

APOSTOLIC ESCHATOLOGY.1

INTRODUCTION: SEEING A NEW EARTH

1. NOTE John's perspective, or ESCHATOLOGICAL PARADIGM. He SEES (UNDERSTANDS) a NEW concept of EARTH from the perspective of being caught up into the very SPIRIT of the DAY OF THE LORD (THIRD DAY, THIRD HEAVEN, Most Holy Place). The slant of this consistent Biblical perspective is that GOD COMES DOWN TO DWELL WITH MEN (Rev. 1:10,12; 21:1-3). DISAPPEARANCE vs. APPEARING; GOING vs. COMING...

2. God has given the EARTH to MEN (Gen. 14:19; Psa. 115:16; Matt. 5:5; Rev. 5:10).

IN THE BEGINNING...EDEN (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:8-10,15; Isa. 51:3; Joel 2:3)

"EDEN" = "ay'-den" (Strong's #5731) = "pleasure; luxury, dainty, delight, finery." It is used 14 times (the Biblical number for Passover, salvation) in the O.T. (Gen. 2:8,10, 15,23-24; 4:16; Isa. 51:3; Ezek. 28:13; 31:9,16,18; 36:5).

1. In this fresh view of EARTH, the issue is not one of eschatology, but one of dominion (Lk. 23:43; 2 Cor. 12:1-2,4; Rev. 2:7).

"PARADISE" = "Paradeisos" (Strong's #3857) = "a park, an Eden; among the Persians a grand enclosure or preserve; to the oriental mind it expressed the sum total of blessedness." PARA-DISE is the WORLD of the PARA-KLETOS, the WORLD of the SPIRIT.

2. This is PARADISE, the KINGDOM of God on Earth, the ORIGINAL DREAM and VISION of the FATHER (Gen. 1:26-28). In the GARDEN OF EDEN, there were FIVE DYNAMICS:

a. RELATIONSHIP = a man and woman created in His image and likeness (two were one). There was WORSHIP in Eden.

b. ACCOUNTABILITY = both the man and the woman had STEWARDSHIP over the earth. There was a CO-REGENCY in Eden (no gender prejudice).

c. PRODUCTIVITY and CREATIVITY = replenish (fill, fulfill, accomplish, complete) and subdue (tread down, conquer, subjugate, bring into subjection) the Earth. There was SERVICE in Eden.

d. DISCIPLINE = there were TWO TREES in Eden. There was a CHOICE in Eden.

e. PRIESTHOOD = there was a RIVER in Eden, flowing out. There was the PRIVILEGE OF MINISTRY in Eden.

3. There is a difference between THE EARTH and THE WORLD. The "WORLD" (kosmos) is a temporary order, a system, an arrangement of things (Psa. 24:1; Ex. 19:5-6; Matt. 4:8; Jn. 12:31; 2 Cor. 4:4).

THE CHURCH'S RELEVANCE IN THE EARTH

PURPOSE for this truth: We must re-define the purpose for our existence (which has been distorted by traditional eschatology—futurism or dispensationalism, brought to us by the three blind mice: John Darby, C. I. Scofield, and Clarence Larkin)...

PRIMARY TEXT: Ex. 22:1-9,23-30.

EZEK.

NOTE: There were four classes in Ezekiel's Old Testament society—Prophets, Priests, Princes, and the People—the whole nation of Judah was in chaos and crisis! What was the Lord's answer for this dilemma? – Ezek. 22:30 = "I sought for a MAN..."

PRINCIPLE: The problem in Ezekiel's day and ours is from WITHIN. God needs a MAN to function in a time of national chaos and crisis...not to run away or be raptured out...not to be evacuated from the earth and from history! We must have an adjusted theology...we must redefine our purpose for existence—the CHURCH is to be SALT, LIGHT, and a WITNESS! Again, we must go back to the ORIGINAL PURPOSE (Gen. 1:26-28).

NOTE three KEY WORDS: IMAGE, LIKENESS, and DOMINION:

1. "IMAGE" = "tselem" (Strong's #6754) = "resemblance; hence, a representative figure." This IMAGE is an ICON. Using COMPUTER language, MAN is the WINDOW (channel) that represents the program (God). Double-click on MAN to open up ALL that God is!

PRINCIPLE: The American Church is entertainment-based, need-oriented, and man-centered. Everybody is obsessed with getting his or her "stuff," but the RELEVANT CHURCH understands that we ARE the "stuff"! God's people (Christians) are the WINDOWS OF HEAVEN, and the devil's crowd (sinners) are the GATES OF HELL (Mal. 3:10; Matt. 16:18)!

2. "LIKENESS" = "demuwth" (Strong's #1823) = "resemblance; concretely, model, shape; similitude; figure, form, pattern." Man in God's LIKENESS is a measured, reproductive copy who replicates and expresses God in the Earth (the Vine and the branches).

3. "DOMINION" = Strong's #7287 = "radah" = "to tread down, i.e. subjugate; to dominate, to rule." Dominion is the RESULT of IMAGE and LIKENESS = dominion is the power to govern and control. DOMINION is linked with AUTHORITY (Mt. 28:18; Lk. 10:19; Rev. 2:26).

PRINCIPLE: MAN is the AGENT who expresses the measurements of God in the EARTH. Man has been given the STEWARDSHIP of the earth. God remains the Owner while man is the caretaker. As with the computer, we must be WIRED and CONNECTED to the heavens; we must be interfaced with God = Jesus is our Mediator, God's express IMAGE (Heb. 1:3).

PRINCIPLE: God is the Owner of the earth. What ADAM lost, JESUS, the Heavenly David, recovered (1 Sam. 30:18-22; Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:22)! JESUS CHRIST, the appointed Heir of all things, is the Legal Owner of all things in Heaven, in earth, and under the earth. Through the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants, King Jesus has been given the both LAND and the THRONE, the EARTH and the RIGHT TO RULE IT (Psa. 115:16).

PRINCIPLE: Do not blame God for the condition of the EARTH! God has submitted and committed Himself to what He has already declared—His DECREE, His WORD—which He has exalted above His Name (Psa. 138:2).

PRINCIPLE: God can only work redemptively in the earth and among the nations through a HUMAN CHANNEL. As in Ezekiel's day, but on a global scale, EARTH was in chaos and crisis. Jesus had to become a MAN...God had to redeem man AS A MAN!

We must appropriate and administrate His finished work! Today, the EARTH is in chaos and crisis. God still looks for a MAN, a vessel, an instrument—a second witness. Darby's, Scofield's, and Larkin's dispensationalism (futurism), with its "any-minute rapture," has distorted our predetermined purpose. Satan's scheme, his doctrine of demons is to evacuate God's MAN (Eph. 2:15; 4:24), the many-membered Body of Christ, from the planet!

NEW TESTAMENT APPLICATION OF THIS TRUTH (Lk. 19:12-27)

The KEY VERSE here is Luke 19:13—"OCCUPY till I come"

"OCCUPY" = "PRAGMATEUOMAI" (Strong's #4231), which means "to busy oneself with, to trade." Thayer's Lexicon adds that "PRAGMATEUOMAI" means "to be occupied in anything; to carry on the business of a banker or a trader." It is derived from the noun "PRAGMA" (Strong's #4229), which means "a deed; by implication, an affair; by extension, an object (material); what is done or being accomplished; specifically, business, a commercial transaction." "PRAGMA" is translated in the King James Version as "business, matter, thing, work." The latter is akin to "PRASSO" (Strong's #4238), a primary verb which means "to 'practice', i.e. perform repeatedly or habitually"—repeat it until it becomes a habit.

PRINCIPLE: The King's question will be, "How much have you GAINED BY TRADING between My DEPARTURE and My RETURN (Lk. 19:12-26)? We are to engage in profit-making activities. We must make investments, naturally and spiritually—we must bring forth FRUIT! We must live a profitable lifestyle. Dispensationalism's doctrine of imminence ("any-minute") is faulty and pessimistic. We must live and occupy for the long haul! We must be GENERATIONAL in our purpose!

PRINCIPLE: Because of futurism, there is a false understanding of an immediate return. The key truth about the 10 virgins of Matt. 25:1-10 is that the FIVE WISE VIRGINS were READY because they had ENOUGH RESOURCES. Wisdom says, "Live for the long haul!" Who among you are in this thing for the long haul? God's purposes are generational. What are we doing for our SEED and our SEED'S SEED?

CONCLUSION:

We must OCCUPY until He comes. When your FUTURE makes demands on you that your PRESENT cannot provide, then CHANGE is inevitable. There must be a generation that inter-faces God, a people who bring the invisible to the visible, who bring Heaven, His Kingdom and His will, to Earth! Hear His Word, "I sought for a MAN..." (Ezek. 22:30)

JESUS DEFEATED THE DEVIL

INTRODUCTION: THERE WERE THREE MEN CRUCIFIED (Lk. 23:32,39-43 with Lk. 4:3,9,13; Matt. 27:62-66; Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14-18; 1 Jn. 3:8). The proclamation of the CROSS is the POWER OF GOD (1 Cor. 1:18).

PRINCIPLE: Satan is not God's adversary—he is OURS (1 Pet. 5:8). Both Testaments proclaim Jesus' complete triumph over satan. As a MAN filled with the Holy Ghost, Jesus defeated the evil one on his own turf (Acts 10:38). Our Lord's victory over the enemy disintegrated the devil's kingdom; denied him power over death; divested him of all his authority. THE WAFARE IS ACCOMPLISHED (Isa. 40:1-2; Jn. 19:28-30; Lk. 12:50; 18:31).

PRINCIPLE: The war of the ages was fought and won 2,000 years ago (Gen. 3:15; Hab. 3:13). We must acknowledge and appropriate the bounty of His victory. To fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12) is to arm ourselves with a settled conviction that the warfare is accomplished. The only battles that the enemy has won are those in which we did not engage him. We have the RIGHT to come against satan in the Name of the Lord!

EIGHT ABSOLUTES ABOUT JESUS' VICTORY OVER THE DEVIL (Jn. 14:30)

1. JESUS TRIUMPHED OVER PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS (Col. 2:14-15; Col. 3:13, AMP).

"TRIUMPH" = "thriambeuo" (Strong's #2358) = "to make an acclamatory procession, i.e. (figuratively) to conquer or (by Hebraism) to give victory; to lead in triumph."

2. JESUS BOUND THE STRONG MAN (Jer. 31:11; Matt. 12:29; Lk. 11:22).

3. JESUS SLEW THE DRAGON IN THE SEA (Isa. 27:1-2; 57:20).

4. JESUS KILLED THE GIANT (1 Sam. 17:51; Psa. 24:8; Eph. 3:10-11).

5. JESUS JUDGED THE PRINCE (Jn. 12:31; 16:8-11).

"JUDGMENT" = "krisis" = criterion, standard, measure.

PRINCIPLE: Rom. 1:1,9,16 – (1) The Gospel of God (the judgment written, the Bible); (2) The Gospel of His Son (the judgment personified; Jn. 1:14); and (3) The Gospel of (THE) Christ (the execution of the judgment which He IS; Psa. 149:5-9).

6. JESUS DISMANTLED SATAN'S KINGDOM (Heb. 2:14-18; 1 Jn. 3:8).

"DESTROYED" = "katargeo" (Strong's #2673) = to be (render) entirely idle (useless." Vine's adds, "to reduce to inactivity." This is derived from "kata" (down) and "argos" (inactive). Compare Rom. 6:6; Eph. 2:15; 2 Thess. 2:8.

"DESTROY" = "luo" (Strong's #3089) = "loosen." Vine's adds, "to dissolve, sever, break, demolish." (Humpty-dumpty...)

7. JESUS ABOLISHED DEATH (Isa. 25:8; Hos. 13:14; Rom. 6:9; 1 Cor. 15:26; 2 Tim. 1:10).

8. JESUS DIVIDED THE SPOILS – HE RECOVERED ALL (1 Sam. 30:18,26).

PRINCIPLE: The devil is defeated! Jesus is Lord! The warfare is accomplished. All satan has left is his roar of suggestion. He is a barking dog on a leash, a mouse with a microphone. Jesus became the Victor so that we don't have to be victims!

PRINCIPLE: The New Testament is His last will and testament. Somebody died and left you something! The Testator died and then rose from the dead to be the Executor of His own will! The enemy is defeated and the table is spread with divine SPOIL (2 Kg. 7:7-10).

PRINCIPLE: We are JOINT-HEIRS with Christ (Rom. 8:17; 1 Pet. 3:7), sharing His COMMONWEALTH (Eph. 2:11-12). See Isa. 53:12; 9:3 (NIV); Zech. 14:1; Lk. 11:22; Rom. 16:20.

CONCLUSION: ON THE BASIS OF: (1) The paradigm of dominion in the Earth; and (2) Jesus once-for-all triumph over the evil one: GO (Matt. 28:18-20) and OCCUPY (Lk. 19:13)!

APOSTOLIC ESCHATOLOGY.2

A FRESH HISTORICAL LOOK AT DISPENSATIONALISM

Note: Dispensationalism/futurism is the new kid on the block (1830-2000). Futurism was assumed by our Pentecostal fathers in 1900 (the Holiness churches); not questioned until the Latter Rain (late 1940s). Prior, His coming was said to be personal, visible, glorious.

1. PRELUDE:

a. 1585 = Jesuit Francisco Ribera was the first to stretch Dan. 9 into the paradigm called FUTURISM (Tribulation period, Antichrist, rebuilt Temple, etc.).

b. It was the early 19th century (1820s) when the emphasis upon Bible prophecy was heightened in the British Isles:

- 1826 = Samuel Maitland.

- 1826-30 = the Albury Conferences were convened home of banker Henry Drummond.

- At the same time, the prophetic Powerscourt meetings.

- Two main characters marked this period in the British Isles: Edward Irving, John Darby.

2. EDWARD IRIVING

a. Very charismatic, an early father of Pentecostalism, although he himself was never purported to have spoken with other tongues. Preached in London area (Caledonia Chapel).

b. 1826 = translated Immanuel de Lacunza's work (like Ribera's) from Spanish to English.

c. Began to FORM his futuristic paradigm—along with Drummond, saw the development of the prophetic journal of the Albury Conference, "The Morning Watch," in 1828.

3. JOHN DARBY AND THE PLYMOUTH BRETHERN

a. The "father" of futurism (due to John Kelly, his biographer). In 1826-27 = founded Plymouth brethren, futurism's catalyst.

b. Began to teach futurism and the "split-coming" of the Lord as early as 1831 ("Morning Watch") or 1840?—futurism EVOLVED. Influenced by the move in western Scotland.

c. Brought dispensationalism to the U.S. in the 1860s-70s (around 1864).

d. C. I. Scofield, a student of Darby for 40 years, included Darby's notes in his Bible (1909).

3. CYRUS INGERSON SCOFIELD

a. Sordid, murky past marked by fraud, lies, and forgeries.

b. Married the Roman Catholic Leontine in 1866. She divorced him in 1883 on the grounds of infidelity and neglect of her and the children. Married Hetty Van Wark soon thereafter.

1 Tim 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. (KJV)

1 Tim 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (NIV)

4. ROBERT NORTON

a. Although we have met Irving and Darby, what was the actual ORIGIN of the “any-minute” pre-tribulation rapture theory? Read Dave MacPherson’s “The incredible “Cover-up.” His primary source was the writing of Dr. Robert Norton in 1861, “The Restoration of Apostles and Prophets...;” chronicled Irving’s movement and Eschatology (1820s-1840s).

b. Norton told of the eccentric McDonald clan of Port Glasgow, including Margaret. This family began “house meetings.” God healed Margaret, who later in the early months of 1830 had her famous visitation and “vision.”

5. CLARENCE LARKIN

a. Frustrated Philadelphia architect, “father” of intimidating much-detailed charts of Scofield’s 7 dispensations; notable work, “Dispensational Truth,” was published in 1918.

b. Page 5 = affirms his source in Francisco Ribera.

c. Page 102 = chapter on “Spiritism” = those who speak with tongues (believing in the supernatural) are demon-possessed—triggered Bill Britton and others in the late 1940s to question then to rethink and redesign the whole eschatological system.

