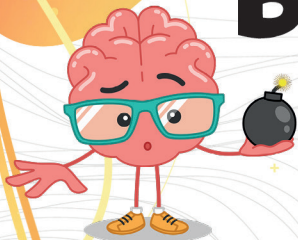


THE NO BRAiNER GUIDE



TO THE **END**
OF THE **WORLD**
AS WE KNOW IT

IT IS LATER THAN
YOU THINK

TOM MAC GUINNESS

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nobrainerguide.info

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Life is a journey and no one can get very far without the help and support of a lot of people.

This book is dedicated to those people in my life.

To my parents for showing and teaching me to be a decent person, to my family for loving me and keeping me honest, to my mentors who equipped me by sharing their experience and knowledge and to my friends and co-workers for their faithfulness and encouragement.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

My name is Tom Mac Guinness. I was born in Dundalk, a medium sized town on the east coast of Ireland about halfway between Dublin and Belfast in 1951.

I was raised in a fine Irish family, the eldest of 7 children. My father was a well-known and respected local businessman.

At the age of 20 I had a profound spiritual experience, which changed my life and I spent the next 8 years as a missionary mostly in South America.

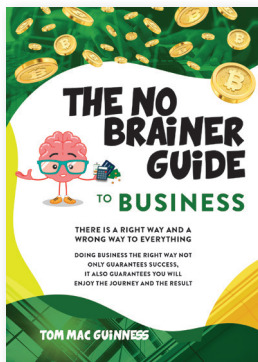
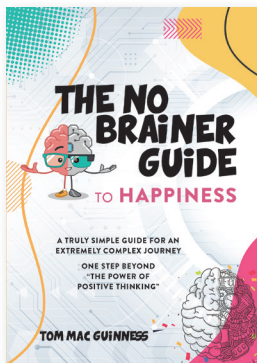
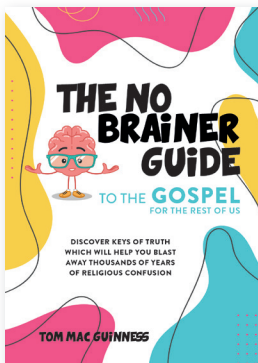
Upon my return to Ireland in 1979 I took over the management of the family equestrian centre in Dundalk. The limitations of the business soon became obvious and in 1985 I set up Horseware Products to develop and manufacture horse blankets.

Since then Horseware has grown to be the undisputed world leader in its market segment with more than 700 employees worldwide and has production facilities in Ireland, Cambodia, China and USA, producing more than a million of blankets each year.

Over the years I and Horseware have won many awards for business, innovation and product excellence including 35 BETA Innovation Awards for new product development. In 2002 I was chosen as the Ernst and Young Irish Industrial Entrepreneur of the Year.

In 2021 I sold a controlling interest in Horseware. I have an involvement in many projects but my focus now is to share the many lessons I have learned through the promotion of my four books.

OTHER BOOKS



CONTENTS

PROLOGUE	11
1. THE BIBLE	15
2. TIME	25
PART I - THE TIMELINES	
3. DANIEL 2	31
4. MATTHEW 24	45
5. THE RAPTURE	57
6. DANIEL 9	67
PART II - DANIEL	
7. DANIEL 7	93
8. DANIEL 8	105
9. DANIEL 11	115
10. DANIEL 12	119
11. THE SAINTS... WHO ARE THEY?	125

PART III - REVELATIONS

12. THE BOOK OF REVELATION	129
CONCLUSION	183

PROLOGUE

As you can see from the short bio on the preceding page, I am neither a scholar or a priest, so I suppose you are entitled to know why I wanted to write this book and why I consider myself qualified to do so.

Since forever people have been talking about the end of the world. Every time there is war, a natural disaster or a significant event people seem to reach for their Bibles and try to read something sinister into it. No one has been guiltier of this than the religious community who have been crying wolf since the days shortly after Jesus left. In fact things got so bad in Paul's day that he had to write a letter to the Thessalonians telling them to calm down and stop panicking. He told them that certain things had to happen before the end would come and his advice has been pretty much ignored ever since.

The End Times has been getting a lot of press lately. Every year another blockbuster is released with an end of the world theme so people have become familiar with the terminology but have no idea what it means. They don't

know were Armageddon is or who the antichrist is supposed to be.

The psychological trauma of reaching the threshold of the new millennium along with the possible threat of massive disruption to the worlds computer systems by the Y2K bug generated a lot of interest in the End Time. The events of September 11 added a sense of urgency and panic. People were afraid, they were asking questions, was this part of a pattern? Was there more to come? There was a lot of misinformation. Even among Christians this whole area of Bible prophecy is patchy, being ignored by some and over done by others.

With this in mind I felt there was a place on the shelf for a simple, straightforward, presentation of what the Bible says is going to happen one of these days. Many of the books on this subject suffer from being too complicated, too much like hard work, not user friendly. Others are too biased, too intent on proving some theological point, so they lack balance and objectivity. There was no Bible prophesy for the curious, for beginners.

The fact that I am not qualified is what makes me qualified. The fact that I don't have a PhD in eschatology helps me keep it simple and simplicity is the key to understanding this stuff. I am not saying that there are no really difficult passages but there is really no point going there, unless you have a firm understanding of the easy stuff.

So that is what I intend to focus on, the easy stuff, the big picture. I hope you enjoy the ride!

CHAPTER 1

THE BIBLE

Let's take a look at the book all this comes from.

The all-time best seller

The Bible is a wonderful book, the all-time best seller so it is surprising how many people have never read it. It was written over a period thousands of years by forty different people, yet it has a continuity that defies explanation. The Bible is full of deep wisdom and simple truth. Whole cultures have been developed using the principles laid down in it and it is full of predictions and prophecies that have been fulfilled.

The mind of God

More than all this, the Bible is a tremendous source of inspiration, hope, encouragement and wisdom. It is the mind of God on paper. It is food for your soul, light for your path. The Bible has been the source of inspiration for many the great movements to liberate the oppressed and defeat injustice. I believe that you owe it to yourself to take a good look at what the Bible has to say.

Which Bible

Something that confuses people is the number of translations available. Most widely available translations say more or less the same thing. Some are more eloquent than others. They are all derived from the same original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts, and so must all agree in essence even though some difference of emphasis can be found.

The King James Version was translated by order of King James in 1611 was the first major English translation and is written in the beautiful Shakespearean English of that day. The New King James translation is basically the same with the thee and thou changed to I and You. I have used the New King James translation in most of the passages I have quoted. The Living Bible is a recent translation and is written in the vernacular. Many people have several translations. The main thing to remember is that these are, not different versions just different translations.

The Bible is divided into chapters and verses. In most translations each verse is numbered separately. You will notice whenever the Bible is quoted it is prefixed by 2 numbers and sometimes short 3 lettered abbreviations like this MAT. 24:1. This means the verse you are looking for is taken from the book of Matthew, chapter 24, verse 1.

Read it for yourself

The important thing is to read it for yourself. Don't just accept what someone else tells you it says, not even this book.

The Bible is the yard stick of truth by which everything should be measured. That is not to say that God is not still speaking today. God is still speaking but new messages from God will build upon the foundations of what has gone before not contradict it, as is the case with some new cults and sects who have some new proprietary revelation which on examination is not compatible with what has gone before.

If you look at the evidence you have to face the fact that the Bible is either the most elaborate fraud in history of mankind, or it has been influenced by some extra-terrestrial force, inspired by one mind, not forty people. The Bible makes very specific predictions about the future. It describes in detail what God has planned and how it will be accomplished.

The end of the world as we know it!

We have all heard a lot of bits and pieces about the end of the world and someone always seems to be saying "The end is neigh". Most people have heard of the anti-Christ, the Mark of the Beast and Armageddon but have no idea how they all fit together.

About one-third of the Bible was given as prophetic messages about the future. Many of these prophecies have been fulfilled in.

One billion to one

It had been calculated that the chances of all the prophecies concerning the Messiah being fulfilled, either intentionally or accidentally by Jesus are estimated to be more than one billion to one, the longest of odds. Many of these events were completely outside of his control, he had no control over the time and place of his birth and he had no way of manipulating that situation. The crucifixion had not yet been invented when it was prophesied that his hands and feet would be pierced. The year of his death was prophesied 600 hundred years earlier by the prophet Daniel. There are hundreds of precise prophecies that have been fulfilled, not in some vague way with doubtful interpretations of events but definite predictions fulfilled in a precise manner.

This alone at the very least makes the Bible an extraordinary book that should be taken seriously. The fact that so many events in the past have been so accurately predicted gives credibility to those predictions which have yet to be fulfilled.

Unlike the vague rantings of people like Nostradamus the Bible predicts the future in a very definite and precise

way. There is nothing vague about what it says will happen. There are lots of details still not clear but the general trust and order of events are clearly outlined.

For 2,000 years Christians have been praying for God's Kingdom to come, for God's will to be done on the earth as it is in heaven. Jesus thought his followers to pray for that in the Lords prayer so it was an important part of His message. He told them to pray that God Kingdom would come and that God's will, would be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Few people have any real understanding of what this means.

Clearly, at the moment, that Jesus was teaching them that prayer, God's Kingdom had not yet come on earth and His will was not being done on earth. He told them that it was important for them to pray that someday it would.

But God's Kingdom is going to come. His will is going to be done on the earth as it is in heaven. Jesus said to Pontius Pilate. "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here" (JOHN 18:36).

For the moment, this is our world. These are our mistakes and sins. These are our wars, our famines, our injustices and our pollution.

We, the human race have control and we yield that control to whomever we choose. From time to time in history things have really gotten out of hand and God has intervened but most of the time God has to work at the edges.

When he has been asked to intervene, when individuals or groups of individuals have sought God's help and given him the mandate to intervene, he has and will. But the human race is so much more inclined to give the authority to the wrong man to yield to the wrong spirit and God is simply left on the sidelines watching the game take its course.

God is not going to stand by and let this go on forever. The game is almost over and we are now in injury time. Let there be no doubt about it, He is eventually going to intervene. When He is ready and mankind has finally made its' choice. But until that time His only authority to rule on the earth is in the hearts and the minds of those who have given Him the authority to do so.

Interpreting the Bible

This book is a guide, and like a good guide it leads the way through unfamiliar territory. It points out areas of interest and saves time by avoiding dead ends and dangerous places. Normally you only need a guide on the first trip and the next time round you have a good feel for where you are and you can work out your own itinerary.

Since the idea of this book is to guide, I will try and leave the interpreting to you. In other words as much as possible I will simply show you the passage in its context and allow you to draw your own conclusions.

This of course will not always be possible or desirable but where possible I will be simply presenting the text as it is, but a lot of the time I will be helping you to join the dots. Where I am putting my own slant or interpretation on it I will endeavour to point this out or it will be evident from the context.

I would like to point out some guidelines by which you should judge and process such interpretation. When there are things in the Bible that you don't understand there are 2 things you need to consider.

The 2 rules

Firstly the Bible is a spiritual, mystical book and it is spiritually discerned. That means if the meaning is unclear then it must be revealed. No matter how holy, smart or spiritual you are, you cannot figure it out, it must be revealed. Therefore you must allow the meaning to come to you, therefore you must be open.

You will see when we get to the visions of Daniel that he had no idea what many of his visions meant and that this really bothered him. Bible Prophecy will often not seem

logical because it deals with things beyond our experience, so you must try and not have preconceptions.

The second is that the key to the revelation is normally found within itself.

In other words the first place to look is actually in the Bible itself. That is, you interpret the Bible with the Bible. I believe you should always look for scriptural evidence for any conclusion you arrive at.

I believe that when God wants you to understand something it is normally a no brainer but if you are not ready to receive it, it can be as clear as the nose on your face and you will not see it.

There is one thing for sure and that is, that it cannot be figured out by extrapolation. It means starting out with a presumption and then making the facts fit into that template even if it means fudging them or ignoring some of them to make them fit.

For example the traditional interpretation of the White Horseman of the first seal is a good example of this tendency.

What I am getting to here is that I am just the guide. I didn't make this stuff up, I am just trying to tell it as it is and the tendency is to shoot the messenger. I am not some crazed nut who wants you to sell your home and live in the

mountains (at least not just yet). The Bible is an old book, it has been around a long time and it doesn't need me to stand up for it or interpret it.

