

OPERATION
BLUEPRINT

EARTH'S
FINAL MOVIE

THE ULTIMATE
SEARCH & RESCUE

MISSION

A vertical column of six white icons is positioned on the right side of the word 'MISSION'. From top to bottom, the icons are: a globe, a menorah, a menorah, a chair, a cup on a saucer, and a stack of books.

IVOR MYERS

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Introduction

When something big happens in our lives, we can usually look back and see the precise sequence of events that led all the way up to it. Whether or not we are aware of these sequences of events as they happen, they still happen—and sometimes it can seem that they were actually part of a well-laid plan.

When preparing for a big event in your life, you can either choose to engage in the planning process, let someone else plan it out for you, or leave it all to fate for how it will all unfold. You might plan for years to go to college, and follow the plan step-by-step—but things still don't pan out. Life's unexpected moments can derail our best laid plans. Yet success most often depends upon how well you decide to lay those plans. Going through life without a plan will more than likely lead nowhere.

The process of planning often ends up as a “blueprint,” a kind of map that shows how different events will take place in order to reach the bigger goal. A blueprint can be a simple technical drawing, such as a document revealing an architectural or engineering design, but it can also be a reproduction, or a pattern, of the real thing.

For instance, we've all heard of the theory of evolution, which postulates our origins. Charles Darwin devised a blueprint-like drawing of how man originated from an ape-like ancestor, which originated from a common mammal, which originated from a common single-cell organism. You might be able to picture this “tree of life” diagram in your mind right now.

But what about God's blueprint from the Christian viewpoint? Did God have a plan, a blueprint, that could explain to us our beginnings and why we are where we are now? It might not appear to you as if God ever did have a plan, because so often we are left with big questions that appear to have no reasonable answer. Indeed, how could there have been a plan if we still have questions like—

Why is there good and evil in the world?

What will happen in the future?

Is there really a God ... and a devil?

If God is so good, why does He apparently punish people “forever” in hell?

Is there a blueprint that explains our world?

Through intensive research of the Bible, I have discovered that God has revealed a stunning pattern within the Scriptures that gives us a “big picture” understanding of what is now going on in society and where we are eventually headed. I call it “God’s Blueprint.”

Blueprint also happens to be the name of an American indie hip-hop artist from Columbus, Ohio—as well as the title of the sixth studio album from American rapper Jay-Z. As a former hip-hop artist myself, of the group Boogiemonsters, I also have asked many of the same questions as you.

That’s why I wrote this book—for those looking for answers. It provides you a clear picture of the conflict and principles involved in the battle between good and evil. Just as a **blueprint** drawing of your home helps you see the bigger picture of your dwelling place, this book will help you step back and see what’s really happening on our planet from a cosmic perspective.

I’ve written *The Blueprint* as though God’s sweeping cosmic pattern was condensed into a two-hour movie—hence the subtitle, *Earth’s Final Movie*. Make no mistake, however, this is not fiction. Whether you have no knowledge, some knowledge, or much knowledge of the Bible, this book is for you. If you want answers to these questions and more, it’s time for you to see the blueprint that will guide you through the momentous times in which we live.

You might read this book in one sitting as a fast-paced, action-packed drama as others have done, or you may move slowly through it savoring each scene in the imagination. Either way, press “play” and begin watching the amazing drama of the ages ...

Scene 1:

The War in Heaven

Imagine for a moment that the entire human race—all those who have ever lived and all those who are yet to be born—have been gathered together in one place. You are there, along with your family, your friends, and even your enemies. Every eye is focused on something of utmost importance.

Many in this innumerable crowd had been mistakenly led to believe that this day would never come, that they would never have been standing here now. All are watching in total silence as movie scenes unfold before them, a movie more important than any other movie they've ever seen. It is, in fact, the last movie showing on Planet Earth.

There are two groups present, and you are in one of them. Who are these two groups, what are they watching, and why?

As that scene unfolds, let us for now go to another. Let's go back in time, pressing the "rewind" button of history, and reach beyond life on our planet. The scene unfolding before us takes place in heaven, a place of pure peace and rest.

In the beginning, before our world was even created, heaven was a place where the angels, created by God, were all in harmony with His will—happy subjects to His throne and government. But something happened to break heaven's state of tranquility. It all started with an angel named Lucifer, who would later come to be known as Satan. The Bible explains:

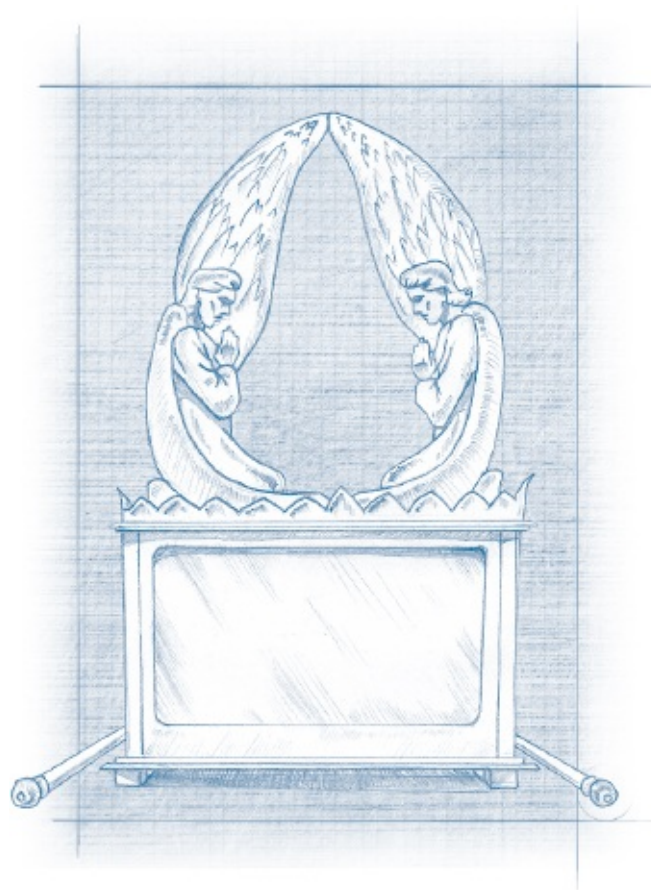
"You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones, you were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you" (Ezekiel 28:14, 15).

A "cherub" is an angel, but Lucifer was no ordinary angel. He was a

“guardian” or “covering” cherub. In order to understand the role of a guardian cherub, we need to have some knowledge of a special building that God once commanded His people on earth to build to help them understand important things about heaven. As recorded in the Old Testament, God instructed the prophet Moses to build a “sanctuary,” sometimes called a “tabernacle,” in the wilderness after the children of Israel left Egypt. It was a very sacred place—sort of like a church or temple today, but also so much more than that. This sanctuary building was the place where God “tabernacled” or “dwelled” among the Israelites and it was where they worshiped Him. This structure was a powerful illustration because it was a mini-model of God’s government, a blueprint of His throne in heaven. Notice how the word “pattern” is used in the following verses:

“Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ‘Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering ... And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, that is, the *pattern* of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it’” (Exodus 25:1, 2, 8, 9, my emphasis).

The first sanctuary built on earth was portable and like a large tent. Later sanctuaries would be made stationary with their heavier building materials. But all had the same design. The sanctuary was comprised of a courtyard and a tent (or building) with two rooms: the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. The Most Holy Place contained a gold-covered box called the ark of the covenant. Upon the ark rested the mercy seat, upon which the Shekinah glory (presence) of God dwelt. The mercy seat, therefore, was a symbol of God’s throne in heaven. This is why Paul wrote in the New Testament book of Hebrews, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).



Now, Moses was instructed to make an image of an angel, one for each side of the mercy seat. These two angels were called “covering” cherubs because they guarded the ark of the covenant; thus, these two figures represented the two angels who stand closest to the presence of God in heaven. This informs us that Lucifer’s position in heaven was to stand closest to God, closer than any other angel. This is how the Bible describes these cherubim:

“You shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you” (Exodus 25:18–21).

If Lucifer was a covering cherub, then we know he stood next to God. But what specifically was he covering? It was God’s throne

(Isaiah 6:1, 2). The sanctuary's mercy seat—again, a symbol of God's throne—rested on the ark of the covenant, which was a special piece of furniture covered in gold that contained God's law and served as the foundation of the mercy seat. So we can know that in heaven, the foundation of God's throne is His law. Only as the angels submitted to this law would heaven remain a place of peace. It was this law, described elsewhere in the Bible as “the law of love” (Romans 13:8–10), that Lucifer once covered. (The word “cover” means to protect.) Hence Lucifer, the covering cherub, was at one time a guardian of the law of God.

But something happened with Lucifer: “Iniquity” was found in him (Ezekiel 28:15 KJV). Iniquity, another word for sin, had corrupted Heaven's peace. This is what led to the rebellion in heaven. The crucial question is, *what is sin?* If we can discover the answer, we have an invaluable piece of the puzzle to this conflict between God and Satan.

Notice, therefore, how the Bible defines sin: “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness” (1 John 3:4).

Lucifer, once a guardian of the law of God, began to turn against the very law he was to protect. The rebellion in heaven was caused by a disregard for God's throne, His government, which was based on that law. As a result of sinning, Lucifer brought about a condition of war in heaven—for which he was ultimately cast out. (See Ezekiel 28:16.)

It should come as no surprise, then, that the last chapter of Revelation records, “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city” (Revelation 22:14). Lucifer was cast out of that city for warring against the law, but those who keep God's law will have open access to that city. But we'll look at this more later. For now, we return to our scene in heaven ...

Lucifer turned against the law he once honored. But he did not rebel alone, convincing thousands of other angels to join him in rebellion. It should have been no easy task, but the argument he used, and still uses, was highly deceptive, not only to the angels, but also to himself:

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!

How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High’” (Isaiah 14:12–14).

Lucifer believed that he could be like the Most High without obeying set laws. In other words, he believed he could be good without God’s law. So he put forth the argument that angels did not need laws to dictate their course of action. Since they were already holy, they could live without God’s law. They could determine for themselves what was right and what was wrong. If this were true, then God was being unjust, overbearing, dictatorial, and egotistical, not wanting the angels to realize their full potential.

Lucifer’s argument didn’t directly encourage evil acts; rather, it claimed that goodness was possible without the need to obey God. Hence, his rebellion against God’s law was to prove that goodness was possible without God. It was this self-delusion that won over a third of the heavenly angels (Revelation 12:4). Like a political campaign, Lucifer launched a series of deceptive arguments, claiming that he was only trying to reform God’s government to improve the lives of angels, that the government of God was too intrusive, and that the angels should be left alone to live out their own dreams and wishes according to self rule.

Many people have unwittingly followed this same argument here on earth. Atheists claim, for instance, that they do not need a god to be good. And even many professed Christians have accepted this philosophy by claiming that Christians do not need to abide by God’s law in order to be holy (Romans 3:31). This was the very argument that ultimately led to war in heaven, which would eventually lead to a rebellion on earth. “And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer” (Revelation 12:7, 8).

Close Scene 1

Scene 2:

The Rebellion on Earth

Let's now turn our attention to our own planet, where Satan and his angels were cast. But before we watch what happens, let's press "pause" and ask a few questions:

Why didn't God immediately judge and destroy Satan and his angels?

Why were they simply cast out of heaven and allowed to live on?

We find these answers in a principle laid out in the book of Deuteronomy.

"If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, then both men in the controversy shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges.... And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you" (19:16–19).

The principle is one of common sense. If a controversy arose between two people, a third party would be the deciding factor. Neither the person being accused nor the accusing party could fairly serve as a judge in the case. Someone or some group, a jury perhaps, outside the conflict must become involved. Applying this principle to our scene in heaven, Lucifer and his angels brought an accusation against God and His angels. In this conflict of two parties, if God Himself judged the ones who were accusing Him, then Lucifer and his angels would have claimed that God was being unfair and dictatorial. So what could God do?

As the Lord cast Lucifer out of heaven, He made a statement that must have puzzled the covering cherub:

"Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast

corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, *I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee*" (Ezekiel 28:17 KJV, my emphasis).

What did God mean by, "I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee"? It's as if the Lord was telling Lucifer that he would indeed be judged by some group of "kings." This must have puzzled Lucifer since all the angels had taken a side. What third party would judge Lucifer and his angels? If you guessed humanity, you guessed right. The apostle Paul wrote these words that give us yet another piece to the puzzle or blueprint. "Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? *Do you not know that we shall judge angels?* How much more, things that pertain to this life?" (1 Corinthians 6:2, 3, my emphasis). We are the "kings" whom God will use to judge the fallen angels.

"Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and *has made us kings and priests* to His God and Father" (Revelation 1:5, 6, my emphasis).

God created humanity, among other reasons, for the honor of serving as jurors. He created Adam and Eve and gave them "dominion" over the earth (Genesis 1:26, 28). The first pair were indeed "kings" created to rule over this world, and in subjection to God Himself. As long as they were submitted to His government, they would rule in peace on earth.

That mankind fit the position of jurors may be seen from the following facts. When a jury is selected, certain criteria must be met. First, jurors should have little firsthand knowledge of the crime. Adam and Eve had not yet been created when the rebellion occurred in heaven. Second, a juror must be a law-abiding citizen. When the first human pair was created, God made them in His likeness. The law of His government was written upon their hearts. They were law-abiding citizens of the kingdom of heaven. Third, a juror must know the difference between good and evil. Adam and Eve both knew this distinction. They knew that eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was wrong. God made this clear to them.

After Lucifer was cast to the earth, he watched this new creation

with terror. Were these the kings who were to judge him and seal his fate? Would God allow him access to humanity? He would take his chances and attempt to bribe the jury. Lucifer—now called Satan, which means “deceiver”—approached Eve in the form of a serpent. He did not ask her to join his rebellion of evil; instead, he simply repeated the same deception he had pulled off back in heaven. In essence, he said, “Eve, you can be like God without obeying God.” Notice what the Bible says:

“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”’ And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.”’ Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil’” (Genesis 3:1–5).

Why did God allow Adam and Eve to be tested by Satan? Because jurors must be tested. Every juror, before entering into his or her duty, is tested for fitness to serve. Some are eliminated; others are kept. It was no different for Adam and Eve. They must have the freedom to choose—to reject God or to accept His law—just as the angels in heaven were given a choice. Adam and Eve failed the test. You can almost hear Satan laughing, “Are these the ‘kings’ you were going to use to judge me?” Would this mean a stalemate? What would happen next?

Just as Satan was removed from heaven for breaking God’s law, so now Adam and Eve were removed from the garden of Eden for the same reason. Yet God did not leave them to despair. While Satan was also given a full revelation of God’s grace, he rejected it. Nothing more could be done for him; he and his angels had committed an unpardonable sin. Not so with Adam and Eve. The newly created pair still had much to learn about God; therefore, the plan of salvation was extended to them. This plan—which is outlined in His blueprint (I’ll be introducing it in the next chapter)—was devised to restore mankind so that they would again become law-abiding citizens of the kingdom of heaven. It would ultimately bring humanity back home to

the presence of God.

As people began to multiply on the earth, some sided with God and obeyed His commandments; others joined the rebellion of Satan against God's government. The Lord would allow the principles of Satan, so subtly hidden at first, time to completely manifest themselves. The devil was given an opportunity on this earth to show how he would run a kingdom if he were "God."

The Lord did not forsake our deceived world. He left a clear path for those who would choose to come back to Him and be loyal to His government. Through the prophet Moses, He was about to introduce to the world a plan to save lost people. This plan, or blueprint, would lay out a clear design of God's path of salvation. As you can imagine, Satan must have been dismayed as he watched this structure he had been so familiar with in heaven, now being duplicated in miniature form on earth, and would seek to do all he could to sabotage God's blueprint to humanity.

Close Scene 2

Scene 3:

God's Blueprint

As people multiplied on the earth, some followed the Lord and others remained against Him. Eventually, God chose a family to represent Him and His kingdom, calling Abraham and Sarah to start a great nation of people that would reveal His blueprint to the world (Genesis 12:1–3). After Abraham came Isaac, who was followed by Jacob. When a famine came to their land, Jacob's family (the Israelites) went to Egypt (42:1, 2), where, though they prospered at first, eventually they became slaves because of a jealous and suspicious Pharaoh (Exodus 1:8–14). But God sent a deliverer named Moses to miraculously lead them out of Egypt and into the land of Canaan, the Promised Land (3:7–10).

