after Jesus will be enthroned in Heaven. Hence, Michael will eject him ruthlessly.

The "beast ... having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns" (⁸⁵Rev. 13:1), will be the counterpart on earth of the "great red dragon" in heaven (⁸⁶Rev. 12:3). The devil's organized maneuverings in heaven will be reproduced on earth through the league of nations, the dormant Roman Empire included. The repeated international conferences of today are leading up to the perfecting of that league. When Jesus Christ begins to assert His Kingly rights on earth, that league will declare "peace and safety" to the world as suggested by the "white horse" and rider of ⁸⁷Rev. 6:2; and the war in heaven, between Michael and Lucifer, will be fully set. That peace and safety will be brief; for, "sudden destruction" will ensue, as figured by the "red horse"

⁷⁹ **Revelation 5:11** - And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

⁸⁰ **Revelation 3:21** - To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

⁸¹ **Philippians 3:14** - I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

⁸² **Ephesians 6:12** - For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

⁸³ **Ephesians 2:2** - Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

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

⁸⁵ **Revelation 13:1** - And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

⁸⁶ **Revelation 12:3** - And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

⁸⁷ **Revelation 6:2** - And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

of ⁸⁸Rev. 6:4. That will be "the beginning of sorrows" (⁸⁹Matt. 24:8), the preliminary troubles of Revelation eight, or the beginning of "the hour of temptation" - ⁹⁰Rev. 3:10. In less than three years from that time, the war in Heaven will be over, Satan will be hurled to the earth (⁹¹Rev. 12:9), and the reign of anti-Christ for forty-two months will follow - ⁹²Revelation 13:5.

Those days of Gentile dominion will be in usurpation. All the national rulers during that period will be usurpers, because they will be arrayed against Christ - the divinely authorized King. The devil, cast out of heaven as a usurper, will refuse to go to hell at once; but for 1260 days will inspire his "man of sin" to blaspheme God, "and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven" - ⁹³Rev. 13:6. Therefore, the hot bowls of God's wrath will be poured out without measure upon the nations, as indicated in Revelation fourteen to sixteen. God will fight for His Son against the usurpers. "He shall judge the world in righteousness" - ⁹⁴Psalms 9:8. If the people were doing right, He would not be righteous in judging them. If the kings were ruling in His will, within the ordained period of Gentile dominion, He would be unjust in pouring out His wrath upon them. But because the nations will be rebellious, devilish usurpers, and stoutly and blasphemously refuse the dominion of Christ, God will conquer them by crushing them. He will even "break them with a rod of iron," and "dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" - ⁹⁵Psalms 2:9.

Why will the "Stone," cut out without hands, smite the image upon the feet of iron and clay? - ⁹⁶Daniel 2:34. Because, when the "Stone" comes on the scene, it will be the time for Him to reign. When the "great mountain" arises - the Kingdom of Christ - Gentile dominion will end. If that were not true, the "Stone" would be the usurper in smiting the feet of the image or the imperial democratic league of nations. But, He will smite, because He will have the right to reign. After God gave the world dominion over to the nations (⁹⁷Daniel 2:37), the kings of Israel were considered rebellious if they did not submit to that dominion. God was displeased with such rebellion and punished them for it - ⁹⁸II Kings 24:1, 2 and ⁹⁹Jeremiah 52:2-5. Just so, when He

⁸⁸ **Revelation 6:4** - And there went out another horse *that was* red: and *power* was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

⁸⁹ **Matthew 24:8** - All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

⁹⁰ **Revelation 3:10** - Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

⁹¹ **Revelation 12:9** - And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

⁹² **Revelation 13:5** - And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months.