6. CONCLUSION: Interestingly, every major CULT in the United States developed between 1830 and 1880, the same season as the development and rise of Darbyism and futurism in Britain in America and just prior to the Pentecostal outpouring (1900-1906):

a. Joe Smith and Mormonism (1830).

b. The Fox sisters in upstate New York and spiritism (1847).

c. Ellen G. White and Seventh Day Adventism (1860) — compare the Millerites’ predictions and anticipations of 1843-1844 with Edgar Whisnant of 1988-89, not to mention: (1) The Koreans in 1992 and Harold Camping in 1994; (2) Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, Gorbachev, Ronald Wilson Reagan, Saddam Hussein, Prince Charles, and Bill Gates; and (3) The prognostications of Hal Lindsey and others, such as the “non-Jupiter effect” of 1982; and Jack van Impe’s paradigm of 1948-1988 and now 1967-2007 “generation” predictions.

d. Mary Baker Eddy and Christian Science, who published “Science and Health” (1875).

e. Charles Taze (“Dad”) Russell and the Jehovah’s Witnesses; “The Watchtower” (1879).

These are OBVIOUS SYSTEMS OF ERROR, but the masterstroke of “the god of this world” was his scheme and smokescreen of FUTURISM to counteract the restoration of Pentecost through Charles Parham and William Seymour (1900-06). It rolled off the lips of a 15-year-old kid, was brought to us by the three blind mice, Darby, Scofield, and Larkin, and then assumed by our Pentecostal fathers!

1 John 4:1, KJV Beloved, believe not every spirit, but TRY the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Dearly loved friends, don’t always believe everything you hear just because someone says it is a message from God: test it first to see if it really is. For there are many false teachers around... (TLB)

“TRY” = “dokimazo” (Strong’s #1381) = “to test; to approve.” Also rendered in the KJV as “allow, discern, examine.” Compare Luke 12:56; Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 3:13; and 1 Thess. 5:21.

THE BLOOD COVENANT WHICH CANNOT FAIL (Dan. 9:24-27)

A FRESH LOOK AT DANIEL'S PROPHECY OF SEVENTY WEEKS

NOTE: Scofield, Darby, and Larkin's traditional PARADIGM: "The Second Coming of Christ is in TWO STAGES. Before the Tribulation Period, He comes FOR the saints. The Day of Christ, the "rapture," is the FIRST STAGE—Jesus comes like a thief in the night FOR His Bride, the Church. The SECOND STAGE is called the "revelation" or the Day of the Lord, when He returns in judgment to destroy the Antichrist and set up His Kingdom." But the Bible clearly shows that He did not GO in two stages!

NOTE: The basic WEAKNESS and ERROR of Classical Scofieldian Dispensationalism (as revealed in His 1909 Bible) is that it interprets the New Testament on the basis of the old Testament, rather than viewing the Old Testament in the light of the New Testament.

NOTE: Scofield, Darby, and Larkin's two-stage split coming of the Lord is primarily based on ONE PORTION OF SCRIPTURE – Daniel 9:24-27 – his famous PROPHECY OF SEVENTY WEEKS. Remember that Francisco Ribera (1585) was the first to stretch Daniel's prophecy and separate the 69th and 70th weeks by a "gap" or "parenthesis" of 2,000 years. Accordingly, the 70th week is still in the FUTURE (thus, Futurism). In this view, the 70th Week of Daniel's prophecy is the SAME as: (1) The Tribulation Period; (2) Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21; (3) Revelation 4-19. The Time of Jacob's Trouble (Jer. 30:7).

NOTE: Scofield taught that there are TWO princes in Daniel's prophecy. The first, the "Messiah the prince" (Dan. 9:25), is Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace. He believed that the second is "the prince who shall come" (Dan. 9:26).

KEY PRINCIPLE: Daniel's Prophecy of Seventy Weeks is Christological and Soteriological, not Dispensational or Eschatological. Its theme: the manner in which God dealt with SIN—with the BETTER BLOOD of the NEW COVENANT (Mt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 11:25; Heb. 10:28-29).

DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS OF YEARS (457 B.C. to A.D. 34) IS BASED UPON JEREMIAH'S 70 YEARS (606-536 B.C.) – 2 Chron. 36:21; Jer. 25:11-12; 29:10; Dan. 9:1-5

PRINCIPLE: Daniel was reading Jeremiah. There was no historical or chronological GAP between 606-536 B.C.! Jeremiah's 70 years of uninterrupted time is the PATTERN for Daniel's 70 weeks of years of uninterrupted time (no parenthesis)!

THE SIX POINTS OF DANIEL'S PROPHECY (Dan. 9:24), TO BE FULFILLED AMONG DANIEL'S "PEOPLE" (THE JEWS) AND IN DANIEL'S "CITY" (Jerusalem), FULFILL THE "NEW COVENANT" PROMISED BY JEREMIAH (Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-13))

NOTE: This prophecy reveals how that God would ultimately deal with SIN (Dan. 9:20-23) The same archangel who announced Messiah's birth (Matt. 1; Lk. 1) now prophesies His death! He shows up at the time of the "evening oblation" (the 9th hour) – the very SAME HOUR of Jesus' crucifixion (Matt. 27:45-46; Jn. 19:30)! Gabriel came to give Daniel and us "skill" and "understanding" with regard to this prophecy. His explanation prophesied the New Testament revelation of Jesus' finished work, the putting away of all sin, and the cessation and all sacrifice and oblation (the contextual emphasis of the entire chapter)! Remember, the futurists say that this prophecy is yet to be fulfilled. Scofield broached the BLOOD—his teaching is the doctrine of demons!

PRINCIPLE: The Prophecy of 70 Weeks enlarges Jeremiah's predictions. It is wholly Christological and Messianic! It put an end to the Old Covenant and inaugurated the New Covenant (as prophesied by Jeremiah 31:31-34), among the JEWS (who were Daniel's people) and in JERUSALEM (Daniel's city). On the CROSS:

1. JESUS FINISHED THE TRANSGRESSION (Isa. 43:25; 53:5; Heb. 9:15 with Jn. 19:30)!
1 2 3
2. JESUS MADE AN END OF SINS (Matt. 1:21; Heb. 8:12 with Jn. 1:29; Heb. 9:26)!
1 2 3
3. JESUS MADE RECONCILIATION FOR INIQUITY (Rom. 5:10; Eph. 2:16; with 2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 1:19-20)!
1 2
4. JESUS BROUGHT IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS because He IS everlasting righteousness (Rom. 10:3,10; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9 with 1 Cor. 1:30; Heb. 7:1-2)!
2 1
5. JESUS SEALED UP THE VISION AND THE PROPHECY, to fulfill the law and the prophets, because He IS the vision and the prophecy, or Prophet (see Isa. 29:10-11; Matt. 5:17-20; 11:13; Jn. 5:39; 6:27; 19:28-37; Acts 3:18; 26:17-19 with Hab. 2:3; Heb. 10:37; Matt. 5:17; Acts 3:22; Rev. 19:10)!
2 1
6. JESUS ANOINTED THE MOST HOLY because He IS the anointing and the most holy—the "holy thing" (Lk. 1:35) and the "holy One" (Acts 3:14; 1 Jn. 2:20). He ripped the Veil from the top to the bottom, opening the way into the "holy of holies" (see Psa. 45:7; Isa. 61:1; Lk. 4:16-21; Acts 2:27; 4:27; 10:38 with Jn. 14:6; Rom. 1:4; Heb. 10:14,19-20).
1 2 3 4

5:17-18
1

NOTE: Daniel 9:24-27 is all about Jesus, centered in the finished work of the Lamb of God! NONE of Daniel 9:24 was accomplished in the first 69 weeks of his prophecy! All events in verse 24 occurred during the 70th week, the seven years AFTER the 69th week—with no chronological break. Once the Messiah came, He was given one prophetic week of seven years to see it through!

SEVENTY WEEKS ARE DETERMINED (Dan. 9:24)

Daniel 9:24, KJV 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.

1. "Seventy weeks" or "seventy sevens" – 70 times 7, or 490 years, the Bible number denoting COMPLETE FORGIVENESS (Matt. 18:21-22)!
2. "DETERMINED" = "cut out or cut off" = divided off from all the other years—decided, decreed, destined, appointed—set off and sanctified by itself for a definite purpose.
3. The term "seventy weeks" is PLURAL, but the verb "determined" is SINGULAR. Thus the seventy weeks are collectively one period of time with no gap!

UNTO MESSIAH THE PRINCE (Dan. 9:25)

Daniel 9:25, KJV Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem (457 B.C.) unto the Messiah the Prince (A.D. 27) shall be seven weeks (49 years), and threescore and two weeks (62 weeks or another 434 years): the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times (Nehemiah's ministry).

NOTE: The KEY to interpreting this prophecy = a day for a year (Ezek. 4:6).

1. The "commandment to restore and to (re-)build Jerusalem" was the decree of Artaxerses (Longimanus) of Persia for EZRA to beautify the Temple and restore its worship, and to rebuild the Jewish state, was given in 457 B.C. and recorded in Ezra 7. This edict reaffirmed the decrees of Cyrus (in 536 B.C. – to return) and Darius (in 520 B.C. – to finish the Temple). See Ezra 7:8-9.

2. Thirteen years after this (444 B.C.), in the 20th year of the same king, Nehemiah sought and obtained permission to go up to Jerusalem. Although these were "troublous times," the wall was rebuilt in a short time (Neh. 1:1; 2:8-17; 4:17; 6:15 with Dan. 9:25).

3. Daniel prophesied a TOTAL of 69 weeks of years (49 plus 434 = 483 years) from Artaxerses' decree in 457 B.C. (Ezra 7) "UNTO THE MESSIAH THE PRINCE." This takes us to A.D. 27 (one year must be added when going from B.C. to A.D.). when Jesus Christ the MESSIAH was 30 years of age, having been born in 4 B.C.! This was the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar (Lk. 3:1,21-23)

4. JESUS is "'MESSIAH THE PRINCE" (see Jn. 4:25-26; Acts 3:15; 5:31; Rev. 1:5).

5. KEY PRINCIPLE: Daniel's 69th week ENDED when Prince Jesus stepped down into the muddy baptismal waters of the Jordan River. Daniel's 70th week BEGAN when "Messiah the Prince" came up out of those same waters, anointed by the Holy Spirit to dismantle the works of the devil (Acts 10:38; 1 Jn. 3:8)!

THE PEOPLE OF THE PRINCE THAT SHALL COME (Dan. 9:26)

Daniel 9:26, KJV 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.

1. Here is where Scofield inserts his infamous gap. But Messiah was "cut off" at the cross "after" 62 weeks (from 408 B.C. to A.D. 27). It was 60 weeks (457 B.C. to A.D. 27) "unto" the beginning of His public ministry (His baptism), so he would have to be "cut off" AFTER that. This Hebrew word speaks of being CUT OFF or CUT DOWN by DEATH, and suggests the idea of an abrupt, violent death, or a death by the agency of others (cutting a covenant)—which took place at the CROSS (Isa. 53:8)!

2. "but not for Himself" could be rendered "and shall have nothing." Some Greek translations render this as "without trial" or "unjustly" (Matt. 26-27; Acts 8:32-33). The Messiah would be despised, rejected, and crucified (Isa. 53:1-4; Jn. 1:11; 2 Cor. 8:9), "not for Himself" or His own sin, but for the sin of the world.

NOTE: The rest of Daniel 9:26, referencing Titus and his army, is parenthetical to the whole prophecy (happening 35 years later). See Matt. 23:37-39; 24:1-3,34; Lk. 21:20-22. Messiah had to come BEFORE Prince Titus and his army ransacked Jerusalem (A.D. 66-70)! This would be a real KEY in reaching the JEWISH people with the Good News that their long-awaited Messiah has already come and died for their sins!

HE SHALL CAUSE THE SACRIFICE AND THE OBLATION TO CEASE...HE SHALL CONFIRM THE COVENANT WITH MANY FOR ONE WEEK (Dan. 9:27)

Daniel 9:27, KJV And He (Messiah) shall confirm the (New) covenant with many (elect Jews) for one week (seven years): and in the midst of the 9sevenieth week He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation (sin offering) to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations He shall make it desolate (by his prophetic decree), even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

KEY PRINCIPLE: The most critical week (seven years), the fulcrum of human history, is the 70th Week of Daniel's prophecy! The death, burial, and resurrection, and the consequent outpouring of the Holy Spirit are the basis of every New Covenant reality! These great truths are now corroborated by historical fact. Satan wants this time to be clouded and garbled, for it was in the 70th Week of Daniel's prophecy that our adversary met his complete defeat and total demise!

1. "HE (Messiah) shall CONFIRM the COVENANT," Jeremiah's NEW COVENANT (Jer. 31:31-34)! "HE" is a singular pronoun. "OF THE PRINCE" (Dan. 9:26) is a prepositional phrase modifying "people," a plural noun. A pronoun cannot properly have as its antecedent the object of a modifying clause. "HE" modifies the singular antecedent "Messiah" in verses 25 and 26. Compare Rom. 15:8-9 with Acts 3:13)

2. He shall "CONFIRM" the New Covenant. Dispensationalists contend that a future antichrist will "make" a covenant with the Jews, and then later "break" that covenant, but the words "make" or "break" are not found in Daniel 9:27. The everlasting Covenant (Heb. 13:20) in Jesus' better blood-the blood Covenant which CANNOT FAIL-was CONFIRMED with ELECT JEWS for seven years before God turned to all the nations. The word for "CONFIRM" is "gaw-bar" (Strong's #1396) and it means, "to be strong, to prevail; to be strong, might, powerful." It speaks of making a strong covenant or compact (Dan. 9:4; 11:22,28,30,32) by the means of superior strength (Lk. 11:22).

3. "with MANY (elect Jews) for ONE WEEK (seven years)" - from A.D. 27 (Jesus' baptism) to A.D. 34 (the martyrdom of Stephen). See Matt. 10:5-6; Rom. 11:1-5.

4. "and in the MIDST of the (seventieth) week He shall cause the SACRIFICE and the OBLATION (sin offering) to CEASE (at the cross)" - the "MIDST (half, middle) of the 70th Week was the cutting off point of Messiah's ministry after three-and-on-half years. On the CROSS "HE" (Jesus) caused every Old Testament sacrifice and offering to "CEASE" (to repose, rest - He and his finished work are our SABBATH), rending the Veil from the top to the bottom (Mt. 27:51 with Jn. 1:29; Eph. 2:13-15; Heb. 9:26; 10:1-4).

5. "and for the overspreading of abominations (much IDOLATRY) He shall make it desolate (by his prophetic decree), even UNTIL THE CONSUMMATION (completion or end of Daniel's prophecy), and that determined (decreed) shall be poured upon the desolate (desolator = ADAM, the BEAST nature, the man of sin of 2 Thess. 2:3-4)" - Jesus pronounced "desolation" upon old order Judaism (Matt. 23:23-38; Matt. 24:15; Mk. 13:14). Daniel's 70th Week is divided in half, fulfilled in the FOUR GOSPELS, and in ACTS 1-7.

6. The autumn of A.D. 34 was the grand terminating point of the continuous period of Daniel's 70 weeks. This latter date is marked by the martyrdom of Stephen, the formal rejection of the Gospel of Christ by the High Priest and the Jewish Sanhedrin! The Gospel had gone to the Jew "first." Key events soon followed after the 490 years had expired:

- a. Philip, Peter, and John ministered in Samaria (Acts 8).
- b. Saul of Tarsus was converted and called (Acts 9).
- c. The Spirit was poured out on Cornelius' house (Acts 10).
- d. Christianity's center moved from Jerusalem (Daniel's "city") to Antioch.

Matt. 24:34, KJV Verily I say unto you, **THIS GENERATION shall not pass, till ALL THESE THINGS be fulfilled.**

7. The "end" of Judaism came in A.D. 70! The 40 years ("this generation") from Jesus' crucifixion to the destruction of Jerusalem (A.D. 31-70) parallel the wilderness wandering.

CONCLUSION: Read "Whose Right It Is," pages 288-290.