Here we pick up the next scene in our movie revealing God's blueprint ...

The children of Israel had just left Egyptian captivity. Crossing the Red Sea, they now began their journey to Canaan. The journey from Egypt to Canaan is symbolic of the journey of any person who leaves a life of captivity to sin and begins the journey toward heaven. It was during this journey that God would give the children of Israel special guidance to not only assist them into the land of Canaan, but also to fulfill a much greater purpose.

God wanted to guide lost humanity back toward heaven. His plan was to use a powerful illustration called the sanctuary. The Lord instructed Moses, "Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them" (Exodus 25:8). Notice how King David described this tabernacle: "Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; who is so great a God as our God?" (Psalm 77:13).

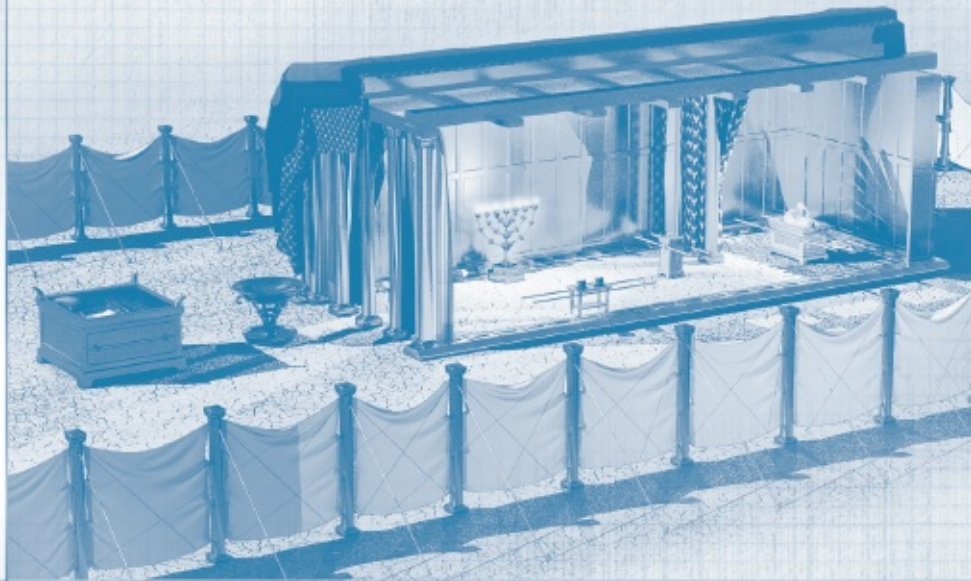
God's path for us back to the kingdom of heaven is found in this earth-bound miniature model of the throne room in heaven. Within this replica is the blueprint of salvation. It reveals the character and

workings of God. It opens to the world the mystery behind Satan's rebellion, disproving the lie that holiness could be achieved without God's law. Within it lies the answers to the conflict between good and evil and how God will ultimately rid the world of the sin problem. Imagine Satan's feelings of apprehension and anger as he sees this miniature model of what was once his home being set up on earth!

I use this illustration because the Lord gave Moses "a pattern" to follow when making the sanctuary building. But in another way, this blueprint also guides people through a process. Though the sanctuary was a stationary building while it was functioning, it had movement within. There was a pathway within the tabernacle that led the priests who served in it symbolically through God's plan of salvation.

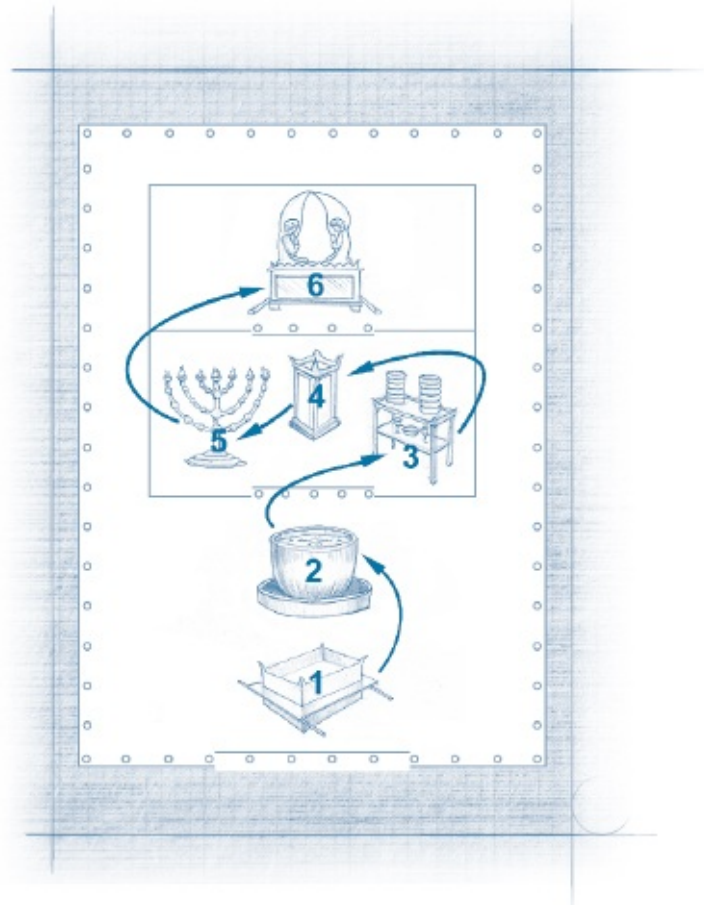
Now follow me carefully. To use a modern-day example, we can also think of the sanctuary as a GPS unit that gives directions to heaven. When I enter a destination into my car's GPS unit, I am automatically given directions on reaching that destination—such as "turn left at the next stoplight, turn right at the next exit," etc.). Likewise, the sanctuary guides us through a route, laying out a map to lead us in the right direction. And so, we could say that GPS stands for God's "Gospel Path of Salvation."

Have you ever been lost without a GPS and stopped to ask someone for directions? The person may have given you what appeared to be solid information. But too late you realized that the confident man or woman did not really know the destination. In the same way, many today are giving directions to heaven, and to a brighter future, but without a GPS. It's all guesswork! This is why it is crucial to understand God's GPS. By in large, for the purpose of this book, I will refer to the blueprint metaphor, but the GPS analogy is just another way to think about the sanctuary in a way that emphasizes movement within this special structure.



Allow the camera of your mind to zoom in and around as we explore this amazing blueprint. The sanctuary was situated at the center of the camp of Israel, signifying that it was to be the center of the plan of salvation. It was comprised of a two-compartment room surrounded by an outer tent. The tabernacle had three doors, the first one being at the outer tent leading into a courtyard. The courtyard contained two articles of furniture, an altar for sacrifices and a laver that held water for the priests to wash with before they entered the second door leading to the Holy Place. Within the Holy Place were three articles of furniture: the table of showbread, the seven-branch candlestick, and the altar of incense. After this was the third and final door, actually a veil, leading to the Most Holy Place. Inside the Most Holy Place was the ark of the covenant, which held the law of God. Above it rested the mercy seat and covering cherubs. You can read about it in detail in Exodus 40.

Below is a bird's-eye view of the diagram—or blueprint:



Let this image sear into your mind. Within the diagram, the plan of salvation is vividly portrayed. The following shows how each article of furniture in the sanctuary carried a gospel application that portrays God's plan of salvation:

1. The *altar of sacrifice* is where unblemished animals were offered daily, pointing to the sacrifice of Jesus. See John 1:29.
2. The *laver* represents washing, pointing to baptism. See Matthew 3:11.
3. The *table of showbread* represents the Word of God. See Matthew 4:4.
4. The *altar of incense* symbolizes prayer. See Revelation 8:1–3.
5. The *seven-branch candlestick* symbolizes the people of God letting their light shine. See Matthew 5:14–16.
6. The *ark of the covenant*, the mercy seat, represents the throne of God. See Hebrews 4:16.

Do you see the extraordinary image? In fact, by tracing around the

articles of furniture, you will find the shape of the cross! It's as if God showed, thousands of years before the coming of Christ, that the Messiah would one day be crucified for our sins—that the way of salvation was by the path of the cross.

Next, notice that in every place an article of furniture is found, Christ was likewise wounded on His body:

1. *Altar of sacrifice*: Jesus' feet nailed to the cross.
2. *Laver*: Jesus pierced in His side, from which flowed blood and water (John 19:34). (Remember, the laver is where the priests would wash their hands in water *after* working with the blood of the sacrifices.)
3. *Table of showbread*: Jesus' left hand nailed to the cross.
4. *Altar of incense*: Christ died from a broken heart.
5. *Seven-branch candlestick*: Jesus' right hand nailed to the cross.
6. *Ark of the covenant*: A crown of thorns pierced Christ's head.

Amazing! But we're not even done ...

Notice also how each article of furniture points to Christ. In fact, in John 2:19, 20, Jesus himself declares that the temple was pointing to Him:

1. *Altar of sacrifice*: Jesus is the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for our sins. See John 1:29.
2. *Laver*: Jesus is the Water of Life. See John 7:37.
3. *Table of showbread*: Jesus is the Bread of Life. See John 6:53.
4. *Altar of incense*: Jesus is our Intercessor. See Hebrews 7:26.
5. *Seven-branch candlestick*: Jesus is the Light of the world. See John 8:12.
6. *Ark of the covenant*: Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, just as the Shekinah glory was a manifestation of God in the temple. See 1 Timothy 3:16.

We can even see the plan of salvation portrayed when God led the children of Israel out of captivity; this pattern is traced in the pattern of the sanctuary:

1. *Altar of sacrifice*: They sacrificed a lamb and put its blood on their

- doorposts. This came to be known as Passover (Exodus 12).
2. *Laver*: They were then led through the Red Sea, which was symbolic of baptism (Exodus 14:21; 1 Corinthians 10:1, 2).
 3. *Table of showbread*: Following this, they were fed manna (bread) from heaven (Exodus 16).
 4. *Altar of incense*: They were then told to spend three days in heartfelt introspection as preparation to meet God (Exodus 19).
 5. *Seven-branch candlestick*: They were then declared to be God's peculiar treasure, His royal nation, and a light to the world (Exodus 19).
 6. *Ark of the covenant*: God spoke the Ten Commandments to them (Exodus 20).

The tabernacle also shows the blueprint of Christ's life on earth:

1. *Altar of sacrifice*: Born in a manger among animals, as if born to die. He was declared to be the Lamb of God (John 1:29).
2. *Laver*: He was baptized at the age of 30 in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:16).
3. *Table of showbread*: He was led into the wilderness where he was tempted three times. The first temptation was to turn stone into bread (Matthew 4:1–4).
4. *Altar of incense*: The second temptation was to offer up a presumptuous prayer to God (Matthew 4:5–7).
5. *Seven-branch candlestick*: The third temptation was to receive the glory (light) of the world by bowing to Satan, so He could "save" people without going to the cross (Matthew 4:8–10).
6. *Ark of the covenant*: Christ overcame all three temptations and proceeded to preach the law of God *and* the mercy of God. Grace and truth are the foundation of the gospel (John 14:15).

This incredible blueprint even shows Christ's descent from heaven (note, the furniture items go in reverse, showing how He descended from His glory in heaven):

1. *Ark of the covenant*: He left his place in heaven (John 3:13) to ...
2. *Seven-branch candlestick*: ... become the Light of a world that had

been darkened by sin (John 9:5) ...

3. *Altar of incense*: ... to intercede on behalf of humanity (Luke 23:34) by ...
4. *Table of showbread*: ... coming down as Bread from Heaven (John 6:33), ...
5. *Laver*: ... baptized on our behalf and as our example (Matthew 3:16), ...
6. *Altar of sacrifice*: ... and then crucified! (Luke 23:33).

The New Testament can also be seen through the pattern of the blueprint.

1. *Altar of sacrifice*: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are all about the birth, life, and death of Jesus Christ.
2. *Laver*: The book of Acts is all about the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
3. *Table of showbread*: Romans through Jude covers the importance of Bible Study (the Word of God as the Bread of Life) ...
4. *Altar of incense*: ... prayer (praying in our Intercessor's name, Jesus), and ...
5. *Seven-branch candlestick*: ... witnessing (Christians are to be the light of the world as Jesus' representatives on earth).
6. *Ark of the covenant*: The book of Revelation takes us into the very throne room of God.

It's clear that understanding the sanctuary blueprint is crucial to grasping the plan of salvation as revealed in the Bible.

You might be wondering why you haven't heard more about this symbol of the gospel. I believe it is by demonic design. Satan knows that if he can keep people ignorant of the path to God, he will succeed in keeping them locked in his deceptions. The sanctuary is so important and so beautiful precisely because it points out the process by which we all may be saved. Notice the steps of salvation in the blueprint:

Altar of Sacrifice: The first thing a person must do to be saved is accept the sacrifice of Christ at the cross and receive forgiveness for sin. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us

our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Satan and his evil angels do all in their power to keep us from making it to the base of the altar of sacrifice—the cross! By the grace of God, many will break through that line of demons and find Christ. But many make the mistake of thinking this is all that needs to be done. The devil is happy to have people believe this. The blueprint shows however that there is more to salvation than just accepting Christ at the cross.

Laver: A person who has genuinely accepted Christ will be led to be baptized. (See John 3:1–8.) The laver represents a washing away of our sins. If the altar of sacrifice represents Christ dying for you, then the laver symbolizes how you die for Christ. In baptism, a person symbolically dies when he ceases to breathe, is buried when he goes under the water, and is resurrected when he is lifted out of the water and takes his first breath. If there are 10 demons trying to stop you from accepting Christ, imagine 20 seeking to stop you from being baptized. And if you break through that line of demons, by God’s grace, they will try to convince you that baptism is enough. You can relax now and be at peace. But having the blueprint before us, we know that this too is a lie.

Table of Showbread: The Christian who genuinely accepts Christ’s death on his behalf and has been baptized will be found studying the Word of God, for in it is found salvation. (See John 5:39, 40; Matthew 4:4; Hebrews 4:12.) If 20 demons are trying to stop you from getting baptized, then there are 40 trying to stop you from becoming familiar with the Word of God. And if by God’s power you break through this line of demons, they will seek to convince you that reading the Bible is enough. But having God’s blueprint allows you to see the error of this as well.

Altar of Incense: The Christian who has genuinely accepted Christ, been baptized, and studies the Bible will also realize he is powerless without prayer. A living relationship with Christ is of the utmost importance. Only through prayer can one expect to withstand the wiles of the devil. (See Ephesians 6:10–18). If there are 40 demons trying to stop you from studying, then there are 80 trying to stop you from praying. Yet, by the grace of God, if you break through that line of demons, they will seek to convince

you that you are now set and there is no need to advance. We now know that this, too, is not true.

Seven-Branch Candlestick: The Christian who has genuinely accepted Christ, been baptized, and is studying the Word of God and praying will let his light shine and not hide it under a basket. A true Christian shares his faith and takes seriously the gospel commission to go into all the world, preaching the good news (Matthew 28:18–20). Now, if there are 80 demons trying to stop you from praying, there are hundreds trying to stop you from witnessing. But if you are able, by God’s power, to break through this line, then you face your final stand.

The Ark of the Covenant: God is ultimately trying to lead lost humanity back to himself. So for a Christian to be truly and fully submitted to the Lord, he must be willing to keep God’s Ten Commandments. If there are hundreds of demons seeking to stop you from witnessing, then there is a legion of evil angels seeking to stop you from keeping God’s law. It is here that Satan proposes the same lie he originally pulled off in heaven—that one need not keep God’s law in order to be holy. Millions of well-meaning but misinformed Christians have fallen for this deception. By teaching that the Ten Commandments have been nullified, that the Christian is no longer bound to keep them, is a massive error, the same error that got demons put out of heaven is perpetuated by misinformed Christians. In fact, Satan would have many believe that studying, praying, witnessing, and being baptized nullifies the need for one to keep God’s commandments! Since they are already doing “good” things, they need not keep the law!

The blueprint is clear about our ultimate duty to God, isn’t it? And the New Testament is without confusion on this matter either. Note the following verses:

“If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15).

“So He said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.’ He said to Him, ‘Which ones?’ Jesus said, ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Matthew 19:17–19).

“Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘You shall not covet,’ and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:8–10).

“The dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17).

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).

“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie” (Revelation 22:14, 15).