⁹³ **Revelation 13:6** - And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

⁹⁴ **Psalms 9:8** - And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

⁹⁵ **Psalms 2:9** - Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

⁹⁶ **Daniel 2:34** - Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

⁹⁷ **Daniel 2:37** - Thou, O king, *art* a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

⁹⁸ **2 Kings 24:1-2** - In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him. And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servants the prophets.

will change "the times" from Gentile to Jewish dominion, and "the seasons" to run according to the Jewish calendar (¹⁰⁰Daniel 2:21), then the kings will be usurpers in prolonging their dominion. God will be absolutely just in wresting the dominion from them by divine judgment. "Let God be true, but every man a liar" - ¹⁰¹Romans 3:4.

AN OBJECTION EXPLAINED

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" - Matthew 24:13, 14. At first, we might suppose that "the end" in this quotation means the end of this age or of the Gentile times, in answer to the disciple's third question of verse three. That cannot be its meaning. Verses 8-28 describe the affliction, abounding iniquity, and unparalleled tribulation or judgment, just preceding Christ's revelation to His people Israel. "The end" means the end of those awful days, the end of Daniel's "week" of desolations (¹⁰²Daniel 9:27), which will climax with the battle of Armageddon. The "times of the Gentiles," that is the nations' allotted dominion, will end 2270 days prior to the end of "Jacob's trouble" - ¹⁰³Jeremiah 30:7.

The disciples put three queries to Jesus, but none of them referred to that seven years of tribulation. The first referred to the overthrow of Jerusalem by Titus in 70 A.D. The second and third refer to Jesus' second advent and the end of the Millennium. Bear in mind, that the disciples then knew nothing about this Church Age. They were concerned only about the Kingdom - ¹⁰⁴Acts 1:3, ¹⁰⁵6. Concerning the end of the Kingdom, He gave them instruction before - Matthew 13:37-50. In ¹⁰⁶Matthew 24:3 they asked "the sign" of that end, that is, "the end of the

⁹⁹ **Jeremiah 52:2-5** - And he did *that which was* evil in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, till he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon. And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth *day* of the month, *that* Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it, and built forts against it round about. So the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah.

¹⁰⁰ **Daniel 2:21** - And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

¹⁰¹ **Romans 3:4** - God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

¹⁰² **Daniel 9:27** - And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

¹⁰³ **Jeremiah 30:7** - Alas! for that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it: it *is* even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

¹⁰⁴ **Acts 1:3** - To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

¹⁰⁵ **Acts 1:6** - When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

¹⁰⁶ **Matthew 24:3** - And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

world"; which in ¹⁰⁷13:39, 40, ¹⁰⁸49 should read "the consummation of the age" - Revised Version Margin.

Therefore, they requested to know the sign of the consummation of the Millennial Age, not of the end of the Gentile dominion; for that theme was not under consideration. The Greek word translated "end," in the four verses just cited, is "synteleias." It literally means, "bringing to an end together, a completion, a consummation," and is used only in connection with the age, or ages. See also ¹⁰⁹Matthew 28:20 and ¹¹⁰Hebrews 9:26. ¹¹¹Revelation 2:26 - "... keepeth My works unto the end," refers to the same time. The Greek for "end" in ¹¹²Matthew 24:6, ¹¹³13, 14 is "telos," the general term for the end or cessation of anything. Hence, these three latter verses cannot mean the end or completion of any age.

"This Gospel ... for a witness." Though the Gospel has been proclaimed throughout the world during the past nineteen hundred years, yet its proclamation will be completed during the seven coming years of judgment. It will be the "Gospel of the Kingdom" in particular. The publishing of it will result in "the fulness of the Gentiles" (¹¹⁴Romans 11:25), it being the final witness to all the world in view of Christ's unsurpassed reign of righteousness and peace. In ¹¹⁵Rev. 14:6 it is called "the everlasting Gospel." It will be broadcasted by a flying angel or swift messenger. That messenger probably represents a company of powerful flaming evangelists. Philip's aerial Gospel flight (Acts 8), typifies that miraculous ministry. Note the substance of the message - "Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made Heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" - Rev. 14:7. Men everywhere will be compelled to hear that the Son of God is on His own throne in Heaven, and justly demanding their worship and subjection. Now Jesus had said that after that phenomenal spreading of the Gospel of the Kingdom, "then shall the end come"; that is, the end of the unparalleled troubles which He outlined before the disciples. He Himself will then descend and deliver the Jews from death, by casting the anti-Christ and false prophet into the lake of fire. The original word here for "end" is "telos," as stated before. In ¹¹⁶Mark 13:7, ¹¹⁷13