APOSTOLIC ESCHATOLOGY #3

JESUS AND HIS CHURCH – THE SEED OF ABRAHAM (Matt. 1:1; Gal. 3:16,29; 1 Jn. 4:17) - WE ARE A COVENANTAL PEOPLE (Jer. 31:31-34; Dan. 9:27; Matt. 26:28; Heb. 7:22)

PRINCIPLE: NOTE the meaning of “COVENANT”:

1. O.T. = “beriyth” = “to cut or divide (alluding to the sacrificial system, the shedding of BLOOD); compact, covenant, alliance, pledge, league, treaty, agreement.”
2. NT = “diatheke” = “a disposition, contract (devisory will); to dispose (by assignment, compact, or bequest); an arrangement, the last disposition, a testament or will; a compact, a covenant, a testament; a disposition of property by will or otherwise.” The imposition of the will of a SUPERIOR being upon that which is an INFERIOR being.

PRINCIPLE: Real BIBLICAL THEOLOGY is COVENANTAL, not DISPENSATIONAL, is its ESSENCE and FRAMEWORK (Ezek. 21:26-27; Matt. 28:18)!

PRINCIPLE: There is a popular notion that Adam committed high treason and turned the earth over to the devil. Adam did rebel, but the earth is the Lord's! E. W. Kenyon (“The Bible in the Light of Our Redemption,” p. 26) stated, “Adam turned this legal dominion over into the hands of God's enemy, Satan.” Did Satan seize the earth from Adam, or did God retain His own authority to be given to Him “whose right it is”? See Psa. 24:1.

PRINCIPLE: Jesus defeated the devil and divided the spoils with the strong. Now we consider His plunder—the inheritance of the LAND and the THRONE—the EARTH and the RIGHT TO RULE IT!

PRINCIPLE: JESUS CHRIST IS THE HEIR OF ALL THINGS! All covenantal promises point to and are consummated in HIM! He and His Church are the Seed of Abraham (Gal. 3-4), the authorized recipients of the covenantal promise. Jesus Christ is the only One with legal right to all things. Stop giving place (“topos”) to the devil (Eph. 4:27). He has no rights to anything! See Psa. 2:6-8; Jn. 3:35; Heb. 1:2.

GOD OF THIS WORLD, NOT THE EARTH (2 Cor. 4:3-4)

PRINCIPLE: The earth is the Lord's. It does not belong to the devil and his crowd, but to Mr. and Mrs. Jesus Christ. The enemy has no real lawful authority on this planet. He is a liar, deceiver, outlaw, usurper, intruder—an illegal alien.

PRINCIPLE: “KOSMOS” (English “cosmetic” = melts in the heat) references the TEMPORAL, and means, “an orderly arrangement or decoration.” Satan's “world” is an order, a system, an arrangement of things, especially men's concepts. It is a mind-set, a mentality. Above all, it is passing away. See Jn. 12:31; 1 Jn. 2:15-17. In the Temptation, the devil offered Jesus the kingdoms of the transient cosmos, not the earth (Mt. 4; Lk. 4)

PRINCIPLE: Satan has never ruled this planet. After Adam's transgression, the government of the earth was administered by the Lord through His PROPHETS, not the kings, until THE Prophet came “whose right it is,” the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:1-2).

PIVOTAL PRINCIPLE: The purpose for this study: DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE (IN CHRIST)? DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE? DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GET IT?

THE SEED OF ABRHAM IS CHRIST (Matt. 1:1)

PRINCIPLE: Jesus Christ is the Son or Seed of Abraham, and the Son or Seed of David. The Abrahamic Covenant gave Him the LAND, the EARTH. The Davidic Covenant gave Him the THRONE, the RIGHT TO RULE the Earth. See Gal. 3:16; 6:15; Heb. 11:6.

PRINCIPLE: The apostle did not mention “seeds,” a natural seed and a spiritual seed. The only Seed that counted with Paul and the Lord was a SPIRITUAL Seed—the Seed of Abraham is CHRIST! Abraham the Chaldean was not a Jew. Elijah the Tishbite was not a Jew. The only thing that matters to God is FAITH! I have no advantage over the natural Jew, and he has none over me—we BOTH must be BORN AGAIN, by FAITH!

PRINCIPLE: The Israel of God throughout the ages has always been a SPIRITUAL PEOPLE—ONE Covenantal people who have come to God by FAITH (Heb. 11), regardless of nationality! We are now favored to live in the extremities of that singular covenantal purpose (1 Cor. 10:11). We are the sons and the offspring of Abraham by faith.

PRINCIPLE: The KEY ISSUE is that of IDENTITY, the nature of the Seed. The Seed is not determined by nationality, race, gender, or culture—the Seed of Abraham has always been a SPIRITUAL SEED!

PRINCIPLE: The truths of Romans 11 are unlocked (see my exegesis of Romans 9-11 in “The Three Prejudices”) by understanding that the “OLIVE TREE” is the TREE OF FAITH, our new nature in Christ. The “olive tree which is wild by nature” is the TREE OF UNBELIEF, the untamed ADAMIC NATURE.

PRINCIPLE: The glorious, anticipated outpouring of the Spirit upon national Israel is taking place in the context of the global outpouring of the Spirit “upon all flesh” (Joel 2:28-32). That they will be grafted in “again” reveals that they (and all men) were grafted in to begin with! The ongoing Messianic family, the Body of Christ, is comprised of covenantal men and women of all nations and eras. God is no respecter of persons (literally, “of faces”). CHRIST is not prejudiced—He is not “DIVIDED” (separated into parts, cut into pieces, divided into parties or factions—there is NO DIFFERENCE)(1 Cor. 1:13).

GOD’S CHOSEN PEOPLE (Gal. 3:16-19)

PRINCIPLE: The Law, not the Church (dispensationalism), was PARENTHETICAL, and did not disannul the Abrahamic Covenant made to Christ. The Church is not an afterthought in God’s mind, but His eternal purpose. The Church is God’s CHOSEN PEOPLE, whom the N.T. doctrinal epistles designate to be:

1. JEWS (Rom. 2:28-29).
2. THE CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE WHO ARE COUNTED FOR THE SEED (Rom. 9:6-8)
3. THE CHOSEN PEOPLE (GENERATION, RACE)(1 Pet. 2:9-10).
4. THE HOLY NATION (Matt. 21:42-43).
5. THE TRUE CIRCUMCISION (Phil. 3:3).
6. THE (NEW) HEAVENLY JERUSALEM (Mt. 5:14; Gal. 4:21-31; Heb. 11:10; 12:23; Rev. 21).
7. THE ISRAEL OF GOD (Gal. 6:16).

PRINCIPLE: Everything covenantally said about Jesus as the Seed of Abraham can be said of His Church (Rom. 4:13-16). Jesus is the True Vine and we are the branches (Jn. 15:1-5). We are the Seed that prolongs His days (Isa. 53:10; Acts 1:1). We are His offspring, His generation, conformed to His very image and likeness (Rom. 8:29).

AN ISRAELITE INDEED (Jn. 1:47 with Gen. 32:24-32)

PRINCIPLE: The word “HEBREW” is a man-given term, and it refers to one who is a descendant of “EBER” (Gen. 10:21-25; 14:13). The word “JEW” is a post-exilic man-given term, and it pertains to one who is a descendant of “JUDAH” (see Gen. 29:35; Esth. 2:5; Jn. 4:9; Acts 22:3).

PRINCIPLE: But the word “ISRAEL” is a GOD-GIVEN TERM, and relates to any person in any age who has met God face-to-face, overcoming himself by experiencing a change of name of nature—an “Israelite indeed!”

PRINCIPLE: Isaac’s son met God face to face and experienced a CHANGE OF NAME (NATURE), from “JACOB” to ISRAEL.”

NOTE: “JACOB” means, “heel-catcher (isupplanter).” The JACOB NATURE is the OLD NATURE—ADAMI! “ISRAEL” means, “he will rule as God, or with God; God prevails; prevailing prince” – OVERCOMERS. The ISRAEL NATURE is the NEW NATURE—CHRIST!

NO LONGER GENTILES

NOTE: The second chapter of Ephesians is a panorama of redemption’s plan, beginning with man as a sinner (Gen. 3 with Eph. 2:1-3), and ending with man as the habitation of God through the Spirit (Rev. 21 with Eph. 2:19-22). Ephesians 2:11-12 particularly describes unregenerate, untamed, unsaved man.

PRINCIPLE: Popular eschatology (based primarily on Scofield’s distinction between national Israel and the Church) leaves us in the same predicament! According to that view, Christians are called “GENTILES” and the “UNCIRCUMCISION.” With the added nonsense of cessationism, we are still “without Christ (the anointing),” the reality of Pentecost, glossalalia, the charismata, and the five-fold ministry (Acts 2:4; 1 Cor. 12:8-10; Eph. 4:11). Such remain alienated from the wealth we have in common with Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; such remain strangers to the benefits and blessings of the Abrahamic and the Davidic covenants. To compensate, men have replaced the REAL HOPE of First John 3:1-3 with a false one, leaving us “without God in the world.” The “blessed hope” of Titus 2:13 is not His COMING—that is a BLESSED FACT. Our hope is when He comes that we might be “LIKE HIM!”

PRINCIPLE: The EMMANUEL principle reveals the Church to be the ONGOING INCARNATION of the living Word—He IS come in the FLESH of His BODY. To deny that—not to confess that with our life and our lip—is to oppose the anointing, to offer INSTEAD some humanistic substitute for the truth (the spirit of antichrist). We are not strangers and pilgrims just passing through. There is a generation of OVERCOMERS who have come to stay. See Matt. 1:23; 1 Jn. 4:1-3.

PRINCIPLE: Christians are not “GENTILES.” The word for “GENTILES” in Ephesians 2:11 is “ethnos” (Strong’s #1484), and it means, “a race (as of the same habit), a tribe; specially, a foreign one (usually by implication, pagan).” Vine’s adds that “ethnos” means, “a multitude of individuals of the same nature or genus; a race, a nation, a people, a group (with the same customs or habits).” Compare the English words “heathen” and “ethnic.” Surprisingly, “ethno” was used in the King James Version to speak of the JEWISH NATION (Lk. 7:5; 23:2; Jn. 11:48-52)!

PRINCIPLE: “ETHNOS” is translated in the King James Version a total of 164 times as: “GENTILES” (90 times); “NATION” (64 times); “HEATHEN” (5 times, in Acts 4:25; 2 Cor. 11:26; Gal. 1:16; 2:9; 3:8); and “PEOPLE” (2 times, in Acts 8:9; Rom. 10:19).

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

PRINCIPLE: Our growth in grace is nothing more or less than AN ONGOING AWARENESS of WHO we already ARE in Christ, on the basis of WHAT He has already done through His death, His burial, His resurrection, and His exaltation and coronation!

PRINCIPLE: Child of God, the New Testament spiritual JEW IS YOU! This revelation of our true spiritual identity IN CHRIST now brings back many New Covenant blessings, including the restitution of: FELLOWSHIP, PROMISES, and AUTHORITY.

FIRST, we are in FELLOWSHIP with the saints of the ages. Jesus is the Seed of Abraham, and Abraham is our brother in Christ! We are to complete the Israel of God, carrying the bones of Joseph, the hopes and dreams of previous generations (Gen. 50:1-13; Ezek. 37:1-14). See Jn. 4:38; Heb. 11:39-40).

SECOND, we cannot claim our PROMISED INHERITANCE until we know who we are in Christ. We must arise and possess the promised land (the earth), which has been previously relegated to another time (the future) and people (natural Jews)(2 Pet. 1:3-4).

THIRD, with the appropriation of the promises comes a new AUTHORITY and boldness, a new anointing, a new confidence. See Acts 1:8; Col. 2:8; 1 Jn. 3:21.

THE PRINCIPLE OF INHERITANCE

NOTE: To know WHO we are IN CHRIST is to know WHAT we have IN CHRIST—our INHERITANCE. The biblical principle of INHERITANCE is revealed throughout the Bible.

1. Hebrew word for "INHERITANCE" = "nakh-al-aw" (Strong's #5159) = "something inherited, (abstractly) occupancy, or (concretely) an heirloom; generally an estate, patrimony or portion; possession, property, heritage." Its primitive root means, "to inherit, to occupy; causatively, to bequeath, or (generally) distribute, allot, instate." This word is used most often in the Old Testament books of Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Psalms, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel.
2. Greek word for "INHERITANCE" = "kleronomia" (Strong's #2817) = "heirship, a patrimony, share, or possession." The inheritance is partitioned, apportioned, and distributed among the heirs. Vine's adds that the verb "kleronomeo" means, "to receive my lot; to possess oneself of, to receive as one's own, to obtain." "Kleronomia" comes from two Greek words: (1) "KLEROS" (to assign a privilege; compare "KLAO," which means, "to break bread"; compare the English "CLERGY"); and (2) "NOMOS" (to parcel out, law; compare the English "NAME").

PRINCIPLE: The "INHERITANCE" of the child of God is not a mansion or golden streets. God has taken His NAME—all that He is, has, and does—and fulfilled it in the NAME of His Son, the Heir of all things. Jesus, the BREAD of life, has broken and shared His glorious NAME and NATURE with every believer! Our "INHERITANCE" has to do with the apportionment of the very NAME of God.

PRINCIPLE: The Old Testament PRIESTHOOD had no earthly inheritance, as the Lord Himself was their portion. To inherit the Lord is to inherit LIFE, to come into a living union with all that He is, and has, and does. He is in us and we are in Him (Jn. 17). This is the Song of Songs, written for the Holy of Holies. See Deut. 10:9 with Song 7:10.

PRINCIPLE: NOTE these TRUTHS about our "INHERITANCE":

1. Our inheritance is **IN THE SAINTS** (Eph. 1:18).
2. We have been made **WORTHY TO PARTAKE** of this glorious estate (Col. 1:9-13).
3. Our covenantal inheritance is **IN LIGHT**, God's Word (Psa. 119:105; Col. 1:12-13).
4. Our inheritance is **IN THE HEAVENLIES** (realm of spirit)(Eph. 1:3,14; 2:1-6; 6:10-12).
5. The divine endowment is **HIS NATURE** (life) made available through the divine promises (2 Pet. 1:3-4; 1 Jn. 4:17).
6. Our inheritance is **BEING REVEALED THROUGH THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY**, especially the apostles and prophets (Eph. 2:20; 3:1-5; 4:8-16; 2 Pet. 1:12).
7. The Pentecostal experience, the **HOLY GHOST BAPTISM**, is the key and the door into this entitlement—this is the very "**EARNEST**" (pledge, foretaste, down payment, guarantee) of our full possession (which includes the redemption of our bodies). This **EARNEST** is of the same substance and nature as the fullness (see Num. 13:20; Rom. 8:11-23; 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13-14).
8. This inheritance is to be revealed in the **LAST TIME**, the last days of Judaism (and these end-times)(1 Pet. 1:3-5).

WHAT ABOUT MY MANSION? (Jn. 14:2,23)

PRINCIPLE: Jesus' words in John 14:2 were not spoken at His Ascension. He wasn't on His way to Heaven. The Lamb of God was on His way to the **CROSS** of Calvary! The subject of John 14 is not Heaven, but the "**FATHER**" is mentioned 21 times (3 times 7). Heaven is real, but it is not once in that chapter. The word for "**MANSIONS**" (translated as "**ABODE**" in the KJV of John 14:23) is only used in the above two verses.

NOTE: "**MANSIONS** or **ABODE**" = "mone" (Strong's #3438) = "a staying, residence (the act or the place); an abiding, a dwelling." The primary verb "meno" means, "to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy); remain; to sojourn, tarry, not to depart; to be held, kept, continually, not to become another." Vine's adds that "**MENO**" is to be compared to the English "manor" or manse," and that there is nothing in the word to indicate separate compartments in heaven; neither does it suggest temporary resting places on the road.

PRINCIPLE: **JESUS** was the **HOUSE** or the **MANSION** that the Father lived in—all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col. 1:19; 2:9). In Him, the "**father's house**," there is a place for each of us as members of His body in particular. The **CHURCH** is also the **HOUSE** or the **MANSION** of the Father (Heb. 5:5-6). The "**mansion**" or dwelling-place is for the Lord, not man (1 Chron. 29:1). We **ARE** His mansion! Our **INHERITANCE** is **NOT** a mansion, or pearly gates, or golden streets. The **INHERITANCE** of the believer is **INCORRUPTIBLE** (1 Pet. 1:7,18). How can corruptible gold have anything to do with our incorruptible inheritance?