There is a real hunger in people to know the future, just look at the statistics of how many read their horoscopes each day or the number of adds on the TV for tarot card readers or physics.

The Bible won't tell you if you are going to get a raise or move to a new city. It is painting the big picture it tells us where we are going and how long it is going to get there.

CHAPTER 2

TIME

Any prediction of prophecy involves time so our conception and perception of time, what it is and how it works will affect how we understand and interpret prophecy.

Without getting too technical let me point out that time is a dimension just as length and height are dimensions. We cannot exist without time and time is relative, God created it so we could exist in our current state and God has said that one day time would no longer exist.

Obviously God doesn't see things the way we do. Time is something He created, so it is something that He can manipulate. He can stretch it, stop it, warp it, accelerate it and end it. To me it's like a game. There are 2 halves or 4 quarters of so many minutes each.

There can be injury time and even extra time depending on the turn of events but eventually the game will end because it is time dependant, it is contained within a circle of time, and it cannot exist without time. Time exists because God made it and someday "time will be no more". That is His promise.

Time, as we know it is a linear concept. In other words it is a line, a timeline.

CD or Tape

Prophesy will normally have an overall time direction, that starts at the beginning and finishes at the end but here and there it skips a track and it's somewhere else. It's like the difference between a tape and a CD. With a tape you are stuck on a time line. You can fast forward but to get from the start to finish you have to run the whole thing, you must stay with the sequence. With a CD you can play it in any sequence. God has a time line slider like the ones that you see in many computer programs and He can play it anywhere He likes.

The N7 – Map of Ireland

To me, time is like a road we are travelling along. You start at A and end at Z. You cannot get to C or G without passing through B, but God is not on the road! He is in the heavens. He is looking down on the road. God can see the beginning and the end because He is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega.

Say you are travelling from Dublin to Belfast; you decide to take the N7. Now that means you have to go through Dundalk before you go through Newry.

God is not trapped in time like we are, so He can jump around in time and in a lot of prophecy it jumps around the place a lot, time-wise.

He can look down on time like looking down on a map. God can jump from Dublin to Mallow and back to Carlow. Sort of like someone in a helicopter but if you are in the car dimension you can't do that, you have to stay on the road.

For instance, say you don't know exactly where Drogheda is but you do know it is between Dundalk and Dublin so you have some idea of its location. Then you find out that it is between Balbriggan and Dunleer and that narrows it down still further and so on. As we get closer to the end more of the pieces will fall into place and the picture will get progressively clearer.

You see that time is relative and multi level and the prophecies in the Bible do not always follow a straight timeline but jump around in the time sequence. So to make sense of it you have to try to put them in some kind of order on a timeline.

There are a number of passages that give a good clear timelines or sequence of events and studying them will help us put seemingly unconnected events in their proper order.

So the first thing I would like to do is to look at a number of these passages and establish some timelines. This will help us make faster progress later on.

The other thing I will do as we go along is give background notes on certain personalities, historical events and terms in separate sections so as not to disrupt the flow of thought.

With this in mind I propose to start by looking at 3 timelines found chapters 2 and 9 in the book of Daniel and chapter 24 of the Gospel of Mathew.

PART I

THE TIMELINES

CHAPTER 3

DANIEL 2

Daniel 2 is a timeline

The prophesy of Daniel which he described in chapter two is the first timeline we will look at.

It is the most comprehensive and the simplest prophesy in the whole Bible.

It is an illustrative overview of world history, from Babylon to the coming of Christ to establish his kingdom on earth. Normally history is written after the event with the benefit of hindsight but in this case, Daniel wrote this hundreds and even thousands of years before these events came to pass.

The story begins with Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon having a dream that scared the pants off him. He was so troubled by the dream that he called his wise men and commanded that they should bring him the interpretation of the dream and if they failed, he would have them all put to death.

Needless to say they thought that this was a very unreasonable especially since the king had forgotten the dream and they would have to come up with both the dream and the interpretation.

Daniel asked the King to give him some time to pray and ask his God and after a few days Daniel returned to the king with the answers he was looking for.

This is what he told him!!!

This passage is so simple that it doesn't need a lot of explanation so I will give you the original text taken from the Living Bible translation and then go through it in more detail using the King James Version.

The King's Dream

O king, you saw a huge and powerful statue of a man, shining brilliantly, frightening and terrible. The head of the statue was made of purest gold, its chest and arms were of silver, its belly and thighs of brass, its legs of iron, its feet part iron and part clay. But as you watched, a Rock was cut from the mountainside by supernatural means. It came hurtling toward the statue and crushed the feet of iron and clay, smashing them to bits. Then the whole statue collapsed into a heap of iron, clay, brass, silver, and gold; its pieces were crushed as small as

chaff, and the wind blew them all away. But the Rock that knocked the statue down became a great mountain that covered the whole earth.

The Interpretation - Babylon the First Kingdom

That was the dream; now for its meaning: Your Majesty, you are a king over many kings, for the God of heaven has given you your kingdom, power, strength, and glory. You rule the farthest provinces, and even animals and birds are under your control, as God decreed. *You are that head of gold.*



Medo-Persia and Greece

But after your kingdom has come to an end, another world power will arise to take your place. This empire will be inferior to yours. And after that kingdom has fallen, yet a third great power—*represented by the bronze belly of the statue*—will rise to rule the world.



Rome

Following it, the fourth kingdom will be strong as iron—smashing, bruising, and conquering.

The feet and toes you saw—*part iron and part clay*—show that later on, this kingdom will be divided. Some parts of it will be as strong as iron, and some as weak as clay. This mixture of iron with clay also shows that these kingdoms will try to strengthen themselves by forming alliances with each other through intermarriage of their rulers; but this will not succeed, for iron and clay don't mix.



The Divine Kingdom

During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed; no one will ever conquer it. It will shatter all these kingdoms into nothingness, but it shall stand forever, indestructible. That is the meaning of the Rock cut from the mountain without human hands—*the Rock that crushed to powder all the iron and brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold.* “Thus the great God has shown what will happen in the future, and this interpretation of your dream is as sure and certain as my description of it.”

Daniel 2:31-45



The verses above are taken from the Living Bible translation and the verses below from the King James Version both say the same thing however they express it in a slightly different way.

The dream does not include the first two world governments of Egypt and Assyria because they had already passed on at the time of this dream. However, later in the Bible it makes it very clear that there would be a total of seven great world empires. These are depicted as the seven headed beast of Revelations 13 and 17.

The dream was both given to Nebuchadnezzar and interpreted for him by Daniel during his reign; therefore the prophecy starts with the King of Babylon and with the great world government of Babylon itself.

The actual dream as Daniel told it to Nebuchadnezzar is covered in verses 31-35, and the interpretation in verses 37-45.

The dream's interpretation is right in the same chapter, and to make it as clear as possible, each time a section of the dream is described it will be immediately followed with its interpretation.

DREAM: "Thou, O king, sawest and behold a great image... Whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee, and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold..." (vs. 31, 32a).

INTERPRETATION: “Thou O king (Nebuchadnezzar)... the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom... Thou art this head of gold” (vs. 37, 38). So according to Daniel the time line starts here with the great kingdom of Babylon, the “golden city” of ancient times (IS. 14:4), and its great King Nebuchadnezzar.

DREAM: “His breast and his arms of silver” (v. 32b).

INTERPRETATION: “After thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee...” (v. 39a). Since the head is definitely pinpointed as Babylon, all we have to do in order to find out what this next kingdom was is to look at history for the kingdom that arose after Babylon.

According to world history, the dual kingdom of Medo-Persia followed Babylon; therefore we know what the kingdom of silver was without its even being named in the interpretation here. It is named, however, in a later chapter, the “Mene Mene” handwriting on the wall vision of Daniel 5:18-31 and again in chapter 8, as being the kingdom that would conquer Babylon.

Notice also the remarkable symbolism in the image. The dual kingdom of Medo-Persia is depicted here by two arms. Persia was the stronger of the two, just as in the body one arm is stronger than the other!

DREAM: “His belly and thighs of brass” (v. 32c).

INTERPRETATION: “Another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth” (v. 39b). We know from history that this third kingdom, the one to follow Persia, was the Grecian Empire. In a later chapter Daniel specifically prophecies that Greece will be the conqueror of Medo-Persia (DAN. 8:21-22). This was fulfilled over three hundred years *after* the prophecy was given.

The empire of Alexander the great was not necessarily the most powerful, but it was the most extensive. It extended from Italy, all the way to India, and from southern Russia down into Africa, bearing rule over or dominating the world of his day.

DREAM: “His legs of iron...” (v. 33a).

INTERPRETATION: “The fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron, forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things... Shall it break in pieces and bruise” (v. 40).

Since we already have the fulfilment of actual history, we know that this fourth kingdom was Rome. Rome, the tough, iron-fisted kingdom which clamped down with Iron Military Rule over the entire known world in the days before Christ, was one of the longest reigning empires the world has ever known. It so effectively “subdued all things” that for nearly one hundred years there were no major wars, no one was able to muster a force against the rule of Rome.

Here again, it is very interesting to note how similar this particular part of the image is to the actual fulfilment of the Roman Empire. Two legs of iron. Was Rome ever divided into two parts? Yes! In its decline it was divided into an Eastern and a Western Empire. The Western Empire was ruled by Rome, and the Eastern Empire, ruled by Constantinople, was called the Byzantine Empire. So even the parts of the image itself symbolise the kingdoms of man, and this becomes extremely significant as we go on to the feet.

DREAM: “His feet part of iron and part of clay” (v. 33b). This last part of the image is interpreted in three entire verses, showing that the vision is mainly for the kingdoms of the “latter days” as Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar in verse 28!

INTERPRETATION (Part 1): “Whereas thou sawest the Feet and toes, part of potters Clay and part of iron, the Kingdom shall be divided, but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron Mixed with miry clay”.

The *Iron* and *Clay* of the feet represent to two types of Governments the world has known since the fall of Rome. *Democracies and Dictatorships*.

How are these governments like iron and clay? Well, clay in God’s Word always symbolised “The People”, “We are the clay” (IS. 64:8). So Government by the people, or

democracy, is clay government. It is also a weaker form of government and does not have the “strength of the iron” which represents the Strongman, totalitarian, military Dictatorships and their Iron rule (v. 41).

It says, “The kingdom shall be divided”. Since the fall of Rome this is the way it’s been. A division of the kingdom of men with no one power completely dominant. Equally great empires have existed simultaneously, such as the British and the French, the Spanish and the Portuguese, the USA and Russia, etc so you might say nobody had a majority, no one power as dominated the world since Rome. So again, the various parts of the image symbolise exactly the course of history.

INTERPRETATION (Part 2): “The Toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken” (v. 42).

Now, as you know, everybody has ten toes. The toes here symbolise the same thing that the ten horns symbolise in both Daniel 7 and Revelation 17. “The ten horns... are ten kings (or kingdoms) that shall arise” (DAN. 7:24).

What we have here in the toes, the last part of the image, is a symbolic picture showing the great governments of man ending with a combined government, a kind of “united nations” government, a combination of various governments, kingdoms or kings represented by these ten toes.

You can take it literally as ten, or you can say it's a general number of nations ruling the world in a forum like the United Nations, I don't know however the number ten is used so often that it looks to me like there will be ten kings or states in this final government.

As you know, the Security Council of the UN has fifteen members: five permanent and ten rotating. It could be twenty now: ten permanent and ten rotating. We shall see, but however it will be, the symbolism will be borne out here also, as in the other parts of the image.

I believe that today we are living near the division between the feet and toes, but not yet in the toes because the antichrist's kingdom has not yet actually risen. As John says in revelations, the ten kings receive their "power as kings one hour (a short time) with the beast (Antichrist). These have one mind (united) and shall give their power and strength unto the beast" (REV. 17:12, 13).

INTERPRETATION (Part 3): "Whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay" (v. 43).

This is still talking about the ten toes, or ten last kingdoms, that give their power to the anti-Christ for "one hour", or a very brief time, according to Revelation 17. We know from other scriptures that the Anti-Christ government will rule the world for only three and a half years.

“And power was given unto him to continue forty and two months (three and a half years)... and power was given him over all kindred’s (races) and tongues (languages) and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him...”—except God’s children (REV. 13:5, 7, 8).

