

A Comprehensive Handout & Study Guide



# THE PANORAMA OF GOD'S PURPOSES

A Complete Overview of Dispensational and Prophetic Truth

*Series Study Materials*

## PART A

### The Nation of Israel

From the call of Abram and the Covenants of Promise, through the national crisis and rejection of Messiah, to the current state and future Coronation.

## PART B

### Nations & Kingdoms

The origin of earthly realms from Nimrod to Babylon. An analysis of the four world empires in Daniel's visions and the establishment of the Only True World Kingdom.

## PART C

### Kingdom of Heaven

The presentation, perversion, and literal fulfillment of the Kingdom. Features an in-depth breakdown of the 7 prophetic parables of Matthew 13.

## PART D

### The Church of God

The hidden parenthesis of prophecy. Tracking the 7 stages of professing testimony through Church history and the vital purpose of the Church's ultimate removal.



## Timetable of Activities and Topics – Malden Road Gospel Hall June 2026

<b>Sun 31<sup>st</sup> MIN</b> (30 mins)	<b>A Panorama: ‘Times of Gentiles’</b> (Luk 21:24) <b>‘Acceptable year of Jehovah ...’</b> (Isa 61:2)
<b>Sun 31<sup>st</sup> GOSPEL</b> (30 mins)	<b>‘Three Distinct Groups’</b> (1Thes 4)
<b>Mon 1<sup>st</sup> MIN</b> (60 mins)	<b>‘Four Empires &amp; Four Beasts’</b> (Dan 2, 7-8)
<b>Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> MIN</b> (60 mins)	<b>‘490 Years x Two &amp; a Remainder of 7’</b> (Dan 9)
<b>Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> MIN</b> (60 mins)	<b>‘The Last Days – Church Period’</b> (Jn 14; Acts 2)
<b>Thu 4<sup>th</sup> MIN</b> (60 mins)	<b>‘Apocalypse’ – ‘Things Which Shall be Hereafter ...’</b> <b>An Overview of John’s Visions</b> (Rev 1:1, 19)
<b>Fri 5<sup>th</sup> MIN</b> (60 mins)	<b>‘An Overview of Symbols: Seals, Trumpets, Bowls’</b> (Rev 6-16)
<b>Sun 7<sup>th</sup> MIN</b> (30 mins)	<b>‘The Sea Beast &amp; Land Beast – Who?’</b> (Rev 13,17)
<b>Sun 7<sup>th</sup> GOSPEL</b> (30 mins)	<b>‘Christ or Antichrist? – The Image &amp; The Mark’</b> (Rev 13)
<b>Mon 8<sup>th</sup> MIN</b> (60 mins)	<b>‘The Two Babylons – Synonymous or Separate?’</b> (Rev 17,18)
<b>Tues 9<sup>th</sup> MIN</b> (60 mins)	<b>‘A Return in Two Stages?’</b> (Isa 63; Zech 14; Rev 16)
<b>Wed 10<sup>th</sup> MIN</b> (60 mins)	<b>‘The Kingdom Established; Satan Bound ...’</b> <b>‘The Last Rebellion Anywhere, Forever’</b> (Rev 20)

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### Reading List – in Preparation:

[Unless very familiar with the passages ...]

**Genesis 3, 9-12, 15, 17, 49**

**Deut 33**

**Ps 2, 24, 78, 110, 132-133**

**Isa 49-50, 52-53, 61-66**

**Ezek 48**

**Dan 1-11:2, 11:36-12:13**

**Joel 1-3**

**Obadiah 1**

**Hab 1-3**

**Zech 1-14**

**Matt 7, 24-25**

**Luk 4**

**John 13-17**

**Acts 1-2**

**1&2 Thess**

**2Pet 1-3**

**Jude 1**

**Rev 1-22**

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**[A.] The Panorama of God's Purposes: As Seen in the Nation of Israel**

1. The Call of Abram
2. The Covenants of Promise
3. The Character of the Nation
4. The Crisis of the Nation
5. The Christ Rejected by the Nation
6. The Current State of the Nation
7. The Coronation of the Nation

} Summary of Israel's History  
& Breakdown of the Topic.