¹⁰⁷ **Matthew 13:39-40** - The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

¹⁰⁸ **Matthew 13:49** - So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

¹⁰⁹ **Matthew 28:20** - Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

¹¹⁰ **Hebrews 9:26** - For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

¹¹¹ **Revelations 2:26** - And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

¹¹² **Matthew 24:6** - And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

¹¹³ **Matthew 24:13-14** - But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

¹¹⁴ **Romans 11:25** - For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

¹¹⁵ **Revelation 14:6** - And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

¹¹⁶ **Mark 13:7** - And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for *such things* must needs be; but the end *shall* not *be* yet.

and ¹¹⁸Luke 21:9, the Greek for "end" is "telos" and refers to the cessation of the sorrows. According to both those records, the disciples did not ask about the consummation ("synteleias") of any age, but only about the tribulation.

SPACE TO REPENT

When Nebuchadnezzar became king over Babylon, it seems that the Lord gave the Jews nineteen years to repent and behave themselves. If they had done so, the seventy years of captivity would doubtless never have come, though they might have been under Gentile rule. Was not that the purpose of Jeremiah's tearful warnings and entreaties? But like as afterward, in Christ's time, they "would not." So it seems that God has given the Gentiles extra time beginning with 1914, to repent and acknowledge Christ as Saviour, in view of receiving Him as the ordained "King of kings, and Lord of lords" - ¹¹⁹I Tim. 6:15; ¹²⁰Rev. 19:16. Why does Paul say to the Gentiles, "Boast not against the branches (the Jews) ... Be not high-minded, but fear"? - ¹²¹Romans 11:18-21. What is the divine purpose of the sovereign "Latter Rain" with its accompanying mighty miracles, signs, and wonders? Why is so much being said and written about the coming of Jesus? Why are the nations being warned of awful judgments just ahead? It is "the day of His preparation" - ¹²²Nahum 2:3. If the Jews and Gentiles today would heed the warnings, the predicted judgments would not come. But, God knew before, that the world would not take heed; therefore, they will be compelled to take His wrath, of which He has given abundant and explicit announcement. The Jews' refusal of Christ's Messiahship and the Gentiles' usurpation of His Kingship will occasion the just day of woe.

OFFENDERS. "Give none offense, neither to the JEWS, nor to the GENTILES, nor to the CHURCH OF GOD" - I Cor. 10:32. We have arrived at the third cause of the great and terrible day, the "day of darkness and of gloominess." We saw that THE JEWS WILL BE THE REJECTERS of Christ. We saw also that THE GENTILE KINGS WILL BE THE USURPERS, because they will not acknowledge Christ as the rightful world Ruler. But who will be the offenders? We answer by asking, "To whom did Paul write the above caution?" To the saints in Corinth, of course, who were becoming inflated with their place - ¹²³I Cor. 4:6, 7. Israel was the

¹¹⁷ **Mark 13:13** - And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

¹¹⁸ **Luke 21:9** - But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end *is* not by and by.

¹¹⁹ **I Timothy 6:15** - Which in his times he shall shew, *who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

¹²⁰ **Revelation 19:16** - And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

¹²¹ **Romans 11:18-21** - Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee.

¹²² **Nahum 2:3** - The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men *are* in scarlet: the chariots *shall be* with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken.

