

Pivot Points

by

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Pivot Points

A Biblical world view of events around which history pivoted

The purpose of this study is to help us understand the long arc of history and help us take a stab at locating ourselves on the time line. Are we near the end of the Church age? Are we experiencing the dramatic prophecies scattered all through the Bible speaking of the end of days? Maybe after considering, with the help of the Holy Spirit, what the scriptures record and matching them with current world events we can find ourselves on God's calendar. Like the note on the big map near the transit station that says, "You are here," maybe we can find where we are and redeem the time. People who are overly concerned with questions like, "When will Jesus return?" and "How much more time do we have to get ready?" are people who are not ready. I will have accomplished my goals if after having read this work you will stop wondering how much time you have left and start getting ready now. Get your heart right with God now and be ready for his coming whenever it comes. Remember Jesus said himself that He will come like a thief in the night.

Prologue

The Creator's latest invention was a multi-dimensional holographic projection device and he wanted to try it out. He went into his lab and pushed an infinitely dense singularity into the "add stuff here" portal of his projector that, once deployed, expanded into our four-dimensional universe. Joy exploded on his face when potential became reality. Into the fabric of the singularity, He had coded all future history into multi-dimensional realities and separated them from each other by membranes like pages in a book. On each page of this comprehensive reality book, trillions of stories were waiting to be told. On each page the Creator could interact with and enjoy the company of each character if, of course, they wanted to play. The Creator had His prime directive of autonomy built into each page. He had something special in mind for the four-dimensional page because he planned to write in it a being that would bear his image. He was sure this page would prove to be especially problematic because there would be opposition to this particular creature being chosen to wear the Maker's mark. He knew even at first he would need to enter this particular reality to fix it. Whatever - it was too late. He had already fallen in love with the people in it.

Fixing the problem endemic in the 4D reality is called redemption. Fixing the broken condition in the 4D page would require several alterations, which would come as The Creator personally entered the narrative on several pre-determined pivot points. The fix would not all come at once, but would be spaced out over time.

What is He doing now? What did He do last? What will be next? Where are we currently on The Creator's plan of redemption?

Are we right at the end or will human history still have much to experience? This study will attempt to help us fix our place in the long arc of history. It is my opinion that we are near the end of the Church age. If I am right in this belief it would mean that the next pivot point will be tribulation. So, by evacuation or endurance the church will experience a pivot point.

Introduction

A pivot by definition is the central point, pin, or shaft on which a mechanism turns or oscillates.

In this study, we will be dealing with what caused things to turn, how they turn and the new direction taken. To better know where our time fits with God's long arc, one needs to have a little understanding of history. We need to know who is causing the pivots, what the pivots entail and what new experiences await us.

Another very important point you will need to bring with you as you read this writing is how one interprets the Bible and particularly eschatology. I interpret the Bible literally, unless of course it is obviously making a figurative referral. We know the streets of heaven could be paved with gold, but the pavement is probably something like gold but even better. This kind of reference is figurative, as the Bible writers were being led along by the Holy Spirit. They had to use language to describe things that would be understandable to the original readers. Now we come to why that will come into play in this writing. We will be dealing with issues, entities and concepts that have both literal and figurative interpretations. To wit, the Bible says stars, cups or bowls were thrown on the earth. It also says stars fell to the earth and one could interpret these as literal or figurative. As you will discover later in this paper, I will interpret the devastation that falls on the earth in the trumpet judgments as space debris, planetoids and asteroids. These objects, I plan to make the case, are physical rocky meteoric objects that hit the earth, damage the earth and life on the earth as the result of God's judgment. These falling things could be angels and not space rocks. So, let the reader be aware and read this work with the understanding I may be completely wrong. Here's the thing: Rocks or angels -- the same damage is done. The judgment of God will fall on earth during the trumpet judgments. I believe interpreting these falling things as space rocks/asteroids etc. makes a lot of sense.

Another idea you need to bring with you into this study is what is called dispensationalism. In short, this theological thought experiment tries to make the case that God deals with mankind a little differently in different dispensations. For instance, at and before the flood, God dealt with sin much more wrathfully as he wiped the race off the map in a big event. Dispensationalists then would argue that God dealt with man differently after the cross by being more graceful and less wrathful. I am not one who buys into this theology. I believe God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Now let us consider the end of this work called the Tribulation. Few doubt there will be a rapture of the Church. Many debate the timing of said rapture. Dispensational pre-millennialists say the rapture of the church will occur prior to the tribulation or seven years before the Lord Jesus returns to earth. Others believe in a pre-wrath rapture or a snatching away of the church half way through the trouble. A third group holds out the idea of a post tribulation rapture that will occur just before the second coming. Historists see the entire Tribulation as history. Finally, there are A-millennialists who do not believe in a literal millennium and believe the Church will arise and lead the world into the future God intended from the beginning. There are other twists on each of these ideas, but I think you are getting the point. I will leave the placement of the rapture out of this work and allow you to put it where you think it belongs. For me, I remain a pre-millennialist. As much as I would like, I cannot take scripture and verse and prove one

view over the other with any satisfaction at this point in my journey. I hope you can do better but if not we cannot do anything about how it all rolls out anyway.

The Long Arc of History

This writing will cover topics such as:

The creation of heavens and earth - The angel wars- The creation of man - Noah's Flood - The Tower of Babel - The man of faith Abraham - Jesus the Redeemer - The Church - Tribulation - The final war - The second coming of Jesus - The Millennium - Final Judgments - The new creation and eternity. Each of these topics are in some way pivot points around which huge changes have occurred or will occur.

The problem with time, history and free will: To help understand some of the difficulties we have with making sense of history and the role we are allowed to play I will use the metaphor of music. In short, jazz is music that is not completely written down, but allows the musicians to ad lib or make it up as they please. Classical music is played from a completed score. The musicians play only what a composer has written. Is the history of our universe jazz or classical music? Has God written a score from which we all are merely playing His predetermined notes, or are we allowed to have a role in how history rolls out? Can we ad lib or not? Is future history fixed or is there some flexibility in how it is played?

I believe the Divine Creator knows the end from the beginning because omniscience requires it. However, all along the way God indicates his willingness to allow his creation to play a role in the process. Harmonizing free will and predestination has caused many sour notes to sound that did not work out so well. Herein lies a paradox. Both arguments seem to cancel each other out with no common position taken. What musicians have accomplished so far with this theological problem is to merely define the parameters of this divine opus. In other words, the conclusions reached are really up to the investigator and his presuppositions. Here is the paradox -- God knows all and at the same time, He allows us to participate and create with Him. Pivot points are flexible in that they can be played as either allegro or lento. Our interpretation of God's music is what matters. Our lives matter. Our decisions are often pivot points.

Anytime one claims to know exactly what time it is on God's calendar you can be sure they have been deceived. There are many things the Bible has given us that allow us surety. For example, Jesus is the Son of God who died for the sins of the world and rose from the grave. However, times and dates are above human understanding. We only have signs and seasons, no definite dates of which we can be sure. It remains difficult to pin point our current place on the divine calendar and say with certainty, whether we are at the end of this age or if the end is far in the distance. We have Biblical clues, but they are open to subjectivity and interpretation. Sadly the information we have been given creates a lack of certainty. Jesus mentioned many "signs" to indicate his soon return, but he taught that when they all come together at one time and increase in frequency and dynamics then we are near to some pivot point. To balance this he also said He would come like a thief in the night and no man would know the exact time of his arrival. So which is it? Can we know where we are on God's calendar or are we unaware like the homeowner who is visited by the thief in the night?

What can we use as a measuring device to let us see our place in the long arc of history? For Christians we use the Bible. This is part of what a Biblical world view is all about. In this study, we will use the Bible as our source, but we will not completely discount the other deep time cultural explanations for the vast history of this world since most cultures have similar narratives to the Bible stories. Most cultures have histories that have been remembered by secret societies or Shaman. They also have oral monolithic inscriptions, tradition and myth. By changing names and narratives, most world cultures tell the same origin myths as does the Biblical account. All melted together they say: gods came from the sky and intermarried with earth women and produced a race of demigods who wreaked havoc on the earth. This same story is told all over the world. These demigods are called Aliens, Ant People, Dragons, Sky gods, Serpents, Giants, Heroes, Ghosts, Demons and Angels. If one isn't hung up on names, a consistency is revealed. In our deep past, something happened that to the modern mind seems like a fairy tale or science fiction, but was probably very real. I believe the Bible is inerrant and literal unless it lets us know it is figurative or allegorical. In Genesis 6, we find the same story interpreted as allegory and also as history. Most ancient cultures tell the same story with, of course, different names given to the gods that came down and their progeny. The Mayan Calendar records a 26,000-year long count based on the precession of the axis of the earth pointing to the constellations. The Hopi tell legends of five past ages; the aboriginal Australian remembers dreamtime concepts. The Greek and Roman legends tell of demigods living on Mt. Olympus and interacting with human populations. The prehistoric Chinese dragon dynasties claim to descend from dragons (Serpents). There is the persistent tale of a lost continent called Atlantis and countless other traditions and legends. All taken together, these make a strong case that earthly life has a long and commonly told history. When we reference these other world views we will compare and contrast them with the Bible because I believe the Bible is the Word of God and therefore the root of all truth. The Bible has one prime goal to teach and that is redemption. The Bible while focused on that story is not interested in explaining the physics of creation or detailing all we would like to look into. The Bible is not a science book. It is a story of God redeeming fallen things.

How long has the earth existed? Happily, the answer to this question does not put one's salvation in jeopardy. Whether you believe the earth is roughly ten thousand years old or was created billions of years ago, it matters, but not in the area of faith in the finished work of salvation provided by Jesus the Christ. Curiously, the Bible doesn't tell us how old the earth is, so young-earth Christians accept a young age by faith. Since the Bible doesn't tell us the earth's age, those who lean toward the old-earth theory also take their thesis by faith.

Cosmologists postulate that the universe is (+/-) 14 billion years old. The same people claim the earth's age to be (+/-) 4 billion years. These descriptions of time are called **deep time** because of their vastness as related to humanity's mere 6,000 to 10,000 years. Are these deep time numbers correct? Remember science is all about hypotheses. A scientific pronouncement of an absolute is good only until it is proven untrue. One must remember that with God one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. One should never doubt the veracity of the Bible just because it differs from some scientific possibility. Moses' account in Genesis doesn't try to lock time down to fit into any tradition or mythological story. He simply says, "In the

beginning God. . . “ If one believes the first verse of the Bible all the rest are easy to accept. Moses doesn't even ask the question concerning the age of the earth or were there previous human existences on earth, but begins his narrative with Adam and Eve roughly 6,000 years ago (calculated by Ussher chronology). (See definitions)

James Ussher's *Annals of the World* is a historical chronology that dates creation as occurring 4004 years before the birth of Christ. That would make creation, by his calculations, to have occurred around 6,000 plus years ago. When the KJV was printed in 1701, Ussher's chronology (his theory) was printed in the margin of all Bibles and thereby became accepted as fact. Ussher's chronology is based on life spans of the men listed in the book of Genesis. It is my opinion that Ussher's chronology is the youngest possible dating for Genesis and it is probably much older. It makes sense to me that human history begins roughly from the end of the last ice age. The last ice age ended circa 10 - 12 thousand years ago. If there were cultures existing on earth prior to the last ice age (twenty thousand or more years ago) the people of that time would have had to create a very sophisticated technology to survive in the harshness of an ice age - if humanity existed prior to the creation of Adam. Geologists tell us earth was hit by a catastrophic impact of an asteroid that rapidly heated up the planet and buried flora and mega fauna. Did it also bury a civilization equal to, if not greater than, ours today? We will have a lot to talk with God about when we get home. Since the Bible is relatively silent on the matter of pre-Adamic life it is probably best if I keep my opinions to myself. With that said, there is a lot of really old stuff on the planet that is made with far superior methods and skill than is possible to duplicate today.

Moses states, *In the beginning God created the heavens (Shamayim) and the earth (eretz)*. If the scientific chronology is correct, the heavens (Shamayim) are 14 billion years old. It consists of everything that exists in the space and time dimension (4D) including laws of physics and mathematical relationships. Its age did not seem to matter to Moses because we must remember God is telling the story of redemption through Moses, and God is not locked rigidly in time as we are. Time to God is different than it is to us. God made the universe. He made it from nothing. He did it sometime in the deep past so we know it had a beginning. He has a plan for what it will become. Therefore, we know it has an end. Revelation indicates the old heaven and earth (*Our current cosmos and planet earth*) will pass away and new ones will replace them. Every pivot point along the way is a step on the road to redemption. *Revelation 21:1 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.*

I will attempt to lay out a time line to show the long arc of history from eternity to eternity. It starts with God and ends with God. Our role in this historical drama is but a blip on the screen. If one were to draw a line of time and make it one hundred miles long, human time on earth would be the last inch only. Our race is young. We have just barely arrived at the party. Adam first drew into his lungs the breath of God 6,000 to 12,000 years ago. Considering the vast age of the universe and earth, our time on earth, in comparison, is one grain of sand on the beach. The planet earth existed a long time (4 billion years) before Adam was created and a lot could have happened in that

time. We also need a way to put an approximate date on the mega fauna bones found in very old earth strata. The Bible is mostly silent concerning this missing earth time so anything people say about this time is merely conjecture, but things laying about on the surface and in strata makes us wonder if more, much more, went on before Adam opened his eyes in Eden.

When was the war in heaven fought? Revelation 12 records the epic war but gives no chronology. We can only speculate when the rebellion occurred, but it makes sense it occurred right after or just before God created Adam. Some wonder if the creation of mankind was not the trigger that precipitated the rebellion in heaven in the first place. Michael and those angels who are under his command made war in the heavenly dimension with the Dragon and cast him out into our four-dimension universe and the war was prosecuted here. It went from spiritual to physical with real consequences for our universe and even solar system. It is a mistake to fantasize the angel war as being only spiritual. It was real; really destructive, and really tragic. It was a pivot point after which everything changed. It is my belief that the war goes on today. The battle continues in heaven (where God lives), in the universe (where the galaxies spin) and on earth (where we live) to this day. Many share this belief and also believe the original surface of planet earth was perfection until the angel wars destroyed it. The destroyed surface of planet Earth was *Tohu and Bohu (empty and chaotic)* as we read in the original language of Genesis 1:2. It is the opinion of a growing number of Bible scholars that Genesis 1:2 is telling us how God restored the planet after the angel war bombardment. The original creation had been collateral damage in a series of catastrophic events that destroyed the surface of the planet and possibly impacted every orbiting body in our solar system to one degree or another. Isaiah 45:18 states that God did not create the earth "*in vain*", but to be inhabited, and so I believe the originally created earth was perfect until what we read in the second verse of Genesis 1 occurred.

Adam and Eve were told to "*Replenish the earth.*" After the flood, Noah's children were told the same. The language indicates restoring something or doing something again.

Jeremiah 4:23-27 "*I looked on the earth, and beheld it formless (laid waste) and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light. I looked on the mountains, and, behold, they quaked. And all the hills were shaken". I beheld and lo, there was no man; and all the cover of the skies had fled. I looked, and, behold, the fruitful place was a wilderness; and all its cities were broken down before the face of Jehovah, before his glowing anger. For so Jehovah has said. The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end.*

There was no man at this point in the story of earth, yet there were cities, which were destroyed by God's wrath. Who dwelt in these cities? I cannot help but wonder if we are the first race of human beings God put on planet earth or just the last in his infinite plan.

Isaiah 14:12-17 "*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!"* - What nations saw Lucifer fall?

Let us consider the physical reality of the Angel wars

It is my belief that the angel wars were not contained exclusively to the heavenly or spiritual realm. I am confident the angel war began in the heavenly dimension and bled out into the material cosmos. In other words, the angel wars were not just spiritual, but were very physical as well.

One possible proof to the physicality of the war is the asteroid belt that is in orbit around the sun. What caused the debris in the asteroid belt? Why did this debris not form a planet? Could there be a missing planet near the orbit of Neptune that was possibly destroyed in the Angel wars? The Bible makes vague references to “Rahab” that may reference that now missing world. Would there be any evidence for it? The answer is maybe. Here are a few things to think about as we consider this enigma. Rahab is mentioned eight times in the Bible and only two refer to the woman in Jericho who hid the spies. Who are the other six referencing? Other ancient cultures, mythologies and Jewish sources contend that Rahab was Lucifer’s home planet that was destroyed by Michael’s righteous angel warriors. I, and many others, believe that during the Angel wars our solar system was damaged beyond any self-repair. Earth alone received 22,000 impact craters, and several craters had diameters larger than 5,000 miles. What we now know as the Caribbean Sea is in actuality an impact crater from this time. It was caused by the same impact that destroyed Rahab, that Earth became a formless void and the solar system was damaged. The consensus among planetary scientists is that the solar system originally had more than four giant planets – Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus. Now claims are made that it is much more likely to have been home to a fifth giant planet that is no longer in the solar system. Computer simulations run by the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas, show that it is statistically extremely unlikely that the solar system began with only four giants. By its calculations, it only had a 2.5 per cent chance of reaching its current population and orbital layout with four giants, but was ten times more likely to have developed to its present state if there was a fifth monster body in the mix. One also must wonder what caused the debris in the Kuiper Belt, which is the name for the asteroid belt. Could it be the remains of a destroyed ancient planet? Could the cause of this debris be the result of the angel wars? Add this to the list of things we want to talk with God about when we get home.

According to a report on Fox News, in an interview with Dr. Brandenburg from NASA, he stated, "The Martian surface is covered with a thin layer of radioactive substances including uranium, thorium and radioactive potassium -- and this pattern radiates from a hot spot [on Mars]." He continues, "Two nuclear explosions on Mars have sent debris all around the planet." He further stated, "Maps of gamma rays on Mars show a big red spot that seems like a radiating debris pattern ... on the opposite side of the planet there is another red spot." According to Brandenburg, the explosion equivalent of one million one-megaton hydrogen bombs occurred in the northern Mare Acidalium region of Mars where there is a heavy concentration of radioactivity. This explosion filled the Martian atmosphere with radioisotopes as well, which are seen in recent gamma ray spectrometry data taken by NASA, he said. The radioactivity also explains why the planet looks red. There is much about Mars we will learn in the next few years as we explore further. The face on Mars, the monolith on Phobos, and the many other artificial

structures revealed by pictures taken by NASA tell us there was probably a lot more to Mars' past than we know.

It is my conjecture that the cause of the angel war was rebellion among the elite angels over the fact that God was planning to, or had already made, man in His image. Some Angels may have coveted the blessing of God's image for themselves. "*Why them and not us?*" they may have wondered. When they realized the new creation (Man) would be eventually in a higher order than themselves they asked "*Why didn't God place his image in us?*" This may have led to an attempt at a heavenly coup that spilled out of the heaven into the other dimensions.

We have far to go as we look under every rock we have thus far left not inspected. Let's turn a few of them over and see where the information takes us. What pivot points will we discover? What is there for us to discover about all that God has done and what He has planned.

I want to know the truth. If the truth takes me into areas that makes me uncomfortable or challenges my pre-conceptions, so be it. I believe with all my heart that truth will always validate God, his Word and his plan of redemption. With that truth firmly anchored in my heart, I have confidence as I ask some hard questions and seek for truth.

Let's take a look at what will be covered in this study and name the pivot points upon which the past and future history of planet earth, the universe and heaven its self will turn.

Pre History

Pivot Point #1

Creation of the Material Universe -- Genesis 1-5

We will use this pivot point to focus deeply on the introduction of human kind on the earth, the pristine condition of life in Eden, the temptation and fall of humanity, the Serpent and the curse.

The Creation

The brevity of Biblical information concerning the creation of the universe leaves us wanting more. We need to remember the Bible is not a science book, but a story of redemption.

When the Bible says in Genesis 1, "In the beginning God," we really get all we need to launch the redemption epic. Would we like more? No doubt we would, but without information this is about all we get. It may be that this knowledge is hidden from us at this point in human development to protect us from what we might do with it.

Job records in 38:1

Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: 2 "Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? 3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. 4 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. 5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its

cornerstone— 7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy? 8 “Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, 9 when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, 10 when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, 11 when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt’?”

The writer of Hebrews tells us in chapter 13 *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

In Colossians 1:16 we read - *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.*

Revealed in Revelation 4:11 - *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

In John 1:1-3 we read - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

In Exodus 20:11 Moses records for us: *For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

Genesis, chapters 1 and 2 seem to be records of two creation stories. They do not contradict each other. They do complement and complete the details of early life on the planet. It is possible that Moses blended two oral traditions in his creation account, which explain what could seem like a second account. In other words, Moses used two existing harmonious stories of creation to give us more detail. We have to remember the mind of God is the real author of Genesis. Moses was used to write the thoughts of God to pass to us this great story of beginnings. God could have given us much more information about the physics, and mathematics he used to make our universe, but he limited this disclosure to the story of redemption primarily.

The Origin of Man

“Thou hast created us for Thyself, and our heart is not quiet until it rests in Thee.” – Augustine

Revelation 4:11 - *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

Ephesians 2:10 - *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Isaiah 43:21 - *This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.*

Colossians 1:16 - *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

Genesis reveals God created a man called Adam. Genesis 2 says God created human kind. Is this in conflict? Not at all. Genesis 2 just gives us more detail. Allow me to summarize what the Bible says in places other than Genesis about the origin and purpose of mankind:

1. All things were created for his pleasure
2. Mankind was created for "Good works" in Jesus
3. Man was created to praise the Creation
4. Man is made in the Creator's image
5. Man is made to be the manager of the earth's resources
6. Man comes in two forms - male and female
7. Mankind is a sixth day creation (Last day or most recent)
8. Mankind has God's breath of life and became a living being
9. Mankind was given boundaries (Don't eat of the tree of life)
10. Mankind has intelligence and understanding (Named things)

What does it mean to be made in the image of God? No one can understand or even explain this subject completely, but in summary, it means that mankind reflects God's management, governance, methodology and style as we oversee the planet. We act for God. We act as God.

We aren't just made in God's image intellectually. People with mental deficiencies are God's imagers as well as are the geniuses. We aren't God's imagers emotionally either. Having feelings is not God's image exclusively. It is more than just these two categories. Were it not for the fall, earth would have remained a Garden of Eden to this day, but because of it, the earth has been misused and abused. We aren't God's imagers physically because God is a spirit and physical only in Jesus. God's image in us is all this and more. All that man was, he still is except for the curse. Let's look into the cause of the curse.