**1. The Covenants in General:** Conditional or Unconditional? (Gen 6, 9)

Is there an 'Edenic' Covenant? (Gen 2:15-18) If so, it is Conditional [C]  
 or an 'Adamic' Covenant? (Gen 3:15) Never so called in Scripture [U]

**Noahic Covenant:** (Gen 6:8; 9:8-17) It is given Unconditionally [U]  
 given concerning: 'all flesh'

**Note:** Intro. of A Covenant Sign: 'waters of a flood'

**1st Abramic Covenant:** (Gen 15, 17) – The Covenant is not referred in Chp. 12 [U]

**2. The Call & Promises to Abram** are reiterated there: (Gen 12:1-3)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. Principle: 'I will...' [x 7]                | 1. 'I will shew thee...a land' (Gen 12:1)           |
| b. People: 'thy seed'                          | 2. 'I will make of thee a great nation'             |
| c. Period: 'everlasting'                       | 3. 'I will bless thee and make thy name great'      |
| d. Place: 'Canaan'                             | 4. 'I will bless them that bless thee...'           |
| e. Purpose: 'All nations blessed..'            | (and curse him that curseth thee'                   |
| f. Proof: 'Circumcision...8 <sup>th</sup> day' | further expanded: (Gen 13:15)                       |
| g. Person: 'the Lamb' = Messiah.               | 5. 'The land you see...I will give it to your seed' |
|  | 6. 'I will make thy seed as the dust...'            |
|  | 7. '...Walk through the land, I will give it thee'  |

**Covenant Security** (Gen 12)

**Covenant Symbol** (Gen 15) [Covenant Blessing Suspended on basis of rebellion,

**Covenant Sign** (Gen 17) even though the Covenant itself is Unconditional]

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mosaic or Siniatic Covenant:** (Ex 19-32)

expanded to 600+ Laws [in Lev. & Deut.]

'Covenant made with thee in Horeb' (Deut 28:26)

'All that Jehovah hath spoken we will do' (Ex 19:8) Therefore it is Conditional: [C]

The Conditional Covenant has a penalty for disobedience =

The Blessings can be Annulled

**3<sup>rd</sup> Land Covenant:** (Deut 29:1-30; 30:1-20)

The Sinaitic summarized, but aspects of Abramic included alongside, It is thus: [U]

**4<sup>th</sup> Davidic Covenant:** (2Sam 7:11) New detail: 'Kings' = Monarchy (Gen 17:16)

'Judah' = Tribe (Gen 49:10) [U]

Now a family line: 'David' = House (2Sam 17:16)

**5<sup>th</sup> New Covenant:** (Jer 31; 2Cor 3:6; Heb 12:24) 1 New Covenant –

Not 2 New Covenants [U]

**Christ the Basis** – Church are Beneficiaries  
 Millennial Final Fulfillment  
 Not Symbolic, but Literal

### 3. The Character of the Nation: (Gen 49)

*'Sons of Jacob'... 'the last days'... 'tribes of Israel'*

As seen in the Prophecy & Panorama of Jacob's 'Judgment Seat' Assessment:

<b>Reuben:</b>	Failure – lost birthright – divided in Levi/Judah/Joseph
<b>Simeon &amp; Levi</b>	Struggle with enemies...
<b>Judah:</b>	First Advent of Messiah
[Not in birth order] <b>Zebulun:</b>	Times of the Gentiles
<b>Issachar:</b>	[that is, present day conditions]
<b>Dan:</b>	False Prophet? – False Messiah [6 <sup>th</sup> in list]
<b>Gad:</b>	144,000 Pictured
<b>Asher:</b>	Tribulation Perils
<b>Naphtali:</b>	Remnant Preserved
<b>Joseph:</b>	Second Advent of Messiah
<b>Benjamin:</b>	Millennial Superior Conditions

### 4. The Crisis of the Nation: (Josh 24:31)

*'...the days of the elders that overlived Joshua'*

- a. **The Judges Period:** Eli = 13<sup>th</sup>, Total 14 inc. Samuel = 490 years. (1Sam 25)
- b. **The Monarchy Period:** Saul [type of Antichrist] to Jehoiakim 490 yrs (2Chron 36)
- c. **The Northern Captivity:** 10 Tribes captive to Assyria, 721BC (2Kings 17)
- d. **The Southern Captivity:** Judah captive to Babylon, 606BC (2Chron 36)
- e. **The Remnant Returns:** Ezra & Nehemiah, from 536BC (Ezra & Neh, Dan)
- f. **The Rejection of Messiah:** By the Rulers and by the Nation (Matt 12:24)
- g. **The Destruction of the Temple:** By Titus & the Romans AD70 (Dan 9:26)