From the symbolism of the feet we know that this final antichrist empire will be a very strange type of government. It will be a mixture of all these iron and clay nations, these dictatorships and so-called democracies, ruling the world in some kind of alliance or coalition. Something like the United Nations, which is directed by a subset of its members, the Security Council.

The European Parliament also fits this type of profile, it has power but its power is based on the cooperation of a number of individual sovereign states who delegate power to it.

It also says they “shall not cleave one to another”. Perhaps this is seen in the east-west division of the world today. As you remember, one foot comes out of the Western Roman Empire and one foot out of the east. This is almost exactly how the world is divided today, the east being mainly dictatorships and Muslim (iron) and west capitalistic democracies (clay).

DREAM: “Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then

was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them, and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth” (vs. 34, 35).

INTERPRETATION: “And in the days of these kings (the days of this final ten-toed kingdom of this earth) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (v. 44).

“Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and it brake in pieces (the image); the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter; and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure” (v. 45).

**WE KNOW EXACTLY
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN!**
We may not like it and it may look pretty bad, but thank God, we know there will be a happy ending.



This image represents all the governments of man. The stone was cut out of another mountain completely separated from the image. It has nothing to do with the image except to crush and destroy it completely! This stone is, of course, The Christ, Jesus, "The cornerstone" (MT. 21:42-44; 1 PT. 2:6), and His Second Coming to rescue His own Children from the Antichrist's cruel clutches, by the supernatural miracle of the Rapture and Resurrection! Notice His return was not in the legs (Rome) but on the feet, and particularly the toes "the days of these kings" at the very end of man's governments.

It doesn't say he melts them in love, but he breaks and destroys them! This world is not going to voluntarily give itself up to the Prince of Peace. It has to be done with force!

Jesus is then going to set up his own kingdom on this earth and will reign with his resurrected saints. His true followers, over the wicked who remain, creating a world of peace and plenty for all. There will be not more kingdoms rising and falling; no longer shall one nation inherit the remains of another but His kingdom "shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."

Are you ready for it? Are you a member of Christ's Kingdom that shall never pass away? Are you one of God's Children through Jesus His Son, the Great Revolutionary that shall overthrow all these earthly powers and set up His

Kingdom over all on earth to establish a reign of righteousness that will bring lasting world peace and plenty to all?

If not, to get the real thing. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS RECEIVE JESUS, God's Son. As your Saviour by asking Him into your Life! You can do it right now by simply asking Him to come in and to forgive you and give you a new life.

This passage gives us a good overview of history and some stunning examples of fulfilled prophesy. Theses prophesies and many others, which have been fulfilled, help us have faith for the prophesies that have yet to be fulfilled.

The fulfilled prophesies of the Bible are either genuine or they are the most elaborate hoax of all time. These books were part of the Jewish heritage, which had a tradition of meticulously copying the manuscripts letter by letter. They were public documents which simply could not exist if it was not authentic in both time and content.

Most of the prophesies are about events that will take place at the end of the age and that is where the focus of the next timeline is in Mathew chapter 24.

Here Jesus gives us an overview of the events surrounding both the Great Tribulation and his return and like many of the prophecies in the Bible his words are fulfilled on a number of levels.

CHAPTER 4

MATTHEW 24

Mathew 24 is a timeline

This chapter is devoted to the sequence of events surrounding the return of Christ, but like many other prophetic sequences, it also refers to events that run in parallel but happen more immediately. In other words, there is a partial fulfilment and a final fulfilment.

There are a number of similar passages in the Gospel of Luke and Mark, but none are as comprehensive, detailed or clear as this one in Mathew. It is stated in very clear and unambiguous language that anyone can understand.

For me personally this passage is the starting place, it is the foundation. I build my understanding on this passage and relate everything back to this template. Everything else before and after is just filling in the blanks as far as I am concerned. These are the words of Jesus, THE RED TYPE, direct from the MASTER'S mouth, the SOURCE.

To begin with the disciples are boasting about how magnificent the temple was and Jesus warns that it will be

completely destroyed and that when the army comes and surrounds the city then they must leave the city immediately. He then fast forwards to the end time and more or less says the same thing.

The first passage: verses 1 through 14

In the first passage, verses 1 through 14 Jesus paint a broad picture. The passage begins with the clear specific and historically verifiable prophecy of the destruction of the Temple. Not only does He predict it's destruction but He also predicted the extent of the destruction by stating that not one stone would be left upon another. It also includes a warning to the Jews and Christians, telling them what to do when they see certain things happening.

In 70 AD when the Roman soldiers burned the Temple, the gold on the walls melted and ran down into the foundations. In order to get at it they literally took the temple a part stone by stone. Many people think that the Western Wall also known as "Wailing Wall", where the Jews worship today was part of the original temple when in fact it is not. It is simply the western retaining wall of the temple mount. The temple has never been rebuilt and there is no trace of the original building not even one stone upon another as Jesus predicted.

Four things are clearly and emphatically stated in the first part of the chapter:

1. Three times He warns them about deception and false prophets.
2. He speaks of wars and disasters as the beginning of sorrows.
3. He says there will be Great Persecution and
4. There will be Great Witness and then the end will come.

Signs of Christ's Return

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came to Him to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the

end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

Matthew 24:1-14

So this is a pretty good summary of the kind of thing that will be going on during the end time in the immediate run up to the return of Jesus.

DECEPTION, TRIBULATION, PERSECUTION AND WITNESS.

In this next passage Jesus really gets specific.

The Race

There is a time sequence revealed here which is like the time sequence of a race.

ON YOUR MARKS! GET SET! GO! THE RACE! THE FINISH!

These moments in time are marked by specific words or phrases in this chapter.



ON YOUR MARKS! “All these are the BEGINNING of sorrows” (v. 8).

GET SET! “WHEN you see the ‘abomination of desolation” (v. 15).

GO! “For THEN there will be great tribulation” (v. 21).

THE RACE! The duration of the Great Tribulation.



THE FINISH! “IMMEDIATELY AFTER the tribulation” (v. 29).

Like any race there is not only a start and a finish there is also the distance to be run, the duration, is specified, between verse 15 and verse 29. Jesus points us to Daniel chapter 9 where the length of the race, the length or duration of this Tribulation period is revealed.

Perilous Times

“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those with nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

Then if anyone says to you, “Look, here is the Christ!” or “There!” do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if

possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.

Therefore if they say to you, “Look, He is in the desert!” do not go out; or “Look, He is in the inner rooms!” do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

Matthew 24:15-28

He interestingly warns them 3 times about deception and false christs.

Like a frog in boiling water. The agents of the antichrist will very slowly turn up the heat of deception and gradually replace the truth with lies until we wake up one morning and find that all the rules have been changed, that black is white and white is black and we have been cooked.

The Glorious Return

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man com-

ing on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Matthew 24:29-31

This Glorious Return or Rapture as it has come to be known appears in different formats in a number of passages in both Daniel and Revelations, Paul also deals with it in great detail in a number of his letters. It is the moment when The Lord Jesus reaps the harvest of the earth. Jesus told many parables about this event highlighting its inevitability and significance.

Jesus then continues:

Parable of the Fig Tree

Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near, at the very doors. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things are fulfilled. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

Be Ready for His Coming

Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him.

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. But if

that evil servant says in his heart, “My master is delaying his coming,” and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 24:32-51

Like a thief in the night

There seems to be a contradiction here. One minute He is saying that these events will precede His coming and the next He is saying, He can come any minute. So what is He trying to tell us?

Jesus has already come on a personal level for many and He certainly has for those standing about Him that day in Jerusalem. He did not lie to them, He did not leave them comfortless, they are not lying someplace under a cold stone. He did come, He did take them away to a better place, He did collect them in His arms, their joy was full when He came for them.

The coming has happened for countless millions of souls already. Jesus has been there to welcome millions into

His kingdom with the words “well done, thou good and faithful servant”.

Our life is like a vapour, it is an instant, in Gods eyes it is a flash.

Christians all through the ages have looked for this blessed hope, looking for the return but this looking for him behind every cloud is a relatively new thing.

The fact is that our Lord can come for you at any moment without warning. He can come to take you home at any time, we don't know the day or the hour so you must always be ready. We like to think that we will live to be a hundred but how many do.

I first read these words when I was twenty years old. I recently celebrated my fiftieth birthday. When I was twenty, I never thought about the possibility that I would be fifty someday but here I am.

I am fifty now, so I am in the end times, my end times. We are all living in their own personal end times, we know not the times or the season so we should all act as if the Master could come for us at any time, because He could!

You know that saying, what would you do if this were the last day of your life? As if you would do something different, to what you do every day. Well, that is what Jesus was saying here. He was saying I can come for you, The

Servant at any time and what will I, The Master of the House, The Master of your House find you doing? Will I find you faithful? Will your life be a credit to you and Me? Your life is the sum of what you do every day. Will it be gold purified in the fire or wood, hay and stubble to be consumed in the fire of My judgment?

Let's not kid ourselves we will be judged and our works will follow us. Don't get me wrong I am the most radical believer in the saving grace of the Cross, its total work and completeness but we will be judged, what we do we be tested, we will be asked what are we bringing to the party. Where are our sheaves? Where is our wedding gift? Will we come again rejoicing bringing our sheaves with us?

Everyone needs a deadline

I know I do and Jesus was putting on a little pressure here. He was saying don't be a slacker, be diligent, get on with it, don't leave it until the last minute.

While you are waiting for Me to return in Glory be sure to Live every day like it was your last.

Now that we have studied our first two timelines lets go to Daniel chapter 9 and take a look at this *Abomination of Desolation* that Jesus referred to in this chapter. This will form the basis for our third and fourth timelines, but before we do that I would like to take a more detailed look at this event known as the "rapture".

CHAPTER 5

THE RAPTURE

The Comings and The Resurrections

This term “Rapture” is not actually used in the Bible but was introduced into the Christian vocabulary when the original Greek term “to be caught up” was translated into Latin, hence we have the term “Raptured”.

This term rapture is the word commonly used to describe The Resurrection of the Saints and the harvest of the world. It is a recurring theme throughout the Old and New Testaments and was illustrated in many of the parables of Jesus.

Paul described it as being “caught up together with Him in the air”. Jesus talked about it in Mathew chapter 24 when He described how he would return on the clouds of heaven to gather the elect from the 4 corners of the earth.

It is an instant, a definite moment in time. When all those who are Christ’s, that belong to Him and have Christ in them will be resurrected or transformed as they are gathered together to Jesus in the air.

This picture of the Son of man coming in the clouds is a recurring theme and that the event will happen is not seriously disputed by any sincere Bible believing person but when it will happen is cause of some disagreement.

The options are:

1. That it is imminent that is it could happen at any time without warning.
2. That it will take place before the time of trouble, the tribulation.
3. That it will happen after or at some stage during the tribulation.

It is my hope that the material in this book will provide you with enough information to come to your own conclusion.

It is however important to be specific about which coming we are talking about because Jesus actually comes 3 times.

The Comings – All three of them!

The First time He came in disguise, as a servant king, born in a manger, apparently not very successful, except for the fact that He rose from the dead. He came and went but He left behind a secret kingdom which is being built spiritually one heart at a time ever since.

The Jews did not recognise Him because they were focused on another kind of coming and another kind of king. They were focused on His third coming, the conquering King coming, to rescue them from the Romans, take over the earth and sort it out once and for all.

The Second coming which is referred to as the Rapture happens at some point before the third coming.

The Third coming will be with power and glory. He will defeat His enemies at the battle of Armageddon and establish His Everlasting Kingdom.

So you see there are three separate comings, three separate events.

First, as a child in a manger, to die in shame for the sins of the world, *second*, in the clouds to collect the saints and *third*, on a white horse with the Saints to defeat the antichrist at Armageddon.

The Resurrections – All three of them!

Just as there are 3 separate Comings there are 3 separate Resurrections.

The First Resurrection was the resurrection of Jesus Himself on the Easter Sunday.

The Second Resurrection will be the Rapture when Jesus returns to gather his Saints.

The Third Resurrection will be at the end of the millennium, when every soul that ever lived will be the resurrected and judged.

These events all have their own characteristics which when properly understood create mini timelines, which helps us, place other events in their proper order.

So at the end of the day it is all about the rapture, it is the end of one part and opens the door for the next. It gives closure.