Many who don't know the blueprint mistakenly believe that when Jesus died, he got rid of the Ten Commandments. But this doesn't make sense. Why would Jesus die to remove the very thing that defines sin? While His death made it unnecessary to keep the law of Moses, which dealt with sacrifices and offerings, the Ten Commandment law still stands and is the basis of the new covenant. “But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, ‘This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them’” (Hebrews 10:15, 16).

Only by God's grace can we live out this process and find entrance into the kingdom of heaven. The Lord is gracious, and many on the track to redemption who died before they could discover the full revelation of truth will be honored by God. The thief on the cross could only cry out and accept Christ at the altar of sacrifice—the cross (Luke 23:42). As a result he will be saved. He could not come down from the cross and be baptized. Some people might have accepted Christ and even been baptized but perhaps never had a Bible in their

possession. They too will be saved. God judges us not on what we don't know, but on what we do when we discover truth.

“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed” (John 3:19, 20).

So this was the blueprint God gave to Israel, a plan that made the devil tremble. Satan attempted to do all in his power to either destroy the people in the wilderness or destroy the blueprint they received, even if the people did not fully understand its significance.

As if handing off a football to Israel, God gave them this blueprint to take onto the field of the world. This was His purpose in calling Israel, to prepare the world for the coming of the Messiah and to show them the path to the throne of God.

But as soon as they began to run with the ball, Israel fumbled the ball. Satan attempted to disrupt the mission of Israel by introducing idolatry and sin into their nation. God's people began worshiping other gods.

As a result, God placed team Israel in a “time out” as it were for 70 years of captivity by the kingdom of Babylon. Their city, Jerusalem, and their blueprint, the sanctuary, were burned and destroyed. (See 2 Chronicles 36.) It was here, in Babylonian captivity, that a young prophet by the name of Daniel received a series of visions that spoke of the sanctuary blueprint, visions that would affect the course of history forever.

Close Scene 3

Scene 4:

The 490-Year Prophecy

Our movie on earth's history now picks up with the story of a great prophet of God that arose while Israel was in captivity in a foreign land. Daniel was a young boy when Israel fell captive to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586 BC (Daniel 1). The people of God had forfeited His protection by rebelling against the very principles taught by the sanctuary, which now lay in ruins (2 Chronicles 36:19). But even so, God would use this young man to rekindle hope and commitment of the Jewish nation to the mission for which God had originally raised them up. They were to prepare the world for the first coming of the Messiah.

The book of Daniel records several spectacular, movie-like visions about the future of humanity. Three of these visions in particular are crucial for us to understand at this point in history. These are, in chronological order, the 70-week prophecy, the 1,260-day prophecy, and the 2,300-day prophecy.

Israel had been placed in "time out" *because of their rebellion* against God. During this time, God sent a vision to Daniel showing him that a decree would be issued that would allow the Israelites to begin rebuilding their temple and city. The vision further showed that counting 69 prophetic weeks from that time (7 weeks + 62 weeks = 69 weeks) would bring about the arrival of the Messiah.

"Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And

after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined” (Daniel 9:24–26).

According to history, this very decree was given in 457 BC by the Medo-Persian king Artaxerxes, who had overthrown Babylon and allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their temple. Counting 69 literal weeks from that time does not bring us to the Messiah. But if we use the Bible principle of a day for a year (see Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6), the 69 weeks, or 483 days, would equal 483 years. And counting 483 years from 457 BC brings us down to the time of Rome, specifically the year AD 27, the very year that Jesus was baptized at the Jordan River, when John the Baptist announced him as the Messiah! Jesus recognized this prophecy and specifically stated that it had been fulfilled. “After John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, *‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel’*” (Mark 1:14, 15, my emphasis).

This vision of Daniel was actually a warning to the people of God. They had 70 weeks—that is, 490 years—to get their hearts and priorities right with God. When the Messiah came and they still had not followed God, rejecting the Messiah and their mission, the Lord would take the blueprint from them and give it to another nation to finish the work.

Jesus came right on time—and, sadly, the Jews as a nation rejected Him. In rejecting the Messiah, they had rejected all that the sanctuary symbolized. They had rejected the Lamb of God, the Water of Life, the Bread of Life, the Light of the world, their only Intercessor, and even the law of God they claimed to obey. As a result, God took the privilege from them and gave it to another nation. Jesus prophesied about this:

“Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’S doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a

nation bearing the fruits of it” (Matthew 21:42, 43).

Christ died to establish the new covenant. By His death, He would transfer the law of God from tables of stone to the tables of hearts in millions of people. Because of His sacrifice, Jesus would spark the fires of love in the hearts of those moved by such self-sacrificing love. His death on the cross would lead them to submit to the laws of the kingdom of heaven. Hence Jesus said, “If you love me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15). Far from being abolished at the cross, the commandments were established by His death. “Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law” (Romans 3:31). To reject the law of God is to reject the cross of Christ, which establishes the holiness of that law!

As a result of Israel’s rejection, God raised up a new nation. It was not based upon ethnicity, but upon the acceptance of Christ—

“You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy” (1 Peter 2:9, 10).

“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God” (Romans 2:28, 29).

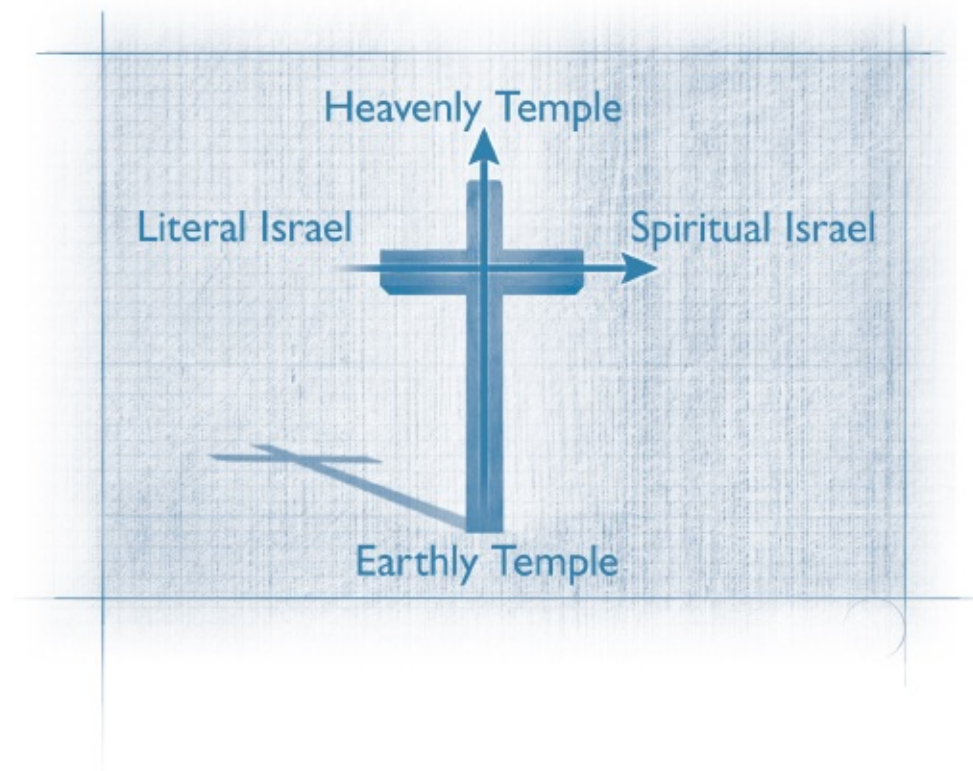
“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:26–29).

Now salvation was opened to those of any race (Jew or Gentile) who accepted Christ as the Messiah. There was not only a horizontal transition from literal Israel to spiritual Israel, but a vertical one from the earthly temple to the heavenly temple. The earthly sanctuary was taken from literal Israel. Remember, at the death of Christ, the veil in the Jewish temple was torn in two, signifying that the sanctuary on

earth was no longer operable. The heavenly sanctuary had now taken the place of the earthly. “Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split” (Matthew 27:50, 51). Christ was going to enter the heavenly sanctuary as our High Priest.

“Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man” (Hebrews 8:1, 2).

From the cross onward, spiritual Israel was given the football. They were to take the blueprint to the entire world. It would now be the responsibility of the Christian church to point all eyes to Christ, our High Priest in the heavenly temple. God poured upon them the gift of tongues (or “languages”) to enable them to spread the gospel in any known language they would encounter (see Acts 2).



The church went forth on its mission like an unstoppable force. Seeing the transition, Satan turned his attack upon the early church, spiritual Israel. In the first three centuries, Satan unleashed an assault upon the church designed to stop it in its tracks. First using literal

Israel and then pagan Roman persecution, Satan sought to annihilate Christians from the face of the earth. But the coliseums and lions proved no match for the rapidly spreading faith. The more Christians were persecuted, the more they multiplied. Their martyr's blood was like seed.

Satan needed to change his battle plan. He would, therefore, bring about a power known according to Bible prophecy as the "little horn", or "mystery Babylon." This power would be used to not only launch a new kind of assault on the growing church, but it would also spiritually attack the heavenly temple. Just as Satan had used literal Babylon to destroy the literal temple and take the Jews captive, so he would now use spiritual Babylon to attack the heavenly temple and persecute the spiritual Israel of God. Just what is this "little horn"? Who is "Babylon"?

Close Scene 4

Scene 5:

The 1260-day Prophecy

What would you think of a GPS unit that was malfunctioning and leading you in the opposite direction of your destination? How would you feel about the wrong blueprint accidentally being used by a construction crew to build your new home? Pretty frustrating. But can you imagine someone *purposefully* programming your GPS unit incorrectly or *intentionally* slipping a different blueprint in front of your construction crew? I'd be pretty unhappy! This is exactly what Satan did, as we shall see in this chapter.

According to the prophecy of Daniel chapters 7 and 8, a little horn would rise out of the ruins of ancient Rome. Daniel saw four beasts, which are symbols of nations according to Daniel 7:23. These four beasts, a lion, a bear, a leopard, and a fourth "terrible" beast, represent the successive nations of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Then out of the ruins of Rome would rise multiple kingdoms, one of which is described as a "little horn." It was called "little," but it caused big problems, especially in its attempts to destroy God's blueprint. This little horn power would launch a twofold attack, a horizontal one toward the spiritual nation of Israel, and a vertical assault against the heavenly temple of God. The prophecy states that the little horn would succeed in this onslaught for a period of 1,260 days.

"He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down" (Daniel 8:11).

"He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time" (Daniel 7:25).

A "time" in Bible prophecy represents 360 days, about one year;

“times” doubles this to stand for 720 days; and “half a time” means 180 days. Since this prophecy is connected with the 70-week prophecy (Daniel 9:24–27), this time period should be understood to be 1,260 years long, using the same year-for-a-day principle we saw earlier. We can conclude that sometime after the fall of the Roman Empire, a new power would rise out of Rome and be the chief persecutor of the church. This power would exercise dominion over the world for 1,260 years. In fact, it would attack the sanctuary and every article in it. Notice how it would take place.

First, it would take away the “daily sacrifice” (Daniel 8:11), which pointed to the altar of sacrifice. In other words, it would launch an assault on the sacrifice of Jesus at the cross. It would attack “the saints of the most high” (Daniel 7:25). Remember, God’s people are represented by the seven-branch candlestick. It would also attack God’s “laws” (ibid.), which point to the ark of the covenant. Finally, it would attack the intercession of Christ as High Priest by setting itself up in that place (Daniel 8:11). In fact, this power “opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:4). It would do this both by taking the place of Christ as high priest and claiming the position of the Holy Father who sits on the throne in the Most Holy Place.

Did such a power arise out of Rome? History bears out the fact. Just as Satan, under the guise of spirituality, brought about dissension in heaven, so he would use spirituality again to his advantage. He would join the church. What he could not defeat by brute force, he would seek to conquer by flattery and compromise.

The church had been persecuted by Rome for three centuries. Now Rome had a new leader, who seemed favorable to Christianity and supposedly even converted to it. His name was Constantine. He made the recently persecuted sect the new state religion, and multitudes of pagan worshippers joined the church, bringing their paganism with them. This mix of paganism and Christianity began to weaken the church from the inside. As pagan Rome was falling to barbarian attacks (just as the prophet Daniel had prophesied almost one thousand years earlier), a transfer of power was occurring. Out of the ruins of the Roman kingdom arose a religion that was foreign to the disciples. This “new” Christianity cast down every truth taught by the

blueprint.

Speaking of this time, around ^{AD} 500, when the Roman Empire was crumbling to pieces, church historians write:

“No, the [Catholic] Church will not descend into the tomb. It will survive the Empire.... At length a second empire will arise, and of this empire the Pope will be the master—more than this, he will be the master of Europe. He will dictate his orders to kings who will obey them.”¹

“The Roman Church ... pushed itself into the place of the Roman World-Empire, of which it is the actual continuation.... The Pope ... is Caesar’s successor.”²

“The mighty Catholic Church was little more than the Roman Empire baptised. Rome was transformed as well as converted. The very capital of the old Empire became the capital of the Christian Empire. The office of Pontifex Maximus was continued in that of Pope.”³

“She received her capital city and power from pagan Rome.”⁴

How was the sanctuary blueprint attacked by the papacy? Let’s look at the changes made to every article of furniture in God’s tabernacle.

Altar of Sacrifice: Daily Sacrifice Cast Down

The church began to teach that the sacrifice of Christ was not sufficient for the forgiveness of sin and its punishment, introducing the concepts of penance and indulgences. These were ways to “work off” or “pay off” the punishment for sin. Notice these explanations from the Catholic Catechism:

“Q. What do we mean by penance? A. By a penance we mean the prayers of good works imposed by the priest in confession. It is intended as satisfaction for our sins.... Q. What punishment for sin is taken away by the sacrament of penance? A. The eternal punishment for sin is taken away in the sacrament of penance. Q. What is meant by the temporal punishment of sin? A. The temporal punishment of sin is that punishment which is due after the guilt of the sin is forgiven.”⁵

“In this sacrament sins are forgiven by the priest’s absolution, joined with contrition, confession and satisfaction on the part of

the penitent.... It also remits the eternal, and at least a part of the temporal, punishment due to our past sins.”⁶

The church during this time also taught that they had the power to put Christ back on the cross every time they broke the Eucharist, the communion bread, in effect crucifying Christ afresh and nullifying the significance and efficacy of His onetime sacrifice.

“The bread and wine, the consecrated stone, a priest, is all that is needed now, for ‘at any moment it is in his power to call the Lord of glory with holy words down upon the earth, to bless Him with his lips, to hold Him in his hands, to receive Him into his mouth, and to distribute Him to the faithful, whilst at the same time the angels stand about him in reverent awe to honor Him who is sacrificed. ‘The power of the priest,’ exclaims St. Bernardine of Sienna, ‘surpasses the power of the blessed virgin; Mary brought the Son of God only once into this world, the priest can do so daily.’ The moment of consecration comes, the priest’s head is bowed as the awful words fall from his lips: ‘This is My body.’ With the swiftness of light, the Lord of hosts has ‘leaped down from His throne on high,’ the substance of the bread has gone, and in his hands, which he has striven to render ‘holy and undefiled,’ the Melchisedeck of the new law holds his Creator, Redeemer and judge. A moment more and by the second words of consecration, ‘This is My blood,’ the Lamb of God lies ‘mystically slain,’ for the sacrifice of Calvary and the altar are the same.”⁷

“‘Marvelous dignity of priests!’ exclaims St. Augustine; ‘in their hands, as in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary, the Son of God becomes incarnate.’ ... Behold the power of the priest! The tongue of the priest makes God from a morsel of bread! It is more than creating the world. Someone said, ‘Does St. Philomena, then, obey the cure of Ars?’ Certainly, she may well obey him, since God obeys him. The blessed virgin cannot make her divine Son descend into the host. A priest can, however simple he may be.”⁸

Laver: Baptism

The church during this period also began to teach that, because of original sin, babies who died would go to hell. Therefore, infant sprinkling was introduced. Hence, once the child was baptized, he was considered under the protecting grace of God with no need to be

baptized as an adult. In other words, this new teaching robbed the Christian of the personal decision to choose Christ, something that cannot be done as an infant.