### 5. The Presentation of Christ to the Nation: 'The Kingdom of Heaven...' (Matt 5-7)

- a. **The Manifesto of the King** (Matt 5-7)
- b. **The Messengers of the King** (Matt 10)
- c. **The Mysteries of the Kingdom** (Matt 13)
- d. **The Mercy of the King** (Matt 18) **The Kingdom as Presented**
- e. **The Manifestation of the King** (Matt 24-25) **in Matthew's Gospel**
- f. **The Murder of the King** (Matt 27)

The fulfillment of Daniel's 483<sup>rd</sup> year Prophecy, 'Messiah shall be cut off ...  
not for Himself' (Dan 9:26)

Ushered in the second part of the same prophecy, 'the people...shall destroy the city  
and sanctuary' (Dan 9:26)

Thus fulfilling the prophecy of Christ, 'Not one stone left upon another' (Matt 24:2)

### 6. The Current State of the Nation: 'The times of the Gentiles...' (Luke 21:24)

*'Jerusalem shall be trodden down'*

Owing to their Rejection of Messiah

*'times of the Gentiles'*

Present 'Day of Grace' Period.

*'blindness in part...to Israel'*

National Blindness, Indiv Blessing (Rom 11:25)

*'until the fullness of the Gentiles'*

Completion of the Church – New Era.

Israel Regathered – though in unbelief:

UN Resolution 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1947

The 'fig tree...putting forth leaves'

Nation Reborn 15<sup>th</sup> May 1948

(Mk 11; 13:28)

Jerusalem Retaken 7<sup>th</sup> June 1967

### 7. The Coronation of the Nation: (Isaiah 65-66)

*'A Nation shall be born in a day'* (Isa 66:8) – Spiritual birth, not just natural/political

*'The Year of My Redeemed'*

(Isa 63:4)

*'The Year of Recompenses for the Controversy of Zion'*

(Isa 34:8)

*'A King shall reign in righteousness'*

(Isa 32:1)

*'He shall reign over the House of Judah forever'*

(Luke 1:33)

## [B.] The Panorama of God's Purposes: Seen in Nations & Kingdoms

1. The Origin of Earthly Kingdoms
2. The Overview of World Kingdoms
3. The Opposition to World Kingdoms
4. The Only True World Kingdom



Enemies of God &  
His Earthly People

### 1. The Origin of Kingdoms & Nations: (Gen 4,10)

- Cain – went East, built a city called 'Enoch' ['dedicated'] (Gen 4:17)  
 Nimrod – Land of 'Shinar' ['between the rivers']  
 His Kingdom – 'Babil' ['Gate of God'] – from that –  
 'Nineveh' & 'Assyria' (Gen 10:10)  
 Semiramis – 'Queen of Heaven' (Jer 7:18) & Son, 'Tammuz' (Ezek 8:14)  
 'The Great Whore' (Rev 17:1)

Satan early establishes his Counterfeit: Land – City – King – Kingdom – Temple – System

### 2. The Overview of World Kingdoms: (Dan 2, 7)

Daniel is shown **FOUR World Kingdoms** in contrasting forms: **Babylon**  
**Medo-Persia**  
**Greece**  
**Rome** [not so named]

John (in Rev.) shown **SEVEN World Kingdoms:** '5 are Fallen'  
 '1 Now Is'  
 '1 Yet to Come'  
 [An 8<sup>th</sup> 'King' who is diabolical]

The Seven may be:  [The Inveterate Enemies of the Nation of Israel]	1. <b>Egypt</b>	1920 – 1490 BC
	2. <b>Assyria</b>	721 – 608 BC [relative to Israel]
	3. <b>Babylon</b>	606 – 538 BC
	4. <b>Medo-Persia</b>	538 – 332 BC [in Daniel's time]
	5. <b>Greece</b>	332 – 65 BC
	6. <b>Rome</b>	65 – 70 AD [in John's time]
	7. <b>G10 &amp; Beast's Kingdom</b>	[Future / Tribulation] [+ 'Beast out of Abyss' = 8 <sup>th</sup> ]