WHAT DID JESUS ACTUALLY INHERIT AS THE SEED OF ABRHAM?

PRINCIPLE: Jesus **CONFIRMED** the promises God made to the fathers (Rom. 15:8). The word for "**CONFIRM**" ("bebaio") speaks of that which is "**stable**"—firm, of force, steadfast, sure. Its **ROOT** is "**BASIS**," and it means, "a pace, the foot." Jesus, the Seed of Abraham, owns the land, the earth—this **PROMISE** is under His **FEET**. Jesus is the **FOUNDATION**, the **ANCHOR** of what God promised to Abraham. He **CONFIRMED**, or **SECURED** every one of the promises that God made to the **FATHERS**. Jesus is the **BASIS** of every covenantal purpose. **ALL** of the covenants end and consummate the Heir of **ALL THINGS** (Heb. 1:2; 8:1).

PRINCIPLE: Jesus secured the promises that God made to the FATHERS—ABRAHAM, ISAAC, and JACOB (acts 3:13)! These promises are given in the Book of Genesis, chapters 12, 13, 15, 17, 22, 26, and 35. With regard to Abraham, see Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:1-7; 17:1-18; and 22:15-18. The initial passage in chapter 12 lists the promises made to Abraham and His SEED —these promises were made to JESUS and His CHURCH.

PRINCIPLE: Concerning the seventh promise above, the Abrahamic Covenant was to affect the WORLD, every nation (Rom. 4:13). Abraham's seed was to be innumerable, like the dust, the sand, and the stars (Gen. 13:16; 22:17). The FATHERS did not receive the fullness of these promises. BUT JESUS DID! A new nation in Him now arises to possess the land, to appropriate the spoils of His eternal victory (Matt. 12:29; Lk. 11:22)! But there are SPECIFIC REQUIRMENTS for all those who so WALK BY FAITH.

THE SEVEN SEPARATIONS OF ABRAHAM (Gen. 12-22)

PRINCIPLE: Jesus and the Church are the SEED OF ABRAHAM. The most important Scriptures concerning this famous patriarch are found in Joshua 24:3; Nehemiah 9:7-8; Isaiah 51:2; Acts 7:1-8; Romans 4:1-25; and Hebrews 6:12-15; 11:8-17. The PATTERN of all those who live by faith was "the friend of God" (2 Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41:8; Jas. 2:23).

PRINCIPLE: This famous progenitor made SEVEN critical decisions. Following his seventh and final separation, God revealed Himself to Abraham as JEHOVAH-JIREH, the God who sees and provides (Gen. 22:14). There is an UNLIMITED PRO-VISION in Christ awaiting those who follow the man whose trek was marked by this underlying principle: SEPARATION BRINGS REVELATION, WHICH LEADS TO WORSHIP. When Abraham made a separation, Jehovah would speak to him, prompting the prophet to build an ALTAR and worship. The father of all those who walk and live by faith SEPRATED himself from:

1. COUNTRY (Gen. 12:1).
2. KINDRED (Gen. 12:1)
3. EGYPT (Gen. 13:1).
4. LOT (Gen. 13:11).
5. A DESIRE TO GET WEALTH (Gen. 14:21-24).
6. ISHMAEL (Gen. 16:1-4; 17:18; 21:9-14).
7. ISAAC (Gen. 21:1-14).

PRINCIPLE: The SIXTH SEPARATION (the number of MAN) is from ISHMAEL, a product of the works of the FLESH. This is a revelation of the MARK OF THE BEAST (Acts 17:29 with Rev. 13:13-18), for he was the result of Sarah's HEAD and Abraham's LOINS—human wisdom and human strength, the FOREHEAD and the RIGHT HAND. The last thing Abraham needed was a good idea, a man-made attempt to bring forth the promise of God. Again, this is the SIXTH separation, and SIX is the number of MAN—the carnal mind, untamed and wild.

PRINCIPLE: The SEVENTH and SEPARATION was from ISAAC. This is the ultimate test, the FINAL separation. Afterward, the Lord put no further requirements upon Abraham. The promise had become a reality. Abraham had held it in his arms and had watched it grow. Now the divine demand is for that promise, which he loves. Do we love the gift or the Giver, the promise of God, or the God of the promise? This is WORSHIP (Gen. 22:5) in the purest sense—completes SACRIFICE. Finally, Jehovah could say to His servant Abraham, "Now the promise is not yours or mine—he is OURS!"

Galatians 3:16, KJV 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.

APOSTOLIC ESCHATOLOGY #4

JESUS AND HIS CHURCH – THE SEED OF ABRAHAM (Matt. 1:1; 1 Psa. 18:50; Jn. 7:42; Rom. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8; 1 Jn. 4:17)

INTRODUCTION

PRINCIPLE: Covenantally, the earth is the Lord's (Psa. 24:1). Jesus Christ, the Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2), is the Seed of Abraham. The One "Whose right it is" holds the title deed to the planet. But as the Seed of David, our King has also obtained legal right and ownership of the land. We are heirs together of that grace (1 Pet. 3:7 with Rom. 8:17). Jesus came to bring many sons into the same glory (Heb. 2:6-13). The Body of Christ, the corporate heir of God, is owner of everything (Gal. 3:29; 4:1-2). **SO WHAT? Somebody must arise and WALK in what Jesus died for! There must be a MANIFESTATION, an EXPRESSION of the Kingdom. We must not shrink back in fear (Lk. 9:62; Heb. 10:38-39). WE MUST ALSO KNOW THAT WE HAVE A LEGAL RIGHT TO IT, THE AUTHORITY TO GO AHEAD AND POSSESS OUR PROMISE. IN CHRIST WE ARE ALSO THE SEED OF DAVID. JESUS HAS BEEN GIVEN THE THRONE, THE RIGHT TO RULE THE EARTH.**

IT'S ALL RIGHT (Eph. 6:16; Rev. 12:9-11).

PRINCIPLE: The serpent, the whisperer has three favorite lies—these are evil suggestions, lying vanities: (1) "You cannot have these promises (the inheritance)"; (2) "If you can have these promises, you cannot have them now"; and (3) "If you can have these promises now, they will not last." But we have **ACCESS** (Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2:18; 3:11-12).

PRINCIPLE "IT'S ALL RIGHT. GO AHEAD!" DECREE A THING (Job 22:28; Psa. 107:2; Prov. 28:1)! It's ALL RIGHT because HE is ALL-RIGHTEOUS (1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21)! The Seed of David is the King of righteousness (Heb. 7:2). Because of His finished work, we have the LEGAL RIGHT, the AUTHORITY to appropriate the Abrahamic Covenant. Jesus' blood made us partakers of His righteousness (Rev. 12:11). We have been forgiven and now have a LEGAL RIGHT to speak forth in the name of the Lord. The testimony of Jesus is the "spirit of prophecy" (Rev. 19:10), and prophecy is anointed utterance. The Davidic Covenant gives us the RIGHT to speak the Word of the Lord to our generation. We no longer hesitate because of what men or we ourselves will think or say.

THE DAVIDIC COVENANT (2 Sam. 7; 1 Chron. 17)

PRINCIPLE: David's desire to **BUILD A HOUSE FOR GOD** furnished the revelation through the prophet Nathan that the Lord would indeed build David a house! This great covenant of **KINGSHIP** centers in and focuses upon King Jesus and features four major ingredients:

1. **A HOUSE**—a posterity, a family (Matt. 1:1; Eph. 3:14-16).
2. **A THRONE**—a royal position and authority (Matt. 28:18; Rev. 3:21).
3. **A KINGDOM**—a sphere of rule (Rom. 14:17; Eph. 1:20-23).
4. **FOREVER**—without cessation (Isa. 9:6-7; Lk. 1:30-33).

KEY PRINCIPLE: Other old Testament Scriptures to consider when studying the **DAVID COVENANT** are First Kings 2:4; First Chronicles 22:8-10; Second Chronicles 7:17-18; Psalms 89 and 132; Isaiah 11:1-10; Jeremiah 23:5-6; 33:20-21; Amos 9:11-12; and Zechariah 3:8-9; 6:12-13; 9:10; 12:8; and 13:1. **NOTE** also that David was anointed **THREE TIMES** in His covenantal pursuit of God: (1) **AS EXALTED SON** in the midst of the brethren in the house of the father (1 Sam. 16:13); (2) **AS KING OVER JUDAH/PRIASE** (2 Sam. 2:4); (3) **AS HEAD OVER ALL THINGS** (2 Sam. 5:3).

PRINCIPLE: A DIVINE COVENANT is (1) a sovereign disposition of God whereby He establishes an UNCONDITIONAL or declarative compact with man, obligating Himself, in grace, by the unshackled formula, "I WILL," to bring to pass of Himself definitive blessings for the covenanted ones; OR, (2) a proposal of God, wherein He promises, in a CONDITIONAL or mutual contract with man, by the contingent formula, "IF YE WILL," to grant special blessings to man, provided he fulfills perfectly certain conditions, and to execute definite correction in case of man's failure. The Old Testament Hebrew word for "COVENANT" is "BERITH," and it means, "to cut or divide (the pieces of the sacrifice); compact, confederacy, league,; alliance, pledge; or agreement." The Lord Jesus was the supreme Sacrifice who was "cut" on Calvary to provide the New Covenant in His blood. The Greek word for "COVENANT" is "DIATHEKE" and it means, "a disposition, contract; arrangement; a will or testament." It has to do with the imposition of the will of a superior Being upon that of an inferior; that is, of God upon man. Man can accept or reject the divine compact, but he cannot alter the terms of the contract.

PRINCIPLE: The DAVIDIC COVENANT is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ, David's GREATEST SON, and then in the brethren who are conformed to His image (Rom. 8:14-29; Heb. 2:6-13). It established Jesus Christ as the ultimate Ruler of the earth and the universe, the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 17:14). Those in the New Testament who, by the Spirit, recognized Jesus to be THE SON OF DAVID received a miracle, hailing Him KING over their situation (Matt. 9:27-31; 12:22-23; 15:22-28; 21:9-17; Mk. 10:46-52).

KEY PRINCIPLE: The ABRAHAMIC COVENANT gave Jesus the LAND, the EARTH. The DAVIDIC COVENANT gave Him the THRONE ("kicceh" = covered, as a canopied throne; seat of honor, stool; authority; AND "thronos" = stately seat; power; a potentate; a chair of state having a footstool; place or seat of authority), the LEGAL RIGHT TO RULE the earth! THUS, THE THRONE OF THE DAVIDIC COVENANT IS THE LEGAL RIGHT AND AUTHORITY TO RULE AND TO SPEAK IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! TO SUMMARIZE, The ABRAHAMIC COVENANT, the DAVIDIC COVENANT, and the NEW COVENANT (or the New Testament) are interrelated—each is an EXTENSION of the other (Psa. 110:1-4; Heb. 7:20-28). God confirmed the New Covenant with an OATH (Psa. 110:1-4; Heb. 7:20-28). Thus the DAVIDIC COVENANT is essentially a KINGDOM COVENANT based upon the intertheistic pact—the RELATIONSHIP between the FATHER and the SON!

THE SCOPE OF THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

NOTE: The OVERVIEW of its SCOPE—that which is "OF DAVID": The HAND of David (1 Sam. 17:50; 2 Sam. 21:22); The SOUL of David (1 Sam. 18:1); The HOUSE (FAMILY) of David (1 Sam. 20:16; 2 Sam. 3:1; Psa. 122:5; Isa. 22:22; Zech. 12:7-12; 13:1; Lk. 1:27); The MEN and SERVANTS of David (1 Sam. 25:40); The THRONE of David (2 Sam. 3:10; Isa. 9:7; Jer. 17:25); The CITY of David (2 Sam. 5:7-9; 6:12; 1 Kg. 8:1; 1 Chr. 11:5-9; 15:1; 2 Chr. 5:2); The LAST WORDS of David (2 Sam. 23:1-7; 1 Chron. 23:27); The STATUTES of David (1 Kg. 3:3); The HEART of David (1 Kg. 8:17; 11:4; 2 Chron. 6:7); The WAY(S) of David (2 Kg. 22:2; 2 Chron. 11:17; 34:2); The REIGN of David (1 Chron. 4:31; 26:31); The FAME of David (1 Chron. 14:17); The SONS of David (1 Chron. 18:17; 2 Chron. 13:8); The PRESENCE of David (1 Chron. 24:31); The ACTS of David (1 Chron. 29:29); The (SURE) MERCIES of David (2 Chron. 6:42; Isa. 55:3; Acts 13:34); The ORDER (JUSTICE) of David (2 Chron. 8:14); The GOD of David (2 Chron. 21:12; 34:3); The COMMANDMENT of David (2 Chron. 29:25; 35:15); The INSTRUMENTS of David (2 Chron. 29:26; Neh. 12:36); The WORDS (LYRICS) of David (2 Chron. 29:30); The WRITING of David (2 Chron. 35:4); The ORDINANCE of David (Ezra 3:10); The SEPULCHRES of David (Neh. 3:16); The DAYS of David (Neh. 12:46; Acts 7:45); The PRAYERS of David (Psa. 72:20); The HORN (POWER) of David (Psa. 89:20; 92:10; 132:17); The TOWER of David (Song 4:4); The TABERNACLE of David (2 Sam. 6:17; Isa. 16:5; Amos 9:11-12; Acts 15:13-18); The SEED of David (Jer. 33:22; Jn. 7:42; Rom. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8); The MOUTH of David (Acts 1:16); The KEY of David (Isa. 20:20-25; Rev. 3:7); The ROOT of David (Rev. 5:5); and The OFFSPRING (KIN) of David (Rev. 22:16).

PRINCIPLE: The HOUSE of the heavenly David is the CHURCH, made up of Jew and Greek (Eph. 2:11-12; Heb. 3:5-6). Jesus now sits at the Father's right hand, and He will remain there until His enemies become His footstool (Heb. 10:12-13). The SURE MERICES of David will consummate with the resurrection of the dead (Isa. 55:3; Acts 13:34). Jesus Christ is also the KEY of David, the One who opens and shuts every door, every situation (Isa. 20:20-25; Rev. 3:7). The Anointed One, the Messiah, is the HORN of David (Psa. 89:20; 92:10; 132:17). Jesus has been ANOINTED with the Spirit without measure (Jn. 3:34)—the "seven spirits of God" (the fullness of the Spirit) mentioned in Revelation 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6, and which are enumerated in Isaiah 11:1-2. Revelation 5:6 also reveals Jesus to have "seven horns," representing all power and authority (Matt. 28:18-20). The Church, His Body, is the TABER-NACLE of David, a people for His name (2 Sam. 6:17; Isa. 16:5; Amos 9:11-12; Acts 15:13-18).

AN EXEGESIS OF THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

PRINCIPLE: In Second Samuel 7, David had been given REST from all his enemies—the Davidic Covenant is built upon the FINISHED WORK of Christ (1 Chron. 17:4)! God made David's name great and established it forever through his anointed SEED (Jesus)(2 Sam. 7:8-9). Second Samuel 7:10 reveals five major features of the DAVIDIC COVENANT:

1. "I WILL APPOINT A PLACE FOR MY PEOPLE..." – This is the THRONE of God, the sphere of dominion and authority that centers in the NAME of Jesus Christ (see the above verses with Ex. 33:21; Jn. 17:20-24; Heb. 1:2; Rev. 3:21).

2. "...AND WILL PLANT THEM..." – This word means, "to set or establish; to strike in, fasten, or drive a nail" (Psa. 1; Jn. 15:1-5). We are rooted and grounded in Him, and seated with Him in the heavenlies (Eph. 2:6). Buried with Him in baptism, we have died, and our lives are hid with Christ in God (Rom. 6:5-6; Col. 2:11-12; 3:1-3).

3. "...THAT THEY MAY DWELL IN A PLACE OF THEIR OWN..." – We are members in particular of His Body (1 Cor. 12:12-27; Rom. 12:1-8; 1 Pet. 4:10-11). Each joint of supply, share the authority of His throne, His NAME!