“Original sin ... is universal. Every child is, therefore, defiled at its birth with the taint of Adam’s disobedience.... Hence baptism, which washes away original sin, is as essential for the infant as for the full grown man, in order to attain the kingdom of heaven.”⁹

“Whoever shall affirm that children are not to be reckoned among the faithful by the reception of baptism, because they do not actually believe; and therefore that they are to be rebaptized when they come to years of discretion. Or that, since they cannot personally believe, it is better to omit their baptism, than that they should be baptized only in the faith of the church: let him be accursed.”¹⁰

Table of Showbread: The Word of God

The church then substituted its own traditions in place of the Word of God. No common person was allowed to have or read the Bible for themselves. The Bible was considered insufficient for the salvation of men. The Vatican had declared its hatred for the Word of God:

“The belief in the Bible as the sole source of faith is unhistorical, illogical, fatal to the virtue of faith, and destructive of unity.”¹¹

“The doctrines of the Catholic Church are entirely independent of Holy Scripture.”¹²

In a decree from AD 1229 by the Council of Valencia, the Bible was placed on the Index of Forbidden Books. The doctrine holds that “it is forbidden for laymen (common men) to read the Old and New Testaments. We forbid them most severely to have the above books in the popular vernacular.” Pope Gregory IX insisted that church leaders were to carefully seek out heretics who refused to give up their Bibles “in dwellings, hovels, and forests, and even their underground retreats shall be entirely wiped out.”

In 1866 Pope Pius IX said that Bible societies were “pests” that “must be destroyed by all means.” And again, from *The Question Box*, 1913, published by the Columbus Press, p. 66

“The Bible does not pretend to be a formulary of belief, as in a creed or catechism. There is nowhere in the New Testament a clear, methodical statement of the teaching of Christ.... The very nature of the Bible ought to prove to any thinking man the impossibility of its being the one safe method to find out what the Savior taught” (p. 66).

“The Scriptures indeed is a divine book but it is a dead letter, which has to be explained, and cannot exercise the action which the preacher can obtain.”¹³

“The Bible was not intended to be a textbook of Christian religion.”¹⁴

Altar of Incense: Christ’s Intercession Cast Down

Just as the sanctuary proper was a two-compartment room divided by a curtain, with God seated on a throne, so the church set up its own confessional booth: a two-compartment room with the priest sitting in the place of God, hearing the confessions of men, and claiming to forgive their sins—a claim the Bible equates with blasphemy (see Mark 2:7).

“God himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of his priest and either not to pardon or to pardon, according as they refuse to give absolution, provided the penitent is capable of it.”¹⁵

“This judicial authority will even include the power to forgive sin.”¹⁶

“The poor sinner kneels at his confessor’s feet. He *knows* he is not speaking to an ordinary man but to ‘*another Christ*’, He hears the words: ‘I absolve thy sins ...’ and the *hideous load of sins drops from his soul forever*.”¹⁷

Seven-Branch Candlestick: The Church Persecuted

Also during this time period, the Roman Church persecuted “heretics”—that is, anyone who disagreed with her theology. Church leaders sought to put out the light of true Christianity. This period is known as the Dark Ages.

“That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will

be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history.... It is impossible to form a complete conception of the multitude of her victims, and it is quite certain that no powers of imagination can adequately realize their sufferings.”¹⁸

“For professing faith contrary to the teachings of the Church of Rome, history records the martyrdom of more than one hundred million people. A million Waldenses and Albigenses [Swiss and French Protestants] perished during a crusade proclaimed by Pope Innocent III in 1208. Beginning from the establishment of the Jesuits in 1540 to 1580, nine hundred thousand were destroyed. One hundred and fifty thousand perished by the Inquisition in thirty years. Within the space of thirty-eight years after the edict of Charles V against the Protestants, fifty thousand persons were hanged, beheaded, or burned alive for heresy. Eighteen thousand more perished during the administration of the Duke of Alva in five and a half years.”¹⁹

“The church may by divine right confiscate the property of heretics, imprison their person, and condemn them to flames. In our age, the right to inflict the severest penalties, even death, belongs to the church. There is no graver offense than heresy, therefore it must be rooted out.”²⁰

The Ark of the Covenant: The Law of God Changed

The church also took liberties with the law of God by changing it in God’s name. The attack Lucifer launched in heaven against the law of God is the same attack he made under the auspices of the church. Images dedicated to idols in pagan Rome were now rededicated to the church with their names changed. The idols were now worshiped under the guise of Christianity and given Christian names like “Saint Peter.”

This violation of the second commandment forbidding the worship of images was coupled with a change to the fourth commandment, the Sabbath day, from Saturday to Sunday. The Bible says the beast power “shall intend to change times and law” (Daniel 7:25). In amazing, yet perhaps unintentional confessions, the church has recorded such statements like these:

“The Pope has the power to change times, to abrogate laws, and

to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ.... The Pope has the authority and often exercised it, to dispense with the command of Christ.”²¹

“The Catholic church by virtue of her divine mission changed the day from Saturday to Sunday.”²²

“The Pope is of great authority and power that he can modify, explain, or interpret even divine laws.... The Pope can *modify* divine law, since his power is not of man, but of God, and he acts as vicegerent of God upon earth.”²³

“Perhaps the ... most revolutionary change the Church ever did, happened in the first century. The holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday. ‘The Day of the Lord’ (dies Dominica) was chosen, not from any directions noted in the Scriptures, but from the Church’s sense of its own power. The day of resurrection, the day of Pentecost, fifty days later, came on the first day of the week. So this would be the new Sabbath. People who think that the Scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become 7th Day Adventists, and keep Saturday holy.”²⁴

“You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.”²⁵

“Question: Which is the Sabbath day? Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day. Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Answer. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church in the Council of Laodicea, transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday.”²⁶

“Nowhere in the Bible is it stated that worship should be changed from Saturday to Sunday.... Now the Church ... instituted, by God’s authority, Sunday as the day of worship. This same Church, by the same divine authority, taught the doctrine of Purgatory long before the Bible was made. We have, therefore, the same authority for Purgatory as we have for Sunday.”²⁷

Sitting in the Place of God

The Roman Church also claimed that the position at the head of it—the pope—was equal to that of God:

“The Pope is of so great dignity, and so exalted that he is not a mere man, but as it were God, and the vicar of God.”²⁸

“Names which in the Scriptures are applied to Christ, by virtue of which it is established that He is over the church, all the same ... are applied to the Pope.”²⁹

“The Pope and God are the same, so he has all power in Heaven and earth.”³⁰

“To believe that our Lord God the Pope has not the power to decree as he is decreed, is to be deemed heretical.”³¹

“The Pope is not only the representative of Jesus Christ, he is Jesus Christ himself, hidden under the veil of flesh.”³²

“We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.”³³

No wonder, then, that so many saw in this church the fulfillment of the little horn of Bible prophecy—the “Mystery Babylon,” the man of sin. The attacks against God’s truth were clearly seen by others in church history. Note the opinions of these comments of church reformers who lived during this dark period in time:

Martin Luther (1483–1546, Lutheran)

“Luther ... proved, by the revelations of Daniel and St. John, by the epistles of St. Paul, St. Peter, and St. Jude, that the reign of Antichrist, predicted and described in the Bible, was the Papacy.... It was Antichrist whom they beheld seated on the pontifical throne. This new idea, which derived greater strength from the prophetic descriptions launched forth by Luther into the midst of his contemporaries, inflicted the most terrible blow on Rome.”³⁴

John Wycliffe

“When the western church was divided for about 40 years between two rival popes, one in Rome and the other in Avignon, France, each pope called the other pope antichrist—and John Wycliffe is reputed to have regarded them as both being right: ‘two halves of Antichrist, making up the perfect Man of Sin between them.’”³⁵

John Wesley (1703–1791, Methodist)

“He [the papacy] is in an emphatical sense, the Man of Sin, as he

increases all manner of sin above measure. And he is, too, properly styled the Son of Perdition, as he has caused the death of numberless multitudes, both of his opposers and followers.... He it is ... that exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped ... claiming the highest power, and highest honour ... claiming the prerogatives which belong to God alone.”³⁶

Thomas Cranmer (1489–1556, Anglican)

“Whereof it followeth Rome to be the seat of antichrist, and the pope to be very antichrist himself. I could prove the same by many other scriptures, old writers, and strong reasons,” referring to the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.³⁷

John Knox (1505–1572, Scotch Presbyterian)

John Knox sought to counteract “that tyranny which the pope himself has for so many ages exercised over the church.” As with Luther, he concluded that the Papacy was “the very antichrist, and son of perdition, of whom Paul speaks.”³⁸

John Calvin (1509–1564, Presbyterian)

“Some persons think us too severe and censorious when we call the Roman pontiff Antichrist. But those who are of this opinion do not consider that they bring the same charge of presumption against Paul himself, after whom we speak and whose language we adopt.... I shall briefly show that [Paul’s words in 2 Thessalonians 2] are not capable of any other interpretation than that which applies them to the Papacy.”³⁹

Roger Williams (1603–1683, First Baptist Pastor in America)

Pastor Williams spoke of the pope as “the pretended Vicar of Christ on earth, who sits as God over the Temple of God, exalting himself not only above all that is called God, but over the souls and consciences of all his vassals, yea over the Spirit of Christ, over the Holy Spirit, yea, and God himself ... speaking against the God of heaven, thinking to change times and laws; but he is the son of perdition.”⁴⁰

Cotton Mather (1663–1728, Congregational Theologian)

“The oracles of God foretold the rising of an Antichrist in the Christian Church: and in the Pope of Rome, all the characteristics

of that Antichrist are so marvelously answered that if any who read the Scriptures do not see it, there is a marvelous blindness upon them.”⁴¹

The Westminster Confession of Faith (1647)

“There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can the pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof; but is that Antichrist, that man of sin and son of perdition that exalteth himself in the church against Christ and all that is called God.”⁴²

And finally, this summary statement:

“Wycliffe, Tyndale, Luther, Calvin, Cranmer; in the seventeenth century, Bunyan, the translators of the King James Bible and the men who published the Westminster and Baptist confessions of Faith; Sir Isaac Newton, Wesley, Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards; and more recently Spurgeon, Bishop J.C. Ryle and Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones; these men among countless others, all saw the office of the Papacy as the antichrist.”⁴³

Moreover, the Bible describes that this power would be identified by the number 666. “Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666” (Revelation 13:18).

“The letters inscribed in the Pope’s miter are these ‘VICARIUS FILII DEI’, which is the Latin for ‘*vicar of the son of god.*’ Catholics hold that the church, which is a visible society, must have a visible head. Christ, before his ascension into heaven, appointed St. Peter to act as His representative.... Hence to the Bishop of Rome, as head of the church, was given the title, ‘*vicar of christ.*’”⁴⁴

It is interesting to note the numeric value of this title in Roman numerals, which was used for their numbering system:

The Literal Meaning:	VICARIUS—substituting for, or in place of		
	FILII—son		
	DEI—god		
V = 5	F = no value	D = 500	
I = 1	I = 1	E = no value	
C = 100	L = 50	I = 1	
A = no value	I = 1		
R = no value	I = 1		
I = 1			
U/V = 5			
S = no value			
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
= 112	= 53	= 501	
Totals: 112 + 53 + 501 = 666			

Now, what about the 1,260 years?

In AD 538 the papacy began to rule over Rome. Exactly 1,260 years later, they were temporarily disabled when France abolished the Papal states, taking the Pope captive in 1798.

“With the conquest of Rome by Belisarius, the history of the ancient city may be considered as terminating; and with his defense against Witiges [AD 538] commences the history of the middle ages.”⁴⁵

“The legally recognized supremacy of the Pope began in AD 538 when there went into effect a decree of Emperor Justinian, making the Bishop of Rome head over all the churches, the definer of doctrine and the corrector of heretics. Vigilius ... ascended the papal chair (AD 538) under the military protection of Belisarius.”⁴⁶

“In 1798 he, Berthier, made his entrance into Rome, abolished the papal government and established a secular one.”⁴⁷

The Prophecy of the Birth of Atheism/Evolutionism

It was the French Revolution (1789–99) that brought about a temporary end to the papal power that had dominated the world for 1,260 years. As a result of the abuses of the Catholic Church, France

rose up in rebellion against the little horn, mistaking it for a picture of genuine Christianity. Since only the priests were allowed to possess the Bible, the masses' view of Christ, God, and Christianity was seen through the papacy—and it wasn't a good picture.

The French Revolution birthed the modern atheistic movement, which ironically argued that God was not needed in order for a society to be virtuous. They had good cause to reject the image of God they had received, but this faulty picture poisoned their outlook on the Bible, so they rejected it and God. With one stroke Satan had launched a two-pronged assault against God and the Scriptures. First, he presented a Christianity that could make its own rules and yet still claim to be like God. It dominated and biased the minds of many against God and His character for almost 1,260 years. This false Christianity then led to the equal but opposite error arising at the end of the 1,260 years, in the French Revolution, the belief that there is no God and that people can be good without Him. Counterfeit Christianity and Atheism were simply two different faces of the same deception that Satan promoted in heaven.

Atheism would launch its own assault on the sanctuary. It attacked the *altar of sacrifice*: Christ's sacrifice would come to be viewed as illegitimate, if it ever even happened. What kind of God would send His Son to die? It attacked the *laver*: It was totally unnecessary to renew one's life to be good. One did not need to be "born again" to live out a "good and decent" life based upon the Bible. It attacked the *table of showbread*: The Word of God was simply a fairytale for the weak-minded. Atheism attacked the *altar of incense*: There was no God to talk to, so why pray? It attacked the *seven-branch candlestick*: There was no light to be found in church. And it attacked the Sabbath commandment in the *ark of the covenant* as well.

It was during the French Revolution that the initial seeds of the teaching of evolution, then called transformationism, first took root through a scientist named Jean-Baptiste Lamarck. Satan would use both evolution and the little horn to attack God's law from two different angles. While the papacy claimed authority to change the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday, evolution attacked the Sabbath by introducing the idea that the world was not created in six literal days, but rather over millions of years. Therefore, there never was a "seventh-day Sabbath." To drive home the point, the French abolished

the seven-day week and instituted a ten-day week calendar (the French Republican Calendar) in its place.

In fact, Darwin released his first *Essays* on evolution in the years 1842 and 1844. In the same year, 1844, an anonymously published sensational best-seller, *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation* brought wide interest in the theory of transmutation. Both were in fact a direct assault upon the creation account, and in particular the Sabbath, proposing that the world took much longer than six days to create hence nullifying the Sabbath altogether. The significance of the year 1844 for the date of these publications will be seen in the following chapters.

The Atheist wing had confronted and significantly wounded the so-called Christian wing. In fact, the political terms “left” and “right” that we now use in our political system, which denote many of the same principles, first appeared during the French Revolution when members of the National Assembly divided into supporters of the king to the president’s right and supporters of the revolution to his left. One deputy, the Baron de Gauville explained, “We began to recognize each other: those who were loyal to religion and the king took up positions to the right of the chair so as to avoid the shouts, oaths, and indecencies that enjoyed free rein in the opposing camp.”⁴⁸

The same prophetic conflict that emerged between the misguided religious “right” and the progressive and liberal “left” in the French Revolution was prophesied to rise again in a final conflict, this time in America, the greatest and last superpower on earth. One of these two powers would come out on top and become the final persecutor of God’s true church on earth.

Genuine Christianity appeared to be facing a double threat. The rise of the little horn had left the true church in a weakened state. It had blocked from humanity the truths of the heavenly sanctuary. Now national Atheism had revolted against a counterfeit Christianity and, in the process, denied the true God and the blueprint. But there was *one more time prophecy in the book of Daniel*, one that would counter the two-pronged assault of Atheism and false Christianity, and would restore the true gospel of which Christ said, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

Close Scene 5

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Scene 6:

The 2,300-year Prophecy and the Restoration

What was the turning point in World War II? Historians have many different views on this question. Some say the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, “the day of infamy.” Others point to the Battle of Stalingrad, which began in August 1942, a decisive defeat of the Nazi army by the Russians.

In this scene of *Earth’s Final Movie*, we’ll look at the ending of the longest time prophecy in the Bible. It is a pivotal turning point for restoration of the blueprint—the salvation message of God’s sanctuary and a crucial turning point in the battle between good and evil.