A careful look at the attributes God reveals of Himself in early Genesis will tell us about the image He invested in us. He created; we can be creative. He communicated and we can communicate. He evaluated His work and we can do the same. He enjoyed fellowship with Adam and Eve. Humans are more healthy and content in fellowship with each other. I will go no further here, but one can look at the activity of God, see a small revelation of his image, and rejoice that it has been given to us.

The Serpent and the Fall -- Genesis 3

What was the Serpent? Would you be shocked if I said the Serpent was not a snake? He was an upright, intelligent, being or creature with the ability to speak. He wasn't an animal at all. He was part of the rebel angels who were purposed with the task of seducing Eve, and subsequently Adam, into leading humanity into rebellion on the side of the Fallen. Abducting human kind into the conspiracy to rebel would be the ultimate insult to the Most High. The Serpent was probably a Seraphim Angel who followed Lucifer and other fallen ones out of heaven and made landfall on planet earth. Ufologists refer to this category of alien as Reptilian. They are not aliens at all, but are angels, some fallen and some righteous. The Bible describes Seraphim Angels in Isaiah 6 like this:

*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. **2** Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.*

***3** And they were calling to one another:*

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”*

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5 “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

Let’s look deeper into the description of the Seraphim category of angel in Isaiah.

1. They have six wings
2. They have faces (multiple)
3. They have feet (euphemistically sex organs)
4. They have loud voices
5. They have hands

The Serpent went to Eve with a question about the goodness of God. This is the original mention of temptation. Let’s analyze the temptation template. All temptation comes to us with these same concepts.

1. Temptation starts with a question as to the intent of God. “Did God really say. . . ?”
2. Temptation usually includes a subtle twisting of God’s words. “Did God really say you must not eat **or touch** the tree in the middle of the Garden?”
3. Temptation contradicts God’s word. Verse 4 blatantly says, “ You will not certainly die.”
4. God is holding back something from you. He wants to keep you in the dark or at least not on his level of knowledge.
5. The tree (temptation) was pleasurable upon which to look.
6. The tree (temptation) offered wisdom

Let’s consider for a moment why God wanted Adam and Eve to be unaware of some things. It is my contention God wants his children to be totally aware of their full complement of resources and abilities. His plan is for us to mature as a race before we deal with potentially self-destructive possibilities. You don’t give babies dynamite to play with, but in the right time and for the right purpose, TNT is a tool man uses for management.

The subtlety of temptation weaves truth with subtle twists of untruth.

The Curse on the Serpent

Genesis 3:14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.”

It is my suspicion that buried in this story is insight into the angel war. It makes sense to me that some of the angels resented the idea of God making man in his image. These monkey men were inferior in all ways, they may have surmised, and beside that, angels have been around and in God’s presence since the first day of creation. Mankind was a

very new thing. Why them? Why not us? It made no sense to the fallen angels so they set out to subvert mankind and recruit us to join the rebellion.

It makes sense that the fallen angels came up with this plan to seduce Adam and Eve with questions about God's goodness and to convince them things were being held back from them. The Serpent in the Garden was a selected agent to subvert God's plan for his new creation.

The first glimpse of the Gospel occurs in Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

There will be war between the Serpent (fallen angels) and mankind or sons of Adam through Eve's seed. In this war, the ultimate child of Adam and Eve (Jesus) will crush the Serpent's head. Jesus will defeat and destroy the complete work of the Serpent and all the rebel angels. The war will produce a heel wound for one of Eve's children (Jesus). This looks at the crucifixion from which Jesus arose from death. The wound was temporary, not fatal, thus the reference to a heel wound. The prophecy foretells a head wound (fatal) for the seed of the Serpent.

Redemption is promised

Genesis 3:21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

The symbology is striking. An animal killed and skinned to cover the effects of sin. This action points to the blood cover that Jesus provides for our sin.

In Pivot Point #4 we will look much deeper into redemption because without it none of the rest matters.

*Genesis 3:22 And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like **one of us**,*

The use of the plural (us) here, "Elohim," looks to the divine council found in Psalm 82. Elohim is a word used to describe those who live in the heavenly dimension and interact with the Most High. The Most High allows His creation to share with Him in creation. I refer you to the previous discussion in the introduction concerning the free will of all that God creates. We are free to cooperate and create with the Most High or do our own thing as in the case of the rebel angels. The morning stars (righteous angels) sang for joy on the day of creation.

To spare mankind eternity in dying bodies we were banned from the tree of life.

He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." 23 So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

This was a major pivot point for mankind. We were no longer living in perfect harmony with our creator or with the planet earth. We would die now and need to speed up the way we reproduced ourselves so that mankind would survive on earth.

What was life like outside of Eden? What can we expect? Why is our world in such a mess? Where is this world headed? All these questions are dealt with in the narrative in Genesis 4.

Life outside of Eden -- Genesis 4

Adam and Eve began to have children. Some suggest that in our perfect state before the fall, human reproduction would have been much slower, less painful and sexual necessities would have been less emphatic. In other words, the over emphasis placed on sex today would have been much different if we had not fallen in the Garden.

Things went bad in Eden and it continued outside as well. The first children competed for God's blessing and one killed the other out of jealousy. The story of Cain (the murderer) makes us scratch our heads over many issues. For instance:

1. Why was Abel's sacrifice so much better than Cain's?
2. Cain was given a mark to warn "people" to not kill him. What people would that be?
3. Cain began a line of descendants and used many of the names Adam and Eve's son, Seth, used for his children. There was an Enoch from Cain and an Enoch from Seth in Chapter 5, for example. Was there a name shortage at that time or was some more sinister plot in play?
4. Cain built a city for Enoch. Who would inhabit this city with Enoch?

Cain's lineage brought much confusion and trouble into the human experience. Lamech, one of his grandchildren, was the first to marry two wives. With time, we could unwind more of Cain's anti-God insertions into the human story, but for the limited focus of this story, we will move on and allow you to follow the trail on your own.

Adam and Eve had a third son and named him Seth. Seth, in turn, produced people who called upon the name of the Lord in contrast to Cain's descendants who walked away from the Most High.

Adam to Noah -- Genesis 5

1. Adam
2. Seth
3. Enos
4. Cainan
5. Mahalaleel
6. Jared
7. Enoch
8. Methuselah
9. Lamech
10. Noah

Moses lists the lineage of Adam through Seth through several generations. Each of Seth's grandsons were righteous men and were kings in their own right.

Chuck Missler puts their names all together to tell us an even bigger story. Read their names translated into English in one sentence.

Hebrew	English
Adam	Man
Seth	Appointed
Enosh	Mortal
Kenan	Sorrow;
Mahalalel	The Blessed God
Jared	Shall come down
Enoch	Teaching
Methuselah	His death shall bring
Lamech	The Despairing
Noah	Rest, or comfort.

Man appointed (to) mortal sorrow the blessed God shall come down teaching his death shall bring the despairing rest.

This cannot be a coincidence! God was telling us in the names of the first men that from the first man to Noah, He was the author of everything and redeemer.

In the days of Jared (one of Seth’s grandsons), his son Enoch tells us the Watcher Angels came to earth and created the genetic confusion we will deal with in Genesis 6. The genetic mixing of angel seed with human was the primary reason God destroyed the world with the flood. It was becoming populated with both fauna and flora that was not of His design. The Watchers tinkered with and altered the genetic makeup of nearly everything on earth including man, animals and plants.

What a pivot point this was as God created a universe full of beings. Late in time, he made human beings to be his imagers on earth. In this pivot, we saw man go from perfection to ultimate failure. Man was made to live forever with God but now he is cursed to die. The greatest of all pivots to come was revealed in the Proto-Evangelium or Original Gospel reference. God told the Serpent and all of Adam’s children that one day the seed of the Reptile and the seed of the human would fight a war, the seed of the Serpent (Lucifer/Anti-Christ) would be killed, and the son of man (Jesus) would die and be resurrected.

Pivot Point #2 The Flood

In Genesis 6, we will study Noah’s flood: the causes, results and questions it raises.

In this study we will look into why the flood in Noah’s day such a pivot point

Burning Question:

What would make God destroy every living thing he had made on earth?
 By looking back to the first few chapters of Genesis, we find God created everything and commented upon completion of his creative work that it was good. We can be assured when God calls something, “good,” it is perfect and anything added or subtracted only diminishes its goodness or perfection.

So, in Genesis 6 and in the book of Enoch we find changes being made to the genome of mankind, to flora and fauna. Remember any change made to perfection makes what is being changed less instead of more.

We can find in contemporary thinking the extension of this fallacy. Any mixing or changing the genomic nature of mankind, flora or fauna, results in something much different than God intended or that God called good. If something is not good then what is it? This simple logic has been ignored by modern scientific inquiry by looking into the possibility of improving upon what God made. You cannot improve on perfection, and even by adding to it, you make it less. Those who think about feeding a growing population are alarmed at possible food shortages and even famine that may be on the horizon. To increase yield and food production, the idea of genetically altering our food to make it grow faster, resist weeds, be more nutritious and so forth, has opened the door on genetic manipulation of our food stuffs. What happens when mankind tinkers with perfection? What are we doing to our bodies when we ingest genetically altered food?

The book of Enoch tells us Watcher Angels, *in the days of Jared*, were probably watching over the earth from the beginning. Some time through the eons of time, they changed their allegiance to the Most High and came up with a scheme that would allow them to have families and children like human beings. This was not God's plan and the mixing of angel and human blood lines created monstrosities that made human life on earth impossible to maintain. Something had to be done and God sent an extinction level event to the earth. God sent a flood.

Genesis 6 When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. 3 Then the Lord said, "My Spirit will not contend with[a] humans forever, for they are mortal[b]; their days will be a hundred and twenty years."

When the progeny of angel/human crossbreeding were on the earth, God set out to remedy the situation by putting a limit on the life span of these hybrid creatures. Angels are immortal, humans are not. The hybrid progeny of this mixed genetics concoction limited the Nephilim lifespan to less than immortality. This life form God did not create probably would have lived thousands of years but God limited it to 120 years in verse 3. The bodies of these bastardized children (inherited from their mothers) would get old, become diseased and eventually die, but their angel spirits (inherited from their fathers) would be immortal. The full exposure to this phenomenon is dealt with in the Gospels where we meet demons. Demons, I believe, are the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim looking for a way to be reanimated or re-housed.

Back to the story -

4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

If one believes the Bible is free from error there is but one conclusion that can be drawn. Something really weird happened in Genesis 6. For many years, I would preach from Genesis and completely avoid the sixth chapter because it seemed too

fanciful for modern Bible students. It was much later in my life that the Lord opened this scripture for me and it was then I realized it was key to understanding much of the mysteries that had been locked away behind by my ignorance. The narratives in the later chapters of Genesis, Numbers and really the entire Bible, now make sense. Goliath was a giant and we now know why. He was a descendant of the Nephilim. Now we have the back-story to the book of Jude. The Dead Sea Scroll discovery of an ancient copy of the book of Enoch brought a flood light of understanding as a commentary on Genesis 6.

When the question of why Jesus came to earth comes up, we now know much more completely his mission plan. He came to deal with the rebel angels and the way they mixed angel and human blood. He also came to redeem humanity from the curse of the sin in which these angels tempted us to join them. Most Christians think Jesus came only to deal with human sin and fallen natures. He did come to deal with that, but he also came to judge the fallen angels.

One often overlooked part of the text are the words, "And also afterward. . ." This can only mean that Nephilim were here before the flood and they were here after the flood.

These few little words really open the door on many questions. For instance:

1. Why didn't the flood kill them?
2. If the flood killed them, how did they come back?
3. If they were here after the flood are they still here?
4. What would they look like today and how would we recognize one?

It is my opinion that the flood did indeed kill the bodies of the Nephilim living on earth before the flood. However if that is the case then how did they get back? There are several possible ways to answer the question. Possibility number one -- their angel fathers took them off-world until the flood subsided. Possibility number two -- some of Noah's daughters-in-law were Nephilim or had Nephilim genetics that was passed on to Noah's grandchildren. Possibility number three -- the Watchers again reproduced with human women after the flood. My lack of imagination limits the possibilities to three, but there may have been many other ways to interfere with God's plans. In the recent movie about Noah and the flood, one of the Nephilim sneaked on board the Ark and survived to spread his genetics among mankind later.

In old mythologies the "gods" were heroes or widely known beings. They probably were kings and rulers of vast areas and peoples, and lived for thousands of years. The Greek gods on Olympus were called "heroes" to mention only a few of the varied mythologies and histories.

I am confident we have not seen the last of the Nephilim. I have often wondered if the modern UFO phenomenon is not just a fulfillment of, ". . . *and also afterward.*" What is it modern movies and TV series tell us? Aliens are trying to create a hybrid race is the oft repeated theme. They want to create a mixed alien/human race to live on our planet. This may be just fantasy, but there are similarities.

DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) of the US Government is an arm of our intelligence agencies. I am sure they are way down the road producing the perfect soldier by this time. Some say they are injecting genetics from other living things into the genome of the human soldier. How about wolf genetics for enhancing

our sense of smell and bone density? Or could a little eagle DNA help our eyesight? I think you get the idea. What can't be altered by DNA changes, they will overcome by adding robotics from the large down to the nano level. This is called "transhumanism" and it deals with everything about our bodies down to the cellular level as open to tinkering.

Will we become non-human? At what point do we cease to be the beings made in God's image? I have heard that the Mark of the Beast is both an economic platform, and it is also a genetic (*sic*) upgrade. When one takes the Mark of the Beast, a change so drastic will occur in your DNA that you will no longer be human and therefore not eligible for salvation. I am not convinced a COVID-19 vaccination is the Mark of the Beast but it may be a step on the way. Also, I do not believe one can take the Mark accidentally or without knowing. The Mark will forever set you on the side of the fallen ones. You will take it with full knowledge of the consequences. It will be your baptism into the ranks of the fallen inhuman beings hell bent on replacing God.

Let me summarize to drive it home. You will take the Mark of the Beast only willingly. You will not be tricked into it. Everyone who takes the mark will know they are joining forces with the fallen ones led by the Beast. Coronavirus vaccinations are not the Mark of the Beast, but they may be a beta test to see if you can be led in that direction.

5 The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

6 The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the Lord said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them."

In these extreme words recorded by Moses, we discover the full depth of depravity these Nephilim had reached. The use of maxed-out verbs has always interested me.

Every inclination of their thoughts were **only** evil **all** the time. These Nephilim had nearly completed the total takeover of human genetics. The hybrid creatures were horrible monsters who never had a good thought or action. Because of the altered DNA, God was finished with humanity as it existed. They had become something different from what He had created. It was not good. It was monstrous. He said He would wipe them and all flora and fauna from the earth.

Enoch tells us in his extra-biblical account that the Watcher class angels were not content to cross breed with humans but also messed with the genetics of flora and fauna. The result may have been the age of dinosaurs. We really do not know, but it is interesting to consider.

Angels who have been around since the creation were perfectly proficient in science and technology far advanced from mankind today. Even we are just now mixing the genetics of animals and plants in labs all over the world.

8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

I believe v.9 tells us why Noah was favored by the Lord. He was blameless and walked faithfully with God.

9 This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

Noah's blamelessness sets him radically apart from what we just read in Genesis 6:5. He had remained faithful to the teachings he had received from his ancestors all the way back to Adam. He was different from all other men in that regard. Is it possible that Noah is not just morally blameless but as the KJV says, "perfect in his generations"? Could it be that Noah was one of a few genetically pure humans left? It may seem fanciful at first but it answers many questions.

As a side bar, just in case you have wondered why a couple of the Gospels take so much time validating the lineage of Jesus, we may now have the answer. Could they be telling us Jesus was the perfect human both spiritually and physically? He would not be the perfect Lamb of God if his mother's bloodline contained fallen angel genetics? So some of the Gospels give us a list of Jesus' genealogy all the way back to Adam.

10 Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

As we follow the trail I am pursuing, Noah had three genetically pure human sons to carry Adam's bloodline down through time.

11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. 12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.

Verse 11 shows the depth to which the corruption of all things had sunk. In God's evaluation, the earth and all the people on it had reached the bottom. There was only one way to fix us.

13 So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

So, there we have it. God was going to end us. But wait - what is he whispering into Noah's ear? What is an Ark? Did God say a flood? What?

Yes, God had a plan "B." Always remember, the Bible from front to back is a story of redemption. God redeems and before we finish with the book of Revelation, we will find the redemption complete including a renewed planet earth.

Pivot Point #3 The Tower of Babel

Genesis 9

Time passed after the ark was emptied of its' passengers and Ham, Shem and Japheth and their families got back to pre-flood careers and interests. At first, the family of Noah stayed around Ararat in modern day Turkey and returned to their family careers as farmers of grapes and probably other crops as well as herdsmanhip. God again spoke to Noah in Genesis 9:1 and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and **fill the earth.**" From Ararat they began their new lives. The earth was void of people and animals so care was given to repopulate both human and animal stock. The Prime Directive following the deluge was fill the earth and increase in numbers. The Most High wanted every continent on earth populated with human beings and their animals. Spread out and increase was the command of God. Thus, the directive was clear. Fill the whole earth again with living things.

Filling the earth meant that the sons of Noah would have to separate from each other. There must have been some reluctance to be isolated from each other as we can easily imagine. The idea of safety in numbers must have been in the back of their minds as they faced the new world with all the memories of floods and evil giants haunting them.

Now we pick up the story with Nimrod in Genesis 11 where Moses quotes Nimrod as saying,

Genesis 11:4

“. . . they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”

Again, the rebellious heart of mankind rises up. God said go everywhere and start over. Nimrod said, “No.” He didn’t just say “No,” he had a plan. Let us go to Shinar build a tower and a city and stay together. Shinar was a plain governed by the Babylonians to which Nimrod led the people to facilitate their rebellion against the decree of the Most High.

I suspect some PTSD infected their thinking as the recent extinction level event led to the idea of staying together and building a city and a tower. Were they looking for ways to protect themselves from another deluge? Would a tower be safe from another flood or some other kind of extinction event? Whatever the motivation, staying together in a city was in direct conflict with God’s order to spread out and fill the earth. This was the first organized rebellion to the Most High following the flood.

The first rebellion was caused by the Fallen Angels. The second rebellion was Adam and Eve in Eden eating of the one forbidden tree. The third rebellion was caused by the Watcher Class Angels who left their position and mission. The fourth rebellion was because of Nimrod’s disobedience to spread out and repopulate the earth.

The tower had its top in the heavens. Was the tower just really tall or is this language trying to convey some other thought? Some have wondered if the builders of the tower were merely trying to make it tall to reach heaven. If that is the rationale, why build on a plain? Why not build it on a mountain? I suspect the tower was not just tall but had other technological attributes to protect the descendants of Noah and to escalate the rebellion against the Most High. Did they think they were really a threat to The Most High? As unlikely as this may seem, remember God came down accompanied by the divine counsel and changed human languages from one to many.

Some speculate that the Tower of Babel was not just a tall building but was a machine designed to break through the dimensional barrier (brane) into the heavenly realm. The Hadron Collider in Europe known as CERN is designed for the same function. At CERN, the scientists are trying to open a door into another universe or dimension. Some are saying that the opening of the gates of Hell mentioned in Revelation describe exactly what CERN is trying to do. The danger is when the dimensional portal is opened we don’t know what might come through. We know from the Bible that the Anti-Christ (Beast) will come out of the Abyss. The Demon locust army comes out of it. Satan’s imprisoned army will be released and come back ready for battle. A lot of evil is dimensionally locked that one day may be opened.

The flood had much to do with cleansing the world of the folly of the Watcher Class Angels. We learn that these angels taught forbidden knowledge before and after the flood. Enoch 8:1 tells us about this technological upgrade the angels gave to mankind. One interesting field of study lies in how the Watchers preserved forbidden knowledge and angel technology from the ravages of the flood. How did they get the information to Noah's sons? There are not a lot of answers to these questions, at least none we will dig into in this study, but the question needs to be asked.

Let's go back before the flood and listen to Enoch expound on the dissemination of forbidden knowledge and angel technology.

*Enoch 8:1 And Asael (The leader of the Watcher Class Angels) taught men to make swords, and daggers, and shields and breastplates. And he showed them **the things after these**, and the art of making them:*

The simple brute force instruments were introduced to mankind first but the level of these instruments of war advanced further and became more lethal. Imagination only can fill in the blanks as to what "*the things after these*", were. Did it involve six dimensional - anti-gravity - or worm hole - studies which are far beyond Newtonian physics taught in our universities today? Recently some are blowing whistles and telling us the physics we have been taught has made a quantum leap forward. And further, that a breakaway group of humanity using the new physics already travel through space and they are not connected to NASA. Ben Rich, head of the advanced research at Skunkworks, said at his retirement, We Have Technology To **Take ET Home**.

Let's get back to the Watcher tech upload. ". . . *bracelets, and ornaments, and the art of making up the eyes and of beautifying the eyelids, and the most precious and choice stones, and all [kinds of] coloured dyes.*

Watcher Class Angels were quite taken with human women. Their hair inflamed them with passion so it makes sense that they taught how to dye it many colors and use makeup on their eyes and dress with diamonds and pearls. There is nothing wrong with women using makeup in my opinion. A little paint makes any old barn look better. The Watcher Angels taught human women how to seduce men with their beauty, throw all piety to the wind, and defy God by living with unprecedented promiscuity.

And the world was changed. *8:2 And there was great impiety and much fornication, and they went astray, and all their ways became corrupt.*

This was a pivot point. The world changed because of the sin of the Watchers. A new level of depravity entered into human culture. The restrictions to purity and fidelity went out the window. There was a sexual revolution planet wide that included sex with Angels and the abandonment of God's laws governing human reproduction.

Enoch 7:1b they taught them charms and spells, and showed them the cutting of roots and trees.

Here is one way to understand the forbidden technology and knowledge the Watchers gave to man: The Watchers gave humanity:

1. Weapons both offensive and defensive. The language in 8:1 leads us to understand that these weapons were both primitive and very advanced by using the phrase, '*the things after these*'.

2. Knowledge of how to work with metals. This could have been much more sophisticated than bows and arrows, swords and shields. With angel tech they could have used advanced weaponry that we, today, have not even discovered. The ancient myths from India tell of flying boats and even of space flight.
3. They taught women to beautify themselves with makeup and how to dress seductively. They learned to wear diamonds and jewels, how to use colored dyes and dropped all modesty and chastity.
4. 7:1 speaks of the introduction of medicine and biological sciences like genetics. I suspect the Watcher Class Angels were quite capable of genetically mixing their genes with humans, animals and plant life.