Jesus' resurrection closed The Old Testament and opened the New. The Rapture will close this time of the secret kingdom. The final resurrection will bring to a close this whole experiment on the earth, there will be a new heaven and a new earth and only the Lord know what will happen next.

What you read in this book may seem strange, bizarre or frightening but please remember that I am only telling it like it is. If you have a problem with that please contact the guy who is responsible for the original version.

The original version

The Mystery of Resurrection

I tell you this, my brothers: an earthly body made of flesh and blood cannot get into God's

Kingdom. These perishable bodies of ours are not the right kind to live forever.

But I am telling you this strange and wonderful secret: we shall not all die, but we shall all be given new bodies! It will all happen in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For there will be a trumpet blast from the sky, and all the Christians who have died will suddenly become alive, with new bodies that will never, never die; and then we who are still alive shall suddenly have new bodies too. For our earthly bodies, the ones we have now that can die, must be transformed into heavenly bodies that cannot perish but will live forever.

When this happens, then at last this Scripture will come true – “Death is swallowed up in victory.” O death, where then your victory? Where then your sting? For sin – the sting that causes death – will all be gone; and the law, which reveals our sins, will no longer be our judge.

How we thank God for all of this! It is he who makes us victorious through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So, my dear brothers, since future victory is sure, be strong and steady, always abounding

in the Lord's work, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever wasted as it would be if there were no resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58, TLB

The Glorious Return

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Mathew 24:29-31

The Son of Man Presented

I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.

Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is

an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 7:13-14

The Reapers

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

Revelation 14:14-16

The Ascension

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from

you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:9-11

Those Who Died in Christ

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We are told to “comfort one another with these words”. Just as the resurrection of Jesus changed everything,

turning the despair of the disciples into hope and joy that changed the world, so the expectation of His return and our resurrection to be with him is our hope and joy. Without it as Paul said “We are above all men most miserable” and the whole thing would be a complete waste of time.

CHAPTER 6

DANIEL 9

The next timeline we will look at is a passage from Daniel chapter 9 and which talks about the Abomination of Desolation referred to by Jesus in Mathew chapter 24.

This passage deals specifically with a very short period of time immediately before the end. It also contains one of the most stunning prophecies of the coming and death of the Messiah, predicting the year of his death and the destruction of Jerusalem, more than 500 years in advance.

Things can get a little complicated here because it requires some calculations and historical background, so since this is supposed to be a No Brainer Guide I will give you the 10 words or less version, first!

The Passage begins with Daniel dating it in the first year of Darius the Mead. He is studying the prophesy of Jeremiah which predicted a 70 year captivity for the Jews in Babylon. He is pleading with the Lord to have mercy on His people and to pardon their sins. While in desperate prayer the Angel Gabriel appears and tells him that he has come to give him understanding and skill. Daniel had

been focusing on the immediate future, how much longer were the Jew going to be held in captivity in Babylon but Gabriel's message involves a much bigger picture, a much longer time frame, a much wider world view. Nothing less than a detailed prediction of the timing of both the first and second coming of the Messiah. The prophetic part of the passage starts in verse 24.

Taken from the *King James Version* translation:

Seventy weeks and the Messiah

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

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

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end

thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

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

Daniel 9:24-27, KJV

Taken from *The Living Bible* translation:

The Lord has commanded 490 years of further punishment upon Jerusalem and your people. Then at last they will learn to stay away from sin, and their guilt will be cleansed; then the kingdom of everlasting righteousness will begin, and the Most Holy Place in the Temple will be rededicated, as the prophets have declared.

Now listen! It will be 49 years plus 434 years from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One comes! Jerusalem's streets and walls will be rebuilt despite the perilous times.

After this period of 434 years, the Anointed One will be killed, his kingdom still unrealized... and

a king will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. They will be overwhelmed as with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end.

This king will make a seven-year treaty with the people, but after half that time, he will break his pledge and stop the Jews from all their sacrifices and their offerings; then, as a climax to all his terrible deeds, the Enemy shall utterly defile the sanctuary of God. But in God's time and plan, his judgment will be poured out upon this Evil One.

Daniel 9:24-27, TLB

Daniel is told by the angel Gabriel in verse 24 that there would be a period of 70 weeks of years or 70 periods of 7 years, that is 490 years, from the time the order was given to rebuild and restore Jerusalem to the time when the Kingdom of God would be re-established and the prophecies completed.

The period of 70 weeks

This period of 70 Weeks or 490 years is required to allow certain things to happen:

- To finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and

- to make reconciliation for iniquity, and
- to bring in everlasting righteousness, and
- to seal up the vision and prophecy, and
- to anoint the most Holy.

Even though some of these conditions have at least been partly fulfilled by Jesus' death on the Cross, we are still not quite there. It is evident that at this moment the 70 Weeks have not been completed. This is confirmed in verse 27.

In the next 3 verses, this period of 70 Weeks is broken into 3 different segments and to each segment is added an incredible amount of detailed information.

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

In verse 25 the start and the end dates are given but these dates only include the first 69 weeks. The start date is the Commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem and the end date is the coming of the Messiah.

Notice that the period is further divided into 7 weeks and 62 weeks. Some people think that the first 7 weeks

or 49 years represents the time required to rebuild the Temple. In John 2:19 when the Jews asked Jesus for a sign, He answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” and the Jews replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”. So this assumption would fit in well with the facts.

Another important detail is that the end point is the coming of the Messiah. It could and indeed is argued that the coming could be any one of three or more events:

- His birth, or
- his anointing at the beginning of His ministry at 30 years of age or
- his Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem as King of the Jews on what is known as Palm Sunday at 33 years of age.

The final detail is that Jerusalem’s streets and walls would be rebuilt despite the perilous or troublesome times. The story of the rebuilding is well documented in the books of Nehemiah and Ezra and they were indeed, extremely difficult and dangerous times.

The next verse, 26, gives even more incredibly accurate details, so much so that you need to keep reminding yourself that these predictions were made hundreds of years before. These are not the ranting of some senile old man

like Nostradamus, that is so vague that you could read almost anything into it. *This is clear detail, with verifiable fulfillments in history.*

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

We see here another division of the 70 weeks, it says that after the 62 week period, a number of events would take place. Notice that these events take place after the end of the 69 week period but take place before the start of the last remaining week, the 70th week.

- The Messiah would be killed. This event happened shortly after the end of the 69th week. So the prophesy not only predicted the time of the coming of the Messiah but also that the Messiah would be killed.
- Jerusalem and The Temple would be destroyed. In 70 AD after a number of Jewish rebellions, the Roman Emperor Titus destroyed the city and the Temple. Jesus also prophesied this and warned people to leave the city as soon as they saw it being surrounded. He quotes from the Book of Daniel, confirming that the book and its contents were in the public domain and widely available and known

at that time and therefore could not have been revised later to accommodate history. The Jewish system of coping the scriptures would not have allowed that to happen. The accuracy and consistency of the many ancient texts that are in our possession today proves this.

- Jerusalem and the Temple would be desolate until the Time of the End. Here again this is borne out by the historical facts. Since the time of Christ Jerusalem has not had peace, it has been destroyed and rebuilt many times. It has been captured and lost so many times that it would take another book to tell the story. Today it is at the centre of the world attention and hardly a day goes by without it making the headlines. All this over a little sliver of land and a few million people? Jerusalem will not have peace, real peace until the end of the 70th week.

This leaves one more week or period of seven years and this is the period we are most interested in.

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the MIDST of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. (v. 27)

It begins with some sort of agreement brokered by an individual known as the Antichrist. This agreement ushers in a period of world peace and prosperity. He will be hailed as some sort of saviour. After three and a half years, in the middle of this period, he breaks the treaty and stops the Daily Sacrifice. He proceeds to take over the Temple and defiles it by setting up an abomination of some sort, proclaiming himself to be God. At this point all hell breaks loose and the period referred to by Jesus as the Great Tribulation begins which lasts 3 and a half years until the end of the 7 year period.

There you have it, the 10 words or less version, now let's look at the passage in more detail. This will involve some calculations tables and repetition but I have tried to keep it as simple as possible.

The starting date for the 69 week period

The decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem

Cyrus issued a decree in 538 BC to release the Jews, but it did not fit this prophecy because it made no mention of rebuilding Jerusalem.

Darius issued a decree in 519 BC but this was a re-statement of the decree of Cyrus with the exception that it allowed the Jews to rebuild the Temple.

Artaxerxes issued a decree in 458 BC but it made no mention of rebuilding Jerusalem. But he issued a second decree in 445 BC that fulfilled the words of this prophecy, and that is when the rebuilding of Jerusalem began.

So the commencement date or the starting of the seventy sevens (490 years) would turn out to be a decree in the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes.

According to the Talmud (a collection of ancient Jewish religious writings and law), “The first day of the month of Nisan is the New Year for the computation of the reign of kings and for festivals.” In other words, when no other date is given, we assume the event occurred on the first day of Nisan. The Royal Observatory in Greenwich, UK, has calculated that the first of Nisan in the twentieth year of the reign of King Artaxerxes occurred on March 14th 445 BC.

This is well documented in the first and second chapters of the book of Nehemiah which tells the story of the issuing of the decree by Artaxerxes to rebuilding of Jerusalem.

We have a starting date – March 14th 445 BC.

The ending date for the 69 week period

The coming of the Messiah

Sir Robert Anderson, a highly respected English Lawyer and former head of Scotland Yard, figured it out.

He multiplied 483 years times the Jewish prophetic year of 360 days per year and found that 483 Jewish years equals 173,880 days.

Then he took the date of the decree (March 14th 445 BC) and calculated the number of days to the Triumphal Entry (April 6, 32 AD) taking into account leap year and the fact that there was only one year between 1 BC and 1 AD (no year numbered 0) and the total was 173,880 days.

So we see that exactly 173,880 days or 483 years passed between the decree and the first coming (Triumphal Entry) of Jesus on Palm Sunday April 6, 32 AD. On that day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and revealed himself as Israel's Messiah.

We have an ending date April 6, 32 AD.

Let's look at how Anderson worked this out.

For the sake of the prophesy let's use the prophetic year of 12 month of 30 days each = 360 days in a year. The clearest evidence for this prophetic year thing is in Revelations where we are told repeatedly that 3 1/2 years is equal to 1260 days or 42 months of 30 days, each which equates to a 360 day year.

From 445 BC, to 32 AD, is 476 years of 365 days is a total of days	A	173,740
Add back in extra day for each. Leap year 1 in every 4. 476 divided by 4	B	119
Add in the Extra days from the 14th of March to the 6th of April	C	22
173,740 days + 119 days + 22 days gives a total of	A+B+C	173,881
A+B+C = 173,881 divided by 360 = 483.0027 years or 69 weeks of years.		

As I pointed out already there are a number of ways of calculation this depending on which decree you start with and which coming event you end with. But they all come up with more or less the same date give or take a year or two.

Another way of calculating this is by taking the decree of King Artaxerxes Longimanus given in his 7th year, as the start date. This decree is documented in chapter 7 of the book of Ezra. Although it makes no mention of the

rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem it is implied and it fully restores the autonomy and independence of the city.

This Decree went forth in 457 BC, a period of 483 years (69 times 7) takes us to 27 AD. Luke tells us in chapter 3 verse 1 that the baptism of Jesus by John at the beginning of His ministry occurred in the fifth year of Tiberius Cesar. This dates this event in history somewhere between August 27 AD, and August 28 AD, depending on whether you use, the Roman, the Syrian or the Jewish calendar.

Though Jesus was 33 years old when He was “cut off”, modern historians date the birth of Jesus at 4 “BC” , and his crucifixion in 30 AD. This is because of a miscalculation on the part of Dionysius, a monk who in the 6th century devised our present calendar system.

Therefore, Jesus actually began His ministry at 30 years of age, in the year 27 AD. So here we have the 69 weeks of sevens of years, or the 483 years, giving us the year Jesus began His Messianic Ministry.

Five Events were predicted to happen after this first period of sixty-two sevens (434 years):

1. The Messiah would come
2. The Messiah would be killed (32 AD)
3. Jerusalem would be destroyed (70 AD)

4. The Temple would be destroyed (70 AD)
5. Jerusalem and the Temple would be desolate until the Time of the End

For me personally this prophecy is the most compelling in the whole Bible for a number of reasons.