9<sup>th</sup> **Millennial Kingdom** 'Kingdom of...Christ' (Rev 11:15)

Gentile World Dominance END Point: **7 year Covenant** – with Antichrist  
**7 year Tribulation** – Wrath of the Lamb  
 The Manifestation, 'King of Kings' (Rev 19:11)

### 3. The Opposition to the Kingdoms: (Daniel 2)

#### Kingdoms of Nebuchadnezzar's Vision:

1. The Head of Gold 'Thou art...' = **Nebuchadnezzar** the Head – **Babylon**
2. The Chest & Arms of Silver **Medo-Persian Empire**
3. The Belly & Thighs of Brass **Grecian Empire**
4. The Legs of Iron **Roman** + Following modern Empires...  
 ['Legs' continue to 'feet' – latter day 'Kingdoms',  
 'toes' are the 'Ten' who give the 'Prince' his power]
- 4b. The Feet & Toes of Iron & Clay **G10 + Antichrist's Kingdom**  
 [\* All Kingdoms seen in character of Last Kingdom]
5. **The Stone** – The Great Mountain **Christ + Millennial Kingdom**  
 'Cut without hands.... becomes a great mountain'

**Kingdoms of Daniel's Vision:** (Daniel 7)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Lion + Eagle's Wings                  | Babylon / Future                                  |
| 2. Bear + 3 Ribs                         | End Time  |
| 3. Leopard + 4 Wings + 4 Heads           | End Time  |
| 4. Diverse Beast + Iron Teeth + 10 Horns | Last Kingdom [7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> ] |

'A time, times, & half a time...'

= 1,260 days

= 42 months

= 3.5 years

} 3 Horns 'plucked up'  
+ 1 'little Horn'  
'Eyes' + 'mouth' + 'speaking great things...'  
(Dan 7:8)

**4. The Only True Kingdom:** (Dan 7:11)

In that day, all world powers will be destroyed – 'Babil' will be reversed:  
'The iron, clay, brass, silver & gold broken to pieces' [Note reverse order] (Dan 2:35)

**Everlasting Kingdom:**

'God of Heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed'

'His dominion is an everlasting dominion' (Dan 7:14) (Dan 2:44)

**Universal Kingdom:**

'All peoples, nations and languages should serve Him' (Dan 7:14)

**Divine/ Theocratic Kingdom:**

'Then Jehovah shall be King over all the earth' (Zech 14:19)

**Monarchic Kingdom:**

'The House of David'... 'I will establish his throne & kingdom forever'  
(2Sam 7:12)

**A Millennial Kingdom:**

Characterised by	}	<b>LAND</b>	Israel
		<b>CITY</b>	Jerusalem
		<b>TEMPLE</b>	The Lord's
		<b>KINGDOM</b>	Global
		<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	Tribal Cabinet – over the Nation
		<b>RULE</b>	Righteousness
		<b>TERM</b>	1,000 years
		<b>KING</b>	Messiah the Prince

**'He shall speak peace to the heathen, and His dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the river to the ends of the earth.'** (Zech 9:10)

## [C.] The Panorama of God's Purposes: Seen in Kingdom of Heaven

1. The Promise of the Kingdom
2. The Prophecies of the Kingdom
3. The Perversion of the Kingdom
4. The Presentation of the Kingdom
5. The Parables of the Kingdom
6. The Panorama of the Kingdom
7. The Prospect of the Kingdom

The Kingdom in Mystery &  
The Manifestation

### 1. The Promise of the Kingdom:

To Abram – **Abramic:** 'A Nation' – 'A Land' – 'Kings'  
**Land:** A Territory Specified  
 The Promises & Covenants **Mosaic:** The Law – Theocratic Rule - Priesthood  
 are confirmed in the Prophets: **Davidic:** A Royal House  
**New:** On basis of Redemption & Restoration

### 2. The Prophecies of the Kingdom: Everlasting: 'Never be destroyed' (Dan 2:44)

**Universal:** 'All peoples & nations' (Dan 7:14)  
 All the prophets, except for **Theocratic:** 'Jehovah King...' (Zech 14:19)  
 Jonah & Nahum [to Assyria]: **Monarchic:** 'House of David' (2Sam 7:12)