Enoch tells us in 8:1 *“And the world was changed”*. The Watchers changed the world by sharing forbidden knowledge and technology. I believe God does not intend to keep us dumbed down, but when we are able to handle advanced technology, he will give us all things in the right time. Man just out of the Garden was not the right time.

8:2 And there was great impiety and much fornication, and they went astray, and all their ways became corrupt.

Remember Enoch is speaking of the Watcher Class Angels in 8:2. However, I am sure the evil spoken of in 8:2 was also going on among humans as well as Angels. There was great impiety. *Piety means the quality of being religious or reverent.*

Their lives were everything God had intended his angels and people not to be. Add to that there was out of control fornication. Fornication is sex outside of marriage. It is sex without the blessing of God on it. It is sex with no controls or restraints. Angels were having sex with human females. Men were probably having sex with human females and males without any restraint. Angels and men were both having sex with animals. It was corrupt beyond what we can even imagine today.

Who built the Tower of Babel and for that matter who built the great pyramid in Giza? Who built the amazing megaliths in South America and Mexico? Who drew the lines in the deserts of Nazca, Peru, that can only be seen for what they are from high above the ground. It wasn't until men flew over the area that we understood what the lines were. I believe if we are able to get past our false beliefs in sciences like Darwinism and other God-denying teachings, we can see that these ancient mysteries were not built by the hand of man. The Israelites did not build the Pyramids. The Aztecs did not build the massive edifices in the jungles of South America and Mexico. They were built, I believe, by the children of the Watchers using forbidden angel knowledge and technology. These out-of-time amazing feats of architecture were not built by shepherds who we are told were simple people.

Nimrod

Nimrod: Archetype of the Anti-Christ

One of the most intriguing characters in the Old Testament is Nimrod, son of Cush, and grandson of Ham. His name often comes up as the archetype of the Antichrist. He may be the figure who arises again in the last days (*“who was, is not, but will be again”* – Revelation 17:8) as the Antichrist.

A Mighty Man

The first thing we learn about Nimrod is that he began to be a mighty man [gibbor] on the earth. This most certainly implies that Nimrod somehow supernaturally transformed himself into a giant warrior, a mighty man of renown, like the Nephilim before the flood [Genesis 6:1-4].

One reason I think Nimrod somehow became a giant like the Nephilim is by applying **the rule of first reference**. (*The first time a word or reference is presented in Genesis, it defines it for the rest of the Bible*) The term used here for mighty man is the Hebrew word, gibbor, which is first used to describe the giant offspring of the sons of God in Genesis 6:4.

It is worth mentioning that the **Septuagint**, which is the Greek translation of the Old Testament, also says that **Nimrod began to be a “giant” upon the earth** [Genesis 10:8-9].

The phrase, “Began to be,” is troubling because it indicates his transition occurred later in life. He found a way to inject angel genetics into his human body or he used angel technology to enhance his body in a transhumanized way by combining human flesh with mechanical/biological enhancements.

We can't say for sure how Nimrod became a giant. Whether genetically, via technology, or supernaturally? He certainly seemed to do something that no one else could do, which set him apart as a mighty warrior and giant hunter on the earth. He also became an intimidating leader and began to use his power and influence to build his own kingdom independently of God. The term “gibbor” also implies defiance in the face of God, which is certainly descriptive of Nimrod.

Is Nimrod the Anti-Christ?

Some final thoughts concerning Nimrod and the Anti-Christ. Read with me:

*Revelation 17:6-8 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. 7 Then the angel said to me: “Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. 8 **The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.***

This twice mentioned turn-of-phrase where he was, then he wasn't and then he was again is very thought provoking. Could Nimrod be one who was? He lived and was rebellious on earth. At the time of the writing of Revelation and even to our day, he is not! In other words, he is not walking on the surface of planet earth. He is not! Yet, he will come up out of the Abyss. None of these clues eliminates Nimrod as the Anti-Christ.

When George H. Bush sent troops to Babylon, I am told there is video footage of a squad of black-op soldiers working under the media coverage tasked with securing the Bagdad museum. There was more to the mission rumor says - much more. Upon arriving, the film shows the soldiers and other men in suits walking passed ancient golden treasures worth millions of dollars and after first examining them they would toss

some on the ground. They all arrived at the back room of the museum where an oversized coffin lay in state. The coffin and its contents was their mission. Upon finding it, the men were extremely happy as their body language indicated. They were sent to retrieve the contents of the coffin and carry it away back to the USA, for what purpose? Could the oversized coffin contain the DNA of Nimrod as some conspiracy theorists suggest? Could he somehow be resurrected through genetic recovery science and by occult ritual be embodied with the spirit of the original tower builder? Who knows, but it is an interesting possibility.

We have much to talk with Jesus about when we get home.

We have pivoted around creation of universe and mankind. We have been through the flood with Noah and watched his grandson Nimrod build the Tower and start the first human rebellion to God's directives after the flood. Now we look at further aspects of the Tower of Babel and Nimrod experience. Genesis 10, referred to as the **table of nations**, will answer many questions we have been wondering about all our lives. Why different races? Where do racial differences originate? Why are the Jews God's chosen people?

The Table of Nations

Genesis 10: 1 *This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah's sons, who themselves had sons after the flood.*

The Japhethites

2 *The sons^[a] of Japheth:*

Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshek and Tiras.

3 *The sons of Gomer:*

Ashkenaz, Riphath and Togarmah.

4 *The sons of Javan:*

Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittites and the Rodanites.^[b] 5 (From these the maritime peoples spread out into their territories by their clans within their nations, each with its own language.)

The Hamites

6 *The sons of Ham:*

Cush, Egypt, Put and Canaan.

7 *The sons of Cush:*

Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah and Sabteka.

The sons of Raamah:

Sheba and Dedan.

8 ***Cush was the father^[c] of Nimrod, who became a mighty warrior on the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the Lord."***

10 *The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Uruk, Akkad and Kalneh,*

in^[d] Shinar.^[e] 11 From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir,^[f] Calah 12 and Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah—which is the great city.

13 *Egypt was the father of*

the Ludites, Anamites, Lehabites, Naphtuhites, 14 Pathrusites, Kasluhites (from whom the Philistines came) and Caphtorites.

15 *Canaan was the father of*

Sidon his firstborn,^[l] and of the Hittites, 16 Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites, 17 Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, 18 Arvadites, Zemarites and Hamathites.

Later the Canaanite clans scattered 19 and the borders of Canaan reached from Sidon toward Gerar as far as Gaza, and then toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, as far as Lasha.

20 These are the sons of Ham by their clans and languages, in their territories and nations.

The Semites

21 Sons were also born to Shem, whose older brother was^[h] Japheth; Shem was the ancestor of all the sons of Eber.

22 The sons of Shem:

Elam, Ashur, Arphaxad, Lud and Aram.

23 The sons of Aram:

Uz, Hul, Gether and Meshek.^[j]

24 Arphaxad was the father of^[i] Shelah, and Shelah the father of Eber.

25 Two sons were born to Eber:

One was named Peleg,^[k] because in his time the earth was divided; his brother was named Joktan.

26 Joktan was the father of

Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah, 27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, 28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba, 29 Ophir, Havilah and Jobab. All these were sons of Joktan.

30 The region where they lived stretched from Mesha toward Sephar, in the eastern hill country.

31 These are the sons of Shem by their clans and languages, in their territories and nations.

32 These are the clans of Noah's sons, according to their lines of descent, within their nations. From these the nations spread out over the earth after the flood.

The language used to describe the breakup of the nations is a little bothersome for those of us who believe in one God or monotheism. Who were the others who were with The Lord when he visited the Tower? The language implies so when it quotes God as speaking to others and uses the word "Us." I do not think God is referring to the trinity, but to other Elohim or heavenly family. I believe in One Supreme God who has gathered around him a family in heaven to which He gives advisory power and autonomy within the divine will. The Divine Council is God's family in heaven.

Psalm 82

1 God presides in the **great assembly**; he renders judgment among the "gods": 2 "How long will you defend the unjust

and show partiality to the wicked? 3 Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.

4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. 5 "The 'gods' know nothing, they understand nothing. They walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. 6 "I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.' 7 But you will die like mere mortals; you will fall like every other ruler." 8 Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations are your inheritance.

Some of the divine council were rebel angels as we read in v.5 - 7. We learn much about the Most High by realizing he listens to, loves and interacts with them while all the time knowing they were in rebellion and that their punishment was coming. It seems to me that these Council members were The Watcher Class Angels introduced to us in the writing of Enoch. Their mission was a failure, at least they failed in the days of Jerod. They breached their limitations set by the Most High to only watch. Their Prime Directive was smashed when they mixed angel seed with human. Their future promised was the lake of fire.

Psalms 82 speaks to the limited knowledge of these Angels. They walk about in darkness (lack of understanding) and allow the earth (their assignment) to be shaken probably by their very own children. Originally these Watcher Class Angels were so full of light and powerful enough to keep the earth from being shaken either by natural forces or political forces of men. They failed and the earth was in a mess.

Sadly these magnificent beings who were created immortal have walked away and will come to an end. They will die like mortals and fall (fail) like human rulers.

Now back to Genesis as we dig deeper into the dispersion of the rebels.

Genesis 11

11:1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward,

From Turkey or Ararat where the Ark landed, and Noah and his family started farming again.

they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

Shinar was in Mesopotamia (between the rivers) near Bagdad or Babylon.

3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar.

Could they have had in mind a building that would withstand another flood or destruction by fire? Brick, stone and mortar would be lasting materials.

4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

Again I don't think the tower was about height. I believe it was a machine like the Great Hadron Collider at CERN that was made with angel technology and forbidden knowledge to take the fight back to heaven.

5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 6 The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them."

I believe God never intended to keep knowledge and technology away from mankind. I believe he was waiting for our race to mature to the time when we could use these potentially destructive tools for positive purposes and not kill ourselves.

I am convinced v.6 speaks to the self-destructive nature of mankind. Like a monkey playing with nitro glycerin we can be just smart enough to destroy ourselves.

7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”

Not having the ability to communicate ended the plan to open a portal into a higher dimension. It ended Nimrod’s dream of world rulership as well.

The first attempt at a new world order failed because The Almighty made the situation impossible to work.

8 So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Why is the Tower of Babel a pivot point?

Because life on earth changed afterward.

Here are a few of the things that changed:

1. A universal language was replaced by dozens of languages.
2. Mankind was dispersed planet wide.
3. A worldwide attempt was made to follow a one-world ruler and live under a one-world government.
4. The Tower of Babel (a machine probably somewhat like CERN) was created that had the potential to open a higher dimensional portal. Nimrod with the help of forbidden knowledge and angel technology plotted to make war in higher dimensions. They wanted to take the Angel wars back to heaven where they were excluded by Michael’s army.

Burning Questions answered

1. What will the Anti-Christ be like? He will be like Nimrod, if not Nimrod in person recreated.
2. What are the fallen angels planning to do with CERN? They want to open dimensional portals both higher and lower, from which the giants, monsters and locust army can come into our dimension and make war on humanity.
3. Why is there so much ethnic diversity in the world? Because the Divine Council divided up mankind and gave governorship to different ethnicities under lesser gods.
4. Why are the Jewish people God’s chosen? Because The Lord himself took them as his own to give governorship.

The children of Noah were of one blood, and tongue. After the confusion at the Tower they were divided up into 70 or 72 nations; the research is not clear as to whether it was 70 or 72. The Watcher Class Angels who were originally assigned to watch over mankind were given one of the 70 distinct ethnicities to watch, with one caveat - God would be the Watcher over Abraham’s children, the Jews.

Read Deuteronomy 32 carefully to see in scripture proof that The Lord chose Israel and why He became their Watcher.

Deuteronomy 32

*Remember the days of old;
consider the generations long past.
Ask your father and he will tell you,
your elders, and they will explain to you.*
8 *When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance,
when he divided all mankind,
he set up boundaries for the peoples
according to the number of the sons of Israel.*
9 ***For the Lord's portion is his people,
Jacob his allotted inheritance.***
10 ***In a desert land he found him,
in a barren and howling waste.
He shielded him and cared for him;
he guarded him as the apple of his eye,***
11 ***like an eagle that stirs up its nest
and hovers over its young,
that spreads its wings to catch them
and carries them aloft.***
12 ***The Lord alone led him;*
*no foreign god was with him.***

Read v. 12 again 12 *The Lord alone led him;* *no foreign god was with him.*

No ethnicity in the history of societies has been blessed as have the Jews. They are extremely intelligent, talented and industrious. From banking, arts, music, education, science, philosophy to agriculture the Jews lead the world. With them as God's chosen, they have remained a nation for more than 4,000 years. They have been attacked, destroyed, scattered and hated and yet they exist. No other nation on earth has existed as long and remained intact. From 70 AD to 1947 they were dispersed all over the world. In 1948, they reclaimed their homeland, resurrected their language, relaunched their institutions and today lead the world in many areas. Why? They have The Lord as their Watcher. They are God's chosen people.

The answer to the question "why did God choose Israel as his own?" we leave for Pivot Point #4 to answer.

Pivot Point #4 Redemption

A perfect universe and planet earth became chaotic and empty. The family of God in heaven divided their loyalties wherein 2/3 remained righteous and 1/3 rebelled. The family of God on earth was seduced into joining the rebel angels, which because of heritage and bloodline all humanity was set up to be against God. Here is the problem-God created a perfect and just universe, a sinless family in heaven and a sinless family on earth. When perfection ends or if even the slightest imperfection shows up, the system is broken irreparably. There is no loophole a smart lawyer can find and wiggle through or a do-over allowed. If the universe is not based on morality, nothing matters anyway. If there is no justice, who cares how one lives? Without justice, one can do what feels right and makes one happy. Without justice, it just does not really matter.

Why live a moral life if it does not matter? God in omniscience designed our universe on a moral template. It does matter how we live. If nothing matters, life becomes a really sick joke. Only a morally balanced universe works. There must be cause and effect for justice to exist. A ruined universe, a rebel angel war and a fallen humanity is the effect. The cause - hubris and unbelief.

We read in Romans, chapter 3, that the wages of sin is death. Adam and Eve went from immortal beings to mortal because of sin. Thus, we immediately come face to face with the problem of the ages. What are we to do with sin? How can we fix a broken system? It matters because a moral universe is created and ordered by a moral God. If God is moral how can a fractured universe, a fallen heavenly family and a rebellious family on earth ever be set right? The short answer is - It can't! For one to truly understand redemption, the truth about the damage sin causes must be faced. We are broken beyond repair. Once a person has sinned, the rules have been broken without remedy because the bell cannot be un-rung. The perfect universe created by a perfect Creator demands perfection and one sin is a deal breaker. The angry word spoken cannot be called back. The bullet once fired cannot be put back in the gun. A perfect life with one single sin is broken completely and cannot be made whole again. So, the universe and the planet earth cannot ever return to perfection on its own. Fallen angels are fallen without remedy. Rebellious mankind has passed flawed genetics to every human being born to a human woman and the horse is out of the barn.

In the heart of God, there was a deep magic law that is illogical and not expected. It is a law that deals with justice and all its demands, yet sets in motion a way to restore the universe, deal with the sin of the fallen angels and dispense grace to rebellious man. What a concept! What an amazing idea! It seems too good to be true. God is going to fix what has been broken even though it is impossible to do so. What did God do to fix all that was broken? His amazing plan had substitution at its heart. He would substitute himself for us, there by fulfill justice and keep the moral universe intact. He was the only perfect One who could become one of us and trade his perfection for our imperfection. To do this He started with a family. A family that would, at the right time, produce the substitute. The story of redemption begins with Abraham and continues through his sons.

From deep in history, God called out a man from one of the most ancient cities on earth Ur. Abram, his name at first, worshipped pagan gods that we know as the Nephilim which were the sons of the Watchers with human mothers. These demigods desired worship and caused men to build idols that were made for these bodiless Nephilim to inhabit and be worshipped. The immorality promoted by these fallen gods was unthinkable. Children were killed in rituals and women were raped because ritualized sex magic attracted and empowered the children of the Watchers and their bastard offspring. The fallen beings fed on our misery and fear. Our pain and misery gave them joy and they, to this day, promote all that is evil in our race. The human worshipper gained power through the worship of these fallen and disgusting beings. The "gods" fed on fear as children were sacrificed and women ritually abused. I believe today the same beings feed on the fear of the human race as they did in Ur. This is why those of us who believe in Jesus live without fear. We don't fear death because we know it is our passport to a higher dimensional life with Jesus in Heaven. Living in fear

is feeding the fallen entities so we want to focus on peace, joy and contentment and starve them.

Abram was different. God saw in him a promise that would be the first step toward the redemption of human kind. At the time, no one could see how this pagan man in Ur could do anything to bring life and hope back to the human existence. He was not so very special from the other men of his day except for one thing. He was a man of faith. He was a God fearer and even in ignorance, he worshipped a god he did not know. God spoke to Abram and asked him to leave Ur and follow Him to a land He would give to Abram and his descendants. This as of yet unseen land was called the Promised Land for that reason alone. It was a promise. God promised if Abram would leave his past and follow to a new land it would be his and belong to his family forever. Abram left and followed only on the word of a God he had not known before. Abram stepped out in faith. We learn from later discussions in the Bible that this step of faith was exactly what God would use to restore and even redeem human kind. What was different about Abraham? He was a man of faith! That was what God was looking for and he would use it to set broken things right.

It was during the life of Abraham God revealed another mystery. It comes in the form of an equation. Romans 4:22 *This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."*
23 *The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, 24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness.*

Faith stepped in to cause God to issue grace. God takes our faith and hands back to us salvation.

Okay, let us double back and make some observations about redemption. The Bible is the story of redemption. It begins in a very fuzzy way that gets more specific and detailed as time goes by. We learn in Genesis 3:15 a Redeemer would come from the seed of a woman – kind of fuzzy. Then we understood something special was coming through Noah and of course, it did. The Redeemer came in the bloodline carried over the flood in Noah's sons. So the fuzzy redemption idea is getting clearer all the way. Noah's son Shem carried the bloodline which Abraham would eventually inherit. The pure human bloodline is intact from Shem back to Adam. It was not tainted by the Genesis 6 confusion and was ready to be passed on down the corridor of time to the singularity called Jesus The Messiah. The trail from Abraham to Jesus is a roller coaster ride of ups and downs, twists and turns. All through the trip around Robin Hood's barn, we see the story of redemption written large for all to see. Let us start down the trail from Abraham to Jesus and look to find redemption embedded in each story.

Abraham first revealed his faith and sometimes lack of faith as regards his progeny. Way late in life the promise of a family was not fulfilled. Remember Abraham left Ur to go to a land that would be his and be passed to his family perpetually. Now late in life Abraham and Sarah have no child - no heir - to pass down the promises. To help God out Abraham took one of his wife's handmaidens and sowed his seed in her to produce a son they called Ishmael. Note to self -- God does not need our help keeping his promises. He is quite capable of doing all that is necessary. Ishmael was not the one God would use to pass the seed of the woman through. He was a wild ass of a man and his lineage is to this day a thorn in the side of Abraham and Sarah's legitimate son Isaac. Ishmael fathered the Arab nations and Isaac was one of the Jewish patriarchs.

Sarah was well beyond childbearing years. Her biological clock had run down and had been down for a long time. When she heard a conversation between her husband, some angels and Jesus she let out a little giggle when they said she would have a son. Sorry boys that boat has sailed she must have thought. However, we know the rest of the story and nine months later, she had a little boy they called Isaac. Isaac means laughter because she laughed upon overhearing the conversation between her husband, Jesus and a couple of angels. There are many twists and turns in the story of Abraham, his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob. All through their stories, one can see the hand of God tweaking, maneuvering and hedging their lives toward one goal. They were Patriarchs -- the fathers of Messiah. Through them Jesus would come. These men carried the pure blood line and eventually would pass it down to the very one who would receive the heel wound and give the Serpent a head wound.

In our considerations of the passing of the seed of the woman down through human history, we must stop the train at David's house for a more complete look. David is where the word royal is inserted into the lineage. David was the second king of a united Israel and Judah. David was a king and in the bloodline from Adam and Eve to Noah then to Abraham. The stories told of David's life reveal how God redeemed and preserved him through victory and through moral failure. Remember when we earlier in this writing spoke about the unfixable nature of our sin? We are about to get a fuzzy picture of how it is cured. It will get much clearer when we get to Jesus. So, now we have a fuzzy promise of a heel wound and a head wound. We have a bloodline being preserved intact from Adam down through time to be given to a perfect Son of Adam and a Son of God. On the way to Jesus, our story will pass through Isaac and the part he plays in the saga of redemption. The conquest of the Promised Land with Joshua is where we learn about the eradication of the Nephilim in the Promised Land who were present until the time of David.

The single most important pivot point ever is the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus the Christ. If you were to ask the average church attendee why Jesus came to earth they would say to save the souls of mankind. Of course, they are right, but he came for many other reasons as well. Let's look at some of those reasons. The most surprising of all is found in Matthew 10:34-38. Jesus came to bring a sword and divide families. What? Is that really a reason he came? Read on and see what the Bible says.

Matthew 10:34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn " 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— 36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' 37 "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Yes, one of the reasons he came was to divide mankind into two divisions. Those who believe in him and follow his teachings and those who do not. If family members fall into different categories, inevitably divisions occur. The Gospel is a message of peace and hope, but only for the believer. For the unbeliever the Gospel message is not good news at all. Luke 12:49-53 records a similar truth. One of the first tests a new believer

must experience comes from his or her family. Some will be angry and others very happy. Choosing Jesus is better than family and we must be willing to walk away from the familiar if we are to walk the way of faith. If it ever comes to having to choose one - choose Jesus. Family is vital to our lives and the relationships in the family are to be cherished and nurtured. When brothers live in harmony there is peace and joy. When Jesus is in a home it is heaven, but when he is absent, a home can be hell. Jesus is not telling us to just walk away from family, He is saying we are not to let the closest to us on earth keep us from Jesus.

Another reason why Jesus came was to save lost people. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. (Luke 19:10) I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Luke 5:32) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:17)

What is the saving process all about? You must understand that Jesus came to save sinners. Lostness is the natural condition in which a person finds themselves. As a lost person, one is lost to purpose and the meaning of life. One is lost to an eternal family of love and acceptance as well. The value of your life is also lost because you spend resources and time on projects and issues that do not uplift and enhance life on earth and the hope of heaven. When one is found or when Jesus finds you, all that was lost is found.