The prophet Daniel was given another vision, found in Daniel 8, this time extending past the 1,260-year prophecy. In his dream, God showed Daniel a ram and a he-goat that represented Medo-Persia and Greece. (Babylon had since fallen off the scene and was therefore not included in this vision.) Then Daniel saw a little horn rising, the same little horn seen in the previous vision, representing the power that would rise out of Rome. While Daniel was beholding the work of this little horn, his attention was suddenly arrested by a conversation between two angels regarding the little horn:

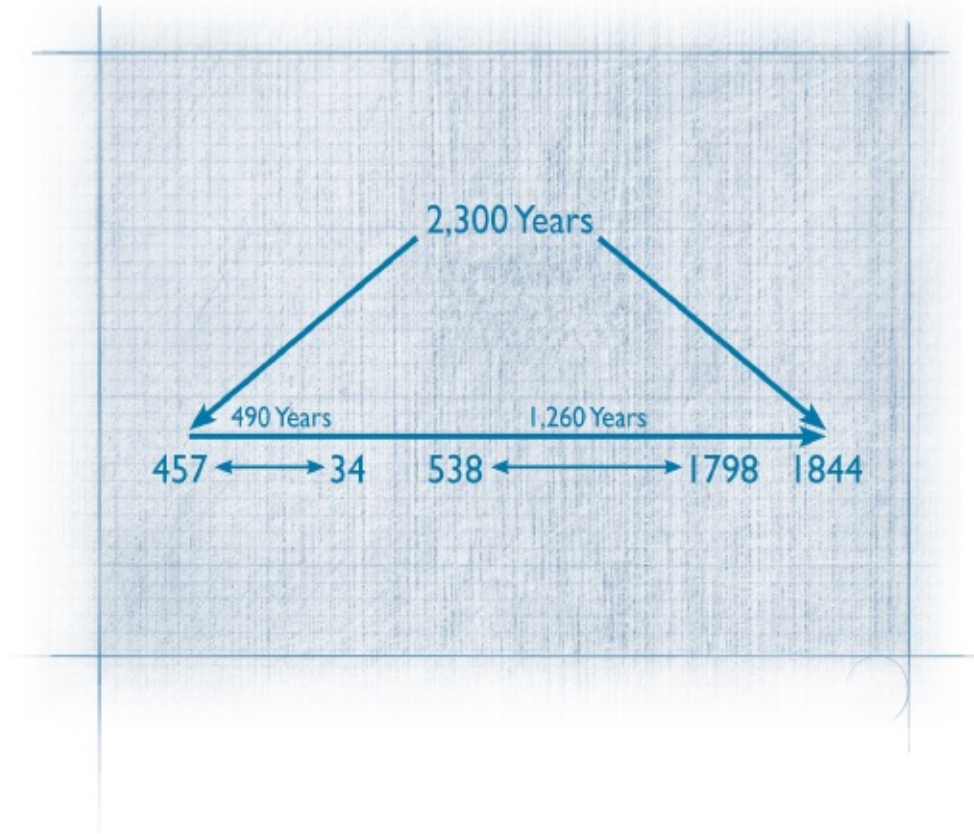
“Out of one of them came a little horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Glorious Land. And it grew up to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and some of the stars to the ground, and trampled them. He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down. Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered. Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, ‘How

long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?’ And he said to me, ‘For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed’” (Daniel 8:9–14).

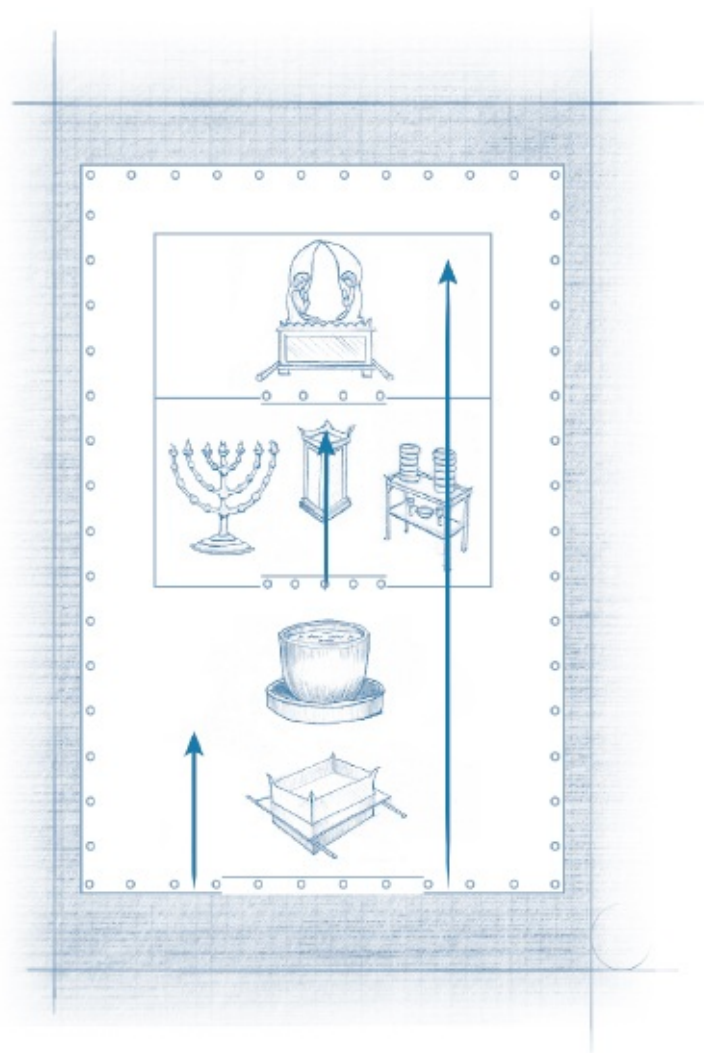
In essence, the angel had asked how long the little horn would be able to prosper with its false agenda and, in particular, its assault upon the heavenly temple. The answer was given that after 2,300 prophetic days—that is, years—the sanctuary would be cleansed and restored. Daniel was not given the starting point of the 2,300 days until the next chapter (Daniel 9). He did not fully understand the vision, so the angel returned to give him more light.

“I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision: ‘Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.’ Know therefore and understand, *that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times*” (Daniel 9:23–25, my emphasis).

This reveals that the 70-week prophecy and the 2,300-year prophecy have the same starting point. Of these three time prophecies, the 2,300 days (years) is the longest of the book of Daniel. Along with the 1,260 years, they are really different sections of one time prophecy:



Each prophecy focused on a different aspect of the plan of salvation. The 490 years focused on Christ's work on the cross and Satan's preemptive warfare against it and against the advance of literal Israel and the earthly temple. The 1,260 years focused on Christ's work as our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary and Satan's battle to distort that knowledge. The 2,300-year prophecy would focus on Christ's final phase of ministry before His return, as well as the restoration of the truths cast down by the little horn during the 1,260 years.



The 2,300-year prophecy, starting with the decree to rebuild Jerusalem in 457 BC, would terminate in AD 1844, exactly 2,300 years later. In other words, all the work of the little horn during the 1,260 years would be fully unmasked and the heavenly sanctuary, the true blueprint of salvation, would be brought back once again to the attention of the world. This fully restored gospel would be preached in the entire world and then earth's history would wrap up. "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

God's true church would once again reconnect with the blueprint. They would give this final message and prepare the world for the second coming of Christ. This message would not only counter the false teaching of an erroneous pathway to salvation, it would also answer the fallacy of Atheism that was based upon a distorted image of God's character and the nature of the Bible. It is no coincidence that Charles Darwin released one of his first essays on his theory of

natural selection at the very close of the 2,300-year prophecy—1844. It was not an accident that Darwin was influenced by geologist Charles Lyell, who in turn was swayed by Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, a product of the French Revolution and considered by many to be the first promoter of the theory of evolution back at the ending of the 1,260-year prophecy (538–1798)! Satan knew that 1844 would be an important year!

Still, the message of the sanctuary being cleansed and restored would answer every objection to God's existence and His law. But how would God restore these truths? Over a period of 500 years leading up to 1844, God began to raise men and movements to reverse the damage done by the little horn. Let's briefly look at some of these great reformers who lifted up portions of the sanctuary that were downtrodden, not realizing that they themselves were part of the divine pattern!

1300s: Table of Showbread Restored

John Wycliffe was born in 1320 and was an English scholastic philosopher and theologian. His followers were known as Lollards and were the first to protest against the Roman Church. The movement paved the way for the Reformation. For this reason Wycliffe is known as the "Morning Star of the Reformation." In 1382 he completed his translation of the Bible into the English language. In effect, he restored the table of showbread and put the Scriptures into the hands of the people. With the Word of God made available, the way was paved to reveal the errors being promoted by the papal system. As a result, the Lollards were treated as a cult by the Roman Church.

1400s–1500s: Altar of Sacrifice Restored

Martin Luther was born in 1483. He was a monk, priest, and theologian of the Catholic Church. After discovering the truth that "the just shall live by faith" (Habakkuk 2:4), Luther contested the concept of indulgences and stressed that Christ's sacrifice alone forgave and cleared one from punishment. In 1517, Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany, which rejected the validity of indulgences. This officially started the Protestant Reformation. Luther effectively restored the truth taught by the altar of sacrifice. His followers were known as

Lutherans. They, too, were treated as a cult for their stance on the Bible and were persecuted by the Roman Catholic Church.

1500s: Altar of Incense Restored

John Calvin was born in 1509. He was a leader of the Swiss Protestant Reformation. Reformed and Presbyterian churches trace themselves to his reforms. He also subsequently influenced Anglican thought. In 1536, Calvin published his *Institutes of Christian Religion* in which he expounds heavily on the concepts of prayer as a privilege and personal duty of talking with God. He effectively re-emphasized the altar of incense and brought the sanctuary one step closer to being fully restored. The Presbyterians were also treated as a cult.

1600s: Laver Restored

John Smyth of Amsterdam (1570–1612) and Roger Williams of America (1603–1683) are considered the founders of the Baptist church. Both stressed the importance of baptism by immersion, with full consent of the one being baptized, as the only legitimate form of baptism. Springing out of the Anabaptist movement, the Baptist church effectively restored the truth of the laver—baptism by immersion. They were also treated as a cult by not only Catholics, but also by Lutherans and Presbyterians.

1700s: Candlestick

John Wesley (1703–1791) was an Anglican cleric and theologian who founded the Methodist movement. He took to open-air preaching and stressed the importance of evangelism and missionary work, a work symbolized by the seven-branch candlestick. Through his influence, the sanctuary candlestick was effectively restored. The Methodists, too, were persecuted as those before them and treated as a dangerous and heretical cult, this time by the other Protestant denominations before it.

1844: The Ark of the Covenant

This left one article of furniture to be restored, the ark of the covenant. Remember, it is in reference to this part of the sanctuary where the papacy “changed” the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

What movement would God bring upon the scene to complete and restore the blueprint? Beginning in about the 1820s, scholars, teachers, theologians, and businessmen, representing the various denominations (Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Anglicans, Catholics, Lutherans), and people in many other nations all mysteriously and independently began to study the prophecies of Daniel, in particular the 2,300-day prophecy. Almost unanimously they came to the conclusion that something monumental was going to happen between the years 1843 and 1844. Most believed that the “cleansing of the sanctuary” referred to Jesus’ coming to cleanse the earth.

Commenting upon the widespread interest in the 2,300-year prophecy, Leroy Froom, in his work, *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, writes:

“Then, following the captivity of Pope Pius VI, in 1798, there was wide recognition on both sides of the Atlantic of the fulfillment of the close of the fateful 1260 years. That left only the closing events of Daniel 7 yet to be accomplished-with the awesome judgment scenes at the end of the world.

“And now came the remarkable shift of immediate interest and study from Daniel 7 over to Daniel 8 and the 2300-day prophecy. Among varying interpretations there arose-not only in Britain and Europe, but extending down into Africa and even over into India, and especially here in America-some threescore of earnest students of prophecy, in various denominations and language areas, sounding this new note, that the 2300 year-days would end around 1843, 1844, or 1847, though they differed as to just what would then take place. And a thousand pulpits in Britain alone, we are told, echoed this contention, with scores in North America declaring the same. Never had there been such a chorus since prophetic interpretation began.

“And following 1836, hundreds of other clergymen and lay preachers in North America took up the note, and an even greater chorus of learned and respected voices rang out in the New World that arrested the attention of the entire populace, though with conflicting results, as we shall see.”⁴⁹

When Christ did not return, there was great disappointment. However, a restudy of the 2,300-day prophecy in 1844 revealed the

true meaning of the sanctuary being cleansed. The attention of a small group of people was turned to examine the sanctuary with renewed interest. These searchers of prophecy realized that the sanctuary was not the earth, but rather a place in heaven. They discovered changes made to God's law, the identity of the little horn, and the work needed to carry a completed gospel message of the sanctuary to the entire world. They also learned that Christ had entered His final phase of ministry as our High Priest before He would leave the heavenly sanctuary to return in glory and redeem His people from the earth.

This small group of people would go on to become the nucleus of the now international and fastest-growing denomination in the world—the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Today, Satan is doing all he can to paint this church in a negative light. And it's no wonder why!

Close Scene 6

⁴⁹ Leroy Froom, *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, Vol. 4, p. 208.

Scene 7:

The Judgment Begins

Have you ever been issued a speeding ticket and told, “If you talk with the judge, you might have your fine lowered or dropped”? Many people associate a judge with only guilt and punishment. But judges can rule in your favor too! In this movie segment, we will look more deeply into what happens at the end of the longest time prophecy in the Bible. Remember, when an angel in Daniel 8 asked, “How long will this vision be?” the other angel answered, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed” (Daniel 8:14).

To the Hebrew mind, the phrase “then the sanctuary shall be cleansed” no doubt brought about images of a very special day celebrated yearly in the Jewish system called the Day of Atonement, or Yom Kippur. It was considered to be a time of judgment.

“Yom Kippur is the tenth day of the month of Tishrei and also regarded as the ‘Sabbath of Sabbaths. According to Jewish tradition, God inscribes each person’s fate for the coming year into a book, the Book of Life, on Rosh Hashanah, and waits until Yom Kippur to ‘seal’ the verdict. During the Days of Awe, a Jewish person tries to amend his or her behavior and seek forgiveness for wrongs done against God and against other human beings. The evening and day of Yom Kippur are set aside for public and private petitions and confessions of guilt. At the end of Yom Kippur, one hopes that they have been forgiven by God.”⁵⁰

This day signified the final judgment of God on the children of Israel for the year. Yet it foreshadowed a much greater truth—that a time was coming when God would make a final judgment on all humanity before the end of time. Daniel recorded this event in his prophetic book. After describing in chapter 7 the four kingdoms

(Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome) and then the little horn, the Roman Catholic Church (and its 1,260-year rule), Daniel then described this scene:

“I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, [“judgment was set,” KJV] and the books were opened” (Daniel 7:9, 10).

Daniel was telling us that sometime after 1798, the end of the 1,260-year prophecy, the final judgment would begin. The very next chapter, Daniel 8, tells us exactly when the judgment would begin—after 2,300 years. Daniel 9 then gives us the starting point, the decree of Artaxerxes I to rebuild Jerusalem, which was given in 457 BC. Adding 2,300 years to 457 BC, you come to AD 1844; this is the year that God’s final judgment would begin.

The sanctuary truths, the blueprint, would be restored at this time. According to Daniel 7 a judgment would begin in heaven: “the books were opened” (v. 10). It also reveals God the Father seated on a throne with thousands of angels surrounding Him. These opened books contain the names of the redeemed. Notice how the New Testament sheds more light on this: “There shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” (Revelation 21:27).

When the final judgment convened in 1844, it was not for the benefit of man, nor for the benefit of God. It was for the sake of angels. Angels, like humans, cannot read the heart; only God can. The opened books allow angels to see why those who have been chosen are worthy to enter into heaven. The records even reveal that some, who at face value appear to be certainly lost, are actually saved. They might be like the thief on the cross who, in his last moments of life, whispered the prayer, “Lord, forgive me and remember me” (see Luke 23:42).

When this judgment is complete and the angels have unanimously verified that God’s judgment is indeed just, then Jesus will come to

get the very names recorded in the book of life. In other words, this judgment deals with the selection and unanimous approval of angels for the jury of humanity who will serve to judge Satan, his angels, and all who have rejected the plan of salvation. On this panel of jurors will sit Adam, Eve, Abel, Seth, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and every other faithful man, woman, and child who has ever lived. This body of people sworn to give a verdict have been forgiven and redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

But that was not all the Day of Atonement signified. According to Leviticus 16, on that day, the high priest was to cleanse the sanctuary and the people from the sins they had accumulated throughout the year (see vs. 16, 19, 30). The way the sanctuary was cleansed is similar to what we experience every day in our households. We clean our homes and take the garbage outside so our house is free of trash. But in a sense, the garbage is still there. The day comes when we must move all the rubbish that has been collecting for days to the front curb.