### 3. The Perversion of the Kingdom:

Satan's Counterfeit – From Nimrod, 'Kingdom' in 'Shinar' – 'Babylon' (Gen 10)  
 World Kingdoms offered to Christ – 'All these will I give thee...' (Matt 4:9)  
 Antichrist Kingdom – 10 Nation Confederacy – 7 Year Covenant (Dan 9)  
 'Messiah the Prince' vs. 'The Prince that shall come' (Dan 9:26-27)  
**490 Year Program** [483 years fulfilled] = 7 years still to come [2,520 days]

**Trinity of Evil:** **The Dragon – Anti-God**  
**The Beast – Anti-Christ**  
**False Prophet – Anti-Spirit** (Rev 12, 13)

### 4. The Presentation of the Kingdom:

The Kingdom is Announced as 'Imminent':

- a. By John 'the forerunner'; 'Repent the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matt 3:1)
- b. By the twelve disciples; 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matt 10:7)
- c. By Jesus who is 'the King'; 'The kingdom of God is come unto you' (Matt 12:28)
- d. By the seventy sent out; 'The kingdom of God is come near' (Luke 10:11)

Note the regression:

'the kingdom of God is **come unto you**' (Matt 12:28)  
 'publicans and harlots **go into** the kingdom of God' (Matt 21:31)  
 'the kingdom of God **shall be taken from** you...' (Matt 23:43)  
 'the kingdom of God is **given to**...' (Matt 23:43)

The Kingdom is announced as Literal:

**Spiritual:** 'born of water & spirit, cannot enter the kingdom of God' (John 3:5)  
**Ethical:** 'Blessed are...persecuted, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven' (Matt 5:10)  
**Ecclesial:** 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only...' (Matt 4:10)  
**Political:** 'Son of Man on the Throne...ye shall sit on twelve thrones...' (Matt 19:28)  
**Physical:** 'His dominion...sea to sea...the river to the ends of earth' (Zech 9:10)  
**Millennial:** 'They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years' (Rev 20:6)

[cited A. J. McClain]

## 5. The Parables of the Kingdom:

Teaching of the King as Summarized in Matthew's Gospel:

- a. Manifesto of the King (Matt 5-7)
- b. Messengers of the King (Matt 10)
- # Here the King is Rejected \* by the:
  - Pharisees (Matt 12:24)
  - People (Matt 13:53)
  - Herod (Matt 14:13)
  - Scribes (Matt 15:9)
  - Sanhedrin (Matt 26:59)
- c. Mysteries of the Kingdom (Matt 13)
- d. Mercy of the King (Matt 18)
- e. Manifestation of the King (Matt 24-25)

Teaching of the Kingdom of Heaven given – as Mysteries – in Parables: \*

1. Proclamation of the Kingdom (Matt 13:3-9)  
Parable of Seed & Soils
2. Imitation of the Kingdom (Matt 13:24-30)  
Parable of Wheat & Darnel
3. Extension of the Kingdom (Matt 13:31-32)  
Parable of Mustard Seed & Tree
4. Corruption of the Kingdom (Matt 13:33)  
Parable of Woman, Meal & Leaven
5. Nation in the Kingdom (Matt 13:44)  
Parable of Treasure in the Field
6. Nation in the Kingdom (Matt 13:45-46)  
Parable of Pearl & the Merchant
7. Gathering into the Kingdom (Matt 13:47-50)  
Parable of the Dragnet & the Sorting

## 6. The Panorama of the Kingdom:

The Seven great 'Panorama' passages of Scripture contain elements of the:

- 1 & 2. Future of Nation of Israel & Tribes (Gen 49 & Deut 33)
- 3 & 4. Future of Nations & their Rebellion (Dan 2 & Dan 7)
- 5 & 6. Future of Israel & the Kingdom (Lev 23 & Matt 13)
- 7. Future of the Church & Conclusion (Rev 2-3)

## 7. The Prospect of the Kingdom:

The Kingdom Fulfilled, & the King Enthroned will be characterized by:

The bringing to a conclusion the anticipated purposes of God on & for earth.