I stated early on in this writing that God has a prime directive. He will not violate ones free will. The potential of being found or saved is only an offer until it is accepted. When you are invited to a party, your invitation may have RSVP written at the bottom. This means that the host of the party wants to know if you plan to attend. Food has to be ordered and drink supplied for those who want to enjoy the party. So if you are coming let me know says the host. Jesus is planning a big party in heaven. He wants to know if you are coming or if you are opting out. If you are coming the cost has been paid in full so you just have to show up. Being saved and being public about your decision to follow Jesus is your RSVP to the invitation. Opting out informs all of your lost condition.

Did these two reasons cover all Jesus came to do? No, there is more. Jesus also came to earth to establish truth, or as we need to understand, He came to establish absolute truth. Our world is fractured and broken because we can't decide what is really true. One set of experts say it is this way and another set says that it is another way. Some point left and others point right. Right and wrong are held as subjective for some, yet when Jesus came he said truth is objective. Truth never changes or adapts to any societal re-writing of history or watering it down to be politically correct. John 18:37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

The next reason I want to hold out for His coming was to destroy the work of the rebels whether they be angels or human. He came to end the war that began in heaven and spilled out into the universe. *1 John 3:8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.* The devil's work was rebellion. Rebellion is sin because in sinning he (Satan) missed God's moral mark of perfection in

love and completeness in fellowship. The war in heaven was precipitated by a failure of love and fellowship. The cause of the fellowship and love failure was pride. Jesus came to set right what pride upended. Jesus came to fix what pride broke. Jesus came to repair the lack of love and fellowship by giving Himself as the medicine that brings the cure. *Hebrews 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

Jesus is the perfect son of man with a perfect bloodline stretching back to the original man. He is the son of God uniquely able to be the substitute for our sin. He is the ultimate pivot point around which eternal destinies are hinged.

How did Jesus plan to pass the truth of his substitute for sin down through the corridors of time? He had a plan that had been hidden from time immemorial. The plan was an institution. The institution would be called the church. Around the pivot of church history the world would swing into a future that would enfold other ethnicities - people who were not in Abraham's or David's blood line. God had kept a mystery close to his vest and it was Paul the Apostle who first figured it out and declared it. God was about to create a new institution and people it with Gentiles. Who would have ever thought of including Gentiles.? This was a mystery to Old Testament Jews, but it was God's plan all along. The new thing is called the church. The Church is for all of the people and not just for those who are called God's chosen.

Pivot Point #5 The Church

Born in the fire of Pentecost we find the description of the birth of the church in the book of Acts chapter 2. Around this pivot point, God opened his arms to the Gentile nations. He had always invited them in, but few came. Now things changed and the Apostles took the Gospel to the nations. The inclusion of Gentiles was controversial, but it changed the course of western civilization and made a way for billions of people to come into the Kingdom of God.

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. 5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Let us look at what promises were made concerning the Church.

Jesus promised that he would build his church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. Matthew 16:18 *And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

An oft-overlooked phrase in this verse begs for understanding. The word is "Gates of Hades." Gates are doorways or portals from one place to another. Portals are mentioned all through the Bible and one we are especially familiar with is Jacob's ladder. Angels were descending and ascending on a ladder in and out of the portal entrance to heaven. As we live closer and closer to the end of the age, we are told those in prison in the underworld will emerge more and more frequently and with increasing power. Jesus is telling us that what is behind hell's gates will not overcome the church. The church will win.

In Ephesians 5:26-27, Paul declares that Jesus gave Himself up for the church, *"to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless."*

The Church is the beautiful Bride of Christ (God's family on earth and in heaven). He loves the church and is eager to come and get her to take her to the Father's House. Once there we will celebrate the wedding at a banquet feast called the marriage supper of the Lamb. This marriage of Christ and Church will last for eternity. We will be the family of God forever. What the complete picture will be, we do not know now, but when he comes to get us, we will be with Him and like Him. This is my translation of 1 John 3:2.

Ephesians 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,*

Despite the failings and faults in the church, she is the Bride of Christ and His love for her led Him to give His life for her. No matter what you think about church, it is very important to the Bridegroom and to you as well. The church is not buildings or even a human institution. The church is a combination of all true believers on earth from all time. We are church. It is important that you meet with other believers, especially so as we see the end of the age approaching. By the way - that is now.

The Mission of the Church

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

So now, we know what we are to do. We focus on making disciples in all nations of the world. We go to the nations that were scattered at the Tower of Babel and tell them about Jesus' plan to redeem. We baptize them in the name of the trinity - Father, Son and Spirit. It is the Jesus part that is revolutionary as most world religions believed in a Supreme God although they knew Him by other names. The Son of God was Jesus and He came to show us the Father God.

The mission then, because Jesus has the full authority of the Father God, we:

1. Take the Gospel story to all the nations.
2. We baptize them in the full understanding of God. He is Father, Spirit and Son.
3. We teach the nations the things Jesus taught his disciples

While we are on this mission, we know one thing for sure. Jesus is with us even to the end of the church age.

The History of the Church

Early church

The church we find in the New Testament was dynamic. It never associated itself with buildings and met in the temple, in a synagogue, in the street, beside the sea, in public places, and often in homes. Acts describes a community of faith in constant movement: *“Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved”* (Acts 2:46-47).

It appears that the meetings were daily, and full of life where the gospel was taught and worship, communion, prayer, working in mutual edification, giving testimony of Christ, and taking care of the needs of the poor were weekly, if not daily, activities.

They were at first called “The Way.” This may have thus been named because of their constant movement from place to place as well as their doctrine of Jesus being the way.

The early church was based on Jewish calendar and lifestyle rhythms. Much like a Jewish add-on or new sect, the followers of Jesus were for all practical purposes Jewish. The church for the first 300 years changed little, but gradually began to no longer think of itself as a Jewish denomination. It began seeing itself as a stand-alone movement connected yet apart from traditional Judaism.

The early church was a persecuted church not accepted by traditional Judaism and targeted for elimination by the Romans. Many died horrible deaths at the hands of the Romans who promoted their pantheon of gods and emperors as living gods.

The Romanization of the Church

The early church made its first big pivot in ca. 300 AD. Somewhere around this time, Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity as the result of a vision, which foretold of a victory in battle he attributed to the symbol of the new faith, which was a cross in the sky. This was huge. The Roman emperor became a Christian. He required the entire Roman army be baptized as Christians. This changed the marginalized church from sitting on the sideline of life to being dragged center stage. As with most pivots in life, there is good news and bad news. The good news was the new level of acceptance for the church and the bad news is the early church lost its simplicity and much of its power. Constantine “romanized” the church. He organized it, codified it, ritualized it and formalized it. At first, the church was organic and moved under the leading of the Holy Spirit. Now it was led by councils, pontiffs and Popes with stratified or layered governance. It is said that the theologian Thomas Aquinas once called on Pope Innocent II when he was counting out a large sum of money. The Pope remarked, You see,

Thomas, the church can no longer say, Silver and gold have I none. Aquinas replied, True, holy father, but neither can she now say, Rise and walk.

The suffering and starving church now was rich and in power. What the devil could not do to her in her weakness he did in her strength. In weakness, we are strong. 2 Corinthians 12:8 *Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

Is the church better today for having been romanized? In some ways, maybe, but it leaves one wondering what contemporary church would be like today if it had not been poured through the sieve of ecclesia Romana.

As we move through the last days of the church, we may find the dynamic nature and power of the early church is the only way to survive. Our focus on buildings, nickels and noses may have to change. The debate over the color of carpet and what music we worship with may become a moot point when our very lives are at stake. I believe it is time for contemporary believers to go back to the basics and become simple again just as we were at first - before Constantine.

The Church of the Middle Ages

Without delving into all the issues that caused the division of the church into Western Christianity and Eastern, we must factor the Muslim encroachment and the fall of the Roman Empire as pivotal to understanding the complicated history of the time. The Church performs its function as God's image best in an advisory role. When the Church has governmental power, the Church is subject to all the foibles of any other human institution. The Middle Ages were called The Dark Ages because the common man was kept in the dark scholastically because the Bible was only available in Latin which was the language of the educated. That all began to change later in the Middle Ages with the introduction of universities and the invention of the printing press.

The light was gradually coming on as the common man gained access to the Bible and had reading skills sufficient to read for himself. As a means of control, the Church was the interpreter of the Word of God. The elite churchmen did not believe the common man was capable of understanding his place in God's Kingdom so the priesthood taught him what they felt he needed to know and they heard his confession. The common person became dependent on the church for all his or her religious needs. That was about to make a pivot.

The Renaissance church

The Renaissance radically changed the people's concept of Church and religion. The printing press made the Bible more accessible to the common people. Martin Luther was a German Protestant theologian. His translation from Hebrew, Greek and Latin into German made the Bible more accessible to the common people and caused a tremendous impact on the Catholic Church.

His translations and leadership provided the foundation for the King James Version of the Bible and believed that anyone could translate and have an opinion on the Bible, not just the Catholic priests. After the average Renaissance man read the new translations,

they then began to disagree with the Catholic Church. In time, a religious revolt led to the Protestant reformation.

The Protestant Reformation

Martin Luther was a Catholic priest and a professor of religion in a German university. His specialty was the book of Romans. He was particularly paranoid about his salvation. He was afraid of not being saved despite all his efforts until one day he read Romans chapter 1. Here are the words that changed Martin Luther's life. Romans 1:16: *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. 17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,^[e] just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

Finally, the Holy Spirit broke through and Martin Luther understood that our salvation is all by faith from first to last and the truly righteous person lives by faith alone or without human effort and good deeds. Salvation is not dispensed by the Church either. Salvation is available to all people by faith alone.

He and other men with similar convictions were part of the Great Reformation of the Catholic Church and launched the Protestant movement. Other men took up the banner of reformation and took the cause to their home nations. In many of these countries, new kinds of churches broke out that were no longer dependent on Rome. The Protestant Reformation fires were first lit by brave men and women of insight and faith in Jesus. It was also carried on political winds as kings of nations were tired of paying tithes to Rome and jumped at the chance to have their own state church. This pivot was toward nationalism and away from a global church.

Denominationalism

Once the fires of freethinking and freedom were kindled, the heat and light crept into how we understand God. This further prompted national churches that had already separated from the Roman Church to begin to break up into smaller groups. The denominational churches were drawn to nuanced theology or church practice that appealed to their national and unique interpretations of scripture. Tracing contemporary denominations is too long and convoluted for this writing, but the English speaking denominations began as Anglican and Presbyterians. These primary founding groups in time birthed Anna-Baptists or Calvinists who became Baptists. Other movements leaned toward Arminianism and started movements like Methodism, which later saw the rise of the Pentecostal movement.

Today in the western world, denominationalism is on the decline as is the enjoyment of organized religion. Church attendance is in decline in all denominations with one small exception. Niche churches like the Cowboy Church is thriving. These churches who focus on small segments of society have narrowed their target demographics and have found great life and growth in groups overlooked and misunderstood by the mainline. However the picture is not rosy for denominational church today, but we must remember the real church is not dependent on denominations. All born again believers in Jesus are part of the Church and Hell's gates will not overwhelm it.

Great deception

In Matthew 24, Jesus began his description of the last days of the Church with a warning about deception.

Matthew 24:3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many.

Jesus warned the church that the last days will be times of deception. Many will come in the name of God, truth, or even political correctness and claim to be the way to save the world. Many will offer alternative ways to fix the mess we have created with our bankrupt economies, our polluted planet, our morally failed governments and our cold churches. There is only one way to turn this world around and that is by returning to faith in Jesus and living by the truths recorded in the Bible.

A complete portrait of the coming deception will be something like this: Events on earth will ramp up to a crescendo of crisis upon crisis. When the world starts coming apart, everything we count on to keep some kind of normalcy will unravel. When desperation over war, famine, disease natural disasters and even space weather (asteroid strikes and cosmic radiation exposures etc.) begin to be endemic, people will beg for someone to step up and bring some sense to all the chaos and pain. Out of the sea of misery, a man will arise. He will be a consummate politician. He will have the aid of cutting edge technology linked to quantum computer calculations that will enable him to make predictions and offer solutions that seem like a perfect answer to all our problems. He will introduce control measures that will take away national identities, reduce the freedom people have to move from place to place or even decide where they will live or what they will do for a living. This will all be done as a promise to feed the hungry, house the homeless, heal the sick and bring the standard of living to a level that will impoverish the entire world. It will not be a boost, but a bust of all that mankind has worked for and dreamed.

This enigmatic person will make the case that if the world would only eliminate belief in the Bible, all our problems of discrimination and "White Privilege" would end. There would be no more have-not nations or ethnicities. People everywhere could rise to levels of joy and peace unseen before. People who are weary of war and disease, hunger and hopelessness will leap to vote this man in power and gladly release their freedom to the dream he so eloquently paints.

Be warned. This man is not the answer. He is what will completely ruin everything and become a world emperor demanding allegiance and eventually worship. To participate in this world you will be required to take a mark on your body that will enable you to buy and sell in the world market place. This mark is more than just an economic identification. It will be a genetic alteration to our very human nature that will change your genome so radically that you will no longer even be human. When Jesus died on the cross, he died for the sins of the world. The world he died for was a human world. The Mark of the Beast will so comprehensively change your DNA that you will not be recognizable as human and therefore not qualified for salvation and grace.

The Nephilim that were drowned in the flood of Noah's day were beings not of human origin. They were not qualified for survival as were Noah and his sons. The non-human population was eliminated and that is exactly what will happen to anyone who takes the Mark of the Beast.

Great apostasy - The falling away

Matthew 24:10 *At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold*

Jesus told his disciples that at that time (the end of the church age) many will turn away from the faith. One of the signs of the end will be a great walking away from church and faith in Jesus.

In a report from Pew Research Center issued in 2020 we read “. . . the religious landscape of the United States continues to decline at a rapid clip. In Pew Research Center telephone surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, 65% of American adults describe themselves as Christians when asked about their religion, down 12 percentage points over the past decade. Meanwhile, the religiously unaffiliated share of the population, consisting of people who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular,” now stands at 26%, up from 17% in 2009. Both Protestantism and Catholicism are experiencing losses of population share. Currently, 43% of U.S. adults identify with Protestantism, down from 51% in 2009. And one-in-five adults (20%) are Catholic, down from 23% in 2009. Meanwhile, all subsets of the religiously unaffiliated population – a group also known as religious “nones” – have seen their numbers swell. Self-described atheists now account for 4% of U.S. adults, up modestly but significantly from 2% in 2009; agnostics make up 5% of U.S. adults, up from 3% a decade ago; and 17% of Americans now describe their religion as “nothing in particular,” up from 12% in 2009. Members of non-Christian religions also have grown modestly as a share of the adult population.”

One of the indicators of the great falling away is the cooling off of love extended from one to another. Jesus diagnosed the cause of the lack of love when he said, *Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.*

Today people love themselves to the exclusion of others. We have been called, “The Selfie generation.” We take pictures of ourselves most of all. The “wickedness” Jesus spoke of, I believe, describes our penchant for pornography, pleasure, the explosion of sex slavery and pedophilia. All taken together we truly are seeing an increase in wickedness which has resulted in the cooling off of our love. Like a vicious circle where root and fruit chase each other and cooling love causes wickedness and wickedness causes love to cool off. It seems like a closed system feeding off itself while falling off a cliff.

The great apostasy will be endemic among humanity, but a malignant evil leader will arise and give us a big boost toward the darkness. He is called “The man of lawlessness” in 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

One example of what I see as an example of the “Falling Away” is how we think of being born again. Jesus said, “*You must be born again*” and since that pivotal point in man's understanding, we have been seeking this experience of being born again. Shockingly

a recent Barna poll shows that about half of those who self identify as Christians believe one has to be born again. Many churches have substituted church membership or having taken a class in salvation as being born again. Extrapolate this forward for a generation of so and you have people calling themselves Christians who have not “fallen away” because they have never been born again to start with. They have a form of godliness, but deny its power. They go to church, but are not the church.

The falling away will be caused by and also produce leaders who are wolves in sheep’s clothing.

2 Timothy 4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

The Great Apostasy will be revealed by many walking away from any faith and by some remaining but are Christians in name only. The latter will attend churches where pastors avoid unfriendly issues. “Offend no one” will be the mantra of apostate churches. No preaching against sin will bother the hardened heart. The power of the Gospel is embedded in truth not just feeling good at church. Real preaching will afflict the comfortable as well as comfort the afflicted. Those who are tares among wheat will drift away from truth into either walking away completely or by finding comfortable (their word not mine) churches.

As Bible reading and genuine preaching drop away, the average person’s ability to spot error is weakened. Prayer life dries up as focus on non-essential parts of our church experience top the important. When how one worships is more important than who, something is off.

The Seven Churches of Revelation

In John’s apocalypse chapter 2, we are introduced to seven churches. These churches are: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. These seven churches were all located in modern day Turkey and are emblematic of the church through the ages. As Jesus describes these churches, He will encourage their good points and warn them to change their error filled ways. Each church will have points of blessing and concern, which connect with our churches today as well as historic church expression. These churches were real and historic. They were led by pastors and populated by both people with all levels of connection to the faith and Spirit filling. Even though these churches were brick and stick churches, they represent the good and bad of all churches at one time or another.

To the Church in Ephesus

Revelation 2 *“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. 2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your*

*perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.4 **Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.** 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. 6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.*

Ephesus was the prominent commercial and cultural center of Asia. Jesus praises the Ephesian church for its “deeds...hard work...and perseverance,” and for its rejection of false apostles.

By the time John wrote the book of Revelation there were several false teachings creeping in. Marcon could not harmonize the God of the Old Testament with the God of the New. Gnostics tried to present an altered Christ who was less than the exclusive Son of God and prefer knowledge (gnosis) to faith. There were other leanings and ideas that crept into the Ephesian church

The encouragement Jesus had for them was this: they held to the foundational truths left by Jesus and the Apostles. Wait for it — You guessed it. There is a big “But” coming for the Ephesians. Doctrinal purity is a good thing, but not at the expense of love. They had “forsaken the love [they] had at first” (Revelation 2:4). The way to restore their lovelessness was first repent. After true repentance, they were to rekindle their love for Christ and each other.

Jesus sent them a warning. *Repent or else I will remove your lampstand.* This meant that their existence, power or influence will end when their lampstand is removed.

They hated the Nicolaitans. Who were these hated people? To be completely honest we do not know for sure. Jesus did not explain what he meant in Revelation 2. Piecing together several other references and historic threads one comes up with this: It has to do with “Lording it over.” I suspect it has to do with the false belief that one must be under the authority or control of another. An example would be a Christian leader who demands to be in authority over other believers. Jesus hated people who lorded power over others. Jesus taught that we are all equal in His sight and need no covering or in-between person to act as priest or guide. We are each priests who can go directly to Jesus in prayer. The letter to Ephesus teaches that truth and love must go hand-in-hand. A church that upholds doctrinal purity at the expense of showing love is just as flawed as a church that upholds congregational harmony at the expense of truthful teaching.

Smyrna

The Persecuted Church that Remains Faithful

Revelation 2:8 *“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:*

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. 9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of

you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

11 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

The church at Smyrna has much to teach the church today. We are entering an era of persecution that could become very similar to how the Christians were treated by the Romans. I am becoming convinced we are about to experience persecution and even martyrdom by the New World Order. Current trends inform us of a difficult time for the true church as we watch the Beast system roll itself out before our eyes.

Smyrna was home to a large Jewish community hostile to Christians. The Bible notes that slanderous accusations by Jews against Christians had led to Christian persecution by Roman authorities. You can read more about this in Acts chapters 14 and 17. The Church at Smyrna was very poor yet they were spiritually rich. Jesus warns them about their coming persecution, imprisonment and even death. He promised them a victory crown in heaven. Like the church in Smyrna, Christians are persecuted worldwide in obvious and insidious ways. This letter warns all Christians that although we may suffer greatly, the length of tribulation will be short compared to the promise of eternal life.

Will you face persecution, suffering, imprisonment or even death? At this point it is unclear how soon these terrible things will roll out in our world, but be assured they are coming. It is our responsibility to prepare ourselves and our children for what is ahead.

Pergamum

Revelation 2:12 *“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:*

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. 13 I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. 15 Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. 16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

The contemporary emerging church seems to be gathering Christians to worship by promoting seeker friendly methodology, which disallows preaching that defines Biblical sin. The church at Pergamum could be this contemporary “safe” church. Subjects like abortion, homosexuality, sex before marriage and serial marriages etc. are avoided because it might cause people to be offended. Conversely, it is the church that does not go-with-the-flow and stands against godless teaching that impacts society and changes things for the better. The primary reason the contemporary church is so weak and feckless is because it is indistinguishable from the world. It just seems to go along to get along and that was never the role of the church.

So the city of Pergamum was well known for its pagan practices. Probably some of the Pergamum Christians tried to go against the tide of the culture but were outnumbered by the members who bought in to the cultural influences.

The Lord told them to repent. He went on to say, “*change or else.*” These are my words to interpret the meaning behind Jesus’ warning. There was a reward promised to those who repented. They would receive “hidden manna” or they would be sustained supernaturally and have a “white stone” or a clean slate given them to go with their new identity. Romans 12:2 reminds us to “*not conform to the pattern of this world*” but be transformed by the renewal of our mind in accordance with God’s Word.

My best advice for you is if you attend a church that is more interested in attracting large numbers by doing all they can to avoid offending the culture, you need to leave and no longer support it. Find a church that stands against the current direction of culture and names sin and calls for people to repent.

Thyatira

The Church that Follows False Prophets (Revelation 2:18-29)

Revelation 2:18 *“To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:*

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. 19 I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. 21 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. 22 So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. 23 I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

24 Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets, ‘I will not impose any other burden on you, 25 except to hold on to what you have until I come.’

26 To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— 27 that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’[b]—just as I have received authority from my Father. 28 I will also give that one the morning star. 29 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Unlike Smyrna, the church at Thyatira was well resourced. They were growing in faith and service. The bad news was they gave devotion to some false prophets that were probably leading into idolatry and immorality. The hold the Watcher Class Angels and their half-breed children had on the Biblical world was a difficult one from which to break free. Idolatry was not easy to free one’s self from especially if it were associated with immorality or sex magic as part of the worship of idols. Despite this false prophet’s leadership, the church could break away from his influence and triumph over sin and death if the will to do so could be found.

Hold firmly to God’s unchanging hand, word and will. Never follow a person, pastor or leader who does not follow Jesus him or herself. People can be swept into following

cult leaders and, like Jim Jones and others of his ilk, lose their way, resources and even their lives. Follow no human being. Follow Jesus only.