The number of specific predictions in one short passage 5 in all:

1. The exact year of the coming of the Messiah. Whether or not you agree with our interpretation of times and weeks, etc., you cannot argue with the facts of fulfilled prophecy that show that the Messiah would come before the destruction of the Temple and the City in 70 AD – 40 years after Jesus' death! This is only one of over 300 prophecies fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth, all written 4 to 15 centuries before His birth!
2. This messiah would be killed. The Messiah the Jews were expecting was supposed to conquer their enemies and establish His kingdom.
3. Jerusalem would be destroyed.
4. The Temple would be destroyed two separate events.
5. Jerusalem would be in the eye of a storm of conflict and turmoil from that time until the very end.

- The origin and the authenticity of the prophecy are beyond question. As I have said repeatedly none of this would mean anything if this was written after the fact or could have been manipulated in some the make it fit the historical facts.
- There is little doubt that the book of Daniel was a widely available text well before Jesus' day, He quoted from it! Therefore it was written well before these events took place. There was certainly no way they could have been tampered with since they were in the public domain and the regime for copying the texts was strictly adhered to and fundamentally error free as has been proved by the comparison of the many copies found and compared.
- The massive accuracy and detail of the prophecy. I use the word massive because I cannot think of a word or term that better describes the enormity of the odds against this happening by accident. All of the prophecies happened as predicted.
- There can be only one explanation. That someone who was in control of events or who could foresee the future, opened a window in time and allowed Daniel to peer through.

You can draw your own conclusions *“He who has an ear to let him hear”*.

Following on from this, it is easier to accept that in all probably, the prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled are going to be fulfilled with the same accuracy.

Are you really listening?

The last seven years

This missing week of 7 years begins with an emerging world leader brokering some sort agreement that ushers in world peace. It also allows the Jews to rebuild their Temple and begin the Daily Sacrifice again.

It is difficult to see how this could happen. The Daily Sacrifice has been stopped since the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD, and cannot be started again until at least the Altar is rebuilt. The problem is that the Mosque of Omar or the Dome of the Rock is built on what is thought to be the site of the original Temple. Although there is plenty of room to rebuild the Temple on the Temple Mount tradition dictates that it must be rebuilt in its original position. Any attempt to interfere with the Dome or even the Mount itself would be unacceptable to the Arabs and Muslims who administer it. The Rock which is exposed in the centre of the Dome, is the 3rd most holy Muslim site where they believe that Adam was created and the Prophet Mohamed ascended into heaven. It is also believed to be the site where the Holies of Holies, was sited and where Abraham brought Isaac to sacrifice him. The current Intifada began

with Arab protests against the Jews exploring the Mount from underneath, it is the most sensitive piece of real estate in the world.

So, you can see how if someone could sort out this thorny question he would be a type of saviour. If someone could pull it off, being peace to the Middle East, satisfy the Muslims and Arabs and stop the terrorism he would be the type of leader the whole world could follow, even if he had a few strings attached.

In the middle of this week this leader will stop the sacrifice and place something in the temple that defiles it. This thing known as the Abomination of Desolation. This will also have something to do with him proclaiming himself to be the Messiah and taking over the temple. I think it would also be correct to assume that it is the same object referred to as the "Image" in the book of Revelations.

Up to this point he is obviously looked on as some kind of hero who brought about a period of peace and prosperity for all, a heaven on earth. All that changes and hell on earth breaks out as soon as he reveals himself by taking over the temple and proclaiming himself to be god.

He will insist that everyone worships him, his image and his system. Those who don't will be seen as a threat to society, like terrorists. They will be excluded and ultimately hunted down and exterminated. This will force people to

choose, to choose between him and God. It will be a costly choice; it will cost them everything.

This Turmoil and tribulation continues for three and a half years, which is the most well documented period in the whole Bible.

It is expressed as 3 and a half years, as 42 months and 1260 days.

- 3 ½ years or times is mentioned 5 times
Dan. 7:24; 12:6; Rev. 11:6-7; 12:13.
- 42 Months is mentioned 2 times
Rev. 11:1; 13:5.
- 1260 days is mentioned 2 times
Rev. 11:3; 12:6.

In total it is mentioned 9 times so it must be pretty important. It is clear that the people of God need to know what is going on and how much longer they need to hold on.

In addition to the three and a half years or 1260 days there are 3 other periods of days which give further detailed information but we will look at them later on.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1290 days is mentioned 1 time | Dan. 12:11. |
| 1335 days is mentioned 1 time | Dan. 12:12. |
| 2300 days is mentioned 1 time | Dan. 8:13. |

By now merging these 4 timelines Daniel 2, Mathew 24 and Daniel 9 the 69 weeks and the Last 7 Years, we can fill in the pieces and get a good idea of the sequence of events.

This will give us a map upon which we can place other related events in their proper order thereby.

Let's have a look at these four timelines again before we move on to Part Two, the rest of the book of Daniel.

TIMELINE OF DANIEL 2

Babylon - 606 BC to 538 BC

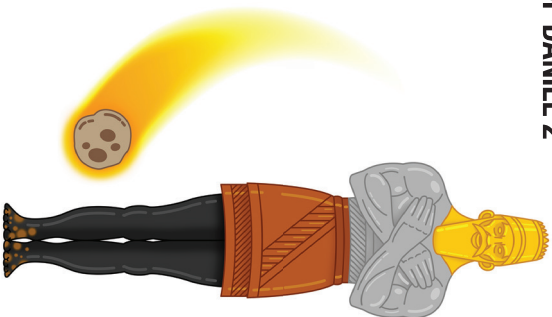
Medo-Persia - 538 BC to 333 BC

Greece - 333 BC to 146 BC

Rome - 44 BC to 455 BC

THE LAST WORLD EMPIRE

Jesus returns to destroy it and
establish His Kingdom on earth



ON YOUR MARKS! GET SET! GO! THE RACE! THE FINISH!

These moments in time are marked by specific words or phrases in this chapter.



ON YOUR MARKS! “All these are the **BEGINNING** of sorrows” (v. 8).

GET SET! “**WHEN** you see the ‘abomination of desolation” (v. 15).



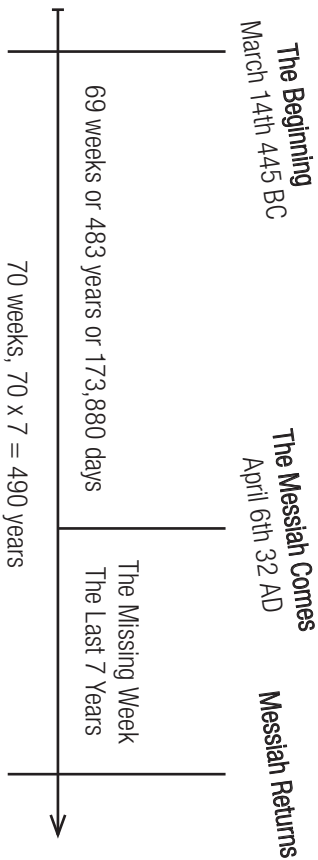
GO! “For **THEN** there will be great tribulation” (v. 21).

THE RACE! The duration of the Great Tribulation.

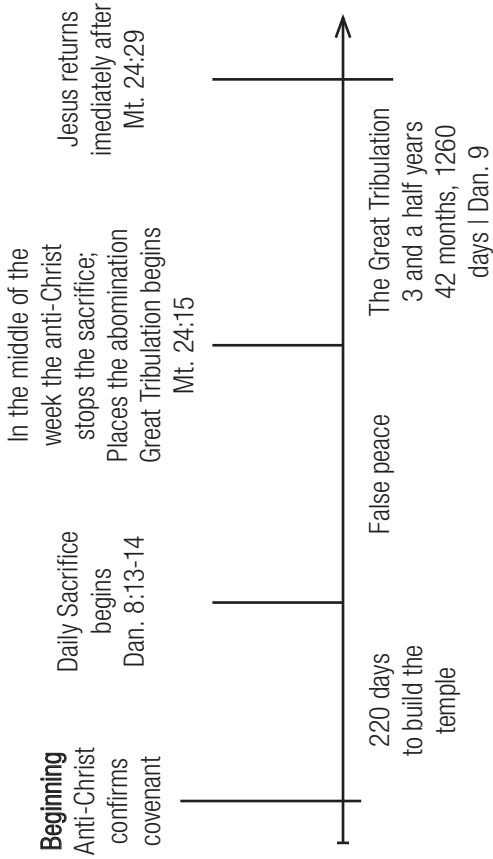


THE FINISH! “**IMMEDIATELY AFTER** the tribulation” (v. 29).

TIMELINE OF THE 70 WEEKS DANIEL 9



TIMELINE OF THE LAST 7 YEARS DANIEL 9



PART II

DANIEL

CHAPTER 7

DANIEL 7

Now that we have established these timelines it will quickly become obvious how useful they are as we proceed to look at the main books that deal with end time prophesy, which are the book of Daniel and the book of Revelations.

We are going to begin with the book of Daniel so we can refer back to it when we look at the book of Revelations. I will however make some references to Revelations as we go along but I will try to keep this to a minimum as too much jumping around makes it difficult to follow the flow of the prophecies.

I would like to point out here again that this is a “No Brainer Guide” and we are not going to go into every little detail.

Daniel chapter 7 begins with Daniel giving us the date of the prophecy. It was in the first year of the reign of King Belshazzar king of Babylon.

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.

Daniel spoke, saying, I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: "Arise, devour much flesh!".

After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from

all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

Daniel 7:1-8

The first thing, we see are, the four winds of heaven blowing on the Great sea. This symbolises the forces of the spirit world acting on the masses of the people, disturbing and stirring them up.

Then we see four great beasts coming up out of the sea. These beasts are kingdoms and kingdoms are made up of people who arise out of the “sea of people” stirred up by these great spiritual forces.

These kingdoms follow closely the sequence of the vision in chapter 2 and are later confirmed in more detail in chapter 8.

The Four Beasts

The First Beast, was like a lion with wings is Babylon and the reference to a man’s heart



probably refers to the conversion of Nebuchadnezzar (see Daniel chapter 4).

The Second Beast, had the appearance of a bear which comes up suddenly, having one side higher than the other, illustrates the dual kingdom of media and Persia and the fact that the Persians were stronger, higher than the Medes.



The fact that this beast had 3 ribs in its mouth is symbolic of the three kingdoms which had gone before, Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon. Every kingdom or civilisation is built on the ruins of the last one, absorbing its culture and incorporating its technology.

The Third Beast, a leopard, indicates the speed and agility of this conquer, Alexander the Great, who conquered the known world of his day in ten years. The four wings and the four heads symbolise the four general's and the four parts into which the kingdom was divided after the death of its first leader at the young age. This is further a developed in Daniel chapters 8 and 11.



This explanation seems self evident and is fully confirmed in chapter 8. Daniel does not even bother to give an interpretation of these first three beasts and merely states that the three beast are in facts three kings which will arise out of the earth.

As usual he is only really interested in what will happen at the end time.

The Fourth Beast really catches Daniel's attention. It is really scary, really destructive and really brutal. It has iron teeth, bronze claws and ten horns. Again this fits with the vision of chapter 2 the legs of iron and the ten toes.

After more or less ignoring the first three beasts Daniel goes on to speak in detail about the fourth beast and about what happens to it.



Extraordinarily the whole sequence is repeated three times, each time from a different view point, with different details being emphasised.

The fourth beast is different from the rest, in that not only does it conquer it's rivals but actually trampled its victims to dust. The Roman Empire stamped its authority, its law and its way of doing things on all the people it conquered except for the Greeks from whom it actually

acquired some of its culture and ideas. Hence the teeth of iron but the claws of brass. The Roman Empire also was more extensive and lasted longer than any other and ruled the whole world.

Here again there seems to be a disproportionate amount of attention paid to what would normally be considered a near appendage. As with the *Ten Toes* in chapter 2 so here with the *Ten Horns* and the little horn that comes up after and subdues 3 of the first. In this case we don't have to guess we are told that the *ten horns are ten kings or kingdoms* which will arise out of the remains of the fourth beast. In other words there will be a final one world government consisting of ten kings or member states. In chapter 2 Daniel describes them as a loose alliance or confederation, which is very unstable, like iron mixed with miry clay.

Here we see a new element, another horn arises and subdues 3 of the ten horns and apparently takes them over. *This little horn is a person or king* who exults himself against God and makes war with God's Children. This Person is commonly referred to as the Antichrist.