'The Kingdom of Heaven' – in which sphere it now has full effect – will become,

'The Kingdom of God' as seen here on this earth, as the prophets foretold:

The end of the '70 weeks'  
[the last 7 of the 490 yrs.]  
Post-Tribulation will see:

'Finish transgression'  
'Make an end of sins'  
'Make reconciliation for iniquity'  
'Bring in everlasting righteousness'  
'Seal up the vision and the prophecy'  
'Anoint the Most Holy' (Dan 9:24)

It will be (as revealed in Rev 20)  
a kingdom of:

- a. Peace for 1,000 years Duration
- b. Filled Thrones – with Christ's
- c. Saints Reigning – with Christ
- d. The Second Death Annulled
- e. Satan Bound for 1,000 years
- f. Conclusion of First Resurrection
- g. Blessings on all the Saved within

**[D.] The Panorama of God's Purposes: As Seen in the Church**

- 1. The Parenthesis of Prophecy
  - 2. The Promise of the Church
  - 3. The Period of the Church
  - 4. The Panorama of the Church
  - 5. The Purpose of the Church's Removal
- } The Church, Eternal in Divine Purpose,  
Revealed in God's Period of Grace.

**1. The Parenthesis of Prophecy:**

The Church is **not** prophesied in the O.T., nor can it be discerned within prophecy. Retrospectively we see examples and 'shadows' which may be **applied** to the Church, but only with hindsight, from a N.T. position, looking back.

**Many Prominent O.T. Prophecies have a 'Parenthesis' within, an [element] unseen at the time:**  
e.g.  
*'To proclaim the Acceptable Year of the Lord [ ] and the Day of Vengeance of our God' (Isa 61:2)*

The Lord Jesus quoted this passage at the commencement of His public ministry in the synagogue at Nazareth  
(Luke 4:19)

He stopped partway through the verse and pronounced:  
*'This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears'*  
(Luke 4:21)

The second part of Isaiah's prophecy will not be fulfilled until the Tribulation & Millennium:  
[ 7 Years & 1,000 Years ]

*'The Day of Vengeance is in My heart,  
And the Year of My Redeemed has come'*  
(Isa 63:4)

**2. The Period of the Church:**

The [Gap] within this Prophecy, is that which contains the '**CHURCH PERIOD**', or more scripturally,  
*'The Acceptable Year of the Lord'* (Isa 61:2)  
 which occurs within, *'The Times of the Gentiles'* (Luke 21:24)  
 from: '*Pentecost*' Birth of the Church (Acts 2:1) – to –  
 The '*Rapture*', '*caught up together...*' (1Thess 4:17)  
 That which follows is: *'The Day of the Lord'* (Joel 2:31)  
 which includes: *'The Day of Vengeance...'* (Isa 63:4)  
 followed by: *'The Day of Christ'* (Phil 1:6,10)  
 which ends in: *'The Day of God'* (2Peter 3:12)  
 – to Eternity!

**3. The Promise of the Church:**

The Church is first promised by Jesus, '*I will build My Church*' (Matt 16:18)

The Church seen as

- A Building (Rev 21:9-10)
- A Body (1Cor 12:13)
- A Bride (Eph 5:25; Rev 19:8-9)

**4. The Prospect of the Church:**

**Salvation:** *'Ye turned to God from idols'* (1Thess 1:10)  
**Occupation:** *'To serve the living and true God'*  
**Anticipation:** *'And to wait for His Son from heaven...'*  
**Confirmation:** *'Jesus, which delivers us from the wrath [coming here]'*

## 5. The Panorama of the Church:

Revelation **Chps. 2-3** are Divine Letters to **Seven Specific First Century Churches** Outlining their Conditions & The Appropriate Revelation of Christ for each one:

<b>7 Differing Aspects of Christ:</b>	<i>'These things saith He...'</i>	(Rev 2:1)
<b>7 Differing Awareness of Christ:</b>	<i>'I know thy works...'</i>	(Rev 2:2)
<b>7 Differing Attentions to Christ:</b>	<i>'He that hath an ear...'</i>	(Rev 2:7)
<b>7 Differing Activities for Christ:</b>	<i>'To Him that overcometh'</i>	(Rev 2:7)