Sardis

The Church without a pulse

Revelation 3 *“To the angel[a] of the church in Sardis write:*

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2 Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. 3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. 4 Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. 5 The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. 6 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

For historical reasons as well as spiritual, the Sardis church was without a heartbeat. Their EKG monitor was sending out a flat line. The scolding they received from Jesus was over the fact that they looked good on the outside. They looked like they were alive, but inwardly they were not. Like a well-groomed corpse these people looked great, but were dead. Jesus warned them to wake up and repent because he was coming to them like a thief to bring judgment. Those who will wake up and repent will be dressed in white which is a symbol of purity and victory and whose names will be found in the Book of Life.

Sadly, today some churches are just going through the motions. Their boards meet, people gather, they sing and pray but there is no life present. They have been in the same place for generations. The edifices in which they worship are awe inspiring, well kept and so beautiful, but no life happens. Fellowship and tradition are their driving force but the changing power of the Gospel is not sent out from, or even heard within, their church walls. They are not ashamed of the Gospel -- it just never occurs to them it has any power. In reality, Jesus did not offer much hope to this church. He spoke mainly about their life in eternity and not their impact here and now.

Philadelphia

The Church that kept on keeping on despite its weaknesses

Revelation 3:7 *“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:*

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. 8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. 9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. 10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. 13 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The believers in Philadelphia did not receive a scolding or even any negative behavior warning. They were only told to remain faithful. Keep doing what you are doing. The Jews in Philadelphia were hostile to the Christians and tried to stop the work of the Church of Brotherly Love. Jesus promises to this church that when their hour of trial comes he will be there to protect them.

I would like to think that many churches are described as Philadelphian today. The translation of Philadelphia is “brotherly love”. As we face an ever-darkening future, it is good to know that Jesus promises to keep us in our hour of trial. Jesus encouraged this church to hold on and never let their crown be taken. It is my suspicion that the power behind their ability to love was rooted in their love of God. It is my deepest hope that I am a member of a Philadelphian church.

Laodicea

The church with a so-so temperature

Revelation 3:14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. 21 To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Jesus scolds this church for allowing its economic prosperity to cause it spiritual bankruptcy and reveals that, despite its economic wealth, only He can provide spiritual wealth.

An interesting caveat presents itself here, for those in the not-so-hot church can open a door and let him in individually without involving the corporate church in their action. In other words, if one finds themselves in a “cool” or not-so-hot church where the majority are just fine with the situation, an individual may move their personal inner temperature to hot and let Jesus into their lives and worship.

Did Jesus really mean he would rather his people be cold rather than lukewarm? I am sure this is exactly what he meant. Here is why. Being cold is not comfortable and the

cold will cause enough pain to cause one to seek warmth. A lukewarm situation can become just okay. After a period of adaptation, one can get comfortable and come to believe the status quo is normal. The cold Christian will seek Jesus in time out of an awareness of His absence. The lukewarm one may never be aware of the situation until it is too late.

One of the hidden blessings we may be experiencing with the COVID-19 virus pandemic is the shock value it may thrust upon us. When we cannot worship in a corporate setting and church attendance is altered because of social distancing, our worship now happens in our homes via the internet and the change is drastic. It just may shock some lukewarm-Christians into the realization that they are in fact not in a good place when they thought they just fine.

The cure for a lukewarm believer is a realization of one's' condition and a willful move toward the Lord by opening the door and inviting Him in.

Up to this point, we have looked back to our past and poked around in our current situation. Now our gaze will peer into the future. Looking forward is not as easy as looking backward. Usually rear view vision is 20/20, but the crystal ball that reveals the future is as the Apostle Paul wrote it - It is like looking through a glass darkly.

Future History

Pivot Point #6 The Tribulation

Scriptural reference is Revelation chapters 6-9

There was hardly any debate in my mind about calling the Tribulation a pivot point. The pivot at this fearful and mind-numbing point in history is when all that has been wrong with humanity since the rebellion in Eden finally matures and the rot and stench becomes unbearable. We will become like a horribly wounded animal thrashing about in agony and confusion and in mercy, God comes on the scene and puts a bullet in our collective brain. The tribulation is a future seven-year period of time when God will finish His discipline of Israel and finalize His judgment of the unbelieving world.

Throughout Scripture, the tribulation is referred to by other names such as the Day of the Lord (Isaiah 2:12; 13:6-9; Joel 1:15; 2:1-31; 3:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:2); trouble or tribulation (Deuteronomy 4:30; Zephaniah 1:1); the great tribulation, which refers to the more intense second half of the seven-year period (Matthew 24:21); time or day of trouble (Daniel 12:1; Zephaniah 1:15); time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7). In general it is the most dreaded and Biblically warned of time in the history of the world at least so since the days of Noah.

How do we know the Tribulation will last seven years?"

It would be so much easier if God had detailed prophecy with places and dates but in His omniscience, He has obfuscated the fine lines and blurred the visions for reasons of His own. The reasons we believe the Tribulation will last seven years is based on an understanding of Daniel 9:24-27. This passage speaks of 70 weeks that have been declared against "your people or the Jewish people." Daniel 9:24 *speaks of a period of time that God has given "to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for*

wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.”

The goals God has for the Tribulation are so comprehensive that when it is finished a thousand years of peace, refinement, accomplishment, spiritual growth and beauty will fill the whole earth. At that time, we will accomplish what the fiasco in Eden ended. Imagine what a thousand years without war, with complete freedom of scientific expression and all the resources needed can be accomplished. Mankind will make quantum leaps forward in all disciplines and arts. We have not yet written our best music or created any art like we will then. Our scientists will eliminate all disease, end the aging process and find unlimited renewable energy to meet all the demand we will ever need. We will explore our solar system and even venture into the galaxy and beyond. Don't despair as we look at the dismal seven year period. When it ends, the very best is waiting. Jesus will return to earth at the end of the Tribulation and rejoice with us as His dream for our race is fulfilled.

Okay, let's go back to the Tribulation. Another way prophecy puzzles us is sometimes days stand for weeks or even years. So, to Daniel God declares that “seventy sevens” will fulfill all these things. This is 70 sevens of years, or 490 years. (Some translations refer to 70 weeks of years.) This is confirmed by another part of this passage in Daniel. In verses 25 and 26, Daniel is told that the Messiah will be cut off after “seven sevens and sixty-two sevens” (69 total), beginning with the decree to rebuild Jerusalem. In other words, 69 sevens of years (483 years) after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem, the Messiah will be cut off. Biblical historians confirm that 483 years passed from the time of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the time when Jesus was crucified. Most Christian scholars, regardless of their view of eschatology, have the above understanding of Daniel's 70 sevens.

With 483 years having passed from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the cutting off of the Messiah, this leaves one seven-year period not yet fulfilled in terms of Daniel 9:24: *“to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.”* This final seven-year period is known as the tribulation period—it is a time when God finishes judging Israel for its sin. Do you see why I said prophecy is tricky and requires a determined study to understand?

Daniel 9:27 gives a few highlights of the seven-year tribulation period: *“He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering.* Okay, the Anti-Christ will make a covenant with the world for a seven year program to solve the hatred between the races, end religious and sectarian conflict and solve the financial crisis. We have been hearing about the “everything bubble” that economists worry will burst. The Anti-Christ will have a plan to fix the global economy. He will promise vaccines and cures for pandemics past and future. This covenant or political agenda will promise to bring peace back to the planet and restore what we have lost in the run-up to the Tribulation actual. Part of the promises made by the Anti-Christ will be an end to religious, sectarian and ethnic strife. He will put an end to the Jewish sacrificial system, and probably shut down the Vatican and stop all independent worship of God for evangelical Christians as well as Muslims. He will end all world religions with a goal in mind of amalgamating all religions into one

monster faith. After the world has ratified the Beast's agenda and has moved toward its goals for three and one half years a worldwide celebration will be scheduled to be centered in Jerusalem, and televised planet wide.

At that worldwide celebration, the world leader who has ended the practice of all religions will proclaim himself head of the new monster government and religion. On a wing of the temple, he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, which could be some kind of idol, artificial intellect or quantum computer and with the aid of this god-like extension to his intellect and power, he will proclaim himself God. As I speculated earlier in this work, the Anti-Christ may also claim to be the resurrected Nimrod carrying his genetics or his re-animated, though long dead, body. This stuff just gets weirder and weirder. No generation before could connect the dots to see how all these prophecies could become actual. We are the first generation to which all this makes sense. We are living in the most interesting of all times since the flood. Do not forget Jesus said in Matthew 24, *"As it was in the days of Noah so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man."*

This Anti-Christ will pull the rug out from under many of his followers and break his promises three and one half years into this Fourth Reich. This liar, like Hitler, who speaks boastful words, will remove peace from the world. It will take total loss of all our freedom to accomplish his goals. The world will resist this loss and will rise up against him in a futile attempt to keep their religions, national identity, and economies. They will fail miserably and the blood will run deep as a result. He will put his image on this thing in the Temple. Remember he could use artificial intelligence or he could even be artificially intelligent via some mind/computer interface. He will require the world religions, Muslim, Christian, Jewish and all others to worship him and him alone. Daniel 9:27 and Revelation 13:5 tell us the reign of the beast will last for another three and one half years after the promises are broken. This is how we conclude the Tribulation will last seven years. Three and one half years make up the first half and three and one half make up the last. The first three and one half years are called "The Tribulation." The second three and one half years are called "The Great Tribulation."

To summarize what we have looked at so far we need to note that this last seven years of life on earth prior to the next pivot of the millennial reign of Jesus is when human decadence and depravity will reach its full expression. God has no other choice than to judge it and eliminate it like he did in the days of Noah.

Trends to Recognize The Tribulation's approach:

Have you ever wondered during the past few months if the seven-year tribulation has already begun? Although I don't really think the tribulation has fully started, we see the beginning of conditions speaking of its start. I believe this crescendo of war, economic failures, pandemic and fear is God's way of getting the attention of the world before His judgments begin. He also assures us that His appearing is imminent and we will soon be with Him in heaven and the place He is now preparing for us.

We do not know the exact date of the start of the Tribulation. Jesus himself said it was unknowable. In case you are curious as to why Jesus did not know when it would start, remember one of God's prime directives. He gave us free will. We could choose to stand up as a world population and turn to him and delay these final events for months,

years or even decades. I have said often that the Tribulation's beginning is unknowable. Unknowable? Yes. Why? Free will. Okay, we cannot know when, but are there trends we can note that will forecast the approximate times? Yes. I believe the Bible gives us a few of these trends called signs.

The first sign I want us to consider is famine. Revelation 6:8 tells us under the fourth seal, the rider on the pale horse is "given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence" Deadly famines will occur during the tribulation; they will be a factor in wiping out one-fourth of the world's population during the seal judgments described in Revelation 6. It is hard for us to even imagine 1/4 of nine billion people dying of hunger. According to a story published on the National Geographic website on May 12, 2020, swarms of gigantic locusts are swarming parts of East Africa bringing with them great famine. The National Geographic story also stated, "Some 13 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti, and Eritrea already suffer from 'severe food insecurity' . . . meaning they may go without eating for an entire day or have run out of food altogether." The National Geographic story also noted that swarms of locusts can destroy up to "300 million pounds of crops" in a day. Can you imagine the disaster this can bring to already impoverished nations? India also reports the presence of large swarms of locusts. These nations already exist on the threshold of starvation because of several reasons. One of the most potent reasons is despotic governments and greedy warlords who take all food stuffs from the people for their armies and elite.

I am hearing rumors of food shortages that extend beyond third world nations to include all. Before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down food processing plants and kept farm workers out of the fields, we were experiencing in America unprecedented weather related crises. Severe flooding in 2019 reached into 2020 and either kept farmers from planting or from harvesting crops. Packinghouses were hit with contamination of their meat products and recalls were making our stores have to hustle to keep meat products on the shelves. A hog disease led to the eradication of a huge part of the swine population in China and Asia. Now with all that going on we find ourselves locked down and panicked over a virus that is stretching to the breaking point our food supply lines as well as most other resource processes. We are told that major cities have only three days of food on hand at any given time. If truckers cannot deliver on time, the crisis will become a riot and lead to upheaval not before seen in first world countries.

A second sign or trend spoken of in Revelation 6:6 warns of a time of great inflation. It says a "quart of wheat" will sell for a day's wages. In Bible days, a quart of wheat would make enough bread for a family to eat one meal. If inflation eroded the monetary strength of our dollar, it will become worthless. The world has based its buying and selling of oil on the petrol-dollar for decades. Oil is traded for US dollars that are not based on the gold standard. The United States government held the \$35 per ounce price on gold until August 15, 1971. It was then that President Richard Nixon announced that the United States would no longer convert dollars to gold at a fixed value, thus completely abandoning the gold standard.

This means our dollar is only as good as people think it is. What will happen when the debt created by the fiat currency is called in? What could happen if Russia and China traded oil in a different currency or even traded in gold? The world will panic and make

a run on our banks and realize the truth that we as a nation are broke. More accurately, we, as a world, are broke. If a famine was bad before this financial disaster, it will only be worse after. There may be food to be bought, but only a few will have enough money to buy it. The only recourse a reasonable person has at this time is to stock food, water, guns, tools and gold now, or sooner rather than later. Learn some skills like gardening and animal husbandry. Learn how to can your garden produce and your protein sources. When this sign of famine comes into full bloom, our world will go into a panic like never before and there will be no police, fire department or emergency medical help coming. The government will not bring you food when the spit hits the fan. You need to become as self-sufficient as you can.

Venezuela stands as an example of devastating inflation. History informs us of the wheelbarrows of money it took in wartime Europe to buy enough food for one day. The enormous debt in the United States alone along with its printing of money during the past decade has already pushed the economy to the edge of disaster. That, along with exceedingly high unemployment, has moved America ever so close to a complete financial collapse. Our economy has some resilience in it still, but one wonders which upcoming shock will push it over the edge. Inflation does not care how much money you have saved or how much retirement you get each month. Your Social Security check (if the Social Security system even survives) will not come close to meeting anything more than your most basic needs if that. Recently in America, we have given trillions of fiat dollars to people who became unemployed because of the COVID-19 virus. Where do you think that money comes from? It comes from your dollars. Each time we print worthless paper it makes all the paper worth less. In the Tribulation, it may be completely worthless. I suggest you begin converting your paper savings into things of real value. A tall stack of hundred dollar bills may come in handy for starting a fire, but not much more. Land, hand tools, gardening equipment, a good simple vehicle and other hard assets will go a long way to keep you alive in a total governmental or economic failure.

The food crisis will be exacerbated by run-away inflation and when people realize they cannot feed their families, a new level of animal rage will set in and violence will flame up in our cities first and flow out to the suburbs and beyond. Revelation 9:21 tells us this about people during the tribulation, "*nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.*" Just as in the days of Noah, violence will fill the earth during the tribulation. Hunger will remove all pretense of civility. People will literally be killing others to feed themselves and their families. This will all happen when the police departments have been defunded and their morale is as low as can be. You must not develop a plan of survival that includes your dependence on police, fire departments or even emergency medical services.

Add to this what we learn in Revelation 17:19. It is here we learn the antichrist will cause the killing of a large number of saints during this time. We read a large multitude of martyrs will come out of the "great tribulation." These are no doubt the same ones John refers to in 6:9 who were killed "*for the word of God and witness they have borne.*" We already see this violence against Christians in our world and the seeds of it in the United States. It seems as if each week there are those who hate the Church, the Bible and Christians more. Can there be any doubt regarding the deadly intentions of the left

in America who advocate abortion up to and even after birth, who put patients sick with COVID-19 in nursing homes killing thousands of the elderly, and who send police to stop worship services? Someday the rage and hatred of the left in the US will erupt into violent and deadly persecution against those who hold fast to the Word of God.

Some Christians advocate being “nice” above all other character traits. Nowhere does Jesus tell us to be nice. He told the disciples to sell their coats and purchase swords. Standing for truth and defending those we love are very much Christian ideals. In a violent time, we still are instructed to turn the other cheek and go the second mile, but that all goes out the window when insurrectionists or foreign armies are running down our streets. There may come a time when we use our second amendment privileges and defend ourselves against an oppressive government even if it is our own.

Satan hates God’s people whether they are Gentile or Jewish. The two olive trees mentioned in Revelation, I believe, speak of the Spirit filled Christian church and the Messianic Jewish community. These two groups will become increasingly under the thumb of the Beast system.

There is a growing push in younger people today all around the world to put in play a socialist form of governance. Those who dream of a wonderland where everyone is cared for from birth to death have not read history. Socialism has been a colossal flop each and every time it has been inaugurated. Not only has it failed every time, it has caused thousands of people to be killed.

There will one day be a global government the likes of which has never been seen. It will be the most wonderful thing ever and mankind will truly reach a golden age. This one-world government I write about is called the Millennium. It will be ushered in when Jesus returns.

There will be an attempt made at world governance by those under Satan’s leadership. The rationale for ending nationalism is a seemingly smaller earth as the result of global travel, the internet and international banking and their corporate partners. The elite who advocate for globalism are saying that life on earth is becoming too complex for nation states to handle. If we all took down our national allegiances and formed a planet wide government we could act faster to put down wars, solve problems that only can be solved on a global scale like pandemics, end our differences and all hold hands, sit around the campfire and sing a non-offensive folk song.

A one-world government will require unanimity religiously. Within the Muslim faith, the different sects are literally at war with each other. The long running war between Christians and Muslims keeps world tensions high with no end in sight. The One-worlders will say - why not drop all religions and form one under one leader. This leader is called the False Prophet and it is this wolf in sheep’s clothing that will lead the world to accept the Anti-Christ. A false prophet will arise soon, if not already, and have a goal of unifying all religions into one.

Keep your eyes on the United Nations, this Chinese dominated organization plans to become the seat of the united planetary government. Their agenda 2030 does not even try to hide their plans to take over all nations. Their blue helmets are beginning to show up more and more all over the world and even in America. The United Nations is not the friend of the American people. I believe we should stop supporting the UN and ask

them to move from our shores as we stop funding their work. I believe they are or will soon become a major player in the Beast system's plans. Scripture tells us that a world government will dominate the entire earth during the tribulation over which the antichrist will seize control (Dan. 7:24-26; Rev. 13:1-10).

The UN now has a web page titled "Let's Take Our Planet Back" at <https://unnwo.org/>. An easy way to remember the link is to think "United Nations New World Order." This website represents a revelation of the UN's desire to create a New World Order although it has always been quite visible under its stated Agenda 2030 goals of establishing a Marxist world order by 2030. The website puts a positive spin on the seventeen goals of Agenda 2030, which in reality reflect a Marxist/Fascist world government in total control of the lives of people in every nation. The goals of the New Green Deal in America mesh perfectly with those of Agenda 2030; I believe its goal is to bring the United States into the New World Order.

Since the onset of COVID-19, the willingness of people in the United States to surrender their rights and freedoms has astounded me. Many blindly follow unconstitutional restrictions without protest or any resistance whatsoever. This has been a successful test run for the globalists. The elite have learned that with a world crisis and control of the media, many people will unwittingly submit to whatever the government tells them with little or no resistance as long as it is for the "common good." When the tribulation arrives on planet earth, great fear and panic will also lead to a surrendering of rights and freedoms that will enable the globalists to finalize their plans for a New World Order.

One of the most commonly known warning signs of the Tribulation is The Mark of the Beast. Revelation 13:16 tells us about the mark and what it means. I do not believe that Bill Gates is the antichrist nor do I think that his vaccine and its accompanying tattoo is the mark of the beast that we find described in Revelation 13:16-18. However, I do believe these things are also preparing the world for the control that the antichrist will exert over the world during the tribulation.

The idea that the government can require a vaccine along with proof of it to leave one's home and participate in society would have been thought tyrannical just a decade ago. But now, after the fear generated in the media over COVID-19, multitudes now accept such an idea and see no problem with it. In addition to this, we now have the technology for the antichrist to implement such a program worldwide. Revelation 13:16-18 is not here yet, but it is springing to life before our eyes.

The Mark of the Beast is a complete abandonment of Christ, the church or the Bible. It will be a comprehensive acceptance of the fallen angels plan to take back the earth, remove humanity and defeat God. The Mark of the Beast must have something about it that makes one disqualified for redemption. What could possibly cause God to abandon redemption for his human children? Well, maybe the mark in some way makes you no longer human? What if the Mark was a genetic upgrade that changed your DNA into a less-than-human form? If you were no longer human, you could not be saved because God so loved the world (the people) that he gave. Jesus died for human sinners not for genetic alterations or physical aberrations.

I do not believe anyone will be tricked into taking the mark. You will not be fooled into letting it into your body. You will want it and ask for it knowing full well what it means to have it. Those who take it will have bought into the great deception with eyes open. You will not be able to say to God - Whoa. I didn't know I was taking THAT mark. You will know and accept it willingly.

While the world remains distracted by COVID-19, tensions keep escalating in the Middle East. Israel has inflicted heavy damage on Iranian military installations in Syria in recent weeks. And, Iran continues to promise the world that it will soon wipe Israel off the map. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's unfulfilled pledge to annex portions of the West Bank by July 1, 2020, is also increasing tensions in the region. The Palestinians and their allies say they will never accept the adding of land in Judea and Samaria to Israel and will most likely react violently to such an annexation. As we approach the Tribulation, we will see increased tension in the Middle East. The Gog-Magog War described in Ezekiel 38-39 seems closer than ever. The nations remain aligned precisely as we read in 38:1-13. It is also interesting that Israeli Rabbis believe the war of Ezekiel 38-39 could begin at any moment. There seems to have been tension in the Middle East all our lives, but as we crescendo to the coda of time, the Middle East will boil over with a conflagration of wars and rumors of war.

In both 1 and 2 Timothy, Paul warns of great apostasy in the church during the last days. This day has arrived. The widespread acceptance by so many churches of what the Bible labels as sin is just the tip of the iceberg. Just as the apostle predicted in 2 Timothy 4:3-4, people today flock to false teachers in great numbers. In some cases, these so-called pastors have become multi-millionaires as a result of their perversion of the Gospel. It is far more popular for preachers today to regard vast sections of scriptural prophecy as allegory and hold up a false, unbiblical hope to their congregations, one that denies the imminent return of Jesus. Dr. Tom Horn says in his book, ***Blood on the Altar***, that the coming apostasy will cause increasing friction within churches. The blood on the altar will be shed by those within the church that have decided to cling to a liberal theology as opposed to those who hold to a conservative one. The difference in interpretation will manifest over whether life begins in the womb and over sexual orientation. The Bible believing Christian believes life is sacred in the womb. The Bible believing Christian also believes there are only two sexual expressions and that God made Adam and Eve and not a third option.