4. "...AND MOVE NO MORE..." – The old realm of duality and double-mindedness is swallowed up in the singleness and simplicity found in Christ (see Matt. 6:22-24; 2 Cor. 11:2-3; Jas. 1:6-8; Heb. 12:1-2). The overcoming Christian who walks in the authority of the DAVIDIC COVENANT is a pillar in the Temple of God, steadfast, immovable (Rev. 3:12).

5. "...NEITHER SHALL THE CHILDREN OF WICKEDNESS AFFLICT THEM ANY MORE, AS BEFORETIME..." – The curse of the law—sin, sickness, poverty, and death—must bow to the NAME (THRONE) of KING JESUS (Isa. 26:13-14). The parallel passage (1 Chron. 17:9) says that the enemy will not "WASTE" (wear out) the people of God any more!

PRINCIPLE: David wanted to build God a house of devotion, but Jehovah declared that HE would build David a house (2 Sam. 7:11-12; 1 Chron. 17:10; Psa. 127:1; Matt. 16:18). Second Samuel is a principle prophecy concerning David's SEED, the Messiah (see also Psa. 2; 72; 105 with Matt. 1:1; Lk. 1:30-33)

PRINCIPLE: Second Samuel 7:13-17 details the DAVIDIC COVENANT. The BASIS of the Messianic Kingdom would be the FATHER-SON relationship based upon the RESURRECTION of David's greatest Son. Note these truths:

1. "HE SHALL BUILD A HOUSE FOR MY NAME..." (7:13) – This refers to JESUS, not Solomon. That NAME is EI-ELYON, the Most High God, Possessor of Heaven and earth (Gen. 14:22). The N.T. Church is that HOUSE (Eph. 2:19-22; Heb. 1:4; 3:1-6).

2. "...AND I WILL ESTABLISH (set up) THE THRONE OF HIS KINGDOM FOR EVER..." (7:13) – This is the THRONE of the SON, the LAMB (Isa. 9:6-7; Lk. 1:30-33; Rev. 3:21).

3. "I WILL BE HIS FATHER, AND HE SHALL BE MY SON" (7:14) – This is crucial to our understanding of the DAVIDIC COVENANT, which points to and focuses upon the sonship of Jesus AND His brethren (jn. 8:29; Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:6-13).

4. "IF HE COMMIT INIQUITY..." (7:14) – This refers to KING SOLOMON, David's natural seed, not Jesus (1 Kg. 11:9-40). Jesus bore our iniquity (Isa. 53:6; Heb. 4:14-16; 7:26).

5. "I WILL CHASTEN HIM WITH THE ROD OF MEN, AND WITH THE STRIPES OF THE CHILDREN OF MEN..." (7:14) – Every son, including the Firstborn, is to be disciplined and trained (Heb. 12:5-11). The Messiah LITERALLY bore the STRIPES of men as part of His passion and suffering so that we might be healed (Isa. 53:5; 1 Pet. 2:24-25).

6. "BUT MY MERCY SHALL NOT DEPART FROM HIM..." (7:15) – Jesus Christ is our Propitiation, our Mercy-seat (Rom. 3:25). He is our "merciful" and faithful High Priest (Heb. 2:17). In Him the throne of judgment has become the throne of grace (Heb. 4:14-16; see Ex. 25:17-22; Lev. 16:1-2; 1 Chron. 28:11).

7. "AND THINE HOUSE AND THY KINGDOM SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOR EVER BEFORE THEE: THY THRONE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOR EVER" (7:16) – The covenant that God made with David assures that the HOUSE, the KINGDOM, and the THRONE of David would be established FOREVER! All this (2 Sam. 7:13-17; 1 Chron. 17:7-15) was by the VISION (dream, revelation, oracle) of the Lord (7:17).

PRINCIPLE: To SUMMARIZE, the MESSIAH, who would come through the NATION of Abraham, would now come through the FAMILY of the house of David! The DAVIDIC COVENANT assured David of a position, presence, protection, prominence, place, planting, peace, and prosperity. His was a unique and privileged RELATIONSHIP (father-son), KINGDOM (of Christ), and sequence (fulfilled in a Body of people). NOTE also that there were several QUALITIES in the man after God's own heart, which prompted the Lord to bring these covenantal blessings (2 Sam. 23:1; Acts 13:22-23). A brief study of DAVID'S LIFE reveal the principles of: Decision (2 Sam. 2:1); Government (2 Sam. 5:3); Worship (2 Sam. 6:14); Right motives (2 Sam. 6:21); Humility (2 Sam. 7:18); Desperation (2 Sam. 12:16); Prophetic Song (2 Sam. 22:1); Sonship (2 Sam. 24:17).

PRINCIPLE: For FURTHER CONSIDERATION of the DAVIDIC COVENANT and David's greatest Son, King Jesus, study and meditate these New Testament verses that speak of King David: THE GOSPELS (see Matthew 1:1,20; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9,15; 22:42-48; Mark 2:25; 10:47-48; 11:10; 12:35-37; Luke 1:27,32,69; 2:4,11; 3:31; 6:3; 18:38-39; 20:42-44; and John 7:42); THE BOOK OF ACTS (see Acts 1:16; 2:25,29,34, 4:25; 7:45; 13:22,34; and 15:16); THE EPISTLES (see Romans 1:3; 4:6; 11:9; Second Timothy 2:8; and Hebrews 4:7; 11:32); and THE BOOK OF REVELATION (Revelation 3:7; 5:5; 22:16).

ALL AUTHORITY (ALL LEGAL RIGHT)

NOTE: PRINCIPLE: The Great Commission is based upon the DAVIDIC COVENANT (Matt. 28:18-20)! "AUTHORITY" ("power" in the KJV) is the Greek word "EXOUSIA" (Strong's #1849), and it means, "(in the sense of ability) privilege, delegated influence; the power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases; the power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege). It is derived from "EXESTIN" (to be lawful), which is taken from "EK" (out of) and "EIMI" (I = His Person). "EXOUSIA" also means, "the ability or strength with which one is endued, denoting jurisdiction; freedom of action, the right to act." When used of God, "EXOUSIA" is absolute, unrestricted. When used of man, it speaks of DELEGATED AUTHORITY. It denotes the "freedom to act" and the "authority for the action."

PRINCIPLE: Jesus is the Seed of ABRAHAM and DAVID. He owns the LAND and the THRONE. The EARTH is the Lord's. He alone has the RIGHT to rule it! Our Captain is uttering His mighty voice before His Army (Joel 2:1-11). He has not called us to EVACUATE the conflict or to ESCAPE our place in His redemptive plan (Prov. 10:30; Lk. 19:13; Jn. 17:15). We must ACTIVATE His dominion in the earth. The spiritual tribe of JUDAH, His praisers, have acknowledged the heavenly David (2 Sam. 2:4). Soon, the entire "holy nation" will crown Him king (2 Sam. 5:3 with 1 Pet. 2:9-10)!

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS (Psalm 89)

PRINCIPLE: JESUS CHRIST IS THE SEED OF DAVID, the Surety and Guarantee of the New Covenant (Rom. 15:8; Heb. 7:22), the true and FAITHFUL WITNESS (Rev. 1:5). PSALM 89 is the Coronation Song of DAVID and HIS SEED! This Song of the Lord's Oath, has as its theme the ENDLESS THRONE OF DAVID through our Lord Jesus Christ (Lk. 1:30-33). Its KEYNOTE is the FAITHFULNESS of God—the words "FAITHFULNESS" and "FAITHFUL" appear SEVEN times (Psa. 89:1,2,5,8,24,33,37). The word "COVENANT" is found FOUR times (Psa. 89:3,28,34,39), and "THRONE" is used FIVE times (Psa. 89:4,14,29,36,44) in this song of the SURE MERCIES of DAVID, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the KING of the New Testament. The opening verses (Psa. 89:1-4) are Messianic and Christological, telling of Jesus, the Seed of David. Compare Isa. 42:1-5; Mt 1:1; Eph. 1:3; 2:6; and Rev. 3:21.

PRINCIPLE: JESUS was the CHOSEN of the Father, ANOINTED with strength and power (Psa. 89:19-23). Not even death, the last ENEMY, could defeat our King (see also Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38; 13:22-23; Eph. 1:20-23; 2 Tim. 1:10; and Heb. 5:1-5; 10:12-13).

PRINCIPLE: JESUS, the exalted Horn of DAVID, introduced the Father to this planet (Psa. 89:24-29). The Church, His Seed, will prolong His days (Isa. 53:10; Rev. 21:7-8). His "HAND" the fivefold ministry, has been set in the earth (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11). JESUS is the FIRSTBORN among many brethren (Rom. 8:29; Rev. 14:1-5). Compare Psalm 125:1-2; Galatians 4:1-7; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 2:6-13; 5:7; and Revelation 5:6.

PRINCIPLE: DAVID'S SEED—Jesus and His Church—shall "endure," or "be" forever (Psa. 89:35-37). The THRONE of God and the Lamb are as the "sun" (Psa. 19:4-5; Rev. 3:21). So rejoice in the FAITHFULNESS of God! He has SWORN and will not repent. His covenantal purposes center in and rest upon Himself!

THE OPERATION OF DAVID'S THRONE (Psalm 132)

PRINCIPLE: This is the revelation of the sweet psalmist's determination motivated by desire. It is the song of David's greatest Son, ENTHRONED (compare Psa. 15:24;68). Psalm 132 was written to commemorate the day when the ARK of the COVENANT was brought to Jerusalem and placed in DAVID'S TABERNACLE in ZION (2 Sam. 6; 1 Chron. 13-16). This 13th Song of Degrees (Psa. 120-134), anticipates the glorious ASCENSION and CORONATION of Jesus Christ as the KING OF KINGS (Rev. 17:14)!

PRINCIPLE: ZION (the realm of the MOST HOLY PLACE and His FINISHED WORK) is God's RESTING PLACE (Psa. 132:11-14; Jn. 15:16; Rev. 4:11). HERE, in ZION—in JESUS and His BRETHREN—God swells in FULLNESS (see Psa. 133; Rom. 8:14-29; Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:19; 2:9. Compare John 16:13; Acts 5:30; Eph. 2:19-22; 3:18-20; and Heb. 2:6-13).

PRINCIPLE: In Psalm 132:15-18, Jehovah declares and decrees SIX THINGS THAT HAPPEN ONCE GOD HAS SETTLED DOWN INTO ZION. They constitute the GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS OF DAVID'S THRONE that work through the NEW MAN of the New Testament. This prophetic river flows out from the THRONE and are SENT apostolically (Rev. 5:6) to bless all the nations of the earth in the NAME of Jesus (Jn. 7:38; Rev. 22:1)

1. **"I WILL ABUNDANTLY BLESS HER PROVISION..."** (132:15; Jn. 10:10) – The priesthood after the order of Melchisedec is a **BLESSING ORDER** (Heb. 7:1-6). This **ZION COMPANY** will walk in the name, or nature, of Jehovah-Jireh ("the Lord will see and provide"), ministering the resurrection life of the Holy Ghost.

2. **"...I WILL SATISFY HER POOR WITH BREAD** (132:15; 1 Cor. 10:17) – The golden pot of manna (Heb. 9:4) is revealed in the "hidden manna" of Revelation 2:17. Those who have been partakers of the **DIVINE NATURE** (2 Pet. 1:4)—the **BREAD OF LIFE** (Jn. 6:48)—have been broken to feed the nations. As in the days of Gideon, this "one bread" will destroy the works of the enemy (Judg. 7:13 with Mk. 7:27).

3. **"I WILL CLOTHE HER PRIESTS WITH SALVATION: AND HER SAINTS SHALL SHOUT ALOUD FOR JOY** (132:16; 2 Tim. 1:10) – Those who fully rule and reign with Him in Zion will have fully put on Christ. His **RESURRECTION LIFE** and immortality is the consummation of the **SURE MERCIES OF DAVID** revealed in Christ (Jn. 11:25; 1 Cor. 15).

4. **"THERE (IN Zion) WILL I MAKE THE HORN OF DAVID TO BUD..."** (132:17; Lk. 10:19) – The **HORN** is a symbol for **POWER** and **AUTHORITY**. Jesus has been given "all power"—it will blossom and bring forth His Church, the planting of the Lord (Matt. 28:18; Rev. 5:6). His resurrection will produce a joint-heir—the glorious, overcoming Church (Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 3:21), His brethren (Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:6-13).

5. **"...I HAVE ORDAINED A LAMP FOR MINE ANOINTED** (132:17; Matt. 5:14) – This Hebrew word means, "to set in successive order, to appoint." This is the **MAN** whose **NAME** is the **BRANCH**,—typified by the **GOLDEN LAMPSTAND** in the Tabernacle of Moses—anoined with the **SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD**, the fullness of the Spirit without measure (see Isa. 4:1-6; 11:1-2; Jer. 23:5-6; Zech. 6:12-13; Jn. 3:34; 15:1-5; and Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6).

6. **"HIS ENEMIES WILL I CLOTHE WITH SHAME; BUT UPON HIMSELF SHALL HIS CROWN FLOURISH"** (132:18; Phil. 2:5; Rev. 14:1) – All enemies, even death, have been clothed with disgrace, put under the feet of the heavenly David. Jesus is the Victor, crowned with glory and honor (Heb. 2:9); His **CROWN** will ever flourish and shine. This is pictured by the mitre and golden plate on the head of the **HIGH PRIEST** (Ex. 28:36-38)—the **FULL MIND OF CHRIST** and the **NAME (NATURE)** of the Father sealed in the **FOREHEAD** of those who overcome (see Ezek. 9:4; 1 Cor. 2:16; Rev. 7:3; 14:1-5; 22:4).

PRINCIPLE: All the **PROMISES** of the **DAVIDIC COVENANT** were made to Jesus Christ, David's true Seed, the Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2)! He is the **VINE**, and we are His **BRANCHES** (Jn. 15:1-5). These blessings are now **SHARED** by Jesus' Family, the Body of Christ, His Church. Our Savior and **KING** is the Son of **ABRAHAM** and the Son of **DAVID**. His is the **LAND** and the **THRONE**—the **EARTH** and the **RIGHT** to rule it! He now summons His people to share that responsibility. In David, we have been given the **LEGAL RIGHT TO APPROPRIATE** and to **ADMINISTER** the promises God made to Abraham!

Matthew 1:1, KJV The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the SON (SEED) OF DAVID, the son of Abraham.

1 John 4:17, KJV Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because AS HE IS, SO ARE WE in this world.

APOSTOLIC ESCHATOLOGY #5 - Overview of Many Concepts

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW (Mt. 3:10; Ezek. 22:30; Ps. 115:16; Rev. 5:10)

PRINCIPLE: The issue here is not Eschatological, but rather Christological and Soteriological. The issue here has to do with **IDENTITY**, who Jesus is and who we are in Him as the **SEED** of **ABRAHAM** and the **SEED** of **DAVID** (Matt. 1:1 with Gal. 3:16, 29; 1 Jn. 4:17)—the **LAND** and the **THRONE**—the **EARTH** and the **RIGHT TO RULE IT!** **MAN** was created in the **IMAGE** and **LIKENESS** of God (Gen. 1:26-28). **MAN** is the **ICON** or **WIN-DOW** (channel, vehicle, or instrument) through which **GOD** (the pro-gram) comes. Double-click on **MAN** = all that **GOD** is comes through! **IMAGE** and **LIKENESS** result in **DOMINION!**

PRINCIPLE: We must have a paradigm shift away from traditional dispensationalism or futurism. It paralyzes vision and corporate destiny. It is immoral and irresponsible, “another Gospel,” a doctrine of demons whose purpose is to rob the Church of our true identity in Christ, and to evacuate us—who are **SALT, LIGHT** (Matt. 5:13-14), and a **WITNESS** (the Earth’s only hope in Christ)—from the Earth and from history! The Earth does not belong to the devil and his crowd. It belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:17; 1 Pet. 3:7; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 21:7).