**Panoramically** [but as seen retrospectively, looking backwards in time, not forwards]

**We may see 7 Stages of Professing Church Testimony – “with leaven” –**

A ‘Panorama’ of failure & recovery over 2,000 years +

- a. Ephesus:** *A Church of Fading Passion*  
32 – 169 AD [Polycarp martyred]
- b. Smyrna:** *A Church of Fierce Persecution*  
169 – 312 [Emperor Constantine]
- c. Pergamum:** *A Church of Faltering Paganism*  
312 – 606 [The Rise of Religious Rome]
- d. Thyatira:** *A Church of Fornicating Pollution*  
606 – 1517 [The Dark Ages]
- e. Sardis:** *A Church of Formal Protestantism*  
1517 – c.1800 [Luther – Wesley – Tyndale etc.]
- f. Philadelphia:** *A Church of Fundamental Perseverance*  
1800 – c.1950 [J.N. Darby, Kelly, Groves etc.]
- g. Laodicea:** *A Church of Failing and Poverty*  
1950 – ? [The Charismatic Movement]

## 6. The Purpose of the Church’s Removal:

**The Church must be removed BEFORE the ‘Tribulation Period’:**

*'Jesus, who delivers us from the Wrath to come [here]'* (1Thess 1:10)

**The Church must be removed BEFORE the ‘Mystery of Iniquity’ flourishes:**

*'now ye know what withholdeth [is withholding] ...'* (2Thess 2:6)

**The Church & the Indwelling Spirit must be removed BEFORE the ‘Man of Sin’ appears:**

*'Then shall the Wicked One [Man of Sin] be revealed...'* (2Thess 2:3, 8)

**The Church is removed BEFORE:**

**The ‘Day of Vengeance’** (Isa 61:2)

**The ‘Day of the Wrath of the Lamb’** (Rev 6:17)

**The ‘Day of the Lord’ commences** (Isa 2:12)

John writes:

*“After these things, I looked, and behold a door was opened in heaven ... and the first voice which I heard, as it were a trumpet, talking with me, which said, “Come up hither ... immediately I was in Spirit”.*

(Rev 4:1-2)



## The Removal of the Church – Is the ‘Rapture’ Biblical?

[T.5]

# INTRO: (Jn. 14; 1Thes 1:10, 4:17)

### The Panorama of the Prophetic Program:

# KEY O.T. Phrases [in order of appearance]

“Day\* of JEHOVAH” (Isa 2:12; 1Thes 5; 2Pet 3:10) [1<sup>st</sup> of 17 Refs. In the O.T.]

“Acceptable Year\* of JEHOVAH” (Isa 61:2) [+ve]

“Day\* of Vengeance of our God” - ‘Elohim’ (Isa 61:2)

“Year\* of My Redeemed” (Isa 63:4) [+ve]

“Time of Jacob’s Trouble” (Jer 30:7) [\*Note time difference in ‘year’ and ‘day’ in prophetic periods]

“Day\* of the wrath of the Lamb” (Rev 6:17)

“Day of God” (2Pet 3:12) [the exception] [+ve]

### # Where Are We Now?

- a.) In the “acceptable year of the LORD” (Luk 4:19)
- b.) In the ‘day of grace’ – “the day ye heard it and knew the grace of God” (Col 1:6)
- c.) In the ‘Church period’ – from Pentecost (Acts 2) – not synonymous!

### # Is There A Future ‘Kingdom’ – Is Jesus Coming Back?

Is the “Kingdom ... within you” only (Luk 17:21)?

Is there a Future for the Church – but NOT Israel?

Does ‘Covenant Theology’ apply to US? – to the Church?

What is ‘Replacement Theology’ (ref. Rom 11)?

[only Jonah & Nahum of O.T. prophets don’t deal with ‘End Times’]

# Note: Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 12, 15, 17)

Davidic Covenant (2 Sam 7)

Land Covenant / New (Jer 31)

New Covenant (2Cor 3:6, Hebs 8:6-13, 7:22, 9:15)

### # Where Does the ‘Rapture’ Fit – within Prophecy?

Clearly NOT in O.T. as the Church is NOT in O.T. either

Is the ‘Coming for ...’ separate from the ‘Coming with ...’ (1Thes 3:13)

### # Terms to Consider Reference the ‘catching up’:

- ‘Pre-trib’ – Is this before start of 7 year “covenant” period? (1Thes 1, 4)
- ‘Partial pre-trib’ [Lang, Pember, Govett, Groves, Morgan ... 1930s]
- ‘Mid-trib’ – at the 3 ½ year point = 1,260 days / 42 months [360 day year]
- ‘Post-trib’ – at the end of Tribulation, at Christ’s return
- ‘Pre-wrath’ [The newest interpretation] – Rob Van Kempen, Marvin J Rosenthal (1990) & Alan Kurschner