Why? Because the garbage truck will come around on that special day of the week and take all the waste to a desolate place. Only then can we forget about the refuse. Before this, even though our homes are clean, the garbage is still on our minds. After it is taken away, we never have to worry about the trash again.

This is exactly how the sanctuary worked. When a person sinned, they would confess that sin over the head of a living animal (Leviticus 1:4). By this act the sins were transferred from the person to the sacrifice. Then the animal was slain, signifying that the innocent died for the guilty. The sins that had been transferred to the animal were then transferred to the sanctuary by the act of putting the animal's blood on the altar of the sanctuary (Leviticus 4:7).

But now the sanctuary was itself defiled by the uncleanness of the children of Israel (Leviticus 16:16). Even though the sinner was now justified and free, the garbage of sin was still in the camp. This "uncleanness" would remain in the sanctuary, waiting for a special day in which all the collected sins for the year would be finally removed. Only then could the people know that their sins had been finally and *forever* wiped out, never to come to mind again. This happened once a year, every year.

In like manner, the sacrifice of Christ at the cross gives us access to

the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14), but the reality is that these sins still come to mind. We still fall and sometimes repeat those sins. But a time would come in which the final process of cleansing would begin, the antitypical Day of Atonement. The “typical” Day of Atonement (“type” means a copy or pattern) on earth pointed to the “antitypical” Day of Atonement, meaning “the real thing” in heaven. The heavenly sanctuary, which contains the record, or books, of our good and bad deeds, would, at that prophetic time, begin to be cleansed. In other words, the final blotting out of sins of the righteous would commence in the year 1844. “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before” (Acts 3:20).

This “blotting out” of sins is equivalent to the sanctuary being cleansed. On this day alone, the high priest entered into the Most Holy Place and began this phase of work to close out the year. It was like reconciling the books at the end of the year. Similarly, Christ our High Priest entered upon His Most Holy Place phase of ministry in 1844.⁵¹

The last thing the priest did on the Day of Atonement was to symbolically remove the sins from both the sanctuary and the people. He exited the sanctuary and placed the sins upon the head of a “scapegoat” by laying hands upon him (Leviticus 16:19–22). This scapegoat was then led out into a “desolate place” to bear the sins of the people.

In the same way, Jesus will someday step out of His Most Holy Place phase of ministry and exit the heavenly sanctuary to come back to earth. In the process, He will take all the sins Satan ever led the people of God to commit and place them upon the head of Satan, who will bear the punishment in the fires of hell. For this reason the Bible records:

“I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little

while” (Revelation 20:1–3).

This occurs at the second coming of Christ. The phrase “laid hold of” signifies “laying hands on.” In other words, when hands are laid upon Satan, all sin is transferred to him—just like the scapegoat—and he will be led out by a chain to a “desolate place.” The prophecy of the 2,300 years and the final judgment are bad news for Satan and his angels.

Now, going back to the year 1844, just how would the sanctuary blueprint message be brought before the world?

Close Scene 7

50 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day_of_Atonement (accessed January 31, 2013).

51 Recall that in the years leading up to 1844, many Baptists, Methodists, and other denominations mistakenly held that this prophecy signified Christ’s coming to cleanse the earth. Not until after they were greatly disappointed did they discover that the sanctuary being cleansed was the heavenly sanctuary and not the earth itself. Out of this movement rose the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Scene 8:

The Three Angels' Messages

Communicating messages has changed drastically over the last thousand years. In-person exchanges have given way to printing presses, telephones, fiber optics, and instant messaging. Social media has exploded as more and more people connect with others through a variety of quick contacts. But how many of these emails and text messages are meaningful exchanges? Probably not many.

God, on the other hand, has given a critical message for our world, a dispatch that is described as being carried by three angels who circle the globe. Do these heavenly reports have anything to do with the blueprint?

With the 2,300-day prophecy completed in 1844, a final message could now go to the entire world. Now was the time for the restoration of the sanctuary truth—God's blueprint. Now was the commencement of the final judgment of God. If Noah's judgment took 120 years with relatively fewer people on the earth and all speaking one language (Genesis 6:3), the judgment at the end of time encompassing the righteous of every generation and a message going to a world full of people speaking multiple languages might take considerably longer. The apostle John, who wrote the book of Revelation, picks up the scene. Three angels are pictured flying through the midst of heaven with three final messages to "every nation, tribe, tongue, and people" (Revelation 14:6). The first of these messages is called "the everlasting gospel." After giving these three messages, notice what happens next:

"I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, 'Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to

reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.’ So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, ‘Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.’ So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs” (Revelation 14:14–20).

It is clear that this judgment hour message calls the world’s attention to the everlasting gospel. Once “this gospel” (the true gospel restored at the end of the 2,300 days) has gone into all the world, then the end comes. When Jesus thrusts in His sickle and reaps the earth, carrying His saints to heaven where judgment is given to them, they begin their 1,000-year jury duty. (See 1 Corinthians 6:1–3.) Once this has been completed, the sins that Satan had tempted others to commit will be placed on his own head and he will suffer for those sins in the lake of fire. We’ll look at this event more later. For now, let’s look more carefully at these three angels’ messages.

The First Angel’s Message

“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water’” (Revelation 14:6, 7).

You can probably understand why Satan would try to stall, discredit, or silence the messages of the three angels and the messengers on earth who would be moved to share them. The first angel’s message began to be preached with power after 1844. People from various denominations united to become one group and proclaim one message: “Fear God.” The word “fear” does not mean “be afraid” of God, but rather to “reverence” God. Give the Lord

glory. Honor Him. Why? The hour of His judgment had come. To put it simply, this message called attention to the broken commandments of God in connection with the judgment.

“And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:12–14).

This message, much like Noah’s final message to the world in his time, provides everyone a way of escape from the fire to come by inviting all to get into the “ark,” but this time it is the ark of the covenant, which holds God’s commandments. Both Atheism and apostate Christianity turned the minds of people away from God. Now the first angel’s message called people back to true worship. It was a summons to keep the commandments, and it specifically pointed out the seventh-day Sabbath, which had been changed by the little horn and altogether nullified by Atheism and evolution. Within the message was an appeal to “worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water” (Revelation 14:7). This is almost a word-for-word quote from the fourth commandment, which says,

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it” (Exodus 20:8-11).

Was it by coincidence that Darwin’s material was released in 1844, the very year in which the movements to restore the true Sabbath of God would be underway? Hardly! The first angel’s message will finally, one day, reach every person on the earth. Then, when all decisions are made, either for or against God, Jesus will come. The prophetic accuracy of the messages of Daniel and Revelation has revived skeptics and Atheists around the world. At the same time, the truth of God’s law will open the eyes of Christians who had once been

confused about the gospel. The blueprint message of the 2,300-day prophecy counters Atheism, false Christianity, and other false religions that have distorted or destroyed God's character and His sanctuary.

The Second Angel's Message

The first angel's message is a call to worship the true God. The second angel's message is a call for people to come out of false religion. "Another angel followed, saying, 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication'" (Revelation 14:8). Babylon is a symbol of false religion. Revelation 17 records the following description of Babylon:

"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, 'Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.' So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: *Mystery, Babylon the great, the Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth*. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement" (Revelation 17:1–6).

A woman in Bible prophecy represents a church (see Jeremiah 6:2 and 2 Corinthians 11:2). The woman in this passage symbolizes a church that has made the nations drunk with wine and has influence over the kings of the earth. It is a church that goes by the title of "Mother." But this "mother" also has daughters who have apparently followed the mother in her immorality. What makes the church a harlot? Very simple—a harlot disregards the vows of a marriage between a man and woman. And yes, Christ and His bride (the church) have vows.

The New Covenant

A vow is a commitment made between two parties. This is how the Bible describes such an oath. “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them” (Hebrews 10:16). If a church claims to be the bride of Christ, yet does not abide by the vows, then she is considered a harlot. Who fits the description of the mother of harlots? Only one church: the church of Rome, the little horn who itself claims to be the “Holy Mother” of all other churches. The daughters then symbolize the churches that follow her lead in disregarding the law of God. She gives the world symbolic wine to drink, and that wine led to a stupor and a loss of spiritual common sense.

The book of Proverbs carries this amazing warning that sheds light on the second angel’s message. Especially notice the reference to the law:

“Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings. It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink; lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted” (31:3–5).

Using the name of Jesus, Babylon and her daughters teach that it is okay to forget the very thing God said to “remember,” not just His law in general, but specifically the Sabbath. This scenario in *Earth’s Final Movie* is playing out right now. Ironically, the religious right, while teaching that the law of God, particularly the Sabbath, is no longer valid or needed for the Christian, turns right around to claim that society is getting worse because of their failure to obey God’s law! While they push for it in the courts, they neglect it in their hearts! They fail to realize that it is not the court’s job to change hearts, but rather the work of the Holy Spirit. Since the 1960s, the religious right in the United States has been moving to “turn our nation back to God,” while the progressive left is pushing for the same social liberties that found ground in the French Revolution.

As we will soon see, according to Bible prophecy, Protestant America will eventually regain control and attempt to *mandate religion* in America, and around the world, just as the Roman Church did

during the Dark Ages. In fact, Catholics and Protestants (“mother and daughters”) have already united to push this agenda to Christianize America by law. Babylon and her daughters will attempt to force all to drink her stupefying wine.

A quick search of the words “Dominionism”⁵², or “Reconstructionism,” online will bring up a frightening picture of modern-day Christians who believe that political force is the way for Christians to regain America for Jesus. Dominion theology states that Christ will rule over the earth once Christians subdue it politically. The religious right is motivated by this theology, hence the continual cry to turn our nation back to God, and even to reconstruct our society based upon the penalties and punishments for failure to adhere to the Ten Commandments. This concept is based upon a faulty understanding of God’s government in the Old Testament.

The second angel’s message is a call for God’s people to come out of Babylon, out of the false churches that are pushing nationalism over the true kingdom of heaven. (It is similar to how the Jews of Christ’s day put their nation before God, though they would have denied the very thought.) It is a call to come out of religious systems that teach we can be like Christ (or God) without obedience to His law. It is a call to come out of those organizations that teach the law of God has been abolished or that the Sabbath has somehow been altered. “And I heard another voice from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues’” (Revelation 18:4).

Millions of sincere but misguided Christians, whom God still calls “My people,” are drinking the wine of Babylon. Many will hear the first and second angels’ messages and respond to the call to come out of her. Understanding the blueprint, they will join their voices to warn others about the errors of Babylon and her daughters, who misrepresent the character of God. They will lead others step by step through God’s GPS to the throne of grace.

The Third Angel’s Message

The apostle John now goes on to describe a message from a third angel:

“Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If

anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.’ Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:9–12).

The third angel’s message is a final warning given to the world before the return of Jesus. It alerts us against receiving the mark of the beast. We know from the Bible that the mark of the beast is in direct contrast to the law of God. Notice how verse 12 contrasts the two groups: those who receive the mark *and* those who “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” Stated another way, whoever keeps the law of God will receive the seal of God and not the mark of the beast. The mark must be something that is *against* the law of God. Furthermore, Revelation tells us: “He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” (Revelation 13:16, 17).

If you combine the above passage with Daniel 7:25 (“shall intend to change times and law”), a serious picture emerges. Satan will seek to set up a counterfeit law against some commandment of God. It will be symbolized by a mark in the forehead or in the hand. No one will be able to buy or sell without receiving this mark. The mark will appear to be a sign that one is truly connected with God, when in fact it is the opposite.

In order to more fully understand the importance of God’s law in these verses, let’s go back for a moment to an incredible experience that Moses and 70 leaders in Israel had on top of Mount Sinai. What does this have to do with God’s law? Read on.

“And they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity.... Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Come up to

Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them” (Exodus 24:10, 12).

Moses sees the God of Israel, and under His feet is a paved work of sapphire stone; that is, *blue stone*. Immediately after this, Moses is told to come up to the mount where God will give him tables of “stone.” What stone? *Blue stone!* The law of God was written on blue stone. The Ten Commandments, then, were God’s blue law, which was laid in the ark of the covenant in the sanctuary, quite literally—God’s blueprint!

Before you conclude that seeing “blue” is just a coincidence in all of this talk about a blueprint, consider how the Bible uses blue to symbolize obedience to the commandments:

“Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the Lord and do them” (Numbers 15:38, 39).

Blue is the symbol for obedience. The Bible states, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?” (Romans 6:16).

If the devil was going to turn people away from God’s law, would it not make sense that he would introduce a counterfeit? And indeed, Satan has deceitfully presented a blue law of his own that would go against God’s blue law. The term “blue law” is actually used in the United States⁵³ to describe a law that prohibits sales on Sunday so that the day may be revered as Sabbath. Actually, the first Sunday law was passed more than 1,600 years ago. It was issued by Constantine in AD 321.

“Let all the judges and town people and the occupation of all trades rest on the venerable day of the sun (Dies Solis); but let those who are situated in the country, freely and at full liberty, attend to the business of agriculture; because it often happens that no other day is so fit for sowing corn and planting vines; lest the critical moment being let slip, men should lose the commodities granted by Heaven.”⁵⁴

Since then Sunday laws have been with us, and they have been a part of America since its very beginning. Some find it incredulous to think a Sunday law could be enforced in America today, but just as the calamity of September 11, 2001, forever changed the world, so another calamity or series of frightening events could set the stage to usher in such a law. We are not far from that time. Consider the following examples.

The European Sunday Alliance was established in June 2012. Their founding statement reads:

“A work-free Sunday and decent working hours are of paramount importance for citizens throughout Europe. We, the undersigned, believe that all citizens of the European Union are entitled to benefit from decent working hours that, as a matter of principle, exclude working late evenings, nights, bank holidays and Sundays. We believe that today, legislation and practices in place at EU and Member States levels need to be more protective of the health, safety, dignity of everyone and should more attentively promote the reconciliation of professional and family life. We believe that social cohesion in the European citizenship should be reinforced.”⁵⁵

And on their website, the following is stated:

“The European Sunday Alliance is a network of national Sunday Alliances, trade unions, civil society organizations and religious communities committed to raise awareness of the unique value of synchronised free time for our European societies. Sunday and, more general, decent working hours, are the focus of our campaigns. In our Founding Statement, we draw attention to aspects of life/work-balance and social cohesion that depend on a vast majority of people to have their lawful free time at the same time.”⁵⁶

The September 4, 2012, issue of *The Guardian* reported the following: “Eurozone demands six-day week for Greece: Government in Athens under pressure to introduce a six-day working week as part of the terms for a second bailout.”⁵⁷ The six-day work week would increase productivity and leave only one day for rest and church, Sunday. This could very well be the United States soon as we, too, face a financial crisis. The Catholic News Service (June 6, 2012) carried this headline: “Sundays must be a day of rest dedicated to

God, family, pope says.”⁵⁸ Other sources reveal the push to pass a blue law to increase the work week for economic purposes, as well as to honor the Lord’s day and save families.

Fox News, on April 22, 2012, carried this headline: “Let’s make Sunday a day of rest, for God’s sake.”⁵⁹ The article ends with these words: “Americans work hard. Maybe too hard. This is an invitation to Jews, Hindus, Muslims, Atheists, Agnostics, Buddhists, and Christians. One day a week. Rest. For God’s sake.”

The call to make Sunday a legalized and enforced day of rest comes under many guises. Family time, workers’ rights, increased productivity, religious freedom—whatever the mask, the prophetic picture behind it is unmistakable.

Under the new covenant, the law of God is written in the mind (Hebrews 8:8–10). Every law is sealed with an emblem of authority, usually by its author or authors. God’s laws are also sealed with a commandment that identifies Him as Creator of the world—the fourth. It is a “sign” between God and His people. “I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them” (Ezekiel 20:12).

The mark of the beast is a counterfeit of the new covenant, a counterfeit law received in the mind. Remember, blue is the symbol of obedience. And whoever we obey, his servants we are. Hence when this law is enforced upon our nation, to obey Satan’s “blue law” instead of God’s blue law, will reveal whose servants we really are.