We are now shown the throne of God. God is sitting ready to judge, the books of judgment are open before Him. Then we see the Son of Man, Jesus coming on clouds like we saw him in Mathew 24 where upon he is given the Everlasting Kingdom.

The Ancient of Days Reigns

I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

The Son of Man Presented

I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass

away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

The Vision Interpreted

I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: “Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.”

Daniel 7:9-18

A unique feature of this chapter is that the whole story is repeated three times and each time the Antichrist is described as arrogant person, speaking against God and persecuting the Saints. He will try to change times and laws and he will be allowed to persecute the Saints for 3 1/2 years.

Here again we see the tie-in with chapter 2. The Stone cut out without hands strikes the image on the feet and destroying it and the Stone then becomes a great mountain that grows to fill the whole earth.

Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.

I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

Daniel 7:19-22

Here we see the same events just described in a different way, again with an amazing amount of detail.

Thus he said: "The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.

The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after

them; He shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings.

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

But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever.

Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.

This is the end of the account. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart.”

Daniel 7:23-28

Daniel again enquires about the fourth beast and more particularly about the horns. The angel tells him again that the little horn will be a king that will speak against God and will persecute and overcome the Saints but in the end the

court will sit and the power and the kingdom will be taken from him and will be given to the Saints of the Most High to possess the kingdom forever.

Happy endings, this is our hope, this is our reward, this is our confidence. Three times we are assured that the victory will be ours. However things will be looking very bad and they are going to get much worse before they get better. It will be all by faith right to the very end. We will be well into injury time and the situation will appear to be hopeless, our stand will have cost us everything. But we will know that everything is going exactly according to plan and that “our redemption draweth nigh”.

CHAPTER 8

DANIEL 8

Daniel begins this chapter by giving his location and date.

In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me to me, Daniel after the one that appeared to me the first time. I saw in the vision, and it so happened while I was looking, that I was in Shushan, the citadel, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision that I was by the River Ulai.

Daniel 8:1-2

He then goes on to tell the vision in verses 3 to 14. The interpretation follows in verses 15 to 25.

The prologue or run in this chapter is shorter than in earlier chapters and only mentions Media Persia and Greece before passing on to the little horn and all his doings.

Vision of the Ram and Goat

Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and there, standing beside the river, was a ram which had two

horns, and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher one came up last. I saw the ram pushing westward, northward, and southward, so that no animal could withstand him; nor was there any that could deliver from his hand, but he did according to his will and became great.



And as I was considering, suddenly a male goat came from the west, across the surface of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. Then he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing beside the river, and ran at him with furious power. And I saw him confronting the ram; he was moved with rage against him, attacked the ram, and broke his two horns. There was no power in the ram to withstand him, but he cast him down to the

ground and trampled him; and there was no one that could deliver the ram from his hand.

Therefore the male goat grew very great; but when he became strong, the large horn was broken, and in place of it four notable ones came up toward the four winds of heaven.

Daniel 8:3-8

At this stage Daniel hasn't a clue what is going on so he decides to call a friend and Gabriel shows up to help him out.

Interpretation of the Vision

Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end."

Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright. And he said, "Look, I am making known to you what

shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be.”
Daniel 8:15-19

Gabriel says 3 times that the vision is about the time of the end and goes on to explain the meaning of the ram and goat.

The Ram's Identity

The ram which you saw, having the two horns —they are the kings of Media and Persia.

The Goat

And the male goat is the kingdom of Greece. The large horn that is between its eyes is the first king. As for the broken horn and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.
Daniel 8:20-22

The predictions in this prophesy are so detailed and accurate that it has caused many commentators to assume that it was written at some date after the fall of the Greek Empire because they cannot accept that Daniel could have got it so right.

Daniel is careful to date the vision in the 3rd year of Belshazzar and the vision of chapter 7 in the first year of his reign. Belshazzar succeeded King Nebuchadnezzar

and the story of his demise is told in chapter 5 where Daniel reads the writing on the wall and predicts that he has been found wanting and will be overthrown by the Media-Persians.

When Darius the Mede takes over he continues to use Daniel to Govern. There are many interesting stories in chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 which you should read now as they help fill in the background and give context to life and times of Daniel.

Daniel was alive when the Medes and Persians took over so you could argue that he could have guessed or written the vision after the event but he certainly was long gone by the time the Greeks came to power. So who was responsible for re-writing the book and who could have gotten away with it since for sure there would have been many copies in existence by that time. The detail given of the Greek empire is extraordinary, its rapid rise and sudden end and its division into 4 and even calling it by name.

What about the description of the Roman Empire in chapters 2 and 7, and the prediction of the year of the coming and death of the Messiah in chapter 9. There is absolutely no doubt that the book in its entirety was written well before the Romans appeared on the scene. Jesus quoted from it, there would have been hundreds maybe even thousands of copies in existence. A whole professional class The Scribes were dedicated to painstakingly

coping the scriptures so there is just no way they could have been messed with. This leaved only one conclusion. That these writings were inspired by an intelligence that had knowledge of future events.

The fact is that if these predictions have come to pass the chanced are that the rest of them will be fulfilled also.

His description of the Media Persians again mirrors the visions in chapters 2 and 7. The Breasts and Arms, the Bear with the one side higher and now we see a Ram with two horns, two kings and one is higher but the higher one comes up last. As we pointed out already the Meads took over first but subsequently the Persians gained control and became much stronger that the Medians.

Daniel was alive during all this turmoil and you could say that this was merely a good guess but that is not the case with the next part of the vision.

Daniel now sees a furious He Goat attacking the Ram from the west. The Goat breaks the horns and tramples the Ram. This Goat has one notable horn, which is broken while at the height of its power and 4 smaller horns rise up in its place.

We saw that already in the Leopard in chapter 7 but here we are given some extraordinary detail. We are told that this would be the Greek Empire; there would one notable King who would achieve his conquests with speed not

touching the ground and that he would die in his prime, at the height of his power. Alexander the Great died a broken man at a young age because he still hadn't found what he was looking for even though he had conquered the whole known world. We are also told that this kingdom would not be left to his children and that it would be divided into 4 parts to the 4 winds of heaven. This is exactly what happened, upon his death his empire was divided up between his 4 generals.

The vision now jumps directly to the little horn without any reference to the Roman Empire.

This little horn appears to originate from one of the four kingdoms which were established by Alexander's four generals. There are many theories what and where this means but I don't propose to get into that here.

The Little horn proceeds to behave more or less as he did in chapter 7 but here again we are given more and more detail.

It says he grows strong towards the south the east and towards the glorious land probably Israel.

He proceeds to attack and overcome God's people and he stops the daily sacrifice and defiles the temple by placing the Abomination in it just as Jesus warned in Matthew chapter 24. He casts the truth to the ground and he prospers.

Then an extraordinary thing happens in verse 13. Daniel overhears a conversation in which one holy one asks another holy one “how long will it be concerning 3 things”:

1. The Daily sacrifice
2. The desecration of the Temple
3. The sanctuary trampled under foot

This period starts with the initiation of the Daily sacrifice and continues on until the Sanctuary of the temple is cleansed.

This period is 2300 days or 6 years and 5 months.

If we suppose that the agreement at the start of the 7 years (refer to Daniel chapter 9) allows the Jews to rebuild the Temple then that period would account for the missing 7 months, but we will look at this later when we have come across all the other days and months and years still to be uncovered and try to make sense of them.

Daniel is told 3 times in this chapter that the vision is for the end time. This is important since this prophecy was partly fulfilled by a king called Antiochus Epiphanes between 175 and 163 BC. We will see more on this in chapter 11.

We are given further insight into the character of the anti-Christ here. He is a master of deceit and is very cunning. He will be a master politician, but his power will

not be his own in that we are told later on that his power comes from Satan. However, he will be no match for the Prince of Princes and will be destroyed.

CHAPTER 9

DANIEL 11

Daniel 11 is the longest chapter in the book and for the most part contains a long detailed prophesy of the happenings from the time of the death of Alexander to the destruction of the first Temple. These were fulfilled in amazing detail and have been documented elsewhere. For the purposes of this No Brainer Guide, I do not wish to get into that but want to focus on the end of the passage that deals with the Time of the End.

In verses 31 to 35 we again see an arrogant man who defiles the temple and stops the Daily Sacrifice and places in it the abomination of desolation. This was partly fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes so here you see again a fulfilment on two levels.

Antiochus Epiphanes reigned from 175 to 163 BC. He instituted a vigorous persecution of the Jews. It is said he placed a sow in the Temple and forced the Jews to worship it. A detailed account of this time can be found in the book of Maccabees.

However, this was not the abomination that Jesus spoke of as this abomination was in the past and the one referred to Jesus was yet in the future.

During this time, it appears God's people will be very busy, at least those who know what is going on and have prepared. Those who have oil in their lamps and done their homework.

All believers will be subject to huge pressure from the persecution they will face, however we are told that this will test, refine and purify them. In other words, it will be good for us!!

And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation. Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet for many days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. And some of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify them, and make

them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time.

Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.

Daniel 11:31-36

CHAPTER 10

DANIEL 12

The passage begins with the appearance of Michael the Archangel. It then goes on to speak of a time of Great Tribulation, a deliverance and resurrection. The theme of this passage was more or less echoed by Jesus in Mathew 24.

The Time of the End

At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?”

Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.

Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?”

And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.

But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”

Daniel 12:1-13

By now Daniel had received a boat load of the most powerful and detailed prophecies ever given to man, any man and was completely frustrated by his inability to understand what they meant.

Three times in this chapter he implores the angelic messenger to show him the meaning of the prophecies. 3 times he is told that the prophecies are to be sealed up and that their meaning would not be revealed until the End Time.

When something is repeated 3 times in one passage it is usually because the author wants to emphasise something. In this case the author wanted to make it clear that the meaning would not be revealed until the time of their fulfilment was near.

In fact the angelic messenger goes even further and in verse 4 says that at the time of the end when these prophecies would be revealed there would be a huge increase in travel and knowledge.

I am writing this at 35 thousand feet at a speed of 500 miles per hour (an aeroplane is a great place to write, no distractions). I have travelled 8000 miles in the last 7 days and I don't have to tell you how much knowledge has increased in the last 50 years.

The fact that these prophecies are now being revealed is in itself a sign that we are indeed approaching the End Time. It also interestingly says that the wicked will not understand but that the Godly will understand. The reason the Godly will understand is that they will have studied the Scriptures and will be able to discern the signs of the times. As Paul said when he spoke of the Day of the Lord. We are not to be in darkness we are to be in the know!!

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you

as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Once again we see the Saints being attacked and persecuted in a refining process that lasts for 3 and ½ years, or a period of 1260 days. Because this period is so well documented they will know how much longer they will have to endure.

We also see 2 other number of days introduced, 1290 days and 1335 days. We will see the relevance of these days come in when we look at the book of Revelations.

CHAPTER 11

THE SAINTS... WHO ARE THEY?

We generally think of a saint as someone who is a do-gooder or someone who is dead a long time, a figure of myth and mystery. So who are these saints and why are they being give such a hard time?

A Saint... is someone who has been given and has received eternal life!

You cannot become a saint simply by being good because you are not good! I don't care who you are, no one is all good, all of the time and all have sinned. Everyone is imperfect in some way, some of the time.

Whether we like it or not, our goodness, our very bestness, our imperfectness, is so far short of God's perfection that there is no way we can ever reach it. Therefore somehow, we need to bridge the gap, make up the difference and this is where Jesus came to the rescue. By dying on the cross, he satisfied The Fathers need for justice and

fairness. By adding his perfection to our imperfection, He makes us perfect too.

A saint may be a good person but being good does not make you a saint! Because Eternal life is a gift not a reward!

So, you see, you can be a saint too by accepting what Jesus did for you on the cross, by admitting that you have fallen short and allowing Him to make up the difference.

By doing this you are choosing God, you will become an alien in an anti-Christ world and the more antichrist the world becomes the more alien you will be.

This is definitely the ten words or less version so if you want a more detailed discussion on this subject why not get a copy of “The No Brainer Guide to the Gospel for the Rest of Us”.

PART III

REVELATIONS

CHAPTER 12

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Introduction and the first 3 chapters

The book of Revelation gets the most press when it comes to this “end of the world” stuff. The word apocalypse is frequently used to refer to terrible events such as the destruction of the twin towers on September 2001.