Personally, if two same sex people want to live together I do not judge them. What I will not accept is when they try to convince me, my children and grandchildren that their "lifestyle" choice is normal and one everyone should embrace, or if my government requires me to affirm perversion in any way. Personally, I can love people who have unnaturally aborted their babies and who are involved in homosexual lifestyles. I love them with the love of Jesus. Anyone I love I will pray that their eyes are opened to the sin in their lives. Just saying!

I added the point of lawlessness as an indicator after the recent rioting in Minneapolis, Portland, Baltimore and Washington DC, and other cities. Is this not a prime example of the lawlessness that Jesus said would appear during the tribulation? In Matthew 24:12. Jesus said this about the signs of the end of the age, "*And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.*" Paul refers to the antichrist as the "*the man*

of lawlessness" in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. Right now, we see the spirit of the antichrist surging throughout the United States as the anarchists destroy property and ruin the lives of thousands of people of all races. I just noticed the word, "anarchist and anti-christ" are very similar. It makes you say, Hm. How much longer can it be before Jesus returns to take us to the place He is preparing for us?

The economies of the world may recover from the brink of disaster and the push for a New World Order may decrease. However, at the moment this seems highly unlikely given the tremendous debt of many nations and the staggering high unemployment. Forbes online magazine recently stated that as many as 42% of the jobs lost in America may be gone for good. Could the growing lawlessness and riots push the US and world closer to economic collapse? It is entirely possible.

The history of the twentieth century tells us that the aftermath of great economic distress, war, or both provides fertile soil for the emergence of socialist/fascist dictators. I believe the antichrist will arise from the ashes of the coming worldwide chaos to seize control of the coming New World Order. Given the condition of our world at the moment, it will not take much to plunge the world into a great economic disaster or trigger the Gog-Magog War. The resulting chaos will provide the perfect opportunity for Satan to place his man in charge of the world order, which he will do.

Pivot Point #7 The Two Witnesses

Let us begin Pivot Point #7 with Revelation 11 and read it to see what Jesus told John.

"Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth (Spiritual authority of the word) and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have the power to shut up heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. 7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

11 Now after the three-and-a-half days, the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. 13 In the same hour, there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake, seven thousand people were

killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly. – Revelation 11:1-14

The angel speaking with the voice of God gives John a vision. The vision is full of figurative images and language. Previously Jesus has given John these images and visions and has helped him understand their meanings. Not this time. The witnesses are left hanging for us to figure out with not much help. We are told about John the Baptist that he came in the spirit of Elijah. These witnesses apparently did not come in the spirit of anyone of which we are told.

Many Bible scholars have taught that the two witnesses are men. They have concluded that these men were from the Old Testament time warped into the Tribulation to complete their missions. The book of Hebrews informs us in 9:27 *Just as people are **destined to die once**, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.* Everyone dies eventually the Bible tells us as does our life experiences. That is the way of all life to be born, live and eventually die. That is just how it is down here. Since that is the case, we need to look for Old Testament characters who did not die.

The first person eligible for this distinction is Enoch. Genesis 5 introduces us to this enigmatic individual.

*Genesis 5:18 When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. 19 After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. 20 Altogether, Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died. 21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. 22 After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. **24 Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.***

So if God took him away and he didn't die, he will die at some future point because Hebrews tells us we all die. This makes him a good candidate for one of the two witnesses. Now where do we go to find other candidates?

This search leads us to Elijah because in 2 Kings 2, Elijah has a very unusual experience. A fiery something like a chariot swoops out of the air, gathers him up into it and flies away. Elijah was abducted into this flying thing and was never seen again. Malachi 4:5-6 adds weight to this argument for Elijah being one of the witnesses. *I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."*

This prophecy could be completely fulfilled by John the Baptist as it is made clear in Luke 1:17 that John came in the spirit of Elijah. As with all prophecy, there may be more than one fulfillment of a prophecy.

Okay, here we go. Another candidate has turned up. Now we have two possible candidates for the unusual witnesses that will arrive in Revelation 11. Are there others? Some wonder about the last days of Moses' journey on earth. He blew it when he struck the rock instead of just speaking to it and because of his unnecessary emotional outburst, he was barred from entering the Land of Promise. He was allowed to look at it

from a mountaintop, but not set foot on its soil. Jude verse 9 shares a really strange interaction between the devil and the archangel Michael, wherein it seems they were disputing over the disposition of Moses' body. What was that all about? Why did the devil want Moses' body anyway? The answer is not in the purview of this work, but it hints at another candidate even though it is a little bit of a stretch to get there.

Okay, we have three candidates for the Revelation 11 witnesses. They are Enoch, Elijah and maybe Moses. Since the one speaking to John does not help us with their identity, we are left to conjecture on our own.

But wait - what if it is not any of these three? It could be a special fiat of God as he creates these special witnesses and invests supernatural powers in them. They may not be Old Testament characters at all, but newly created beings made for this specific purpose. Another thing to consider is maybe they are not men but two institutions like the Old and the New Testament. An argument can be made for this interpretation and with some understanding of how prophecy is given and interpreted, it is not impossible to make the connection.

Let us look again at the text of Revelation 11 for more obscure clues into their identity.

“. . . And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth

Now Revelation 11 refers to the two witnesses as olive trees and lampstands. The Olive tree has always been used symbolically for the Jewish people. Olive tree iconology is all over ancient Jewish artifacts and literature. The Jewish people are God's olive tree. If this is one of the olive trees who then is the other?

To find other clues we have to fast forward to the New Testament to read in Romans 11 where Paul continues to make his argument for the inclusion of the Gentiles in God's plan of redemption for the whole world.

*Romans 11:11 Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. 12 But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring! 13 I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry 14 in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. 15 For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? 16 If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches. **17 If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root,** 18 do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. 19 You will say then, **“Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.”** 20 Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. 22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you*

also will be cut off. 23 And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. 24 After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

The writer of Romans makes it clear as can be who the second olive tree represents. The first is Israel though limbs are broken off and the tree weakened from age, disease and abuse. The other olive tree is the Church grafted into the original root. So, the church is the wild olive branch that has been grafted in to join the other olive tree as God's two olive trees who feed and nourish the world with the truth of God. Could this be the solution to the mystery? The two witnesses could be the true believing Messianic Jews and the born-again Gentile believers (The Church).

If this is in fact the correct interpretation and these are the two long standing institutions, are the witnesses interpretation solved or have more been created?

If this is the identity of the witnesses, we learn some very important things about God's plan for the ages.

1. He still loves His people the Jews even though they have been abused, broken and bruised. He still has plans for them and they will play a major part in his plan. The players in the final drama will be Jewish people who have embraced Jesus as their Messiah.
2. The Church is not a replacement for Israel but stands alongside her as co-equal nurturing agents and light bearers of truth.
3. The real church made up of spirit filled born again people also will play a major role in the drama of redemption.

The lampstand analogy speaks to the groups that shine the light of God into the dark world. Abraham's people did indeed shine the light of God into the Old Testament world. It was through the man Abraham we learned about the power of faith to redeem. And the Church, in like manner, focused the light of God into the world for the last 2,000 years or what we call the modern times. Together we have what could be the two witnesses of Revelation 11.

Here is where arise some immediate concerns if one opts for the Jewish and Christian interpretation for the olive trees or witnesses. The most obvious problem is - do the witnesses not die and lay dead in the streets for 3 1/2 days? How can the Old Testament and New Testament believers lie dead in the street for three and one half days? Many times prophetic numberings mean days for years. The year-for-a-day principle is a method of interpretation of Bible prophecy in which the word "day" in prophecy is considered to be symbolic of a year of actual time. It is used principally by the historicist school of prophetic interpretation. So, the three and one half days the witnesses lie in the street dead could really be three and one half years.

What if the Spirit filled tribulation church and the Messianic Jewish believers received a second Acts 2-like empowerment and for the first three and one half years of the tribulation had the power Revelation 11 tells us the witnesses possess? We would make the godless elite and one-worlders tremble in their boots.

Revelation 11:4 *These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have the power to shut up heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.*

This is so exciting for me to think that we might be part of a Pentecostal event in the last days. Imagine believers having the power to speak words with such power as to devour our enemies arguments and shut their mouths with absolute truth. Think of how we could defend ourselves with supernatural power that turns the enemies weapons back upon themselves. To prove the power of the real Christian faith we could stop the rain from falling and turn water into blood and cause plagues every time we see the need. Sign me up for this experience. I want some of that.

So, if we are the witnesses and for three and one half years are a pain in the side of the lost world it is easy to imagine how delighted they will be when the Beast crawls out of the Abyss and moves on the spirit-filled Christians and the Messianic Jews and kills us. With us out of the way the dream of the one-worlders is within reach. They can kill babies in the womb all they want and no one will object. They can fully express their sexual perversions for pedophilia and alternative lifestyles not caring for the shame it brings because shame will become only a construct of the Bible thumpers. They can destroy all remaining echoes of religion and give their total allegiance to the Beast. I can see why people will celebrate and send gifts to each other all over the planet. Ding dong the Church is gone - bells will ring and the party will be started.

There is a cautionary note to be played here. Read on and understand what happens next. It may sorta harsh the mellow of the mood.

11 Now after the three-and-a-half days, the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. 13 In the same hour, there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake, seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Following this institutional interpretation of the witnesses, after three and one half years the party will be over. The church and the Messianic Jewish movement that had been killed by the Beast came back to life. The dead believers will stand up and act alive and scare the living spit out the demon inspired hellish remains of life on earth.

The revived saints will be called to the home office and fly off in a cloud in full view of all the enemies of God. Very soon after the tribulation saints are removed a great earthquake will hit and thousands will be killed. Oddly enough after all this, the remaining godless masses will give God glory. They will admit that all that has happened will be because the God of glory caused it. Their guilt and stupidity will be admitted. Will they repent? It doesn't say, but I somehow doubt it.

The question as to who the witnesses really are has not been answered. Is it two men or two religious institutions? We will add this to the list of things we will have to ask God when we get home. Personally, I hope the institutional witness is the correct

interpretation because I want to be here and watch the fallen be silenced and admit that Jesus Christ is Lord. This will give you and me a personal part in taking it to them.

Pivot Point #8 -- The Appearance of the Beast

Revelation 13

In Daniel 7:25 we find foretold the coming of a final world ruler who would “*speak great words against the most High and wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws*”. To Daniel’s first readers the Greek ruler of Palestine, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, fit the description of the Anti-Christ. Bible scholars generally agree that antichrists came in many forms and at many times through out history. For instance early Christians applied the distinction to the Roman emperors who persecuted the church, in particular Nero.

The modern Bible student needs to be aware that there is a spirit of antichrist that has been trying to find the final solution and perfect candidate for the role and bring in Lucifer’s kingdom on earth. So, there were many antichrists on the earth and there will be many more until the final one is revealed. To understand this concept we must be aware of the biblical typology the Holy Spirit uses to get divine truth to us. Want some truth? There are many antichrists, yet there will be one ultimate man who will completely fulfill all the prophecies. A 12th-century Calabrian monk, Joachim of Fiore, was the one who formulated the view of a succession of “antichrists”. The original protester, Martin Luther, believed that the antichrist was the Papacy of the Catholic Church. Many have, at one time or another, been given the distinction of antichrist.

Let us peer into the Apocalypse of John as we find real intel on this Son of Satan.

Revelation 13:1 The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea.

This is where we come to understand that the BEAST is a government. The Beast system is a one-world government that has been given the power of Satan.

This vision has two players. One is a Dragon and the other is a Beast. The Dragon we recognize from the symbolism we find all through the Bible. The Dragon is the serpent in Eden and the reptilian meme is endemic. The Dragon is Satan. The beast represents the totalitarian government that will be in force during the Tribulation. The Dragon gives the government its power.

The “sea” represents the masses of people. So, Satan was standing on the edge of humanity and he saw something coming up from out of it. It is accurate to think of this as instead of - seeing something coming out of the sea - he causes something to come out. A Beast arises out of the world’s masses of people. The Beast is a governmental institution made up of many nations, ethnicities and groups.

It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. 2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion.

The government or Beast is built on the old Roman world foundation. In essence, the Beast government will be a one-world government made up from many former national governments as was the old Roman world empire. The Brexit movement where Great Britain separated itself from the European countries will be reversed and it and nine

other major world players will become one. The leopard, bear and lion body parts could describe a Greco/Roman or Russian and even Great Britain national identity. Use caution here because we just do not have enough information to make declarative statements on this figuratively formatted information.

The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

If the “dragon” is in fact the devil (which I am sure this is who John is describing), then the ruler of Hell hands his power to the Beast government and it becomes unstoppable, fierce and unrelenting. It will be a government whose constitution is the same one that governs the demonic inhabitants of hell.

This is what I believe describes the next phase of life on earth as the Beast system takes power from all national governments and rules on a global scale. This Beast system will set about to remove all human freedom and privacy. A surveillance state will be in play through every smart TV, computer and phone to track humanity’s every movement down to the smallest detail. With privacy and freedom gone, this Beast will seek to control people through commerce. All purchasing or selling will be forced through a tracking system so that everything you do economically is noted and your business will become their business. Tribulation tax bills will be so terribly high that there will be no hope of getting ahead or thriving.

To further nail down their control, all food and water resources will become the property of this Beast. If you want to eat or drink you will need the permission of the system. To plant or harvest, one will need the nod of government. No private ownership of land or property will be allowed so that the state can more equitably use the resources of the planet. That is what they will use as an excuse for their total removal of our freedom. As a side thought, the tribulation world will be very urban. People will be moved from the farms and into cities to make more space available for the Green New Deal and where animals will no longer be hunted. The Tribulation will occur in an urban culture where all food, water and essentials are provided by the government and withheld by the government if one does not tow the line.

3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.

Apparently one of the national governments had a catastrophic failure of some kind. This nation may have experienced a devastating earthquake or had a nuclear power plant melt down. It may simply have had its economy crash or have come apart due to a civil war. We only are told in John’s vision that one “seemed” to have had a fatal wound, but had recovered.

It seems that the entire planet was in love with the new governance model which promised to solve problems that have been haunting mankind for millennia.

4 People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”

Human beings will be so completely deceived by Satan and the One-World-Government that they will worship Satan and the government he had empowered. Notice this final world government had the blessing of Satan on it. Inhabitants of the time will be

allowed to abandon thousands of years of morality, change laws and re-write the history of life on earth. They will attempt to remove anything that will cause their consciences to burn. They will throw away all restraints of godliness. Live it up and feel good about it, they were telling each other. Satan is in control and people no longer have to follow the white Jesus. It is a new day and old morality is gone.

5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months.

For three and one half years the One-World-Government (Beast) did all it wanted to do and said all it wanted to say. By understanding what it did and said one can gather intel on the goals and methodology of Satan. Satan can't keep his mouth shut and his plans leak out. Even today, predictive programming from Hollywood and other media outlets tell in advance what Satan is planning by being paraded first in movies, memes and songs. Parents need to be vigilant about what their children watch, as what used to be innocent cartoons are not so innocent any longer. The morality of hell is being consumed by the young people of planet earth as we speak. Our young are experiencing psychological operations to change thinking for the upcoming generations.

6 It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

The goal of the devil is to take the name of God from its lofty place and crash it and trash it. Not only will Satan seek to denigrate the name of God on earth, but he will try to remove all belief in an afterlife or judgment. If people can be convinced that there is nothing coming when we die but a hole in the ground and a consciousness that simply fades to black, then what they do with their lives is irrelevant. Live it up until you die. Who cares? If nothing matters - then nothing matters.

Who are "those who live in heaven" verse 6 references? God lives in heaven. The righteous angels live in heaven and the Old Testament and New Testament saints are there along with the Bride of Christ - the church. These groups will be the recipient of the slander. It will be impolitic to hold to or revere any thought of an afterlife in heaven. Sadly, most people living on earth will buy into this political correctness and not resist it even if they aren't totally convinced of its accuracy. The devil knows about the fallen tendency of cognitive dissonance endemic in the human psyche. We can't believe things will change and peer pressure influences us more than we are willing to admit.

7 It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

The Beast government launched a planet wide search and destroy mission to eliminate all people who believed or had faith. The Messianic Jews and the Spirit filled Christians were targeted for extermination. Remember where the Beast's power comes from? It comes from Lucifer. There was no place on earth, no information system, no local government or obscure island in the ocean exempt from this purge.

If you are a believer in Jesus during this time you will have to go to ground as they say and completely cut yourself off from any contact with the government. No electronic device can be used and your bunker or bug out place must be unobservable from a satellite or drone. Like the witnesses, all believers will be killed and lie in the city

streets. Are you willing to die for your faith in Jesus? It is time to prepare a generation of believers for martyrdom.

But - don't despair. When it becomes darkest, the light is about to dawn. Jesus is coming and when he does he will tread the wine press of his wrath and I would not want to be one of those who have worshipped the Beast or taken his mark. It will be ugly.

8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.[b]

Notice the exception to the Lamb's life list of those who worship the Beast. The people whose names are in the Lamb's Book of Life will not - no they will never - worship the one-world-government (Beast) nor the rebel angel who empowers it. Don't overlook this fact. The worshippers of the system have not been written into God's book of life. If you are devoted to the Beast system, committed to worshipping Satan or are an atheistic hedonist your fate is sealed. As it says in v. 9-10 - *Whoever has ears, let them hear. 10 "If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed."*

For those who are written into the Lamb's Book of Life, Jesus tells John we must be able to endure and remain faithful. Things are going to get as bad as they can get. Our worst nightmare will be reality. Life on earth will literally be hell on earth. If any believers are living on earth during the Beast years you will either be killed or be in hiding. The last lines of v.10 tell the tale.

This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.

John tells us about a Satanic influenced government that will enforce evil as law and try to eliminate all faith in Jesus. Next in his vision another Beast is seen that comes out of the Earth. The first Beast came out of the sea. The second one comes out of the Earth.

11 Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. 12 It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

In apocalyptic literature, beasts are governments. It could be that the first beast out of the sea harkened back to the Roman world where ten world powers existed and played the political game. We could label this the Old World Government for understanding's sake. This new beast could be the final government built on the ashes of the first Beast. The same beast but different at the same time. The power behind the scenes gives both beasts their power and the power comes from Satan. This new Beast could be the New World Order governed by the United Nations and led by a very well accepted dictator.

Some identify the second Beast as the United States of America. In that understanding, the USA could be a bridge to the Old World Order and lead to New World Order. This interpretation has merit. Or said like this - The USA gives up its sovereignty and becomes part of the UN, which in turn becomes the second Beast or New World Order.

The second government presented itself as a lamb. Many will say if you are undervalued and feel your life does not matter, come into the New World Order and you will sit at the big table. If you want to be cared for from womb to tomb, we will be your care taker. Is equality your dream? Give up all allegiances and completely give yourself to the Beast and you will have a perfect life. Sadly, the New World Order (NWO) will sound like a lamb, but will speak like a dragon. Dragons are terrifying, breathe fire and smoke and devour anything in sight. One could say about the New World Order that it looks really nice, but it is really not nice at all. It will promise the moon but fail to deliver anything but misery and gloom.

The first Beast had a fatal head wound that is healed by the second Beast. How it was healed is not clear. Maybe the NWO, led by the Jewish bankers, will change the monetary system which will reset all economies and forgive all debts. This debt forgiveness would give life to the older resource depleted world governments. The answers to how this healing occurs may be political, economic or even military. We don't know how the NWO - from the earth - will restore life to the Old World Order -from the sea - but it will and together the two beasts will be indistinguishable.

13 And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. 14 Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth.

The NWO will be able to do amazing things like calling fire down from heaven. Can't we do that already? I have read that we have titanium steel rods the size of telephone poles in orbit that can be released and target pinpoint locations. When the Rods from God strike an explosion occurs of unimaginable power and leaves nothing behind so the explosion cannot be traced. The Rods from God hit with such pent up inertia from falling from space at terminal velocities, that the destruction is caused by inertia and impact alone. If we can do this now, it is easy to see how a NWO with a combined military and advanced weaponry division could not make a little fire.

It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 5 The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

Remember Beasts are governments. Antichrists are people leading governments with Satanic power and authority. So, what is this image of a Beast/government that is given breath and speaks? Who or what is this thing that heads up a planned extermination of all people who will not worship the image? I am not ashamed to tell you that I have no idea. It could be an artificially intelligent android who is informed by quantum computer data that enables it to make decisions impacting billions of people with speed, clarity and confidence. It may be a fake alien from out there. It could be anything. We just do not know.

16 It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, 17 so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.

This NWO - The Beast - will totally remove all freedom from people and track their movements, interests, financial dealings, entertainment preferences, lifestyles and just

about everything that can be tracked. You will be forced to receive a Mark on your body - in your hand and on your forehead - that will enable you to participate in the economy and in life. Be warned this Mark of the Beast may seem like the greatest thing ever, but like all of Satan's promises they are broken at the end. Eventually those who have the mark are attacked by some end time "thing" that targets only the Marked. Those who have the mark of Jesus on them will not be harmed.

Revelation 9 The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. 2 When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. 3 And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. 4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. 6 During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

The mark must have some kind of genetic mutative property that once tattooed on one's arm or forehead releases nano bots into your body designed to change DNA into something else. I am convinced that the Mark of the Beast is a genetic altering process that when complete makes a human being unrecognizable to God and therefore redeemable. This change, like the genetic alteration in the days of Noah, will make the person who has the Mark so far from being human that they are not qualified to be redeemed by the blood of Jesus. Remember Jesus came to save sinners (humans). He didn't come to save Nephilim. Did you notice in v.6 in those days they longed to die but couldn't? What if the Mark of the Beast switched off the gene that tells our body to begin to die. What if one of the selling points for the Mark is eternal life in your perfectly healthy body? What if once switched on you could not die? It makes every Zombie movie we have viewed seem plausible.

18 This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

Pivot Point #9 The Natural Disasters which become De-population Events.

A lot of bad stuff happens in the final book of the Bible. Extinction level events are coming that if it were not for the grace of God and Jesus' second coming all human life would become extinct. It alarms us and causes our blood to run cold as we try to understand all that is coming. Nine billion people will be reduced by 1/4 at one time and the by 1/3 at another. When the folly and sin of man will reach a point of boiling over and as the old timers said, all the chickens come home to roost, the bad government of mankind will finally break under the load of greed and the struggle for power, and utterly fail mankind. It will fail so miserably that when someone steps up and claims to be able to fix it and restore order, the world will jump at the chance and welcome this man-with-the-big-promises.