The Sabbath commandment is the only law that addresses the issue of buying and selling, since none are to do any work on that day. Satan will arrange that whoever refuses to break the genuine Sabbath will be boycotted and not be able to buy or sell on any other day of the week either. While the earth is plunging into a time of trouble such as never was, while calamities and disasters (natural, financial, and manmade) come upon the earth, the religious right will convince the world that our only hope is God. A counterfeit religion will then be presented. Those who refuse to go along with Satan’s deceitful plan will be blamed for the continuing calamities. Then will come to pass, in all their fullness, these prophetic words: “And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the

testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17).

The Bible predicts that Satan will employ miracles to deceive the masses. Sightings of apparitions, UFOs, and other supernatural phenomena will set people up to receive a false Christ. “And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14). For the Atheist, “seeing is believing.” Any who demand seeing physical evidence of the supernatural will now be powerless against the obvious miracles of a counterfeit Jesus. All beliefs that hold Christ as only a good man will be incapable of explaining away the so-called “appearance” since they have not been shielded by the true Word of God.

“He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed” (Revelation 13:13–15).

Eventually, “an image to the beast” will be built, and whoever refuses to worship it will be killed. What is this image? Two powers are mentioned in Revelation 13: a beast rising up out of the sea (vs. 1–8), and a beast rising up out of the earth (vv. 11–18). The beast from the earth is identified as ruling for 42 months (v. 5). This is the identical time period of the little horn, meaning the first beast mentioned in Revelation 13 is none other than the papal church. It ruled from Rome for 1,260 years, or 42 prophetic months, until it received the deadly wound in 1798 through the French Revolution. But the Bible says the deadly wound would be healed, meaning the church would grow again in power. We are seeing that today.

We then learn from verses 11–18 that the second beast promotes the first. It is a lamb-like beast that rises around the time the first beast receives its deadly wound. Since a “beast” represents a power or nation (Daniel 7:19), the only nation to rise into power in the late 1700s symbolized by a lamb (an apparent “Christ-like” nation) would be the United States.

Someday soon Protestant America (the daughters) will rejoin with

Catholic Rome (the mother) to bring about a persecution more fierce than any other in history. The image, which the second beast encourages the world to build, is an image of the first beast, papal Rome. Under the guidance of a counterfeit Christ, they will encourage a church-state entity in which the state is run by the church (a replica of the papacy during the Dark Ages), and the state enforces the decrees of the church. All who reject this setup, and reject the counterfeit Christ, will be deemed guilty of blasphemy. A death decree will be issued. But God will intervene ...

“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book” (Daniel 12:1).

Close Scene 8

52 “**Dominionism** is the alleged movement of politically active conservative Christians in the United States working toward either a nation governed by Christians or one governed by a conservative Christian understanding of biblical law” (“Dominionism”, *Wikipedia*, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominionism, accessed January 23, 2013).

53 See “Blue law” in Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_law).

54 Lex Constantini a. 321 (Cod. Just. 1. iii., Tit. 12, 3), quoted in Phillip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, Vol. 3, 5th edition revised (Grand Rapids, MI: Christian Classics Ethereal Library, 2002, original edition published 1882), p. 223.

55 (accessed January 31, 2013).

56 <http://www.europeansundayalliance.eu/site/whoweare> (accessed January 31, 2013).

57 (accessed January 31, 2013).

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Scene 9:

Plagues, the Second Coming, and the Resurrection

Nature seems to have gone berserk. In the past few years, our world has seen some of the strangest and most severe weather in recorded history. Record-breaking droughts, tornadoes, tsunamis, and extreme temperatures have indicated a trend that things are not improving. Recently a meteor streaked through Russia causing much damage. Many wondered if it was the end of the world. Are these God's last plagues being poured out on our planet? Or is there more to come? As we continue watching *Earth's Final Movie*, we now move toward the time just before Christ comes.

The final message has been preached and the whole world warned. The words of Christ have been fulfilled: "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). Thousands who have heard this message have come out of Babylon and joined the commandment-keeping people of God.

The preaching of the three angels' messages has angered the world, and the response is a death decree to destroy the remnant—those who have refused to bow down to the false image of Christianity and false picture of God. These are people who are loyal to the commandments of heaven (Revelation 13:15). But the Lord intervenes, just as He did when the children of Israel faced persecution from Egypt. As the wicked move to wipe out the remnant of God's people, the Lord Himself answers by sending plagues upon the earth. "Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, 'Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth'" (16:1).

Seven plagues are poured out affecting the water, the sun, the air, the weather, and humanity itself. Each plague is designed to protect the righteous from the hands of the wicked. While those who have

rejected God suffer, the Lord's people are protected, just as it was in Egypt. The plagues originate out of the temple in heaven. This signifies that those who receive them are those who refused to keep what was found in the heavenly sanctuary, the law of God. At this time, Psalm 91 will meet its fulfillment for those who have spiritually entered into the secret place—the Most Holy Place—by faith, keeping God's commandments.

“He who dwells in the *secret place* of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.’ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked. Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling” (Psalm 91:1–10, my emphasis).

In fact, the seven last plagues are all directly related to the articles of furniture of the sanctuary. When **the first angel** poured out its plague, there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men who had the mark of the beast and worshipped his image (Revelation 16:2). The mark is placed upon all who reject the contents of the **ark**—the law of God. Since they have refused the Sabbath seal in their minds, they are now plagued with literal sores in the flesh.

The second angel then poured out his vial upon the sea, and it became as the blood of a dead man (Revelation 16:3). The sea is a symbol of baptism, just as when the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea; Paul wrote that Israel was *baptized* unto Moses (1 Corinthians 10:2). Since the wicked have rejected the offer of baptism through water, symbolized by the **laver**, the sea is now rendered useless, signifying no more opportunity to be born of the water and of the Spirit so that one could enter into the kingdom of heaven (John 3:5).

The third angel poured out his vial “on the rivers and springs of

water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying: ‘You are righteous, O Lord ... because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink’” (Revelation 16:4–6). The third plague is poured out upon those guilty of shedding the blood of God’s people. The fountains and rivers are man’s drinking source. It is at the **table of showbread** where the “cups” used for the “drink offerings” were stored, symbolic of Jesus whose blood was shed for us (Numbers 4:7) and whose blood is the symbolic drink of the new covenant. At the Last Supper, they sat at the table (Luke 22:21) where Christ took bread, blessed it, broke it, and “gave it to the disciples, saying, ‘Take, eat; this is My body. Then he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink.... For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins’” (Matthew 26:26–28). In rejecting the offer to symbolically drink Christ’s blood and instead persecuting the people of God, shedding the blood of many, God would now give them true blood to drink.

The fourth angel poured out his vial “on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory” (Revelation 16:8, 9). The sacrifice **altar** of burnt offering (Exodus 30:28) represented the sacrifice of the Son of God. Since the wicked reject this burnt offering on their behalf, God now gives them the sun to burn them.

The fifth angel poured out his vial “on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains ... [yet] did not repent” (Revelation 16:10, 11). In rejecting the light of Jesus Christ signified by the **candlestick**, God would now grant them darkness.

The sixth angel poured out his vial “on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up.... And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Revelation 16:12–16). Under the sixth plague, the

people are “gathered” by the mouth—the words—of demons. Having rejected the intercession of Christ at the **altar of incense**, they are given over to seducing spirits.

And, finally, **the seventh angel** poured out his vial into the air and “great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great” (Revelation 16:21). Having rejected the bread that came down from heaven, the heavenly manna (John 6:58), God instead gives them hail stones from heaven.

Thus, in rejecting the sanctuary, the wicked receive the just punishment according to every article of furniture. Once these plagues are finished, Christ comes to take His people home—it is time for Jesus to return and reap the earth.

“Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, ‘Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.’ So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped” (Revelation 14:14–16).

Jesus leaves the heavenly sanctuary, the blueprint, and comes with all His loyal angels. “The Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works” (Matthew 16:27). And every eye will see Him. “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him” (Revelation 1:7).

“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:23–27).

Those unprepared to meet Christ receive no second chance.

“As the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left” (Matthew 24:37–41).

In the days of Noah, those who did not get on the ark received no second chance—the flood “took them all away” (v. 39). The only ones “left” alive were those who were saved. In like manner, when Christ comes again, and all decisions have been made, “We who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:17). The ones who are “left” or “remain” are caught up to God, while the wicked are “taken.” The disciples once asked Christ where the evil ones would be placed:

“‘Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.’ And they answered and said to Him, ‘Where, Lord?’ So He said to them, ‘Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together’” (Luke 17:35–37).

The wicked are “taken,” which means they are destroyed, while the righteous are “left” alive and caught up to meet the Lord in the air. The book of Isaiah makes crystal clear the reason for their destruction:

“Behold, the LORD makes the earth empty and makes it waste, distorts its surface and scatters abroad its inhabitants.... The land shall be entirely emptied and utterly plundered, for the LORD has spoken this word. The earth mourns and fades away; ... the haughty people of the earth languish. The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left” (24:1, 3–6).

Those “left” alive and caught up to the Lord are few compared to the great number of wicked who will be destroyed at the second

coming. The theory that some will be “left behind” alive on earth, having a second chance lasting from three and half to seven years is another fallacy Babylon has pulled off to leave many unprepared for the coming of Christ. But just as in Noah’s day, there was no second chance, no second boat!

Again, note the reason for the destruction of the earth. It is “because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, [and] broken the everlasting covenant” (v. 5). Changing the Sabbath commandment is an attempt to change God’s law; for this, the curse devours the earth.

Jesus’ return has been long awaited, ever since the day of Abel’s death. From the time sin entered into our world, all people have fallen under the sentence of death, the very same sentence pronounced on Adam in the garden. “In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19).

Countless people have entered the grave trusting that the day would come when Christ would descend and call them to awake from their tombs. The concept of purgatory (introduced by the Catholic Church through a faulty reading of the parable of Lazarus and the rich man and subsequently modified by many Protestant churches) teaches that upon death one gains his or her reward. But Christ plainly declared: “The Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works” (Matthew 16:27). Moreover, he said, “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work” (Revelation 22:12).

The reward of either heaven or hell is given at the time of the resurrection, not at the death of the righteous or the wicked. Both alike rest in the grave, asleep in the earth, until that time of which Paul, John, and Daniel all agree:

“I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust” (Acts 24:15).

“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have

done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28, 29).

“Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:2).

The Bible shows that the dead are neither in limbo or purgatory, a doctrine originating not from the Bible, but from the little horn. This is the very reason why God forbids communication with the dead or so called “familiar spirits” (Leviticus 19:31), because these spirits are actually satanic forces impersonating the dead.

“For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6).

The redeemed are called up from the graves at the second coming of Christ and transformed in the twinkling of an eye. Death is finally swallowed up, and the righteous are granted immortality. This happens at the last trump, not before! It is then that the righteous become “absent from the body,” when our corruptible flesh will be exchanged for new incorruptible bodies. Only then will we become “present” with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6–8).

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory’” (1 Corinthians 15:51–55).

At the second coming of Jesus, the righteous will come to life, but the living wicked perish as in the days of Noah. Not only this, but the rest of the wicked who are in the grave do not come forth from their graves until what the Bible calls the second resurrection—the resurrection of the unjust. This occurs 1,000 years after the first resurrection—the resurrection of the “just.”

“I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the

bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:1–6).

The bottomless pit into which Satan is cast at this time is described by Jeremiah:

“I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; and the heavens, they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, and all the hills moved back and forth. I beheld, and indeed there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled. I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were broken down at the presence of the LORD, by His fierce anger. For thus says the LORD: “The whole land shall be desolate; yet I will not make a full end” (Jeremiah 4:23–27).

Do you remember that peculiar ritual of the “scapegoat” performed on the Day of Atonement (see Leviticus 16), which we explored in “Scene 7: The Judgment Begin”—when the high priest was to cleanse the sanctuary from the sins that the children of Israel had accumulated throughout the year? As a brief reminder, a person would confess their sins over the head of a living animal, transferring the sin to the animal, and then the animal was slain. The sins placed on the animal were then transferred to the sanctuary by sprinkling the animal’s blood on the altar of the sanctuary. Now the sanctuary itself was defiled by the sin of Israel, so God also provided the blueprint to remove this sin from the sanctuary.

The last thing the priest did on the Day of Atonement was to symbolically remove this annual accumulation of sin by exiting the sanctuary and “placing” the sins on the head of a “scapegoat” (16:8). This scapegoat was then led out into a “desolate place” to bear the sins of the people (16:10). This event was a “type” of the Day of Atonement that would occur in heaven, which has been occurring since, if you remember, 1844. Jesus is now serving as our High Priest, ministering on our behalf, but when He steps out of His Most Holy Place phase of ministry and exits the heavenly sanctuary to come back to earth, He will take all the sins that Satan ever led the people of God to commit and place them upon his head as the scapegoat, and, just like the scapegoat of the earthly Day of Atonement, Satan will be led out by a chain into a “desolate place”—hence, “I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit” (Revelation 20:3).

This “bottomless pit” is the “wilderness” that Jeremiah saw, and this earth, destroyed by the presence of God, becomes the holding place of Satan and his angels for 1,000 years.

With the wicked dead scattered upon the face of the earth, and the righteous dead resurrected and caught up into the air together with the righteous living, no one is left on the earth but Satan and his angels. He is bound in the sense that he has no one to tempt. The nations of the righteous are in heaven; the nations of the wicked are dead. The earth experiences 1,000 years of peace because no human is alive on the planet. Satan and his angels are bound on earth with no one to tempt, until the wicked dead are resurrected at the end of the 1,000 years.

With the exception of Enoch, Moses, Elijah, and others who either did not taste death or experienced a special resurrection (see Genesis 5:24, Jude 9, and 2 Kings 2:11), the saints from all ages enter heaven together at the second coming. They must begin their 1,000-year duty as jurors in the supreme court of heaven. Before the wicked are resurrected to meet their final fate, all of heaven, including redeemed humanity, their ultimate verdict must be unanimous. Thus, the books must be opened again as judgment must now be “given unto the saints” (Daniel 7:22).

Close Scene 9

Scene 10:

The Millennium

Do you recall from Scene 1 of our movie the rebellion that took place in heaven? Do you remember how God chose *to not wipe out* all those who had turned against His law, but allowed the fruit of Lucifer's accusations to be played out? A critical element of God's blueprint of salvation is that justice must be mingled with mercy. The Lord desires everyone to have a reasonable chance and a fair trial. This part of *Earth's Final Movie* now begins, the part in which the jury begins an important work. Let's start by reminding ourselves of this matter:

“Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?” (1 Corinthians 6:1–3).

The first order of business for the millennial jurists will be to review in full detail Lucifer's rebellion in heaven. From the very place where it all began, the people of God will be presented firsthand evidence of the attempted coup. While the Bible has answered the vital questions of salvation, it does not give the finer details of the rebellion. It does not reply to many of the questions that beg an answer. But God's people have believed by faith that one day, in the very presence of God, those questions would be answered.

Now the time has come. The books are opened and before the eyes of God's followers the story unfolds in all its untold details. As the people who chose to be on the Lord's side review the books, they will discover things before unknown. They will see God's justice and mercy in handling the crisis in heaven. The records will reveal the mysterious workings of Lucifer, the long-suffering of God in dealing

with his tragic rebellion, and how intelligent and once-holy angels were subtly turned from allegiance to the Lord. They will understand God's justice in removing Satan from heaven.

The records will also reveal with stunning and undeniable clearness why God allowed created angels the freedom to choose evil and why He permitted sin to run its course. All will comprehend why God created humanity and why He allowed Satan to have free access to tempt our first parents.

Other issues will be opened up before the jury as well. All the accusations of mankind against God made throughout history are heard and answered, issues regarding genocide, infanticide, ethnic cleansing, and injustice. Why were these horrors permitted? As the jury studies the record, it will be seen that the charges against God are false.

For instance, regarding genocide, the books will first show that God as Creator had the right to wipe out the entire human race as a result of sin. The Lord would have been totally justified in doing so. Since the wages of sin is death, and all have sinned against God, it was the Lord's prerogative to destroy humanity if He so chose. But instead, God provided a blueprint, a plan of salvation, to give man a second chance. Our Creator could never be guilty of "murder" since all have sinned and are under the penalty of death. Even humans have this same sense of this justice—criminals should not go unpunished for their crimes.