Apocalypse is a Greek word which means to uncover, reveal, or disclose. The book of Revelation is known as the Apocalypse due to the fact that it reveals the future in which a number of terrible events will take place.

The book of Revelation is laid out in a fairly orderly manner. The first 3 chapters deal with John’s advice to 7 churches in Asia Minor. Many believe that these are not actual churches but rather symbolic of spiritual conditions which can prevail in various church situations.

Chapter 4 – A look at the throne of God

In the fourth chapter John gets a look at the throne of God and the strange creatures and elders that surround it. We don't know a lot about these elders, or these creatures and we don't know who the 24 elders are. What we do know is that they give honour and glory before the throne day and night. Like many things in the Bible there has been a lot of speculation about who they are. But it is irrelevant as far as this story is concerned. It merely sets the scene for what is to come.

Chapter 5 – The scroll with the seven seals

As chapter 5 opens we are still in the heavens and John sees a scroll in the hand of God seated upon the throne and it is sealed with seven seals.

John is sad to the point of tears because there was no one found worthy to open the scroll, or even to look upon it.

Then one of the elders tells John not to weep for someone has been found that was worthy to open the seals. This person is called the "Lion of Judah". He is represented by a lamb who was slain, who has redeemed the saints by his blood. This is the Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins on Calvary and this event happens after he has been made worthy by this act of sacrifice.

Chapter 6 – The first six seals opened

As chapter 6 opens Jesus begins to open the seals. The first four seals seemed to be connected. They have a lot in common and appear to be opened in quick succession.

Each seal shows a horse and a rider, and each rider has a specific capability. The first one is not as clear as the other three. Let's start with the second seal. The first seal only gets one verse of explanation as opposed to the other three, which have 2 verses of explanation.

The Second Seal – The Red Horse

In this second seal we see a red horse and its rider. The rider is given power to take peace from the earth, that the people should kill one another and he was given a great sword. So the horse I believe is the spirit of war and rider is the captain of war. Some things never change from Genghis Can to Hitler to Milosovich. The captains of war change from generation to generation but they all ride the same horse i.e. the spirit of war. Captains do not do the killing they just have the power to take away peace and the people themselves do the killing, spurred on by their leaders and empowered by the spirit of war, the Red Horse.

The Third Seal – The Black Horse

The black horse is the spirit of trade, money, merchandise, and the rider is the merchant, the captains of industry and trade. Again the rider may change but the spirit

of greed and love of money has driven men to rob and oppress their fellow man right down through the ages, something's never change.

The Fourth Seal – The Pale Horse

This one is not quite as obvious as the other two, but there is a hint here in the fact that its power is limited to one fourth of the earth. I believe this is the spirit of politics, and government. The governments of the earth are virtually, more or less in control of the black horse and the red horse or at least they work closely with them and co-ordinate their activities.

The governments of the world control and have power over only about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the earth because the other $\frac{3}{4}$ is sea, and ice and is not owned or ruled by anyone. So the pale horse is the spirit of government who decides whether or not to make war and whose selfishness and miss management has been the cause of most famines and other disasters.

The First Seal – The White Horse

So that takes us back to the white horse and its rider, who is the ultimate conqueror. So where else do we see a white horse and a rider who has a crown and who is the ultimate conquer? Well, in Revelation 19:11 we see Jesus returning on a white horse with the saints to defeat his enemies just before the battle of Armageddon.

His name is called the Word of God, and he is King of Kings and lord of lords. So I believe that the rider is Jesus and the White Horse is the Holy Spirit of God.

If this is the case, it may also give us a pointer to the timing of this event, which is also significant. It seems evident that there had been sadness in heaven because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and the seals. There also seemed to be expectancy. It appears that as soon as the lamb became worthy he took the scroll and began opening the seals. This would tie in with another event, which we do know the timing of. The sending forth of the White Horse the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, which occurred shortly after the lamb, is made worthy.

The Holy Spirit was always there in all his power, but was given only to specific people at a specific time for a specific purpose. Now he was released and sent forth in a much more powerful way.

This also seems to apply to the other spirits - the horses and their power were amplified as they were sent forth also. It appears that they were all sent forth at about the same time. We have no way of knowing this for sure, but the scripture is fairly clear that where darkness and evil abounds, grace abounds even more. This would suggest that where one escalates the other escalates as well.

This could also account for the fact that since the Roman Empire no one empire has been able to dominate

the world. The spirit of war and government have been a more widely and universally available to tap into. We see here how the race had begun between these 4 horses. However, we are shown here who the ultimate winner is going to be.

Before we move on to the fifth seal I would like to comment on the structure of this book. The book of Daniel and the book of Revelations are inextricably linked, and you really need to look at both of them in order to get the full picture.

The book of Daniel has its own distinct structure. Each chapter in it seems to be self-contained, a completely different vision. Each chapter is built from the ground up sort to speak, starting at the beginning and finishing at the end. Each chapter can be taken separately and can stand quite happily stand on its own.

However, Revelations has a basic flow from beginning to end. There is a progression from chapter 1 to chapter 22.

The structure of the book of Revelations rests on three sets of seven:

- The seven seals,
- The seven trumpets of tribulation, and
- The seven Bowles of wrath.

These flow in a more or less chronological order, there are guide stories interjected here or there which could throw you if you didn't have a good grasp of the overall time line, so you know where it fits into the overall picture and series of events. For instance, the seven seals don't seem to fit into a convenient timeline, whereas the seven trumpets and the seven phials do. They seem to follow a sequence. Chapters 12 and 13 seem to be interjected right into the middle of the seven trumpets to give more details of events, which have already happened.

It is like one of those movies with flashbacks, which add meaning and perspective to the story. This is where a grasp of the nature of time and God's ability to take John and plug him in at any point of the time line is important.

The Fifth Seal

This seal unlike the others since it does not actually initiate anything but rather it is a vision and a commentary. We see people who have died for their faith asking God how long he is going to let all of this evil continue and when is he going to avenge their blood. They are told to hold on a little longer when all that would be martyred should be killed. Not to cool but that is what it says. At some stage there is going to be a lot of blood on the street and a lot of it will be the believer's. Are you willing to die for what you believe?

The Sixth Seal – The day of the Lord

This seems to be payback time for the guys under the altar. All hell breaks loose because it is the Day of the Lord, the Armageddon, the last battle. This seal seems to come out of order as the Day of the Lord does not come until the very end, after the last of the seven phials is poured out. The seventh seal which initiates the seven trumpets and actually proceeds the seven plagues has not yet been opened.

Chapter 7 – The 144,000 and the vast Crowd

Until now things have been fairly tidy, but here in chapter 7 we have the first of these flash backs/flash forwards or interludes. Chapter 7 deals with 2 groups of people. First there are 144,000 people essentially from the tribes of Israel and second a vast crowd too numerous to count. Twelve thousand from each tribe are sealed to perform some kind of special witness or mission. This appears to be done at this point before the seventh seal is opened. The opening of the Seventh Seal in chapter 8 unleashes a period known as the “Great Tribulation”.

After the 144,000 have been sealed John sees a vast crowd too many to count from every nation and tribe, people and language standing before the throne, and before the lamb. This is the same throne we saw in chapter 4. “They are clothed in white and have branches in their hands and they are shouting with a mighty shout “salva-

tion comes from our God on the throne and the Lamb". Here we have a huge number of people worshipping God and John is told. "These are the ones that have come out of the great tribulation".

Again we see the sequence. They have washed their robes in the blood of the lamb and made them white. That is why they are standing in front of the throne of God, serving him day and night in his temple. "And he who sits on the throne will live among them and shelter them. They will never again be hungry or thirsty, and they will be fully protected from the scorching noontime heat. The lamb who sits in front of the throne will be their Shepard. He will lead them to springs of life giving water and God will wipe away all their tears". This is a truly beautiful passage and makes up for all of the scary stuff.

Chapter 8 – The Seventh Seal

The first four trumpets

The opening of the seventh seal is a big deal and there was silence in Heaven for an hour, then John sees seven angels and they are given seven trumpets. There is another angel at the alter with a golden incense vessel and he is given a great quantity of incense which is being mixed with prayers of the people of God. He takes this incense and throws it down on the earth and this sets off a terrible earthquake and basically mayhem.

These first 4 angels sound their trumpets and the one thing in common is that a third of different things are destroyed:

- The first angel sounds and a third of the earth to be on fire.
- The second angel blows and a third of the water becomes blood, a third of all the ships at sea are destroyed.
- The third angel blows, a third of the rivers and a third of the waters become poisonous.
- The fourth angel blows and a third of the sun was struck and one-third of the moon, and a third of all the stars and it became dark – a third of the day was dark and a third of the night was dark also.

These four catastrophes seem to occur in very quick succession. We have no idea what this is, it sounds a lot like some kind of nuclear war. That would certainly cover this one.

Chapter 9 – Fifth and Sixth Trumpets

The next three trumpets are particularly nasty, and they are given more space.

Even with this extra detail it is still too difficult to imagine how these terrible things could be fulfilled. I do not propose to go into detail but you can read it for yourself.

The Fifth Trumpet - The Bottomless Pit

Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen to earth from the sky, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. When he opened it, smoke poured out as though from a huge furnace, and the sunlight and air turned dark from the smoke.

Then locusts came from the smoke and descended on the earth, and they were given power to sting like scorpions. They were told not to harm the grass or plants or trees, but only the people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were told not to kill them but to torture them for five months with pain like the pain of a scorpion sting. In those days people will seek death but will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them!

The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. They had what looked like gold crowns on their heads, and their faces looked like human faces. They had hair like women's hair and teeth like the teeth of a lion. They wore

armor made of iron, and their wings roared like an army of chariots rushing into battle. They had tails that stung like scorpions, and for five months they had the power to torment people. Their king is the angel from the bottomless pit; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon—the Destroyer.

The first terror is past, but look, two more terrors are coming!

The Sixth Trumpet - Army from the East

Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice speaking from the four horns of the gold altar that stands in the presence of God. And the voice said to the sixth angel who held the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great Euphrates River.” Then the four angels who had been prepared for this hour and day and month and year were turned loose to kill one-third of all the people on earth. I heard the size of their army, which was 200 million mounted troops.

And in my vision, I saw the horses and the riders sitting on them. The riders wore armor that was fiery red and dark blue and yellow. The horses had heads like lions, and fire and smoke and burning sulfur billowed from their mouths.

One-third of all the people on earth were killed by these three plagues—by the fire and smoke and burning sulfur that came from the mouths of the horses. Their power was in their mouths and in their tails. For their tails had heads like snakes, with the power to injure people.

But the people who did not die in these plagues still refused to repent of their evil deeds and turn to God. They continued to worship demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—idols that can neither see nor hear nor walk! And they did not repent of their murders or their witchcraft or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Revelation 9:1-21, NLT

All of this does not make an awful lot of sense to me and there are hundreds of different possible explanations. You need to remember that John had never seen a tank or armored carrier or ballistic missile.

As it says in verse 20 the people who did not die in the plague still refused to turn from their evil ways and continued to worship demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, wood and they did not repent of their murders, or their witchcraft, or their immorality. In other words even with all this bad stuff going on people would still not turn to God.

Chapter 10 – The Small Scroll and the Seven Thunders

This is another one of those chapters, which sets the scene. John sees a mighty angel, who carries a small scroll in his hand, and seven thunders speak but he is told not to reveal what they have said. The point of this chapter is to announce to us that God will wait no longer. When the seventh angel blows his trumpet God's mysterious plan will be fulfilled. It will happen just as he has announced to his servants the prophets. So he is distinctly saying here that at the seventh trumpet there will be a fulfilment.

This fulfilment has already been revealed to his servants the prophets. This mysterious plan will be fulfilled. Paul talks a lot about this. He talks about God's secret plan. This is the secret plan of salvation and of the mysterious secret kingdom of God, which is; being established one part at a time since Jesus ascended. This mysterious plan will now be completed when he comes in the clouds.

Chapter 11 – The Two Witnesses

We have another one of these flashbacks or intercepts where we are told that the Holy City, Jerusalem, will be trampled down for a period of 42 months. There will be 2 witnesses who will prophesy during those 1260 days, which is 42 lunar months of 30 days each.