¹²³ **I Corinthians 4:6-7** - And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and *to* Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think *of men* above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another. For who maketh thee to differ *from another*? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it*?

ordained "light of the world" - ¹²⁴Matthew 5:14. Her light went out, by rejecting Jesus who is "THE LIGHT" in Himself. After His ascension, the Church was its only "light" or luminary - ¹²⁵Eph. 5:8; ¹²⁶Phil. 2:15. Presently, her shining grew dim. Ephesus left her "first love." Pergamos held His Name in profession but denied it in conduct, which Corinth was also beginning to do. Pergamos tolerated the doctrine of Balaam, or fellowship with the world - ¹²⁷Rev. 2:14. Thyatira allowed the false prophetess, Jezebel, to seduce God's servants into spiritual fornication - ¹²⁸Rev. 2:20. In 300 A.D., Constantine befriended the Christians, persecution ceased, the saints lost their power, and Church and State soon locked arms in fellowship. Thus, the Church began to offend or cause to stumble. The high standard of a victorious life was pulled down to "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" - ¹²⁹II Timothy 3:5.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, which claims to be the "mother church," is the CHIEF OFFENDER of all mankind. She offends the Jews, by holding that the Church has taken Israel's place as the Kingdom of God on earth. If that were true, then God's many promises to Israel could never be fulfilled. Rome applies them all to herself, and dwells upon the earth; but the calling of the true Church is an upward, a "heavenly calling" - ¹³⁰Hebrews 3:1. Her Home is "eternal in the heavens" - ¹³¹II Cor. 5:1. Rome offends the Gentiles also, by making the kings drunk with the wine of her fornication. She intoxicates them with conquest. She teaches that the Church is to convert the world and bring in the Millennium. By her doctrine, she will lead the nations into rebellion against God and cause them to usurp the throne of Jesus Christ. Thus, Rome sits on the beast and reigns "over the kings of the earth" - ¹³²Rev. 17:3, ¹³³18. Through her Cain religion of works, her mock piety, her self-imposed sanctify, her "devout" nunneries, her "holy" priesthood, etc., she deceives the nations. She barter with "slaves, and souls of men," causing them to stumble into hell - Rev. 18:1-24. As the professed church of Christ, she offends the true Church of Christ. That is the apostle's meaning in saying, "Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the Church of God." The spirit of pride, self-will, conceit, importance, self-glorying - departing from Paul's "ways which be in Christ" - was cropping out in Corinth - I Cor. 4:6-18. By yielding to that spirit, they would cause other saints to stumble.

¹²⁴ **Matthew 5:14** - Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

¹²⁵ **Ephesians 5:8** - For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

¹²⁶ **Philippians 2:15** - 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;

¹²⁷ **Revelation 2:14** - But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

¹²⁸ **Revelation 2:20** - Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

¹²⁹ **2 Timothy 3:5** - Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

¹³⁰ **Hebrews 3:1** - Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

¹³¹ **2 Corinthians 5:1** - For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

¹³² **1 Revelation 17:3** - So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

¹³³ **1 Revelation 17:18** - And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Not only Rome but Protestantism, also, is offending. Despite all the repeated revivals since the Reformation, Jesus said, "I have not found thy works perfect before God" - ¹³⁴Rev. 3:2. she boasts of her wealth and numbers, but the Lord pronounces her "lukewarm ... wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" - ¹³⁵Rev. 3:16, 17. She also casts a stumblingblock before Jews and Gentiles by offering them a religion without reality, life, and power. She entices the people to church on Sunday, but gives them husks of vain profession. Protestants also, like Rome, are encouraging the nations to try to bring forth a millennium without Christ. Thus, she is helping to pave the way for the "day of darkness and of gloominess." The whole of professed Christendom, Catholicism and Protestantism uniting, is boldly inviting "the hour of temptation" (trial), "the hour of His judgment" - ¹³⁶Rev. 3:10; ¹³⁷14:7. For their terrible offense against the world, God will destroy the one and spue out the other.