What about the nations destroyed by the Israelites when they conquered the Promised Land? What about the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites, and Jebusites who were all wiped out? Stunning evidence will be added to what has already been revealed in the Bible. It will be seen that these nations were guilty of the most atrocious sins and were, therefore, displaced from their lands. Nor did God show unfair favoritism to Israel, but told them the same things would happen to them if they committed those same atrocities (Leviticus 18:1–28). It will be seen that God was consistent in dealing with apostate nations, that He was no respecter of persons. Just as He sent Jonah to the heathen nation of Nineveh and Noah to provide an ark for all who would come on board, it will be seen that God provided ample warning to all ancient nations to repent. It will be seen that the Lord had in fact furnished a way of escape to every country, tribe, or

and people in danger of being justly destroyed.

Moreover, it will be seen that God's method of removing a nation before Israel was to first send hornets into the land to drive out the people (Exodus 23:28, Joshua 24:12). If hornets failed, God sent prophets to call to the people. If the stubborn in heart filled up their cup with the abominations done in their land, if they rejected the warning of prophets and stubbornly withstood the plague of hornets, only then did they receive the divine justice of God.

The judgment will also reveal why God saved whom He saved. It will be shown that some who appeared unfit for the society of heaven, people who might have even been declared heretics on earth for following their convictions regarding the Word of God, were actually following the will of God. Many who were remembered on earth as murderers, thieves, and drug addicts will be shown to have repented at some point in their lives. They turned to Christ, perhaps in their final moments, and pleaded for His mercy. They were redeemed by His blood, snatched from the hand of the enemy. It will even show that some who had no knowledge of the Bible were following what they knew to be right and were considered just by God and, therefore, part of the resurrection of the righteous.

“For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ” (Romans 2:14–16).

These 1,000 years of opening books will also demonstrate why many whom we expected to be in heaven are not. The records will point out that many professed Christians were only so in word and not in deed.

The books being reviewed during this time in heaven will take us down through the history of the world. They will show the rise and fall of kingdoms, the work of the little horn, and the rise of false religions, such as Atheism and Evolutionism. These same books will also show the restoration of the gospel blueprint and the persecution of the saints. The records will bring us up to the very moments of the second coming of Christ.

The records of all the wicked will also be reviewed. The accounts will reveal that God made every attempt possible, short of forced conversion, to draw these people to Himself. The books will show how the stubborn in heart chose to reject the signs of prophecy and clung to their unbelief. Evidence will point to their refusal to accept the signs in science, nature, and history that point clearly to a Creator God. Instead, they chose to live out their lives as they pleased. Heaven's documents will explain the fallacy of Satan's argument, that one can live holy without God or His law. Satan wanted to run heaven his own way. He was given a chance to show, on this earth, what his kingdom would look like if he were the "King of kings."

Finally, when the jury has completed their work, there are no more questions in the hearts of the redeemed. Every inquiry relating to God's justice has been thoroughly answered. All accusations have been rebuffed. The 1,000 years will expire. It is then time for the people to return to earth. It is time to render the verdict of the wicked.

"Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, 'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him'" (Jude 14, 15).

The saints and the Holy City descend to the earth. "Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:2). While this is happening, things on earth begin to move. "When the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea" (Revelation 20:7, 8).

Satan is "loosed" out of his prison because the wicked dead have now been resurrected. He has people to deceive again. He goes out to gather to himself every person now upon the face of the earth. The wicked from every generation are there and cover the "four corners" of the whole globe. Gog and Magog are symbolic names for the entire wicked world at this time. The unrighteous people see the beloved city, the "camp" of the saints, coming down from heaven and make an

attempt to capture it. “They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them” (Revelation 20:9). Now John shows us what happens just before the fire comes down. There is one last time the books are opened:

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:11–15).

Now the entire world stands before the throne of God. Jesus had said, “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself” (John 12:32). His crucifixion at the cross, where He was lifted up, was designed to draw all men unto Him. The cross was in the reach of everyone, just as the altar of sacrifice in the outer court was in a place that was accessible to all, but many had rejected it. As only those priests cleansed at the laver could enter the Holy Place to do the work of judgment, so only those who had been cleansed in the outer court would enter into the heavenly temple, to do the work of priests for 1,000 years. And now, all are indeed drawn before His throne in this final judgment. But the wicked had not made the needed preparations to stand before Him, before the mercy seat of God.

This time, the judgment is on behalf of the wicked. Before they are destroyed in the lake of fire, they also must understand what they have rejected. They also must have a chance to see how they have been deceived by Satan. The devil himself will be made to understand God’s justice. At this moment the earth will become the biggest “movie” theater the world has ever seen. It will truly be *Earth’s Final Movie!*

Now the entire human race, all who have ever lived, and all, who at this moment are yet to be born, have been gathered together in one

place. You are there, along with your family, your friends, and even your enemies. Every eye is focused. Many here had been led to think that this day would never come, that they would never be standing where they are now. All are watching in total silence as the scenes unfold before them—the most important “movie” anyone has ever seen. There are two groups present, the righteous and the wicked, those who stayed on God’s path to the throne and those who strayed from God’s path. The wicked speak not one word in self defense. All excuses are gone. As the law appears before them then will come to pass what Paul wrote, “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God” (Romans 3:19).

When the books are opened, everyone will see the entire controversy between Christ and Satan as it played out from its start in the courts of heaven to the very end of time. The wicked will see the role they played. It will be made clear that they have chosen their own fate. At this time, Paul’s words will meet their fulfillment:

“But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’ So then each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:10–12).

Then Satan and all the wicked angels and wicked people will, with one voice, proclaim with the righteous angels and righteous humanity, “Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!” (Revelation 15:3). All who have ever lived, both righteous and wicked, acknowledge God’s justice and vindicate His character. It is a unanimous verdict. Now, and only now, can the sentence for Satan and the rest of the wicked finally be carried out. All is ready for the final step in dealing with the problem of sin.

The Bible calls it God’s “strange act.”

“For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act” (Isaiah 28:21 KJV).

The Lord asks, “Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die ... and not that he should turn from his ways and live?” (Ezekiel 18:23). The movie is finally over. It is time for the final scene, the end ... and a new beginning.

Close Scene 10

Scene 11:

The Final Act

Have you ever seen a movie in which someone bravely enters a burning building to save a child trapped inside? Even firefighters, with all their special equipment, can spend only a few moments in extreme heat. Nobody is fireproof. Stick your finger over a candle for a few seconds and you will be reminded that you shouldn't play with fire. Wouldn't it be nice to never have to worry about fire hurting us again? It's now time to look at an amazing truth about fire in this final scene of *Earth's Final Movie*.

Heaven is a place of fire. God Himself is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29). His angels are "ministers of flame" (Hebrews 1:7). A sea of glass mingled with fire shines before the throne of God (Revelation 15:2). The righteous are seen standing on that sea. God's very throne is made of fire (Daniel 7:9). All of this suggests that those who desire to enter heaven need to be fireproof. Contrary to popular belief, God does not manifest Himself as fire in order to terrorize people. The Song of Solomon gives us insight into the fiery presence of God.

"Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised" (Song of Solomon 8:6, 7).

Fire in the Bible is a symbol of *love*. Since God is love, it would make sense that His presence is described as a fire. In fact, when a man and a woman fall in love, they often use words like "burning passion" to describe feelings that cannot truly be expressed by words. God's love for us is just that, a fiery passion to see every single person choose life rather than death.

When God created Adam and Eve, His fiery presence was welcomed

by them. They could stand in His presence and not be destroyed by the fire. They were perfect. But when sin entered, the fiery presence that once represented burning love to them now came to be something they feared. So “Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden” (Genesis 3:8).

And ever since, the fiery presence of God has been misinterpreted as something from which you should run. The plan of salvation, the GPS we’ve been discussing, was designed to lead people back into the presence of God. The blueprint was to perfect humanity so that God’s children could once again stand before Him and not be consumed.

Each station of the sanctuary was designed to set man on fire, to prepare him to enter into the most holy and fiery presence of God. The sacrifice **altar** of burnt offerings (Exodus 30:28), symbolizing the sacrifice of Christ, was designed to put the fire of self-sacrificing love in the heart of man. The **laver** symbolized not only baptism by water but, as John the Baptist said, Christ was to baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Matthew 3:11). The Word of God, symbolized by the baked **showbread**, was to be like a burning fire shut up in the bones (Jeremiah 20:9). The smoldering **altar of incense** (Exodus 30:1), representing prayer, was to create within the heart a burning passion to communicate with the Heavenly Father. The **seven-branch candlestick**, showing that Jesus was the Light of the world (Matthew 5:14), was lit so that we might show forth with fiery passion as witnesses for Him. And the law in the **ark of the covenant** was designed to put the fire of righteousness within our lives (Deuteronomy 33:2).

All this was done to prepare us to enter into the fiery presence of God, before His throne, symbolized by the Shekinah glory above the mercy seat found in the Most Holy Place. Each article of furniture in the pathway to God was to add a fire to the individual until he became recreated in the image of God and, thus, be made able to stand in His fiery presence.

The righteous, having followed the blueprint pattern, are now fireproof. Not so with the wicked. They are neither fireproof—nor are they prepared to enter the Holy City of fire.

Moses’ experience illustrates this well in Exodus 3. When God

introduced Himself to Moses, He was manifested in a bush that burned *but was not consumed*. Moses' encounter was an ideal metaphor of the plan of salvation. Someday, God's people would be able to stand in the presence of the Lord and not be consumed.

This ideal was also vividly portrayed in the account of the three Hebrews who refused to bow down to an image that King Nebuchadnezzar built (see Daniel 3). A death decree was issued for all who would refuse. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, followers of the true God, refused to submit and were cast into a fiery furnace. The Bible mysteriously explains that "the son of man" was in the midst of the fire with them and they were not consumed (v. 25). On the other hand, the men who threw them into the fire were consumed by the mere heat of that fire. The same fire that left one group untouched destroyed the other group. In like manner, those who refuse to bow to the image set up by last-day Babylon will also prove to be fireproof!

God's ideal is to prepare us to live forever in His presence. This means that He must make us fireproof. When the fire of God's love burns in our hearts, it prepares us to stand in His literal fiery presence when Jesus returns. Those who reject the fire of God's presence in their hearts will hide themselves from Christ's literal fiery presence when He comes again.

"The kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men ... every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?'" (Revelation 6:15-17).

So in this final act of judgment, God destroys the wicked. Why? Because the earth is about to become the new center of heaven! The New Jerusalem has just descended upon it (Revelation 21:2). But the wicked currently fill the entire planet. God knows that if the wicked were allowed into heaven, it would be eternal torment for them, so God destroys them because He loves them too much to torment them forever. They cannot stand in His presence without being consumed. Since they have not been purified by the blueprint of salvation, by the righteousness of Christ, their sins, to which they cling, will destroy them. It grieves the Lord. He even asks, "Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die ... and not that he should turn from his

ways and live?” (Ezekiel 18:23).

According to the Bible, it is the righteous—and not the wicked—who are the ones who will dwell with everlasting fire.

“The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: ‘Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?’ He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, he who despises the gain of oppressions, who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, and shuts his eyes from seeing evil: He will dwell on high; his place of defense will be the fortress of rocks; bread will be given him, his water will be sure. Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; they will see the land that is very far off” (Isaiah 33:14–17).

Because the wicked cling to their sins, they are not fireproof. When God destroys all sin, they will be burned up to ashes! They are destroyed by “eternal fire” (Jude 7), “everlasting fire” (Matthew 25:41), because God himself is that fire. The wicked cannot burn forever because they do not have eternal life. In other words, the wicked cannot live forever in order to burn forever. Since they do not have eternal life, and do not receive the gift of immortality, the fire will consume them.

“Behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘That will leave them neither root nor branch. But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves. You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this,’ says the LORD of hosts” (Malachi 4:1–3).

“The wicked shall perish; and the enemies of the LORD, like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away” (Psalm 37:20).

There will be nothing left of the wicked after they pay for their sins in the fire—nothing left of them but smoke and ashes. The wicked are not tormented forever. Rather, it is “the smoke” of their torment that ascends forever (Revelation 14:11). They have no “rest, day nor

night” until they are totally and finally consumed away into smoke. As the psalmist put it: “But the wicked shall perish; and the enemies of the LORD, like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away” (Psalm 37:20). In other words, the torment is continual until it is completed and nothing is left but smoke.

“For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more. But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace” (Psalm 37:10, 11).

Even Satan himself will be consumed by the fire. “The devil ... was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:10). Here the words “day and night forever and ever” only appear to mean eternity. A look at how the term “forever” is used in the Bible shows it literally means “continual until completion.”

For example, the Passover was to be kept “forever.” Yet since Christ our “Passover” was sacrificed for us, we no longer need to keep that feast. In this context, “forever” means “continually until it is fulfilled.” As seen in Exodus 21:6, when a servant decides to remain a slave to his master, he would have his ear pierced and then would serve “forever”; that is, continually until he died. In Leviticus 6:18, 22, Aaron’s sons were designated certain responsibilities “forever.” However, since Christ died, the Aaronic priesthood no longer stands. Verse 13 of this same chapter reads, “A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.” The fire at the altar of burnt offering was to burn continually, *as long* as the Old Testament temple stood. When Christ died, the veil in the temple was torn in two by God, bringing an end to what was to burn “forever.” Hence, Satan and the wicked will burn “continually” until their punishment is fulfilled. Then they will cease to be. There will be nothing left of them but ashes and smoke. Notice how clearly the Bible records Satan’s demise:

“You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and shall be no more forever” (Ezekiel 28:18, 19).

Satan will cease to exist *forever!* And so the moment has come in *Earth's Final Movie* when the wicked are destroyed. After the wicked confess that God is just, the executive judgment begins. The presence of the Lord goes out. God foretold that one day His glory would cover the whole earth—"Truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD" (Numbers 14:21). "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

That time has now come. The fiery glory of God now rains down upon the wicked, but it is a fire of love. With arms of fire, God embraces the wicked one final time. In rejecting the sacrifice of Christ at the altar of burnt offering, they themselves must now be placed upon the altar. Just as the sacrifice on that altar was consumed to ashes revealing the wages of sin, so the wicked in rejecting Christ's sacrifice on their behalf will become ashes. The entire earth becomes a lake of fire. "Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death" (Revelation 20:14).

According to the Bible, the wicked are not cast into the lake of fire at the "first" death. At the first death, they are simply asleep in their graves, awaiting the final judgment. It is not until the "second" death, after the end of the 1,000 years, that the wicked are called up from "death and hell" ("hell" literally means "the grave") and cast into the lake of fire.

Those who have done petty crimes will be destroyed the soonest; others who have committed massive crimes against humanity will burn longer in the fire—every person "according to his works" (Revelation 20:13). Satan and his angels will suffer the longest. And then the sea of fire will go out. "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea" (Revelation 21:1).

The wicked are no more. Sin and sinners are completely gone. They are not off in a corner of the universe somewhere cursing and sinning against God throughout eternity in a place where Satan is in charge. Because even the wicked and Satan himself have admitted that the Lord's ways are righteous and true, no question will ever rise again as to God's justice. "Affliction will not rise up a second time" (Nahum 1:9).

Now God recreates the earth as it was in the beginning. Now the Lord establishes a very special day—

“For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,’ says the LORD, ‘So shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,’ says the LORD” (Isaiah 66:22, 23).

From Sabbath to Sabbath, the entire universe will meet at the throne of God to worship Him. In between the exploration of millions of planets and the joy of fellowship with one another, the redeemed and the angels will come from Sabbath to Sabbath to meet at the throne of God, in the sanctuary of heaven, the basis of God’s blueprint of salvation, to celebrate a life without sin, pain, or suffering.

Close Scene 11—and Open to a New Beginning

An Appeal:

Operation Blueprint

During the 1800s, the Underground Railroad was instrumental in leading slaves out of captivity into freedom. “Conductors” travelled back and forth from south to north leading former captives from “station” to “station” until they found freedom. Today, God needs conductors who will help call His people out of Babylon and lead them, station by station, to accept Christ and keep His commandments. Each of the six articles of furniture in the sanctuary is like six stations that make up the pattern of salvation. If you have found freedom in these pages, then God calls you to conduct others, station by station, until they too find peace in the “secret place of the Most High.”

This is an appeal for you to join the remnant movement of God and help lead others out of darkness into His light. By accepting, learning, and giving this message—perhaps by sharing this book with someone else—you can play a part in proclaiming *The Blueprint*.

www.operationblueprint.com

Operation Blueprint

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