So keep in mind, Revelation horrors are first of all caused by the result of human greed, lust and hubris. The second thing that happens is the passing of planet X through the inner solar system, which will make major earth changes because of poles shifts,

earthquakes, volcanism, and continental plate shifts. This rouge planet that makes its way through our solar system every 3,600 years will pelt the earth with space rocks, some hitting the oceans and others the land. This space cataclysm will cause much death and destruction and bring humanity nearly to the point of extinction. That is not all of which the Apocalypse of John warns. After human sin kills off billions and the space collisions kills off billions, a spiritual invasion of demons from hell nearly finish us off completely. After the asteroids hit earth, a “star” falls and lands near the Euphrates River and opens up the Abyss. From this pit comes every evil that God in His mercy has imprisoned to keep humanity from being eliminated. Now the creatures, aliens or whatever they are, come out and run all over the planet, biting and injuring and causing intense misery to everyone who has taken the mark of the Beast. They are forbidden to attack those who have the mark of the Lord on them.

*Luke 21:25 “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 **People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.** 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”*

Luke remembers Jesus’ intel concerning the end times. He says in chapter 21:26 that people will faint (KJV says men’s hearts will fail them) from terror for what is coming on the earth. The scary stuff mentioned in Revelation seems hard to understand because the chronology is not linear. We are not to understand the events in Revelation as one following another particularly. In the simplest of terms there are three major depopulation events. We must remember the real intent of apocalyptic writing is to give us a hodgepodge or an impressionist picture of terror and horror. It is meant to scare the hell out of us. I will attempt to set out for you the trumpets, seals, bowls and horses in such a way that makes sense and allows us to have some way to package the whole horrible mess. It is my contention that what happens in the last seven years of life on earth is the result of what humankind has set in motion, coupled with a major space event that passes through our solar system, causes havoc to the inner planets and does unthinkable damage to earth, followed by the release of evil that has been imprisoned to be kept away from humanity.

Here goes my take on Revelation:

As Tribulation ramps up (remember birth pangs?) a lot is going on. Wars are breaking out everywhere between big nations and between ethnic groups. The Bible believing are being persecuted and even killed. Following the world at war is famine rooted in out-of-control weather, pollution, destroyed economies as a result of purchased or manufactured war equipment and just bad government. People all over the earth will be living in third-world-like situations struggling to survive. All these evils are caused by fallen man, urged on and led by the evil of the fallen. The first three and one half years wind up and allow all man has done to reach its logical conclusion of rot and confusion.

Then, as if that isn’t enough, a space body bigger than planet earth passes through our solar system on an oblique orbit that swings around our sun and through the inner planets once every 3,600 years. Because of its size and composition (heavy in iron and with a metal core) it has an immense gravity well accompanying it. This gravity well will

attract debris from the asteroid belt and pelt the inner planets with a rocky bombardment the likes of which no one has seen since nearly 2,000 years before Christ or roughly the time of Noah. The meteor strikes will be horrible, but the effect of the gravity well will cause the earth's rotation to slow and cause our magnetic north pole to shift and line up with our true north pole. Magnetic north and true north drift apart on a cycle of time repeatable and measurable. Right now the magnetic pole is drifting toward Siberia. The drift is natural and has been doing so for a long time. As the gigantic space body and all the space junk it has attracted pass near, a magnetic shift will occur on planet earth and magnetic north will recombine with true north. This is what is called a pole shift. This is a really bad thing. The shift will literally alter the latitude and longitude of continents, slow the rotation of the planet which in turn will cause a rise in sea levels that will flood any land below 500 feet above sea level. The good news for us in southwest Missouri -- we are mostly above 1,000 feet above sea level. Springfield, Missouri, is 1,260 feet above sea level. This body, aka Wormwood - Apophis or Nibiru causes a pole shift on earth. This shift of the magnetic pole will cause such turbulence that hurricane force winds will blow all over the planet for several days. Most structures will be destroyed, as will trees and anything above the ground. With the slowing of planetary rotation the water stacked up at our equator by centrifugal force settles approximately 500 feet and distributes earth's ocean water more evenly which raises sea level and inundates all land and islands below 500 feet. Maps of the resulting smaller land mass have been drawn by the US Navy and all coastal land is under water as much as two to three hundred miles inland. America is cut in half by a much enlarged Mississippi River that connects the Great Lakes with the Gulf of Mexico in an inland sea.

I think you are getting the picture. Now let's read Revelation 8 with this in mind. In Revelation 8, we have a vantage point of both seeing events as they occur from heaven and how things play out on earth.

Revelation 8:1 When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. 4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand. 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

In heaven, prayers of the saints are being held up to God. The answers to all the prayers of God's people are being held up for God to see and answer. The way God answers prayers for deliverance from all these evil entities is to send back to the earth these space rocks. One will hit in the ocean causing tsunamis and rising sea levels. The second impacts land and causes forest fires unlike any seen for thousands of years. The second asteroid changes the quality and availability of the fresh water sources.

6 Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them. 7 The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it

was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

The asteroids that fell on land set things on fire. Atmospheric bursts are common for asteroids and documented to have occurred in our time. When planet X passes through our solar system, many things will fall from the sky. John said what fell was like hail and fire mixed with blood. John is grasping for ways to describe what he saw. Whatever it was he saw, it scared him and it continues to do so today. So the first thing the Nibiru passing does to earth causes things on the surface of the planet to heat up and catch fire.

The second impact hits the ocean with devastating result for all sea life.

8 The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, 9 a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

The trumpet played by the third angel released dry land impacts and the star that hit was called Wormwood. The result of the impact on dry land was the reduction of the water aquifers which reduced the availability of fresh water by one third. One Third of the ground water was polluted on the earth. Verse 10 tells us of this impact.

10 The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water— 11 the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

The fourth angel is about to blow his trumpet that will signal dust and debris blown up into the atmosphere which will block out sunlight.

12 The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night. 13 As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

For sixteen hours, the atmosphere around the planet was filled with debris and dust from the land strikes and the resulting volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. The sky was so filled with matter that light from the sun, stars and moon was reduced by one third. I suspect what we just read could be the same thing we read in Revelation 8, but from another perspective. It is not hard to see that a Wormwood contact would crush all of Babylon's economic hijinks. Who is Babylon? I no longer believe it is one nation. We have to know by now that real nationality has been replaced by multi-national corporations. These large conglomerates are the whore of Babylon in my view. I used to think it was the USA and Great-Britain, but no longer. To-big-to-fail Jewish owned banks, Microsoft, Monsanto, Amazon and other multi-national corporations are more powerful than any or all nations in our time. We still live in the United States, but corporations are the real power brokers. We live in an oligarchy not a democracy. The whore is Babylon and Babylon is a planet wide commerce.

Revelation 18

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. 2 With a mighty voice he shouted:

“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!”

*She has become a dwelling for demons
and a haunt for every impure spirit,
a haunt for every unclean bird,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal.*

Verses 1 and 2 are God’s evaluation of earth’s economic powerhouses. God says our Synagogue-of-Satanic banks and our multi-national corporations are really a dwelling place for demons and impure spirits. I am convinced these large corporations are led by people who are nothing more than sock puppets with the fallen evil entities being the hand in the sock.

3 For all the nations have drunk

the maddening wine of her adulteries.

The kings of the earth committed adultery with her,

and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”

None of the theft done by these monstrous entities do their dastardly deeds behind God’s back. He sees! He knows and brings divine justice down on their heads. He knows their name. He knows what they have done. He knows what is about to fall on them. These people care nothing for the welfare of the average person. They literally care not for humanity in general. They really want us gone so they can have the planet to themselves. Every waking thought is about how to increase their power and wealth. This mentality supported by the intelligence and guidance of the fallen Watcher Class Angels and their offspring has caused most of the world’s wealth to gravitate into the hands of just a few families while causing billions of people to live in abject poverty.

4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

“Come out of her, my people,”

so that you will not share in her sins,

so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

5 for her sins are piled up to heaven,

and God has remembered her crimes.

This clarion call to “*come out of her my people*” must not fall on deaf ears. The people of God must not participate in her sin. We must walk away from using their products and investing in their businesses. We are to separate ourselves, not just morally, but also economically and materially. Why? “*So that you will not share in her sins.*” Sharing in her sins means sharing in her judgment which will be devastating.

Listen to what God is going to do to these fat cats and oligarchs.

6 Give back to her as she has given;

pay her back double for what she has done.

Pour her a double portion from her own cup.

7 Give her as much torment and grief

as the glory and luxury she gave herself.

In her heart she boasts,

*'I sit enthroned as queen.
I am not a widow;
I will never mourn.'*

**8 Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her:
death, mourning and famine.**

**She will be consumed by fire,
for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.**

9 *"When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. 10 Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry:*

*"Woe! Woe to you, great city,
you mighty city of Babylon!
In one hour your doom has come!"*

The striking of the planet with a pole shift and space debris will happen quickly - In one hour verse 10 and 17 tell us.

11 *"The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore— 12 cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; 13 cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and human beings sold as slaves.*

The merchandise or cargo these merchants traffic around the world speaks of all kinds of necessities as well as luxuries. V.13 ends by mentioning human beings sold as slaves. The contemporary slave trade is different than in days before. Before, slaves were valuable for their labor. Today the slave trade is mostly used in sex trafficking. Sadly, most of the people being caught up in this godless business are young people even children. The light is coming on regarding the scope of pedophilia in our day. We can only hope that justice will come to these child molesters and perverts in our time. This disgusting use of innocent people is being used to control and blackmail world leadership making them to bow to the will of evil. Jeffrey Epstein, and men and women like him, have taken this human tragedy to levels of unbelievable heights, or more accurately, we should say depths. If only the participants in this unspeakable evil were people in government or business it would be horrible, but it is not these people alone who are participating. The religious world leaders seem to also be involved as well. The Catholic Church has been rocked to its core by allegations of these kinds of sinful involvements. The whore of Babylon rides on the back of the kings of the earth. Keep in mind that if these low life's get away with their perversion on earth - they will not get away with it forever.

14 *"They will say, 'The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your luxury and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.' 15 The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn 16 and cry out:*

*"Woe! Woe to you, great city,
dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet,
and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!"*

17 In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!

“Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. 18 When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’ 19 They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out:

*“Woe! Woe to you, great city,
where all who had ships on the sea
became rich through her wealth!*

In one hour she has been brought to ruin!

Rejoicing begins here and crescendo's into heaven as we read in Chapter 19.

20 “Rejoice over her, you heavens!

Rejoice, you people of God!

Rejoice, apostles and prophets!

For God has judged her

with the judgment she imposed on you.”

When justice comes to these captains and kings, thieves and miscreants, they will face God's mighty hand in judgment and it will be the righteous in the very heavens themselves who will rejoice. When we look forward to what life will be like on this earth when Jesus comes again, this is what we see. We see justice coming. We long for this. For this, the martyrs under the altar in heaven pray. The Millennium will be heaven on earth, as mankind, led by Jesus himself, finds our rightful place as God's imagers and earth managers. Even so come Lord Jesus.

Let us return to the disruptive activity of Nibiru and the asteroids flying with it. More of the gravitationally locked space debris hits the earth. V.21 tells us about this space rock.

21 Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said:

*“With such violence
the great city of Babylon will be thrown down,
never to be found again.*

*22 The music of harpists and musicians, pipers and trumpeters,
will never be heard in you again.*

*No worker of any trade
will ever be found in you again.*

*The sound of a millstone
will never be heard in you again.*

*23 The light of a lamp
will never shine in you again.*

*The voice of bridegroom and bride
will never be heard in you again.*

Your merchants were the world's important people.

By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.

24 In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.”

In my opinion, Revelation 18 is the Wormwood aftermath seen through the eyes of what has been lost materially. We first saw the planetary impacts on the earth's surface. Now we look at the economic impact. As planet X passes through our solar system it will gravitationally lock other big pieces of rock and bring them along. These pieces of space jetsam and flotsam will not all strike the earth at the same time. It seems as if verse 21 tells of a second impact. It also says it is smaller - or the size of a large mill stone. Wormwood, the first asteroid impact was like a mountain. This second impact is made by an asteroid the size of a large millstone. There may be even more than these two that will hit the earth, but these get the mention of the angel speaking to John.

Allow me to take a shot at summarizing the events of Tribulation to this point.

1. The first three and one half years see the logical conclusion of man's folly come to fruition. Social, economic, religious, corporate and governmental and military industrial complex entities that have always had rotten spots will decay to their cores and bring misery to bear on all of humanity.
2. In the second three and one half years, space events compound humanity's misery. The passing of Wormwood kills one fourth of the population of the planet and reduces the land mass of the planet surface considerably. By the end of the second half of the Tribulation a total extinction of all life on earth becomes a possibility.
3. The imprisoned evil that was too bad to be allowed loose in the universe will be released and the destruction these evil beings, aliens or demons cause is almost unspeakable.

I am beginning to conclude that all the judgments coming from horses, bowls, trumpets and scrolls are generally telling about just a few events all connected to two causes so far. Cause one -- man's sin and cause two -- Wormwood. The third cause is the release of the imprisoned evil bound since the angel wars.

How does the Tribulation end?

Revelation 16:12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East.

Big political and military changes will come to the Middle East near the end of the Tribulation. The influence of the Euphrates River nations will dry up and cease to exist. Iraq, Iran and Israel will no longer be able to hold back the Chinese army and the already announced plans for conquest. The kings of the East which primarily describe the Chinese, Russians and Koreans will move into the area drawn there by oil deposits.

13 Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

These frog-like demons will emerge motivated by Satan himself, his Beast government and the religious world leader. These things that will come out of their mouths are political aspirations to gain more resources for world domination.

14 They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

Middle East oil will be the main draw to entice these kings of the whole world to move on the Middle East. The place where they will eventually meet is in northern Israel in an area called Jezreel.

Megiddo is an ancient walled city in the area that is central in the Jezreel area. When “Har” hill top is added to Megiddo one hears Har-Megiddo or Armageddon.

15 “Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.”16 Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

The Battle of Armageddon will pit east against west. Socialist Communism will butt heads with capitalistic democracy. Believers in Jesus will fight against the combined agnostic or atheistic armies of the world. Oil, religion and control of the earth will be the draw that brings all these armies together in Jezreel. Armageddon will be the final battle and come at the end of the Tribulation. The forces for good from both earth and in heaven gather here and the slaughter is unprecedented. We are told in Revelation 14 the blood from the battle will be bridle high for about 180 miles. The real contestants will be Lucifer and the Lamb of God. It will be a proxy war fought between the followers of the latter and it will be bloody.

Who wins?

Revelation 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

That is who he is!!!

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, “Come, gather together for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small.” 19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army.

Here is what will happen to the Chinese Communists, Russians and Koreans and all NWO adherents.

1. The rebellious governments (Beast system) was dissolved and ended.
2. The false religious leaders were all captured

The Beast system and the false religious system was completely abolished. Those fat cats with demonically inspired goals were all destroyed and the destruction was unimaginable. There was so much military weaponry laying around that the “birds” or survivors who were left scavenging picked up all they wanted.

Revelation 19:20 But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. 21 The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Meet the winner!

Revelation 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

How about going back with me to Revelation 5 where the Lamb takes the scroll from the hand of Him who sits on the throne in heaven. In heaven there was great concern and dread as the divine counsel dealt with the fall of Lucifer and the chaos he caused. They wondered who could fix all he had broken? Who was able to enter his captured planet earth and take it back? An Elder in heaven said, *Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.* Whew - heaven said in unison because there was one eligible to redeem all that had been turned. It was the Lion of Judah, the blood line of David. It was one of David's family who could take it all back and tell the future history of earth. But wait! A Lamb walked up and took the scroll. The Lamb looked like it had been killed, yet it lived and took the scroll and thus promised to solve the problem.

We know now it was Jesus the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Before Lucifer was created and before humanity walked in Eden, the Lamb had already determined in his heart to fix the problem in case any of his family erred and walked in defiance to his will. He was resolute and determined to have a family in heaven and on earth even if it took drastic measures to accomplish.

The Lamb wins.

Revelation 19 is a summary of the final battle and all that is going on in heaven as the final war is waged. It is a victory lap for all who have suffered at the hands of the big banks and multi-national corporations which is the whore of Babylon and the NWO Beast. This is the story of Armageddon from a heavenly perspective.

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

2 for true and just are his judgments.

He has condemned the great prostitute

who corrupted the earth by her adulteries.

He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

3 And again they shouted:

“Hallelujah!

The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.”

4 The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried:

“Amen, Hallelujah!”

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

“Praise our God,

all you his servants,

you who fear him,

both great and small!”

6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

“Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

7 Let us rejoice and be glad

and give him glory!

When the bride of Christ and the bridegroom Jesus get back to heaven after the battle is over we will all share in a wedding feast to celebrate all that has happened. Then we will rejoice at the Lamb's retaking of the planet earth and restoring it to Edenic status and condition.

There is more: The Bride (the church) and the Bride groom (Jesus) are now together and will be so forever. In Chapter 22, we will all return to earth and live with Jesus in a new sin free world.

*For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.*

*8 Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear.”*

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)

9 Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

Don't worship the angels.

10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.”

The family of God in heaven (the angels) and the family of God on earth (human beings) now are equal and unified. The angels are now our fellow servants and together we will hold to and proclaim the testimony of Jesus.

The description of Jesus in his glory

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is

the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords.

Let us stand in awe and take his beauty in

He rides a white horse

He is called Faithful and True

His war making is just

His eyes blaze like fire

He has many crowns on his head (The reach of his rule is multi-dimensional)

He has a name written on him no one knows (This speaks to his infinite nature)

His army is invincible

His leadership is unstoppable

His reach is furious

The name written on his thigh - King of Kings and lord of lords

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small."

19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. 20 But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. 21 The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Pivot point #10 Turning the Battlefield into a Garden

When the trouble reaches the point of exploding into total destruction The Lord Jesus steps in and puts an end to the root cause of the trouble. He sends an angel with something, like a supernatural chain, that binds Satan and ends his run of mischief among the sons of Adam for a thousand years. John says Satan's power was in the area of deception. He was not as powerful as one might think, but he made everyone think he was invincible. Of course, the Lamb was not duped at all. Now, for a very long time the devil can deceive the nations no more.

The names of Lucifer help flesh out his character. He is called a dragon, ancient serpent, the devil and Satan. The idea of a dragon standing as man's mortal enemy is rooted deeply in humanity's distant past in lore and legend. There is the idea of a Leviathan - a monstrous sea creature - whose age and size give him a godlike image. Webster's dictionary describes the creature like this: Leviathan appears in the book of Psalms, as a sea serpent that is killed by God and then given as food to the Hebrews in the wilderness, and it is referred to in the book of Job as well. The Leviathan is found in the literature of the Mesopotamian cultures and even in Ugaritic myths. The idea of this monster really speaks to Lucifer's age, ability to cause fear, his power and ability to

destroy. The dragon references pick up and connect to the serpent in the Garden metaphor and ties all the snake-like references together. All taken together we get a fuzzy picture of this created being unequalled in all of God's creation yet fallen. Let us pick up the narrative in Revelation 20 as one of God's angels deals with the Serpent.

Revelation 20

1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended.

As the smoke clears on earth from the final battle, we see something coming from heaven like the asteroids and meteors that did so much damage when planet X passed through. This thing streaking through space is not space debris this time. It is an angel. He comes to seize the "dragon" that we know as the devil who has just been decimated by the forces of good at the battle of Armageddon. I'm sure Satan and his forces are trying to discover what hit them. They are laying about licking their wounds and trying to figure out what to do next when something happens that can only be described as out-of-this-world. The Angel with the key to Satan's cage streaks out from the universe and swoops low over where the old dragon is holed up. The angel grabs the old dragon, throws him in his cage and locks him there. No more will he deceive people. No more will he entice elite families of earth to rob and steal the resources of earth and gather all wealth into their pockets. No more will failed governmental policies rob people of their freedom and dignity. Never again will there be inequity between ethnic groups as everyone gets an equal share and is allowed to sit at the big table together. The original reptilian is in big trouble. He is locked in his cage in a prison called the Abyss. Imagine it to be like a black hole where the forces that will keep him locked will be so profound that nothing will escape from its gates. The devil is out of our way for a millennium.

Isaiah 65 gives us a beautiful description of this wonderful time when Satan is no longer at work.

Isaiah 65:17 *"See, I will create
new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.
18 But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I will create,
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people a joy.
19 I will rejoice over Jerusalem
and take delight in my people;
the sound of weeping and of crying
will be heard in it no more.*

With the devil in his cage locked and harmless for a thousand years, the earth will seem as if it is a new place. This forward looking song recorded in Isaiah may in fact be referencing the new heaven and new earth that will be created by Jesus as we prepare

to enter into eternity, but I am sure the glory of the new will be seen in part by the end of the reign of Jesus on earth.

As bad as life can be during this run-up to the Tribulation, we need to be reminded a time is coming when we will barely remember how things are now and they will hardly ever come to mind. There is joy coming as we live with Jesus on a planet that will return to Edenic quality and pristine in nature.

Notice what happens to human life expectancy during the millennium.

*20 "Never again will there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out his years;
the one who dies at a hundred
will be thought a mere child;
the one who fails to reach a hundred
will be considered accursed.*

Medical science will reach heights unimagined in our sin clouded world. In that day infant mortality will be a thing of the past as all children will be born safely and the abortionists evil practices will be no more. No more baby parts will be sold for pharmaceutical purposes. Babies will be born and will be expected to live hundreds of years. Old men will not be considered old until they are near or passed the ages of the people who lived before the flood. Verse 22 compares the life expectancy in the millennium of a person to be similar to that of a tree. A 100 year old man might die and people will be shocked that he died so young.

*21 They will build houses and dwell in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
22 No longer will they build houses and others live in them,
or plant and others eat.
For as the days of a tree,
so will be the days of my people;
my chosen ones will long enjoy
the work of their hands.
23 They will not labor in vain,
nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;
for they will be a people blessed by the Lord,
they and their descendants with them.*

In Bible times there was so much war fare and political upheaval that building a house at times seemed like a waste of time because someone other than the builder would live in it. Why plant vineyards and olive trees because some enemy will take it away and keep the owner from enjoying the fruit of his labor. That is no more in the thousand years reign. With no evil to pollute our work, with no short lives to interrupt our plans and goals, human beings will accomplish every dream we have had for ourselves and do it all under the guise of the lover of our souls who is resident president riding guard on the golden age of mankind. Jesus will be here in person and lovingly watching over his bride. Her prayers will be instantly heard and answers to them will come sometimes even before we pray.