## # Is a 'rapture' and 'before the Tribulation' Interpretation only from 1930s?

- Look at Early Disciples / 1<sup>st</sup> Century Belief & later ...
- Eusebius & Irenaeus [2<sup>nd</sup> Century]  
Literal resurrection of Church saints & a '1,000 year kingdom'
- 'Pseudo-Ephraem' the Syrian – 7<sup>th</sup> Century – the same position
- Manual Lagunza (a R.C.) (1731-1801) – same position –  
[translated by Edward Irving (1792-1834)]
- Edward Irving – taught 'Antichrist' will be a man, not a system &  
the 'return of Christ' was to be in 'two stages'
- Morgan Edwards (Baptist) 18<sup>th</sup> Century – the same
- J. N. D. (1827) – to – Niagara Bible Conferences (1878)
- C. I. Scofield – 'Reference Bible (1909) – 2 million sold by 1945
- D. L. Moody Bible Institute & D.T.S. etc. Lewis Sperry Chafer
- The rise of 'Dispensational Seminaries' vs. Reformed Institutes

## # Other Terms:

'**Preterism**' or 'Historicism' – Revelation, Tribulation etc. fulfilled in the past – AD70 – at the Fall of Jerusalem

'**Idealism**' = Prophecy / Revelation are 'images' to teach lessons / allegories promoted by Augustine of Hippo (354-430) – Council of Nicaea (325)

'**Amillennialism**' = Kingdom established at Pentecost – only "within" us

'**Post-Millennialism**' = World 'Christianized' until peace comes – ready for Him  
Lorraine Boettner – early teachings (1901-1990)

## # Five KEY Words Regarding Our Future & Our Eternal Security:

- 1.) "**Receive you...**" (Jn 14:6) '*para lambanō*' – 'near to' & 'lay hold of...'  
Context! Not always +ve: Pilate (Jn 19:1)  
"unto Myself" – '*emautō*'

"Let not your heart be troubled" (14:1) '*tarassō*' – agitated / restless

"If I go ... I will come again ..." (14:3) – 2 x Goings & 2 x Comings

In Context: BOTH must be true!

a.) Cross – resurrection – ascension – in heaven "*prepare a place ...*"

b.) Ascension – Spirit descent – Pentecost – Rapture "*come again*"

- 2.) "**Who shall change**" – 'transform our vile bodies' – 'low estate' (Phil 3:20-21)  
"our '*politeuma*' – citizenship / constitution – *is in heaven*;"

from whence we look for our "*Saviour, Lord Jesus Christ*:"

Who shall: '*transform the habitation of our humiliation*'  
that it may be: '*conformed unto the body of His glory*'

On what basis? "*He is able to subdue all things all things unto Himself*"

- 3.) “... even Jesus Who is delivering us...” – ‘rhuomai’ (1Thes 1:10)  
rescue & ‘draw to oneself’

Cause and Effect! “Ye turned to God from idols to serve as bondservants  
the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from  
heaven, whom He raised from the dead (ref Jn 14) ...

“Jesus who is delivering us from THE wrath \* coming here” – also ‘erchomai’

[\*vengeance of God – ‘coming from one place to another / arriving / publicly’]

- 4.) “We ... shall be caught up ...” (1Thess 4:17) – ‘harpazō’ ‘snatched away’  
[Latin Vulgate: ‘rapiemur’ / ‘rapturo’]

Other uses: “Philip caught away” (Acts 8:39)

“caught up to the third heaven” – Paul (2Cor 12:2-4)

- 5.) “I will keep thee” – ‘terēo’ – garrison – “from the hour of temptation, which  
shall come upon – ‘erchomai’ – the whole inhabited world.” (Rev 3:10)

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### # Critical Question:

Is ‘Dispensationalism’ & ‘Pretribulation-ism’ – a ‘feather bed’  
Interpretation of Eschatology?

i.e. The Church (in the west) is safe, because nothing happens –  
until after the “rapture”?

### # 5 KEY Words:

‘RECEIVE’ – ‘CHANGE’ – ‘DELIVER’ – ‘CATCH UP’ – ‘KEEP YOU’

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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