PRINCIPLE: The Dragon is defeated, but he still has a **MOUTH** (Rev. 12:16; 16:13) = dispensationalism or futurism. He ever wants us to question the Word, “Hath God said?” (Gen. 3:1) We have examined traditional eschatology’s roots historically (Ribera, Irving, Darby, MacDonald, Norton, Scofield, Larkin). In only 175 years (1830-2004), the “any-minute” rapture has become sacrosanct to many in America. Why is this “new” teaching so appealing? Dispensationalism’s whole prophetic scheme, historically and conceptually, rests on one premise—a distinction between national Israel and the Church. The most important underlying “truth” that led to the evolution of the pre-tribulation rapture theory was the separation or dichotomy of “Jew and Greek,” despite the plain teaching of Scripture (Rom. 10:12-13; Gal. 3:27-28; Col. 3:9-11).

PRINCIPLE: We have established that **JESUS** and His **CHURCH** (made up of **BOTH** Jew and Greek) is the Seed of Abraham and the Seed of David (Matt. 1:1; 1 Jn. 4:17). Both the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants are amplified, clarified, and brought to fulfillment in the **NEW COVENANT** (Jer. 31:31-34; Dan. 9:24-27; Heb. 8:8-13), the **NEW TESTAMENT** in the blood of Jesus Christ. The **LAW**, not the **CHURCH**, was “added,” or was **PARENTHETICAL**, and did not disannul the Covenant that God made with Abraham (Gal. 3:13-19). Jesus **CONFIRMED** or **SECURED** all of the **PROMISES** that God made with the **FATHERS**—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Rom. 15:8 with Acts 3:13). The Abrahamic Covenant gave Jesus the **PROMISES** as Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2). The Davidic oath gave Jesus the **THRONE**, the legal authority and right to appropriate, activate, and administrate those promises. By extension, Jesus now shares these covenantal blessings and responsibilities with His Church, His Bride.

PRINCIPLE: Many in the Church world today allow the power of man’s **TRADITION** to hinder the power of God (Matt. 15:9; Mk. 7:13; Col. 2:8), taking the Kingdom of God and given it over to **ANOTHER TIME** (the **FUTURE**) and **ANOTHER PEOPLE** (the natural Jew). God laid the axe to the root of the Old Testament plant and established a new, true, genuine Vine (Matt. 3:7-12; Jn. 15:1-7). Men from every nation are the branches of that planting (Acts 10:34-35)! In Christ, we are no longer Gentiles (Rom. 2:28-29; Eph. 2:11-12).

MANY CONCEPTS (AN ADJUSTED ESCHATOLOGY)

1. THE “KINGDOM OF HEAVEN” AND THE “KINGDOM OF GOD.”

PRINCIPLE: Scofield's classical dispensationalism makes a distinction between the "the Kingdom of God" (for the Church) and "the Kingdom of Heaven" (for millennial Jews). But what Matthew says about the "Kingdom of Heaven" (see Matt. 4:17; 5:3; 10:7-8; 13:31; 19:14,23-24), Mark and Luke say about the "Kingdom of God" (see Mk. 1:14-15; 4:30-31; 10:14; Lk. 6:20; 9:2; 18:24-25). Simply stated, the phrase "the Kingdom of Heaven" shows us WHERE it is from, and the phrase "the Kingdom of God" tells us WHO runs it!

2. THE PROPHECY CLOCKS KEEPS ON TICKING...

PRINCIPLE: Scofield's "prophecy clock" takes a licking and keeps on ticking! What some call "rapture fever" is like an addicting drug. Men incessantly focus on an imminent return of Christ that will remove them from history. Daily headlines are continually used to "prove" their latest sign of the times ("news-paper exegesis") as the clock ticks on. The basic problem with this natural-mindedness is that everything in God BEGINS IN THE HEAVENS and then manifests in the earth. True prophets gaze into the unseen realm of the Spirit and then declare what will happen in the visible realm. Men and women without the Holy Ghost can only read the morning paper and guess (Amos 3:6-8; Matt. 6:10).

PRINCIPLE: Ironically, the ticking-clock mentality contradicts itself! If ANY prophecies are to be fulfilled today, that would mean that there are events in Scofield's "Church Age" that must take place prior to the rapture! Such a view of signs being fulfilled in our day actually denies an "any-moment" coming.

PRINCIPLE: Despite their embarrassing setbacks of the 1980s (Hal Lindsay [1948-1988], Edgar Whisnant), prophecy teachers geared up their machines again during the Gulf War (1990). Book sales soared, but then crashed with Iraq's defeat. Real problems soon began for the prognosticators. The defeat of the Communist coup in the Soviet Union (August, 1991) ended any immediate threat to the state of Israel from Russia (the proposed "Magog" of Ezek. 38-39). To compensate, extremists are inventing more and more fringe rapture scenarios that become wilder and wilder, mixed with pyramidology, UFO's, black holes in outer space, and other strange suppositions. Recent movies (The Omega Code, Megiddo – again erroneously based on Dan. 9:24-27 to get their "seven years") only continue to confuse God's people.

PRINCIPLE: Staunch dispensationalists self-consciously reject the idea of any visible, institutional, social progress. They do not really believe that the Church and the Gospel can change the world. What some call realism is little more than pessimism. But that is exactly what the enemy wants Christians to think—*let the world go to hell..I want my mansion!* Such escapism is the root of cultural irrelevance and spiritual irresponsibility.

3. "ANY-MINUTE" OR "UNTIL"?

PRINCIPLE: The dragon is defeated, but continues to mouth his ideas through all forms of media. The "any minute" rapture is not the Second Coming. They have been taught that the pre-tribulation rapture is the "blessed hope" of the Church. But the coming of the Lord is not a blessed hope (Tit. 2:13; 1 Jn. 3:1-3)—it is a blessed fact (Acts 1:11). Our expectation is not that He will come again, but that we will be "like Him" when He does!

We believe and preach the literal, physical, bodily (corporeal) return of Jesus Christ to this planet. But His coming is not imminent, or "any minute"—the key word is "UNTIL"—a word denoting TIME. No man knows the day nor hour (Mt. 24:36; Mk. 13:32). Jesus' FIRST COMING, naturally (in Bethlehem's manger) and spiritually (in the upper room) was not "UNTIL" the fullness of time (Acts 2:1; Gal. 3:19; 4:3-4)! Our root text corroborates this: "...UNTIL He come whose right it is" (Ezek. 21:27). His FIRST COMING is a seed form and pattern of His SECOND COMING. Jesus is coming again, but He CANNOT COME UNTIL:

a. HIS ENEMIES ARE MADE HIS "FOOTSTOOL" in the EARTH (Psa. 110:1; Matt. 22:44; Mk. 12:36; Lk. 20:43; Acts 2:35; Heb. 1:13; 10:12-13; Acts 7:49). His foes are defined by the curse of the Law: SIN, SICKNESS, POVERTY, and DEATH (Deut. 28).

b. THE TIMES OF THE RESTITUTION (RESTORATION) OF ALL THINGS OF WHICH THE PROPHETS HAVE SPOKEN (Acts 3:19-21).

c. THE CHURCH COMES INTO THE UNITY OF THE FAITH, THE FULL AND ACCURATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD, AND ATTAINS TO THE MEASURE OF THE FULL STATURE OF CHRIST (Eph. 4:13). Many who cherish the imminent return of the Lord do not acknowledge the context (Eph. 4:11-16) of the above verse, the contemporary ministries of APOSTLES and PROPHETS—the very FOUNDATIONAL MINISTRIES given by King Jesus to the Church to equip and mature the saints. (Lk. 11:49; Eph. 2:20; 3:1-5). Everybody wants to GO UP, but nobody wants to GROW UP. Men are even reluctant to preach and believe the FIRST PRINCIPLES of the doctrine of Christ; for example, the laying on of hands (Heb. 5:11-14; 6:1-3).

d. UNTIL THE HEIR COMES OF AGE. Galatians emphasizes this theme of maturity with regard to the Seed of Abraham (Gal. 3:29-4:2). These "tutors" and "governors" speak of the ascension gift ministries, the fivefold or "hand" ministry of Ephesians 4:11-13.

NOTE: Salvation is PROGRESSIVE as well as once-for-all (2 Cor. 1:10). The pre-trib rapture is popular because in it men can reign without suffering. We are told that all we need to experience is the new birth and we're "out of here on the first load." But once a person has been delivered by the blood (Ex. 12), he needs to be baptized in water in Jesus' Name, and then filled with the Holy Ghost—the blood, the water, and the Spirit (1 Jn. 5:8).

e. UNTIL THE HEAVENLY HUSBANDMAN (Jas. 5:7) RECEIVES ("Iambano") THE EARLY AND THE LATTER RAIN (see Joel 2:23-32) and the PRECIOUS FRUIT OF THE EARTH (the FRUIT of the Spirit in the SAINTS – Gal. 5:22-24); and the FRUIT of the harvest of SOULS). Jesus' Second Coming is not "ANY MINUTE" but "UNTIL..." "OCCUPY" (used only in Lk. 19:13) is "pragmateumai" (to busy oneself with, to trade; to carry on a business, especially a banker or a trader). Compare the English word "pragmatic." The Gospel is extremely practical and relevant to everyday living. Stay busy TILL he comes! Keep doing what God told you to do! Our King cannot come back "UNTIL..."

4. KEPT DURING THE HOUR OF TRIAL.

PRINCIPLE: The false hope of an "any minute" rapture must be replaced with a true expectation (1 Jn. 3:2-2). King Jeroboam I "DEvised" (invented, contrived) and ordained a FALSE Feast of Tabernacles on the 15th day of the 8th month "like unto the feast" of the Lord in the 7th month (1 Kg. 12:25-33). This idolatrous leader said, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem..." (1 Kg. 12:28)—the "place" that God had chosen (Deut. 16:16).

PRINCIPLE: Revelation 3:9-10 is one of Scofield's key "proof-texts." But is it not talking about everybody. In its primary application, this promise would have pertained to the Church of Philadelphia in the first century. Furthermore, this text is CONDITIONAL—those who "KEEP" the Word of God (not men's traditions) with endurance will be kept. Besides, Revelation 3:9 says the opposite of the dispensational view—God will bring the enemy down before our feet (we have to be here for that to happen). The word for "KEEP" = "tereo" = from "teros" (a watch); "to guard (from loss or injury, properly, by keeping the eye upon." Thayer adds, "to attend to carefully, to take care of; to guard; to observe." Vine's adds, "to watch over, preserve." Even though the Greek word for "from" is "EK" and means, "out of," it does not necessarily denote geographical removal. Consider these words of Scripture, including Jesus' (see Psa. 125:1; Prov. 2:21-22; 10:30 with Jn. 17:15).

PRINCIPLE: Throughout the Bible, God keeps His own during the hour of trial. Consider Noah (Gen. 6-8); the nation of Israel (Ex. 7-12), the three Hebrew children (Dan. 3); and the prophet Daniel (Dan. 6). Note especially the life of the PATTERN SON (Lk. 4:29-30).

PRINCIPLE: The PRESERVATION of the saints (Isa. 26:20-21) is emphasized in Chapter Three of "Prevail" entitled, "Pressing Through Tribulation." It there were a literal three-and-a-half or a seven-year tribulation period, the Church would be here DURING it, not FOR it. Read and study Psalms 37 and 91. The whole armor of God is for the "evil day," that believers might stand against the enemy, not fly away (Eph. 6:11-13). We have died, and our lives are hidden, safe and secure with Christ in God (Col. 3:1-3). God will put upon His own more than they can bear (1 Cor. 10:13).

PRINCIPLE: Following Jesuit Francisco Ribera's original segmenting of the Book of Revelation, early dispensationalists pin-pointed Revelation 4:1 as the rapture of the Church. Darby, Scofield, and Larkin popularized the notion that Revelation 4-19 (along with Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21) constituted the 70th Week of Daniel's Prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27). But what about the TRUMPET that blows in Revelation 1:10 (John was "in the Spirit" at the time)? If the Church isn't mentioned after chapter 3, what about the "saints" of Revelation 5:13; 7:3; 11:13; 12:17; 14:1-5; 15:2? Paul made it clear that the "saints," the "Body of Christ," and the "Church" are the same (Eph. 4:11-12; 5:27).

PRINCIPLE: This "OPEN DOOR" in Revelation 4:1 is the RENT VEIL. Walk through it, and behold the Most Holy Place, the Throne Room of Revelation 4-5, the destiny of our high calling. This realm of the SPIRIT has nothing to do with natural location or geography. As noted with our study of the Davidic Covenant, His THRONE is His NAME, the place of His authority and rule.

5. THE OLIVET DISCOURSE OF MATTHEW 24:1-51 (Mk. 13:1-37; Lk. 21:20-28) - "THIS GENERATION" SHALL NOT PASS.

PRINCIPLE: The Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24; Mk. 13; Lk. 21) is the New Testament centerpiece of futurism. Along with Daniel's 70th Week (9:24-27) and Revelation 4-19, Matthew 24 constitutes the seven-year "tribulation period" (after the rapture) for many, applying these verses about deceivers, earthquakes, famines, and pestilences to our time. This is the "bad news," not Good News.

SPECIAL NOTE: As shown in connection with Daniel's famous Prophecy of Seventy Weeks (Dan. 9:24-27), Matthew 24 was HISTORICALLY fulfilled in 70 A.D. by the overthrow of the Roman army, yet this passage has future PROPHETIC overtones as well. The Preterists and historicists only see the historical fact; the prophecy teachers (from various camps) only see the prophetic aspects—the TRUTH contains BOTH!

NOTE: "ALL THESE THINGS shall come upon THIS GENERATION" (Matt. 23:36-38; 11:16; 12:41-42; 24:34; Mk. 8:12,38; 13:30; Lk. 7:31; 11:29-32,50-51; 17:25; 21:32). To understand Matthew 24:1-34, one must begin with the eight "WOES" pronounced upon the Pharisees by Jesus in chapter 23 (see Matt. 23:13,14,15,16,23,25,27,29). THEIR house become DESOLATE when JESUS walked out of it!

PRINCIPLE: Another KEY that unlocks Matthew 24 is to see that Jesus was asked and then answered these THREE questions (Matt. 24:1-3), which were all to be FULFILLED in THAT GENERATION: (1) WHEN SHALL THESE THINGS BE (Matt. 24:2)?; (2) WHAT SHALL BE THE SIGN OF THY COMING ("parousia")?; and (3) AND OF THE END OF THE WORLD ("aion" = the Jewish age) – see 1 Cor. 10:11; Heb. 1:2; 9:26; 1 Pet. 1:20.

PRINCIPLE: Dispensationalists make much over the “signs of the times” (Mt. 24:4-13) and that these things are happening in our day—they ALSO occurred in the FIRST CENTURY:

- a. FALSE CHRISTS (Acts 5:36-37; 8th 9-11; 13:6).
- b. WARS (corroborated by history; see Chapter Ten of WRll).
- c. FAMINES (Acts 11:27-29; Rom. 15:25-28; 1 Cor. 16:1-5).
- d. EARTHQUAKES (Acts 16:26).
- e. FALSE PROPHETS (2 Cor. 11:13; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 1 Jn. 4:1).
- f. APOSTASY (1 Cor. 5:1-2; Gal. 1:6-10; 2 Tim. 1:15; 4:16).

PRINCIPLE: The FOCAL POINT of Matthew 24:14 is that the GOSPEL is the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, the SAME GOSPEL that John the Baptist, Jesus, and the early apostles preached (Acts 20:24-25; 28:23)! As noted by the verses below, the WHOLE WORLD, “EVERY CREATURE” (Roman Empire) “heard” the Gospel BEFORE the END of the Jewish age came in A.D. 70. (Mk. 16:15; Acts 1:8; Rom. 10:14,18; Col. 1:6,23). Nonetheless, there is a parallel fulfillment for THIS DAY as well. One other interesting thought with regard to Matthew 24:14 is that the “END” is a PERSON (Rev. 21:6; 22:13).

PRINCIPLE: Of special note is their “abomination of desolation” (Matt. 24:15), an idol of the antichrist (or antichrist himself), a future world leader, to be set up in the holy of holies of a rebuilt Jewish temple at Jerusalem. But these events that Jesus said would SOON happen took place BEFORE the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. The so-called “abomination of desolation” was the Roman army that surrounded Jerusalem to cause its desolation. Upon heeding the warning of Jesus, His disciples fled from Jerusalem and Judea. The “great tribulation (pressure)” and the “days of vengeance (vindication, retribution, punishment)” that Jesus predicted fell upon the Jewish nation (A.D. 67-70) as Prince Titus destroyed their “city” and “sanctuary” (Daniel 9:26-27). See Lk. 21:20-22.