A SOLEMN FINALE

"Because thou hast kept the Word of My patience, I also will keep thee from (literally, out of) the hour of temptation (or, trial), which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" - Rev. 3:10. The hour of trial shall come; but some saints will be KEPT OUT of it by entering the "open door" into Heaven. Who will they be? Answer: They who have "a little strength"; they in whom the candlestick Judge finds no blame, but says, "Thou ... hast KEPT MY WORD" (which fully qualifies for translation), "and hast NOT DENIED MY NAME" (held Christ only as Lord and Head). They are "sober" (not affectedly pious), "putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation" - that is, salvation from the day of wrath - ¹³⁸I Thess. 5:8. Dear Reader, are you seeking to be one of those?

Beloved, many believers will not be in that fortunate company. The repeated entreaties of I Thessalonians five, warn us against carelessness, sleepiness, and intoxication. Why does the apostle say, "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others"? He means other believers; for sinners are never said to be asleep, but "dead in trespasses and sins" - ¹³⁹Eph. 2:1. Five of the virgins were "foolish," because they refused the oil when the wise were filling their vessels. They were not sinners; for they had lighted lamps, which were "going out" - ¹⁴⁰Matthew 25:8 Revised Version. They were awake, looking for Jesus to come; but they fell into slumber and sleep. They were not sinners, but "virgins," though foolish. They speak of believers who reject the "Latter Rain." Many who receive the Spirit, will not be kept out of that day of trial, because they do not walk in the Spirit; they do not purify themselves "even as He is pure" (¹⁴¹I John 3:3) and keep the Word

¹³⁴ **Revelation 3:2** - Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

¹³⁵ **Revelation 3:16-17** - So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

¹³⁶ **Revelation 3:10** - Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

¹³⁷ **Revelation 14:7** - Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

¹³⁸ **1 Thessalonians 5:8** - But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

¹³⁹ **Ephesians 2:1** - And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

¹⁴⁰ **Matthew 25:8** - And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

¹⁴¹ **1 John 3:3** - And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

of His patience. Thus, they give offense, to the extent that they are disobedient. They help that dark day to appear, instead of qualifying to escape it. They are out of God's perfect will. But God's words to the overcomers are, "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness" - I Thessalonians 5:5.

We must emphasize this sad fact. The Church will not all be caught away at the first blast of the trumpet. The many words of eulogy, written in I Thessalonians, are not true of the entire Church. There is not even one note of blame recorded against these saints. Consider the following precious statements: "Your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope." "So that ye were ensamples to all that believe." "When ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." The next statements show what an exalted place they should occupy, and in what class the apostle reckoned them. "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For ye are our glory and joy" - ¹⁴²I Thess. 1:3, ¹⁴³7; ¹⁴⁴2:13, 19, 20. We have named only six of the excellencies of the fully faithful ones in that assembly.

The second Epistle to the Thessalonians does not record such striking qualities. It is addressed especially to those who will be here after the others have gone. In the second letter, we read of the "brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us"; and of "some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies" - ¹⁴⁵3:6, ¹⁴⁶11. The second letter tells of the happenings during the "night," or "hour of temptation (trial)"; and contains words of instruction and comfort for those who will be so unfortunate as to be living on earth then. Paul said also, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink (spiritually, as well as naturally), or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the JEWS, nor to the GENTILES, nor to the CHURCH OF GOD" - I Cor. 10:31, 32. Because saints do not heed these words of the Holy Spirit, the Philadelphia company expressed by the four living ones and twenty-four elders (Revelation four) will be a small company comparatively. That is why the innumerable company is seen IN the time of the "great tribulation," and "CAME OUT" of it - ¹⁴⁷Rev. 7:14. Is it not far wiser to live so as to be KEPT FROM, than to COME OUT after being in it and "hurt of the second death"?

Hear the Lord's last comforting and warning admonition to blameless believers - "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" - Revelation 3:11

¹⁴² **1 Thessalonians 1:3** - Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

¹⁴³ **1 Thessalonians 1:7** - So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

¹⁴⁴ **1 Thessalonians 2:13** - For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it not as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

¹⁴⁵ **1 Thessalonians 3:6** - But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also *to see you*:

¹⁴⁶ **1 Thessalonians 3:11** - Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.

¹⁴⁷ **Revelation 7:14** - And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.