*24 Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.*

Eat or be eaten was the old law of the jungle. The survival of the fittest has been in play since Adam ate the apple. It ends during the Millennium. The very nature of the wild gentles-out as peace settles on the planet like a soft falling snow covering all with beauty, joy and hope. Isaiah 11:9 . . . *for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

Revelation 20:25

The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox,

Watch as Jesus reaches back to the curse put on the serpent after he enticed Eve. The serpent was cursed to crawl and eat dirt. This is one more time Jesus points to the curse placed on Satan.

and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,"says the Lord.

Isaiah 2:4 *He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.*

The last of verse Revelation 20:25 and Isaiah 2:4 summarize what life will be like when we have turned the battlefield into a garden. The gods lived on mountains in all ancient mythologies. So, when the Holy Spirit wanted to communicate with human beings in all ages of life on earth and cultures he referred to God living on a holy mountain. There is something that is hard to explain about mountains. On top, we can see forever it seems and awe and wonder enter our hearts as we consider the beauty we behold from this lofty height. The earth will take on the ambiance of being a holy mountain from pole to pole and all around the globe. The reverence for the presence of God will make every square inch of the planet surface seem like a cathedral.

The jail time for the snake finally ends and God releases the old dragon from his cage. He will not be a happy old devil as he spits and snarls at the isolation and imprisonment he has just endured. He will be very angry and will begin immediately to gather the malcontents and power hungry who have chafed under the reign of Jesus as they were not allowed to rise to dominance under his supreme justice.

After that, he must be set free for a short time. 4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Not all scores have been settled. Justice still is waiting for the final verdicts to be announced. The thousand years have been literally heaven on earth, but despite the quality of Jesus' government, there are some who still think they could do better. They may still remember the days gone by when they controlled world economies and ran big corporations where they lived like kings and gods. They still want these things when they have experienced perfect love, government and planet wide peace. I guess it was too peaceful for them. Whatever will motivate these eternally and spiritually empty people to resist the idea of utopia boggles my mind. What more could be wanted? What more could be done? Remember these discontents are not influenced by evil because the NWO Beast government has been crushed; the spiritual source of the rebellion has been imprisoned and barred from human contact. Apparently, the human heart without Jesus is truly twisted and deranged. This probably small percentage of the millennium population would rather rule in hell than serve in heaven. Whatever motivates these acts, they reveal criminal insanity that 1,000 years of divine rule has not removed. This final war will purge eternity of their unyielding, blind arrogance.

It was in this moment of the release of Satan one last time, we get a glimpse behind the scenes in the spirit world. From heaven the souls of the martyrs (those beheaded by Isis in the Middle East and Christians who would not bow to the Anti-Christ and Beast system during the Tribulation) of all time are present. These amazing people of God were there watching all these events unfold and loving Jesus' dominance and beauty. The rebel dead were still in their prisons/graves waiting for the millennium to end. They will be resurrected to be judged and sentenced to their eternal punishment. The saints who had died from Adam to the last man were already resurrected and enjoying being in the presence of Jesus. These saints will never die again.

(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

Let us look closely at the word "dead." Just for clarity, everyone dies once. Saints were beheaded, Christians were killed all throughout history. These all have died and more will die during the Tribulation. The born-again person will never die a spiritual death. The physical cessation of human life is just a walk through the valley of death. The child of God never has a fade to black experience. At death we go from physical to spiritual instantly with our full thinking mind and our personality intact. We will be glorified like Jesus' body after his resurrection. The unbeliever dies physically and then spiritually. Jesus came to earth to rescue us from spiritual death by giving us eternal life.

On Earth Satan sets about rounding up these discontents and rebels for a final attempt at ousting God from his throne and putting Lucifer in His place. It fails miserably.

I heard a Bible teacher describe this final war with the big picture in mind. His description went like this. He said from every galaxy in the universe space fleets will jump through dimensional star gates all planning to join Satan's final battle against the Most High. I lack his imagination, but I really like his spunk. Who knows? This war could be just like this. We get a glimpse of his recruiting efforts in Revelation 20:7 *When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.*

The largest army ever put together marches on Jerusalem. This army comes from all over the planet and if you can stretch your mind a little - it could also come from all across the universe. Who knows? So much drama is being built into this final battle. This showdown has been coming since Lucifer said, "I will." We knew it was coming from the early pages of Genesis when a promise was made of a head wound being given to the seed of the Serpent. We have felt in the marrow of our bones that right would prevail. We have told it to our children in every Bible story that the conflict was going to come to final conclusion and right would prevail over wrong. Personally, I am a little bit disappointed at the lack of detail John gives us about the final war. I wanted to hear more about punch and counter punch. I wanted to hear of sorties and flanking movements of troops but that is not what we get. The opponents in the war gather in numbers never before heard of, Jesus shows up, and it is all over just like that. Like a poorly made fireworks, the whole bang kind of fizzles out. Fire comes down from heaven and it is all over. Oh, come on John - is that all you're going to tell us? Just fire falls and it is over? I am sure the fire coming down from heaven is much more involved and dramatic than just a lightning strike, but that is what Jesus showed John on Patmos. I can imagine innumerable battles all over the universe as rebel forces are defeated in numerous ways and in distant places. Please forgive my childish thoughts. My imagination of the impact of this war is probably the result of playing with toy soldiers too much as a child.

9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. The leadership of the evil attempt is gathered, judged, sentenced and the sentence carried out. *10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.* A lake of burning sulfur is the final address of the end time criminals. The Devil is thrown in the lake of burning sulfur - The Beast (The NWO One-World - Government) is thrown in the lake - The false prophet was already there. What

a motley crew! Notice their punishment. They will be tormented day and night forever. They are not killed. Why? Because these entities are beings which are made to live forever. They are immortal. Their lives do not end so their punishment never ends. So much for these evil beings. What about the rebel humans who refused to believe in Jesus? What happens to them?

Revelation 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

When it is all over God will require everyone and everything that refused to believe in him to stand before him one last time. This command performance is called the Great White Throne Judgment. Everyone commanded to attend is already condemned. The family of God or the Bride of Christ is not present. This is exclusively a judgment for the unredeemed. There is no expectation of clemency or forgiveness at this time.

No more will they hear, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." That time is long passed. Salvation is limited to the window of time human beings live their lives. By the time the Great White Throne event occurs, grace has been refused and for that there is no remedy. Refusing grace is the unforgivable sin. The case is closed. The only question remaining is over the disposal of their eternal souls. Whether true or not, I have wondered if (knowing the love and redemptive plan that lived in the heart of God) the book of life when written originally every human being's name was inscribed. I can see in my imagination a name written in gold begins to melt and fade away and eventually disappears by the repeated rejection of the divine love. When Jesus wept, it was not just over Lazarus' death. I believe it was also over the empty space where a name was originally written. When the promise of redemption is extended, we are required to send an RSVP back to heaven. We send it when we are saved. We confirm it when we are baptized. Every day we live under the blood and leadership of the Holy Spirit it is kept clean and easily read. It arrives when anyone says -no- to self and -yes- to Jesus. Without the RSVP, your name will just not be there when Jesus looks for it at the Great White Throne judgment. John says that God so loved the world. When the Gospel invitation came to each life, God allowed all his creation to have the right to say - no thanks.

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

It was Jesus himself who is revealing this horrid truth to John the Revelator. It was Jesus in the New Testament who compared Hell to Gehenna. Like a trash dump outside of a city all the no-longer-usable things are taken there for disposal. No longer usable items are left there to be out of the way. In ancient times the organic nature of their rubbish required a fire to break it down and degrade it to remove its odor and make it inert. Eternity has a very similar need. What to do with beings who will not follow the Lamb? When grace has been rejected finally, where are these unbending and eternally defiant individuals going to reside? They cannot be allowed into heaven where only perfect love exists. They cannot be allowed freedom of movement around the universe because their evil influence no longer has potential. I can imagine that our loving Jesus sadly consigns these unyielding beings to a final solution much like a black hole. With forces so powerful drawing all light and matter into smaller and smaller particles with gravity so intense that nothing ever can escape, these unforgiven reach an ultimate place of non-existence. The lake of fire must be something like a black hole only much worse.

Pivot point #11 Eternity

What's next?

As regards the amount of change attributed to a pivot point, this one is by far the biggest. You may want to fasten your seatbelt because the last pivot will have some sharp turns. The answer to the question of what comes next after we step off into eternity will be big enough to occupy our best thoughts forever. We will never completely explore all of God's beauty and grace. We will forever have our eternal minds blown by his wisdom, intelligence and power.

21 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. Is John telling us God is going to create a new universe or does he have a new planet in mind to be put in the already existing universe? I suspect he is talking about a new planet in the already existing universe, but remaking the entire thing would not be too big a job for the One who made it at the start. I will use the planet-only remodeling idea in this writing, but still will allow for the fact He may have a comprehensive overhaul in mind for the universe. The planet earth's atmosphere will be remade from its Troposphere, which is the lowest layer of our atmosphere and extending upward to the Exosphere (The layer that touches outer space). The word John used to tell us about the new earth was *Kainos* which we translate - new, but is it brand new or re-newed? *Kainos* as respects substance means - of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon or

unheard of. Okay, so the new earth will be an entirely new kind of planet. It will be unprecedented in that there has never been nor will there ever be one like it. The old earth passes away and is replaced by a new kind of planet. Notice the differences between the old and the new earth. The new earth has no sea. The old earth was 2/3 sea which vastly limited the land mass potential. The new earth has no sea or limiting factors. The oceans separate continents and people from each other on our earth today, but no more in the new order. Unity will be the hallmark and defining quality of the new earth. We will never be divided again into political, racial, economic or religious camps again.

The new earth will have a new capitol city from which God will rule and dwell. *2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.* The old order held the whore Babylon as the model of commerce and governance. These two constructs (commerce and governance) needed religion as the third part to help gather people under her influence. The old idea of city was based on lives rotating around these two fallen ideas held up by religion as the third leg of the stool. Now v.2 tells us about a new kind of city coming to a new kind of earth. The new city is holy. Holy is a word to used to describe something that has only one quality. It is not mixed by conflicting or even harmonizing parts. The new city is totally telling one story and going one direction. There are no disagreeing elements in it. If for making a point we could say the new city was made of salt there would be not one speck of pepper in it. The city was holy and wholly. There will never be any division in the Holy City. The city is called New Jerusalem. It is the old Jerusalem made new. The old Jerusalem was the city loved by three religions and revered as sacred space. The new will be sacred space for all people without division. There will be no more fighting over who gets to build temples, mosques or churches as Revelation 21:22 tells us, *There will be no temple, mosque or church in the city.*

Remember John is telling us what he saw. He had to use things he understood to communicate. He will need the word, "like", or phrases like, "it looked as if" to bring his vision into focus for us who read it later. So, to summarize his vision of city he says it looked like a bride walking down the aisle at her wedding. She was dressed as beautifully as is possible with nothing left out or expense spared. Here is the connection I believe John is making - the Holy City Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ. The Church that passed down through history sometimes beautiful and sometimes a little messed up has now moved far passed anything to mar her beauty or give her a wrinkle or stain. She is now magnificently and incomparably beautiful coming down the aisle to meet her bridegroom. As she approaches her lover, an official announcement is made. *3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.* The heavenly announcer says: A-hmm -

hey people - you need to know that as of right now and forever more, the Almighty God plans to live with his bride and be her husband and her God. The two will be inseparable forever. Isn't this somewhat like what the preacher or priest says at the end of the wedding? I now pronounce you husband and wife. So, we have one level of symbolism working of Bride and Groom and now another old story swoops in that reminds us of the division of the nations following Babel's fiasco. At that time, the Most High, known in covenant as YHWH, takes the children of Israel as his own people. Both metaphors now are woven together to reveal the beautiful picture of the future for those who love the Lord Jesus. We are no longer sullied by sin as the church and we forever are with the one we love and who loves us to death - literally to death.

Next, the Holy Spirit reminds us of what is to come. Now we get a glimpse of eternity. *4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'*⁵ *He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

In this old order, all knew very well the truth about death. God's new order will never experience death again. In God's New World Order that replaces the Beast system, death is not even a long-forgotten-memory. John tells us in Revelation 21:4 that death has passed away or put another way he indicates death has died. *"I am making everything new"*, is the point upon which eternity is based. Eternity is not built on anything old. The new that is coming is all freshly created for the new reality of eternity. The old order of dog eat dog and survival of the fittest is no more. The idea of death being ever present because of sin is no more. When Jesus told John he was making everything new, I believe he was referring to life without sin and death and much, much more.

Revelation 21:6 starts out with a vaguely familiar phrase. Haven't we heard this phrase before? This is not the first time Jesus has said, *"It is done"*, is it? As the crucifixion came to an end and Jesus realized he had finished his mission of redemption he said - It is finished. He said it to himself, He said to the divine counsel, He said it to the fallen in their rebel prison camp, He said it to everything and everyone. He said, "I did it." *The salvation of the sons of Adam is complete.* He told the fallen their rebellion is also over and their fate is sealed. He said that He was done and so were they. He spoke these words to those who had rebelled and led humanity away from Him. He told them - It is done. He wanted them to know the burning love that lives in His heart went as far as love can go to redeem human beings and end fallen angel influence upon people.

6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Then the beauty of redemption is spoken to the redeemed. To the thirsty I will give

water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

For an idea or reality to make sense, it has to have contrast. What is the idea of light if we don't know what darkness is? Blindness is a concept that can only be understood by the sighted. The Bride of Christ has lived through fear and pain, and stood her ground amid a world in rebellion to Jesus and to those who were sold out to Satan. She was pure because she had been washed clean by the blood of the Lamb. Now in eternity we are about to discover what and who will not be there. Revelation 21:8 *But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.* What is being described here is the life choices made by those who refused redemption. Without the blood of the Lamb, we are all guilty of all the infractions listed. No more will people who are sold out to sin be in eternity as part of the Bride living forever with the Lamb. These who lived with unbended knee are consigned to a second death. They are expunged from eternity completely.

The New Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ, which is church glorified—Church in the best sense of the word. In this angel-led vision, we see the church made up of both new and Old Testament saints. The gates of the city speak of the faithful believing Jews of the Old Testament as the foundations of the city speak to the New Testament Apostles. Revelation 21:9 *One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”* 10 *And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, **and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God.* 11 *It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.* 12 *It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.* 13 *There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west.* 14 *The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.* The church/Bride in eternity is described and measured. 15 *The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls.* 16 *The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia[c] in length, and as wide and high as it is long.* 17 *The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits[d] thick.[e]* 18 *The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.* 19 *The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh*

jasinth, and the twelfth amethyst.[f] 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass. Most of the time as I thought about these words describing the city I envisioned it as a giant cube 1,400 miles square. I now wonder if it is not a pyramidal shape for too many reasons to go into with this work, but it is something to consider. Either geometric works with the given dimensions of the city.

There are some obvious absences from the Holy City that tell us almost as much about it as does its descriptions of size and quality. *22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.* No temple, church or mosque in heaven - how about that! The simplest explanation of this surprising phenomenon is the whole place is sacred space. There is an old Southern Gospel song I heard sung as a child that posits - *Every day will be Sunday bye and bye.* I used to hate that song because to a young country boy Sunday was a day I could not go fishing, hunting or play ball. Sundays were taken up with stuffy church and boring family events. To be reminded that in heaven we would have to go to church everyday was a real bummer. Imagine my relief when I read this amazing verse and found that there will be no church at all in heaven. Understand, these childhood ideas were the musings of someone who had not yet learned to appreciate worship and gathering with God's people as I have since. So, no church and now, we learn there is no need of any kind of light source -sun or moon - because The Lamb is the light of the city. Okay, now remember who or what the city is. She is the Bride of Christ, the Church. We are the Holy City. The church in heaven radiates with the brilliance of Jesus' presence. There is so much more here that we can dig into later, but we rejoice knowing he is the light of the world and that brilliant light will be ours to enjoy forever.

To frame some way to understand v.24-27 we must work forward with some truths found in God's word. Truth number one: all human beings (understand all) have either joined with Jesus in eternity as his family (bride), or have been put in eternities trash dump called The Lake of Fire. If I understand this correctly, the experiment is over. What God intended to reveal has been revealed. Logically this means that the only people remaining are glorified saints who have become the Bride of Christ. Truth number two: - On the new earth, among the redeemed, exists governmental organization. This remembers God's penchant for order and for his involvement of his family sharing in his joy of creation, judgment and administration. Keep this in mind as we work through the few following verses showing us what life will be like on the new kind of planet. *24 The nations will walk by its light, and the **kings of the earth** will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 **The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.** 27 Nothing*

impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

There will be kings on the new earth. There will be nations on the new earth. The word John used to tell us of nations is the word "Ethnos" or ethnicity. That's right! There will be some kind of ethnic diversity among redeemed humanity in eternity. That may be a little disappointing to those who thought only one race would dominate in eternity. A real insight comes from the Word of God and that is: God loves diversity. The Bride will not be one homogenized, pasteurized thing, but will vibrate with every color and flavor God can imagine, and He has a big imagination. In John 10:16, Jesus says he has other sheep that are not of this fold that he has come to invite to join him in family. I understand the people who thought this included those of us who are Gentiles. I have often allowed my small brain to wander out into the unknown and ask - could this mean Jesus has "other" beings he wants to include in His family? Will the Church in eternity include ET's? Just thinking! The Roman Catholic Church in the 21st century has been dealing with this possibility. They have publicly asked the question - can the church baptize ET's? They followed this query with this fuse blowing thought. What if ET does not need to be redeemed? I think we better stop a moment and take a deep breath because we may have used up all the oxygen in our brains on this thought.

I have read some contemporary Bible scholars who ask - Where is Eden? Not a few commentators position it under the waters of the Dead Sea. Some put it in Mesopotamia around the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Others think it is Uganda, Africa. What if Eden was not even on earth? Many references have it residing on the Mountain of God. All water flowed from Eden, meaning it was on higher ground than surrounding areas because water flows downhill as all plumbers know. Ezekiel 28 has some very fascinating information given to us as the description of the accusations are made to Satan. As we read, Eden is a garden. We will also discover Eden is a garden on a mountain. Ezekiel 18:12 *"You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 **You were in Eden**, the garden of God v. 14 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. 17 b. . . So I threw you to the earth;*

Some see this as an indication that Eden may have not even been on earth. I really do not think it matters much at all whether Eden was on Earth or in Heaven. Eden was used as the place where God put his first human creation. He knew Eden would have to be a perfect place for this original man to live and grow into all God had in mind. It was a perfect place for a perfect human. After it all came crashing down, and experienced the curse, it was no longer in its pristine condition and at our vantage point of eternity it is totally restored or rebuilt.

Revelation 22:1 *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb*

2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. With these words, we understand eternity. This is where we find our eternal identity and our joy of serving and looking on the face of the one we love most.

What was God doing before he created the universe? The reason this question should even come up is because we presume that what He was doing before He will do again. Why does he have to return to what he was doing before? We are way over our pay grade dealing with questions like this. Saint Augustine had an answer for those who asked what God was doing before creation. Jokingly he said, *God was preparing Hell for people who ask such questions.* Before the creation of the universe, time itself did not exist. So, to ask the question what was God doing before is troublesome because there was no “before” in the sense of time. It is hard to even say this but in the real sense God did not exist before the creation of the universe. Said another way - he did not exist in the universe before He created it. God’s existence was other. He was prior. He did not exist in the sense of time because time is a construct necessary for the universe not for God. Existence is tied to physical things like stars, galaxies, planets, molecules and atoms on down to the very plank level. God’s existence precedes all material existence and he will continue after the universe winds up and winks out.

Isaiah 43:10 records these words from God: *“You are My witnesses,’ says the Lord, ‘and My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.”* He existed as God. He loves - *Ephesians 1:4* *Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. He desires to be known -John 17:24* *Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

This is where we will end this writing with unanswerable questions about a Loving Redeemer who for all eternity will be big enough to keep our curiosity in play and our minds blown.

Final Thoughts:

We are very much like fish in a fish bowl discussing the schedule, philosophy and lifestyle of the people who live in the house. Most of the time what goes on outside of our bowl is a puzzle to us. We see some movement from time to time and know when it gets light or dark, but what the light is or even what the movement means, we just don't know. Dimensionally locked in this space/time continuum, we see through a glass darkly, yet there is so much more going on just outside of our little fish bowl.

I often speak of the weak nature of opinions and have said repeatedly that people do not want to go to church to hear the opinion of preachers. They want to know what the Bible says, not what we think it says or means. Despite this truth, please understand Pivot Points is full of opinions. It is full of my opinions and the opinions of others that have spoken into my life. So filter what you have read here carefully and ask the Holy Spirit to help sort out truth from opinion should they ever take separate roads. I have presented for you how these realities could have occurred and how the future might unfold to help you with your journey and manage the pivot points in your life. I hope after prayerfully reading and studying through this writing, you will have a better idea of where we are on God's long arc of time. My heart tells me we are about to experience a huge pivot point.

Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the works of this law.

Definitions:

Cosmology - The study of the physical universe considered as a totality of phenomena in time and space. The Astrophysical study of the history, structure and constituent dynamics of the universe.

Eschatology : a branch of theology concerned with the final events in the history of the world or of humankind: a belief concerning death, the end of the world, or the ultimate destiny of humankind specifically : any of various Christian doctrines concerning the Second Coming, the resurrection of the dead, or the Last Judgment

Biblical World View: A belief that accepts the Bible's history, ethics and morality as the way to format ones life. It believes God is the originator and source for life on earth. It is the opposite of a secular world view

Secular World View: A way to see the world through the eyes of empirical scientific understandings. Primarily it is understood by Darwinism explaining our origins and reasons for existence.

The Beast: The New World Order built on the ashes of the Old Roman Empire. The Beast is a One-World-Government with one currency, religion and military.

The Whore of Babylon : Too-big-to-fail bank and their multi-national corporation partners who have made themselves rich at the expense of the common person. The whore is a system of commerce.

Tribulation - a time of trouble coming at the end of the Church age. It is a day of wrath when God punishes all rebels for their sinful rebellion. It covers the last 7 years of man.

Millennium - The thousand year reign of Jesus on planet earth following the church age and the Tribulation. This long expanse of time will allow mankind to reach our ultimate position of glory in science, art, spirituality and the elimination of hunger and homelessness. It is the time when our best music will be written our best scientific discoveries will be made and our greatest discoveries are discovered.