PRINCIPLE: Matthew 24:21-24,29 describe God’s people enduring a time of tribulation or pressure. This “TRIBULATION” prophesied by Jesus marked the END of Judaism (A.D. 67-70). Jacob and his sons, the twelve tribes of Israel are set forth as the SUN, MOON, and STARS (Gen. 37:9-10). This COSMIC IMAGERY describing the judgment and vindication of God meant “LIGHTS OUT” for the old order (compare Matt. 21:42-43 with 1 Pet. 2:9-10). Consider the similar parallel language of the Old Testament telling of the END of Babylon (Isa. 13:9-10), Edom (Isa. 34:4-5), and, especially, Israel (Amos 5:18-22; 8:9).

PRINCIPLE: This GOOD NEWS of the Kingdom will not be preached “in a CORNER” (Matt. 24:25-28; Lk. 17:36-37; Acts 26:26). JESUS is the “SUN of righteousness” (Mal. 4:2) and the “LIGHT of the world” (Jn. 8:12). The GOOD NEWS of His KINGDOM will fill the earth. The OLD ORDER (“lights out”) has become a habitation of DEMONS. Then Matthew 24:30 reveals Jesus’ EXALTATION and CORONATION as King of kings! The Son of man coming “ON” or “UPON” the clouds is an Old Testament portrayal of God riding on a swift cloud, revealing His sovereignty over the nations as their Judge (Psa. 104:3). Daniel’s picture of this predicts Messiah coming onstage, on the scene (Dan. 7:13-14). It beautifully describes Jesus, “the Son of man,” ascending and coming to the Father, “the Ancient of days,” to receive all power and dominion (Matt. 28:18). Accordingly, Stephen saw Jesus standing in Heaven (Acts 7:56). Jesus had told the high priest of this (Matt. 26:64). Israel’s leader “SAW” this prophecy fulfilled at Pentecost (Acts 2) and at Stephen’s stoning (Acts 7). With the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, the reality of their true Messiah’s EXALTATION sank in for the whole nation!

PRINCIPLE: While Matthew 24:31 is compared by some to First Thessalonians 4:13-18, it also pictures the trumpeting of the Gospel in obedience to the Great Commission (Mk. 16:15-20), sounding forth the Good News to GATHER THE HARVEST from every nation. The true “SYNAGOGUE” of God—the Church—is made up of believing Jews AND Greeks (Eph. 2:11-22)! Compare Matt. 23:37.

PRINCIPLE: Dispensationalists say that Matthew 24:32-36 (Lk. 21:29-33) predict the Jews becoming a nation again and returning to their homeland, a key sign of the “last days.” But Luke 21:29 mentions “all the trees”—the Gospel is for all the nations! What was really “NEAR”? The promise that Jesus Christ made about the destruction of their temple and city within a generation! Israel did become a nation again on May 14, 1948. Many prophecy teachers feel that this was the most important “sign” in Matthew 24, making much of a “generation” being 40 years. But adding 40 years to 1948 brought them to 1988, when futurism rose to new heights. The major problem facing this prediction was that a pre-tribulation view would have to subtract seven years from 1988, putting the “rapture” in 1981. That was (at the time of this writing) 23 years ago. Men have yet to apologize. Paperback prophecy books still sell. Finally, extreme dispensationalists teach Matthew 24 in a non-Christian context. Scofield and the early futurists did this with most of the Book of Matthew, even relegating the Sermon on the Mount, the constitution to the Kingdom of God (Matt. 5-7), solely to the Jew. Don’t be spoiled by men’s reasonings (Col. 2:8).

6. TAKEN OR LEFT? WHO WAS REALLY “LEFT BEHIND”?

PRINCIPLE: Matthew 24:37-31 (Lk. 17:27) is KEY. Some like to point to ENOCH (Gen. 5:18-24; Heb. 11:5-6), who was translated, and say that he is a type of those who are raptured before tribulation. But Enoch did not live during the time when JUDGMENT was being poured out on the earth in the form of a flood. Enoch was translated 669 years BEFORE the Flood, and he never met Noah! His translation was not for the purpose of escaping the Flood. But Noah went THROUGH the Flood, protected by the Ark he had prepared. The “Pentecostal Evangel” (the official voice of the Assemblies of God) dated January 1, 1967, boldly proclaimed the obvious truth of this passage—the WICKED were “taken” in JUDGMENT, and the RIGHTEOUS (Noah and his family) were LEFT to INHERIT THE EARTH! They stepped out of the Ark as owners of the land (see Psa. 2:8; Matt. 5:5; Rev. 1:6; 5:10). No one else was “LEFT” to dispute Noah’s claim. Those who read and understand the words of the Prophet Jesus don’t want to be “TAKEN”—we want to be LEFT. Not FLY AWAY (1 Thess. 4:13-18; Heb. 12:26-27 with Eph. 6:13), but STAND! Paul never preached a message of FEAR (2 Tim. 1:7). He never told the saints that they would ESCAPE the battle. God’s complaint against the FALSE PROPHETS in Ezekiel’s day (13:1-5) was they did not prepare the people for what was coming in the Day of the Lord.

NOTE: Matthew 24’s TWO MEN (TWO ORDERS, TWO NATURES) are pictured throughout the Bible (Abraham and Nimrod, Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, David and Saul, and Saul who became Paul). There are TWO WOMEN, TWO MINDSETS (Sarah and Hagar, Rachel and Leah, Hannah and Peninnah, Abigail and Michal, Esther and Vashti, the “virtuous woman” of Prov. 31 and the “strange woman” of Proverbs 7, and the Bride and the Harlot of Revelation 17-19). ADAM is “TAKEN” and CHRIST is “LEFT!”

PRINCIPLE: See Ezekiel 13:10; 1 Thess. 5:3. Margaret MacDonald and Edward Irving built the wall, while Darby, Scofield, and Larkin (the three blind mice) daubed at it. But the One “whose right it is” is about to ride through the Church and blow down every whitewashed wall (Matt. 23:37; Acts 23:3) by the Wind of His Spirit. Contrary to popular opinion and soothing reassurances, men “shall not escape” when the Messenger of the covenant comes suddenly to cleanse His Temple (Mal. 3:1; Matt. 3:12; 21:12-13)!

7. WHAT ABOUT “ARMAGEDDON”?

PRINCIPLE: A sidelight of the futurist interpretation of Matthew 24 and an integral part of dispensationalism’s future “great tribulation” (Matt. 24:21) is the much-heralded Battle of Armageddon. “ARMAGEDDON” is synonymous with mass destruction, carnage, and unprecedented bloodshed.

NOTE: Interestingly, (although Rev. 14:20 is used as a cross-reference), this term is not used in the old Testament, and mentioned but ONCE in the New, in Revelation 16:16.

PRINCIPLE: Dispensationalists teach that that there are NO prophetic events to take place before the rapture—all is fulfilled (what nonsense). That means that CURRENT EVENTS or “news-paper exegesis” are irrelevant when used to speculate the time of the rapture. However, if evidence can be produced to show that ARMAGEDDON might be near, then (as taught) the rapture must be imminent. Men shamelessly declare that blood will flow six feet deep for 200 miles (a furlong is an eighth of a mile). To literally accomplish this, the blood would have to encompass the whole valley from Mount Carmel on the Mediterranean Sea along the Kishon River through the Valley of Megiddo and Jezreel to the river Jordan, then south through the plain of the Jordan River to and through the Dead Sea, and onward south through the valley of the Wilderness of Zin and past Kadesh-Barnea into the Sinai Peninsula! This is ABSURD, not to mention IMPOSSIBLE! Take ALL of the earth’s six billion inhabitants, put them ALL on horses, and then slit their throats and the horses’ throats—THERE’S NOT ENOUGH BLOOD! Thus ARMAGEDDON and Revelation 14:20; 16:16 have to be SYMBOLIC!

PRINCIPLE: “ARMAGEDDON” = “the hill or city of Megiddo;” taken from “HAR” (a mountain or range of hills), and “MEGIDDOWN” (rendezvous; place of crowds or troops). MEGIDDO was an ancient city of Canaan assigned to Manasseh and located on the Plain of Esdraelon 6 miles from Mount Carmel, 11 miles from Nazareth, and 70 miles north of Jerusalem. A military stronghold, it was the site of many O.T. battles (see Josh. 12:21; 17:11; Judg. 1:27; 5:19; 1 Kg. 4:12; 9:15; 2 Kg. 9:27; 23:29-30; 1 Chr. 7:29; 2 Chr. 35:22).

PRINCIPLE: There is NO “VALLEY” OF ARMAGEDDON ON THE PLANET. This has to be a SPIRITUAL, not a NATURAL battle. Two NOTABLE EVENTS took place at MEGIDDO—Judge Deborah and Barak’s defeat of Sisera (Judg. 5:19), and the slaying of King Josiah of Judah by the pharaoh of Egypt 2 Chron. 36:22). MEGIDDO is a biblical symbol of war between rival kings and kingdoms. In the examples given, Israel was BOTH a WINNER and a LOSER—Revelation 16:16 references the LATTER, where King Josiah of Judah would not listen to God’s warning (2 Chron. 35:20-25). Dispensationalists have combined these and all the Megiddo battles into one “great tribulation” contest where their future antichrist will bring all the nations of the world into a final war against the nation of Israel.

PRINCIPLE: But there are TWO contextual applications necessary to our understanding the Battle of Armageddon. As with Matthew 24 and Daniel 9:24-27, Armageddon has been HISTORICALLY fulfilled, yet it has SPIRITUAL overtones and applications. FIRST (Matt. 22:7; 27:25; Lk. 21:20), Israel remembered Megiddo as a place where GOD VENTED HIS DIVINE WRATH AGAINST REBELLION, whether exhibited by Israel or a foreign power. God brought the nations of the world (through the empire of Rome) against first-century Jerusalem as Jesus had promised (Matt. 24:34; Lk. 21:20). There were those who actually attempted to fight against this world empire and, like King Josiah, met their “waterloo” (Josephus’ account of this is in Chapter Ten of “Whose Right It Is”). Many in Israel had disowned Jesus, their Messiah, and asked for the murderer Barabbas. The armies of Rome came in A.D. 70 and set their city on fire at the symbolic battlefield of “Megiddo.”

SECOND (Joel 3:12-14), Armageddon is a SPIRITUAL BATTLE, AN ONGOING CAMPAIGN, BETWEEN THE FORCES OF SALVATION AND THE FORCES OF SIN. It is right against wrong, righteousness against unrighteousness, light against darkness, the Kingdom of God against the kingdom of evil. We are assured of the outcome because the Captain of our salvation has already won the battle and has prevailed. Satan is defeated and Jesus is lord! This “battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Rev. 16:14) is between the sons of God and the powers of darkness. For now, the battleground is our homes, schools, and churches. As God judges nations, denominations, and imaginations, the true Church will emerge triumphant in her God, strong through the One “whose right it is”!

8. WHAT ABOUT "GOG" and "MAGOG"?

PRINCIPLE: Woven in and out of dispensationalism's Armageddon scenario is a mixture of thought concerning GOG and MAGOG (Ezek. 38:2; Rev. 20:8), and a future invasion of the nation of Israel by Russia. There are serious problems with their literal interpretation: (1) ALL of the soldiers are riding horses, and brandishing ancient weapons—swords, bows and arrows, war clubs, and spears (Ezek. 38:15; 39:9); (2) there is NO MENTION of Gog, Magog, Meshech, or Tubal in Revelation 4-19 (the seven-year tribulation), when this "battle" is to take place. John's battle of Gog and Magog is AFTER their Millennium!

PRINCIPLE: "GOG" (Strong's #1463) means, "some northern nation." It has an uncertain derivation, and has been translated by some to mean, "mountain; golden ornament; elastic, flat roof, plane top, stretched out, extended" (see 1 Chron. 5:4; Ezek. 38:2,3,14,16,18; 39:1,11; Rev. 20:8). "Gog" is the leader of a confederacy of armies, "the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal." "MAGOG" (Strong's #4031) means, "a barbarous northern region." It has been translated as "region or land of God, from the upper (north); elasticity, extreme extension, ample covering, enlargement" (see Gen. 10:2; 1 Chron. 1:5; Ezek. 38:2; 39:6; and Rev. 20:8).

PRINCIPLE: "GOG" is said to be the "CHIEF PRINCE" of Meshech and Tubal. This is the Hebrew word "rosh" (Strong's #7218) and means, "head." Vine's adds that "rosh" also means, "top, first, sum." Incredibly, Scofield translated "rosh" as if it were a nation—RUSSIA! In addition, "Meshech" sounds like MOSCOW, and "Tubal" like TOBOLISK, one of the prominent Asiatic provinces of Russia (see Gen. 10:2; 1 Chron. 1:5,17; Psa. 120:5; Ezek. 27:13; 32:26; 38:2-3; 39:1). This HERMENEUTIC is like that of the Worldwide Church of God (Armstrongism) who teach that the ten lost tribes, the Israel of God, are Anglo-Saxon peoples. "Saxon" sounds like "ISAAC'S SONS" and "berith" (the Hebrew word for "covenant") sounds like "BRITAIN." British-Israelism is bigoted and heretical.

9. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST FROM THE PROVERBS (God REMOVES the WICKED, not the RIGHTEOUS).

PRINCIPLE: THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THE WICKED ARE TAKEN AND REMOVED, AND THE RIGHTEOUS ARE LEFT (see Matt. 13:36-41; Heb. 12:25-29; 1 Thess. 1:6; 2:14; 3:3; 4:15-17 with Isa. 4:1-6 and Matt. 24:37-41)!

PRINCIPLE: THIS TRUTH IS REVEALED THROUGHOUT THE PROVERBS (see Proverbs 2:21-22; 3:25-26; 10:25; 11:6,31; 12:7; 13:9,22; 14:19; 18:10; 22:10; 24:10-12,19-20; 25:4-5; 28:1; and 29:16).

Proverbs 10:30, KJV THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL NEVER BE REMOVED: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.

Matthew 24:19-21, KJV 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.

Proverbs 31:10, KJV Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. She is NOT AFRAID OF THE SNOW (of winter, or tribulation) for her household: for all her household are CLOTHED WITH SCARLET (the BLOOD of the Lamb).

APOSTOLIC ESCHATOLOGY #6 – Second Thessalonians 2:1-12

THE MARK OF THE BEAST IS A PRESENT REALITY (Rev. 13:13-18)

NOTE: “ANTICHRIST” (“instead of Christ”) aptly describes any system of apostasy, or individual apostates (the carnal mind); an “ANTI-CHRIST” is a RELIGIOUS apostate from true Christianity, not some SECULAR political figure. Antichrist is the spirit of ERROR.

PRINCIPLE: The Greek word for “MARK” is “CHARAGMA” (Eng. “character”) and it means, “a stamp or impress.” The FOREHEAD and the RIGHT HAND speaks of the WISDOM and STRENGTH of MAN (666). There are only two types of men on the planet: CHRIST and ADAM—beauty and the beast! The word for “BEAST” in Rev. 13 is “therion,” and it means, “a wild beast”—the old man, the Jacob nature, the Ishmael nature (Gen. 16 and 32). Ishmael was a GOOD IDEA, the product of Sarah’s HEAD and Abraham’s LOINS. When Paul arrived in Athens, the whole city was given over to worshipping IDOLS, fashioned by the MIND and HAND of men. The word for “GRAVEN” (Acts 17:29) is “charagma” (same as “mark” in Rev. 13)! “ART” is “techne” and describes things made by HAND. The word for “DEVICE” refers to man’s INNER REASONINGS. But God has a MIND and a “HAND” (Eph. 4:11)! What His divine intellect has envisioned for the glorious Church, His holy apostles and prophets will fashion by His spoken, living Word!

THE MAN OF SIN (2 Thess. 2:1-12)

PRINCIPLE: Men have ever attempted to identify this world leader futurists call the “antichrist.” For centuries, the Roman papacy was the unanimous choice, as the “vicar of Christ” took the place of Christ. Accordingly, the “restrainer” (2 Thess. 2:6-7) was the ROMAN EMPIRE under pagan rule, taken out of the way by the Gothic invasions. PAGAN ROME vanished in the West (A.D. 476), only to be replaced by PAPAL ROME. The Reformers taught that the pope, like Judas, “the “son of perdition” (Jn. 17:12; 2 Thess. 2:3), was a false bishop and apostle (Acts 1:20).

NOTE: Paul’s second epistle to the Thessalonians was then written to CORRECT these errors in understanding and attitude, to adjust their “ANY MINUTE” escapist mindset!

2:1 - The word for “COMING” is “parousia.” The phrase “GATHERED TOGETHER” parallels our being “caught up together” (1 Thess. 4:17); it is the word “EPISUNAGOGE” (#1997), and it means, “a complete collection; to collect upon the same place.” The following verses indicate that certain things have to happen BEFORE this “coming” of the Lord, including the revealing of the “man of sin.”

2:3 - The Coming of the Lord will not happen “except” (unless) there is “THE (definite article) falling away” first—the Greek is “he apostasia.” Used only here and in Acts 21:21 (“forsake”), this word means, “defection from truth, the state of apostasy.” It is the feminine of “apostasion” (a bill of divorce, repudiation). Vine’s adds, “revolt.” Futurists grasp at this word, interpreting it as the “departure” of the Church from the earth. What is this “apostasia”? HISTORICALLY, it was the rise of the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. For over 1,000 years, throughout the Dark Ages, the Roman Papacy did “depart” from the apostles’ doctrine, and fell away from the true “NAOS” (see below), the true Church. PRAGMATICALLY and SPIRITUALLY, there is a present “falling away” from right Church order, from sound doctrine, holy living, and the manifest presence of God. AFTER this APOSTASY, the “man of (the) sin” will be REVEALED. “SIN” is “hamartia” (missing the mark). The word for “REVEALED” (also used in 2 Thessalonians 2:6,8) is “apokalupto” (#601), and it means, “to take off the cover, to disclose or to unveil.” This one is called the “SON” (“huios” or MATURE son) of “PERDITION” (one doomed to ruin, loss, destruction).

2:4 - The man of sin "OPPOSETH" (lie opposite to; to be adverse; set over against, withstand) God the Word (Jn. 1:1). He sets himself up as a repugnant opponent of truth, replacing it with his tradition (1 Cor. 16:9; Gal. 5:17; Phil. 1:28). This ugly attitude is contrary to sound doctrine (1 Tim. 1:10). This one seats or enthrones himself (position of authority) "in" (into, unto) the temple ("naos") of God, "showing (show off, exhibit; demonstrate, accredit)" himself that "he is God" (the essence of "the mystery of iniquity"). Dispensationalists use these (2:3-4) as KEY verses to predict their future antichrist in a rebuilt Jewish Temple. But "TEMPLE" is not "HEIRON" = the PHYSICAL Temple in Jerusalem; it is "NAOS" = the SPIRITUAL Temple, Jesus (Mk. 14:58; Jn. 2:19-21) and the Church (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 16:19; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:21; and especially 2 Thess. 2:4). This same word "NAOS" is used in all 16 references for "temple" in the Book of Revelation. "NAOS," the inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place is the TRUE Temple, the SPIRIT of man—his HEART! The "MAN OF (THE) SIN" is SINFUL MAN with his carnal mind—man in fullness (hence the number 666)—he is that belligerent attitude of SOUL that says, "Move over, Lord Jesus, I'm in charge today!" This one is JUDAS-like, from the inner circle, the BETRAYER! He SITS in the NAOS, assuming an authoritative posture—as God!

2:6 - The Greek word for "WITHHOLDETH" in verse 6 is "KATECHO" (#2722). Taken from "KATA" (down) and "ECHO" (to have or hold), it means, "to hold down (fast); to hold back, to detain, to retain; restrain, suppress, hinder (the course or progress of); to check a ship's headway." It is translated (KJV) as "leteth" in the next verse (2 Thess. 2:7). Some ascribe this restraining force to Michael and the angels (Dan. 10:13,21). All dispensationalists insist that this "restrainer" is the Holy Spirit in the Church, who is taken "out of the way" in their pre-trib rapture. HISTORICALLY, the "restrainer" was the pagan Roman Empire. Once the imperial government was removed, papal Rome was unveiled with all its trappings. SPIRITUALLY, the "man of sin," the carnal mind is the real problem—the "hinderer or restrainer"—until he is unveiled, revealed. His discovery is his undoing. This is KEY: The uncovering of any EVIL SPIRIT renders it powerless; contrariwise, the discovery of the HOLY SPIRIT releases His power!

2:7 - This "MYSTERY ("musterion" – sacred secret) of INIQUITY" (lawlessness) is the antithesis of the "mystery of godliness" (1 Tim. 3:16), and was "at WORK"—this word is "ENERGEO" (to communicate energy and activity; to be operative, to be at work)—this shows lawlessness actively operating "IN" man ("ENERGEO" is from "EN" and "ERGON"). "Only" (but) he who now "restrains" will "restrain" UNTIL... Until what? "Until he be taken out of the way." All the futurists use this strange expression in verse 7 to say that the "restrainer" is the Holy Spirit (in all believers), who shall be "taken out of the way" when the Church is raptured from the earth (also citing Matt. 24:37-41, which we have clarified – it is the WICKED who are "taken" and the RIGHTEOUS who are "left" to inherit the earth). The major problem with their supposition is that no one can be saved (during a future tribulation period or any other time) without the Holy Spirit (Jn. 6:44)! Thus Scofield dangerously breaches biblical Soteriology and offers another kind of salvation! The word "TAKEN" is "GINOMAI" (#1096). This middle voice means, "to cause to be, to become (come into being)." It can also mean, "to come into existence, to be created, to exist by creation, to be born, produced, to grow, to arise, to come on, to occur." The essence of "GINOMAI" reveals that something was started, has matured, and now comes forth. "OUT OF THE WAY" is "EK MESOS"—"out of, or out from the midst." "WAY" is "MESOS," translated in the KJV as "among, between, midst." Thus, 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8, from the Greek, reads, "Until he come into the midst, and then shall that wicked be revealed," OR, "Until out of the midst it comes or is born, and then shall that wicked be revealed..."!

NOTE: Some interpret this verse to describe the BIRTHING ("ginomai" and "ek mesos") of an overcoming people, the "manchild"—the mature sons of God—from out of the sun-clothed Woman, the Church (Rev. 2:26-28; 12:1-5; 21:7). They would note that "ek" denotes origin and character, and thus translate the phrase "out of the midst" in 2 Thessalonians 2:7 to read, "until he (the manchild) be birthed out..."

APOSTOLIC ESCHATOLOGY #6A – First Thessalonians 4:13-18

PRINCIPLE: The Lord HAS come, IS ever coming, and SHALL come. He has already has several “comings” in the Old Testament (see Ex. 19:9,18,20; 25:22; 2 Kg. 19:15; 1 Cor. 10:4). When Messiah came the FIRST TIME, He came in TWO FORMS: (1) In FLESH – as the BABE in Bethlehem’s manger (Mic. 5:2; Jn. 1:14; 1 Tim. 3:16); and (2) In SPIRIT – on the Day of Pentecost as the FIRSTFRUITS of the Spirit and the EARNEST of our inheritance (Jn. 14:17-18; Acts 2:1-4; Rom. 5:5; 8:23; 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Gal. 4:6). The cycle of restoration reverses the order in His Second Coming; thus, Jesus will come: (1) In SPIRIT – manifesting Himself in the FULLNESS of the Feast of Tabernacles through His Church, His people (Jn. 3:34; 1 Cor. 13:8-13; Eph. 4:13); and (2) In FLESH – literally, bodily, corporeally as the KING of kings (Acts 1:11; Rev. 19:11-16). Similarly, not one place in the Bible mentions that Jesus will come “FOR” the saints. It does say that: (1) He will come “IN” the saints – spiritually (see Lk. 17:20-21; Jn. 14:23; 17:20-26; 1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 6:16; Gal. 4:19; Eph. 1:14,18; 3:10,16; 2:22; 3:17; Col. 1:27; 3:11; 2 Thess. 1:10-12; and 1 Jn. 4:4); and (2) He will come “WITH” the saints – literally (see Deut. 33:2; Job 19:25-27; Psa. 50:3-5; Dan. 7:9-10; Zech. 14:5; Matt. 16:27; 24:30-31; 25:31; Lk. 24:39; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 3:13; 2 Thess. 1:7-8; and Jude 1:14-15). One can also note His coming IN the CLOUDS (Mt. 24:30; 26:64; Mk. 13:26; 14:62; 1 Thess. 4:17), and WITH the CLOUDS (Dan. 7:13; Rev. 1:7).

4:13 - First, get Paul’s CONTEXT. To comfort the saints, he asks a simple question: What happens to the dead in Christ? His answer is plain enough—Jesus will bring them with Him when He comes again. Revelation 22:12 adds that He will bring His reward with Him. From Genesis (Gen. 1-3) to revelation (Rev. 21-22), the pattern is clear: God comes to dwell with man (Jn. 1:14)! The “CITY”—the Bride, the Lamb’s wife—comes down (Rev. 21).

PRINCIPLE: Paul declares that at death a man’s BODY goes to one place and his SPIRIT to another. That part of us that has eternal life is still living and conscious when we go into His presence. Our dead bodies sleep in the grave. Whether it is put into a tomb, cremated, or buried at sea, or eaten by lions makes no difference. When our SPIRIT leaves the body, the BODY then immediately “descends (Eph. 4:9) into that state of death while the SPIRIT “ascends” into His presence. At the RESURRECTION, the order will be reversed. The physical BODY rises from the state of death (whether bones, dust, or ashes) into a glorified state and is “fashioned like into His glorious body” (Phil. 3:21).

4:15 - The word for “REMAIN” (used only here and in verse 17) is “PERILEIPO” (#4035), and it means, “to leave all around, survive.” The RSV mentions those “who are alive and LEFT (as in Matt. 24:37-41, where the RIGHTEOUS are “left” behind). The RIGHTEOUS REMNANT will “survive” any future shakings (Isa. 4:3-4; 26:20-21). The word for “COMING” in 1 Thessalonians 4:15 is “PAROUSIA” (#3952) and it means, “a being near, an advent.” *Vine’s* adds, “a presence,” denoting both “an arrival” and a consequent “presence with.” Nothing in this word conveys the idea of SECRECY. Dispensationalists try to prove Darby’s “TWO-STAGE” theory by saying that “PAROUSIA” is His coming “FOR” the saints, and that “APOKALUPSIS” (revealing, unveiling) is His coming “WITH” the saints. But Jesus did not GO to Heaven in TWO stages! He will come again “in like manner” (Acts 1:11)! “PREVENT” (to be beforehand, anticipate, to come sooner).

4:16 - The Lord Jesus went directly from earth to Heaven, and will return in like manner. There will be no “rapture” back to Heaven for a later third coming! Moreover, if He is coming secretly as a THIEF in the night, He’s sure making a lot of noise! There is a SHOUT, a VOICE, and a TRUMPET! The word for “LORD” is “kurios” (One supreme in authority, controller). This is the Master, the Lord Jesus “HIMSELF”! Follow Him through the Gospels and you will usually find a NOISY CROWD. He will “DESCEND” or “go down” (Rev. 21:2,10) from Heaven (Matt. 24:29-31; 1 Thess. 1:10; 2 Thess. 1:7). The Greek word for “SHOUT” (used only here) is “keleuma” (#2752), and it means, “a cry of incitement.” *Vine’s* adds, “a call or summons, shout of command.” *Thayer’s* adds, “an order or a

command, a stimulating cry, to soldiers by a commander (with a loud summons, a trumpet call)." All who are in the graves shall hear His VOICE (Jn. 5:28)!

4:16 - The word for "VOICE" is "phone," translated in the KJV as "noise, sound, voice." Interestingly, "phone" is derived from "phaino" (to lighten, show) and "phos" (to shine or make manifest, especially by rays; luminousness). "ARCHANGEL" is the transliteration of "ARCHAGGELOS" (a chief angel), and is taken from "archo" (to be first in political rank or power) and "aggelos (messenger). The word "ARCHAGGELOS" is not found in the Greek Old Testament. It is used only here and in Jude 1:9 (referring to Michael). Daniel calls Michael "one of the chief princes" and the "great prince" (or the "great angel," according to the Septuagint)(Dan. 10:13,21; 12:1). Because Michael is "one of the chief princes," many believe that there is more than one "archangel" (like Gabriel, given in Dan. 8:16; 9:21; Lk. 1:19,26). The word for "TRUMP" is "salpinx" (#4536), and is perhaps taken from "salos" (vibration, billow), and translated in the KJV as "wave." Compare "saino" (to shake or disturb) and "seio" (to rock, agitate, cause to tremble, throw into a tremor). Throughout the Scriptures, TRUMPETS symbolize a CLEAR WORD FROM GOD—the VOICE of the Lord. "Salpinx" is used in First Corinthians 14:8, Hebrews 12:19, Revelation 1:10; 4:1; 8:2,6,13; 9:14 and in these KEY cross-references: (Matt. 24:31; 1 Cor. 15:52).

4:17 - Again, those who are ALIVE and REMAIN (as verse 15). Those who are LIVING at the time of the Lord's coming will be "CAUGHT UP" together with the resurrected dead – this is not speaking in terms of being taken miles or light-years away. This Greek word "HARPAZO" (#726) means, "to seize; to carry off by force; to seize on, to claim for oneself eagerly; to snatch out or to snatch away." It is translated in the KJV as "catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force)." It is derived from "HAIREOMIA" (to take for oneself, prefer) and "AIRO" (to lift up). *Vine's* adds that "HARPAZO" means, "to snatch, to catch away." It is used in Matthew 11:12; 12:29; 13:19; John 6:15; 10:12,28-29; Acts 23:10; 1 Cor. 12:2; Jude 1:23; and these KEY VERSES (Acts 8:39; 2 Cor. 12:4; Rev. 12:5). Philip the evangelist and Paul the apostle were "seized" by the Spirit and never left the planet. Where did Paul go? Physically, his body went nowhere, yet he "heard sacred secrets which no human lips can repeat" (Moffatt). Fourteen years later, he was still suffering the afflictions of a mortal body. But he had been into that THIRD HEAVEN! The MANCHILD or Revelation 12:5 is either Jesus or a company of overcoming sons (Rev. 2:26-28; 21:7), or both. Regardless, in connection with the "throne," geography is not the primary issue - there is no such direction as "UP." If the American and Australian were simultaneously caught "up" (vertically), the Church would go flying off the planet in all directions! But the saints, living and dead, are here caught up "TOGETHER." This word is "HAMA" (at the same time, denoting close association). *Vine's* adds, "at once," and compares its use elsewhere (Rom. 3:12; 1 Th. 5:10). The word for "CLOUDS" is "NEPHELE" (#3507), and it means, "cloudiness, a cloud." It is used mostly in the New Testament in a metaphorical sense.

4:17 - There will be a "MEETING" in the air! The Greek word for "MEET" is "APANTESIS" (#529), and it means, "a friendly encounter." It is a derivative of "APANTEO" (to meet away) and "AOP" (off, away from). *Vine's* says that "apantesis" was used with regard to a newly arriving magistrate. It means, "returning with" the welcoming party, not "remaining at" the place of meeting—we are not GOING. Jesus is COMING! We are not DISAPPEARING. Jesus is APPEARING. The "meeting" in the air is to welcome King Jesus back to this planet. "Apantesis" is used only here and in three other verses in the entire New Testament: Matt. 25:1,6; Acts 28:15). We will meet the Lord in the "AIR," the stuff we breathe—the higher you go, the thinner it gets. "AIR" is the transliteration of "AER" (#109), and it means, "to breathe unconsciously, respire; air (as naturally circumambient). *Thayer's* adds, "the air, particularly the lower and denser air as distinguished from the higher and rarer air; the atmospheric region." NOTE: It doesn't matter whether one believes that he will "fly away" any minute, be gone for seven years, three-and-a-half years, seven seconds, or not leave the ground at all. He will return to this EARTH—so what's the big deal