These prophets are impervious to any kind of harm, but eventually, their enemies will kill them. Their bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem and be left there for three days and there will be great joy of their enemies. However after 3 ½ days they are resurrected and ascend up heaven. This causes total chaos because it will be witnessed by billions of people on prime-time TV.

It seems that at this point the seventh angel blows his trumpet. This is the defining moment. As we saw in chapter 10, when this seventh angel blows his trumpet, God's mysterious plan will be fulfilled. Here it says that as the seventh angel blows his trumpet the whole world becomes a Kingdom of our God and of his Christ and he will reign forever.

Jesus said to Pilot that "if my kingdom was of this world then would my servants fight, but my kingdom is not from hence". Adam handed over the authority, which had been given to him by God to Satan in the Garden of Eden; the kingdoms of this world became the kingdoms of Satan and have been ever since. Remember Satan took Jesus up the mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and told him that if he would bow down and worship him and he would give them to him. He could not have offered this deal if they were not his to give.

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The king-

doms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying:

“We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.”

Revelation 11:15-18

Jesus now assumes his great power and has begins to reign. It is time to do two things:

- judge the dead and reward the servants. He will reward the prophets, His holy people and all will fear His name from the least to the greatest and
- destroy all those who have caused destruction of the earth.

This seventh trumpet does appear to cause great earthquake and is the defining moment when Jesus takes back

his authority and control and begins his reign on the earth. Up until this time God has not intervened directly in the affairs of men except where man/people actually give him permission to do so.

You do not have to wait until the 7th trumpet for God to take up His authority in your life. You can give it to Him right now by simply turning your life over to him and you will become one more stone in the wall of the actual kingdom of God.

These are again inserted here as a sort of flashback with more detail on a couple of different aspects.

Chapter 12 – The Woman and the Wilderness

This deals with the woman and the dragon. John sees a woman who is pregnant about to be delivered of a child. Suddenly he sees this great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns with seven crowns on his head.

“His tail drags down 1/3 of the stars, which he throws to the earth and he stood before the woman and she was about to give birth ready to devour the child as soon as it was born. She gave birth to a boy who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. The child was snatched away from the dragon and brought up to God and to his throne and the woman fled into the wilderness where God had prepared a place for her to care for her for 1260 days.”

In this passage there are a couple of things which seem pretty obvious right off.

The first is that the baby boy is Jesus Christ who was to rule the nations and as we saw in the previous chapter he takes up that rule at the 7th trumpet.

The second is that the Red Dragon is Satan, and the fact that he has seven heads and ten horns ties in with the seven headed creature we have seen and the ten horns obviously tying in with the ten toes and ten horns in Daniel.

The seven heads are the seven kingdoms going back through Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media Persia, Greece, Rome, and then the last final kingdom of the ten horns. So we see that the world's system is simply a manifestation of Satan and his power. We will see this again many times before we are finished. His tail threw down one-third of the stars. This would appear to refer to the rebellion, which Satan led in heaven, where he persuaded a number of angels apparently a one-third to rebel against God. This is developed later on in the chapter.

The woman appears to be Israel or God's people, or those who were God's people at the time. The woman then flees into the wilderness and is cared for 1260 days. It would appear that God is going to look after his people in some supernatural way during these terrible events.

Now we get more details on this business of the dragon and the third of the stars. There is a war in Heaven, Michael and the angels under his command fought the dragon and his angels and the dragon lost the battle and were forced out of Heaven. This great dragon the ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

This may sound strange but it appears that God has still allowed the Devil to hang about in Heaven. You will see what his job is in a minute. But at some point he is going to get kicked out of Heaven and he is going to be cast down to the earth. John then hears a big loud voice as someone says, "At last it has happened, and the accuser has been thrown down to the earth. The one who accused our brothers and sisters before God, day and night and they have defeated him because of the blood of the lamb and because of their testimony".

They were not afraid to die, so it tells the inhabitants of Heaven to rejoice because the devil has been thrown out, and it warns the inhabitants of the earth that Satan has been cast out of Heaven and he is on his way down to them and he is really pissed. He is very angry because he knows that he has but a little time.

John says that when the dragon realises that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursues the Woman

who had given birth to the child but she was given two wings, like those of a great eagle and allowed to fly to a place prepared for her in the wilderness where she would be cared for and protected from the dragon for *a time, times and half a time, 3 ½ times or years.*

At some point everything changes dramatically and the power of Satan on earth is amplified. His anger basically explodes. I believe that this is the moment, which he enters into the anti-Christ and takes him over. It is also the point at which the anti-Christ or the beast begins to persecute the women which is the church.

The dragon tries to drown the women with the flood of water, which flows from his mouth. This is obviously a flood of lies, deception, which is the hallmark of the anti-Christ, but the earth helped the women, it swallowed the flood.

It is hard to know what a lot of this stuff means, but it is very clear what it says then that the dragon became angry at the women and declared war against the rest of her children. This could mean that the initial anger was directed against Israel who plays a major part in these events and the rest of the children could indicate the rest of the children of God which are the Christians and all who keep God's commandments and profess to belong to Jesus. It is fairly clear that he is attacking the followers of Jesus. This aggression will be seen even more clearly now in chapter 13.

Chapter 13 – The Monster and the Mark of the Beast

We saw that the book of Daniel was dominated by visions of beasts, which symbolised kingdoms, and kings these have been notable by their absence so far in the book of Revelations. But you will not be disappointed here come the beasts.

John now sees a great beast rising out of the sea. Again, we see the sea as symbolic of the people. It has seven heads and ten horns with ten crowns on its horns. We have seen this guy before in chapter 12. This beast looks like a leopard. It has lion's feet and a bear's mouth, and the dragon gave him his own power and thrones and great authority. So, we see again the red dragon, which had seven heads and ten horns. So, it is the spirit of Satan, which gives authority to these kingdoms. We see the beast whether the leopard or the bear with bear's feet and a lion's mouth. Again, we see them as kingdoms. The world like its technology is built upon the proceedings of governments and is kind of an accumulation of evil, power and knowledge.

- The leopard - symbolising Greece
- The Bear - Media-Persia
- The Lion - Babylon

We must remember that we are now in the future and when John is writing this he was in the Roman Empire and Egypt is in mind. As in the visions of Daniel, things move quickly along until we come to the last in line or the end times.

Here we see that one of the heads is wounded beyond recovery, but the fatal wound was healed and the entire world marvelled at this miracle and followed the beast. This is the anti-Christ who appears to be assonated or something but recovers miraculously. Then the entire world worships the dragon. This is really what it gets down to that in the supernatural sphere the people worship the dragon instead of worshipping God. They think this guy is brilliant and say, "Well who can stand against him." So whatever beast that miraculously recovers from some kind of assassination attempt, and gets his power from the dragon, which is Satan.

This beast then speaks blasphemies against God, and he is given authority to do whatever he wants for 42 months. Again, we have this 3 and half years, 42 months, 1260 day period. This guy is allowed to wage war with the saints, against God's holy people and overcome them. So not only is he allowed to make war with them but he is allowed to overcome them and is given authority to rule over every tribe, language and nation. All the people who belong to this world will worship this guy, all who's names are not written into the book of life, which belongs

to the lamb, who lived before the world was made. John goes on to say he who is willing to hear should listen and understand.

Those who are destined for prison will be arrested and taken away and those who are destined to be killed will be put to death.

But he says do not be dismayed, he says don't worry about it. This is your opportunity to have endurance and faith. So, we should not look on any of these events with fear, but rather with anticipation.

This will be our chance to shine, darkness may endure for the night, but joy comes with the morning. This will be God's way of sorting the men from the boys and forcing people to get off the fence.

Now we see another beast, this guy has got two horns and looks like a lamb but speaks like a dragon. He exercises power and authority over the first beast and this beast required all the earth to worship the first beast that had been killed but came back to life.

This second beast is going to have astounding powers. He can make fire come down from Heaven and can make all kind of miracles happen. He orders the people of the world to make a great statue to the first beast. Then he gives life to the statue so it can speak and then the statue commands that anyone refusing to worship it would die.

So here we have the first beast that is the anti-Christ. We then have a kind of a propaganda guy who insists that everyone worships the first beast, and this propaganda guy has power to do incredible miracles.

He gets some kind of a machine or image, which can speak, and then the image commands that anyone who did not worship it would be put to death. It would appear that this guy has a good PR guy just like Hitler had Gobles. The anti-Christ is no different he will have his false prophet.

The appearance of the statue is immediately followed by one of the most famous passages in the book of Revelations. It talks about the Mark of the Beast. It says he requires, (he being I presume the beast and the second beast who are working together in conjunction with the statue) to cause everyone great and small, rich and poor, free and slave to be given a mark on the right hand or their forehead.

The significance of this is that no one could buy or sell anything without the mark, which was either the name of the beast or a number representing his name.

Wisdom is needed to understand this. Let the one who is understanding solve the number of the beast for it is the number of a man and his number is 666. (v. 18)

There are many, many theories of what this mark represents but we do not propose to get into that here. However, it is perfectly clear what the consequences are for those who do not have the mark. By choosing the mark you are choosing to worship the beast that is the power behind all the world's kingdoms.

As we have seen in Daniel –they really are all the one and the same. From Egypt down to this last kingdom, they really are all one system, ruled and empowered by the dragon that is Satan himself.

Anyone who takes his mark is demonstrating their marriage to him, and in doing so are saying no to God.

This is the ultimate decision; the consequence of refusing to accept this mark will be total exclusion from society, as we know it.

By this time there will be no cash. All transactions will be digital. I personally believe that this statue that speaks and causes people to be put to death will be a supercomputer that is capable of monitoring transactions of all the people on earth, or most of the people on earth belonging to commercial societies.

The Visa card will be cancelled, you won't be able to be employed because your employer will not be able to process your paperwork. You won't be able to buy gas for your car, you won't be able to have your kids at school.

The whole thing will seem so sensible and logical and anyone who does not participate and receive this mark, which will probably be some kind of microchip implant under the skin carrying all of your vital statistics and personal data. You will not be able to forge it or steal it.

It will make such good sense, it will stop tax evasion; it will put an end to crime. But Jesus warned us about deception. By the time this thing comes, people will be so deceived, that they will just be like that frog in the hot water.

This is the first time in history where we have the technology to make this happen. The system is in place, however as severe as the consequences of not accepting the mark may appear to be in the short term, the consequences of accepting the mark have terrible long-term consequence, as we will see in the next few chapters.

Chapter 14 – The Harvest of the Earth

This chapter begins again with the Lamb, which is Jesus and with him the 144,000 special witnesses and they are singing a new song before the throne of God. We then see another 3 angels. Each angel has a separate message.

The first angel is flying through the heavens carrying the everlasting good news to preach to the people who belong to this world, to every nation, tongue and people.

He says “fear God and give him glory for the time has come for him to sit and judge. Worship him who made Heaven and earth the sea and all the springs of water”. The first angel is obviously there preaching the good news. So one way or another the message will be proclaimed. The truth will be presented along side this deception. So people will still be able to make a choice.

The second angel proclaims that Babylon has fallen, the great city. We will see this later in chapters 17 and 18. Her sin is exposed as spiritual fornication, in other words people have chosen to love this world instead of choosing to love God.

The third angel shouts a warning. He warns against anyone who worships the beast and the statue and accepts the mark of the beast. If they accept the mark of the beast they will have to drink the wine of the wrath of God.

This is an encouragement to God’s holy people to endure persecution and wait patiently until the end.

It then goes on to what is known as the harvest of the earth. Just keep this in mind that all this is happening at the 7th trumpet, so it is preceding the end event.

John sees a man sitting on a white cloud. He has a gold crown on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. He sees the son of man – Jesus sitting on a white cloud. Now where did we see that before? We saw that in Matthew

24. We also saw it in Daniel chapter 7. An angel comes out of the temple and says to the Son of Man to put in his sickle as the time has come for him to harvest the crop that is ripe on the earth.

Jesus used this analogy a lot. The harvest of the world fits in very well with all of the other passages and with the parables of Jesus himself. The concept that he is going to come and take the harvest at the end is very well developed. The harvest is both of the sheep and the goats, the wheat and the tares, the good and the bad. He talked about the parable of the net full of fish, that they all come in the one net but then he separates the good fish from the bad fish.

At this point the harvest of the whole earth is reaped. But then something appears – an angel comes from the temple with a sharp sickle. Then another angel who has the power to destroy the world with fire shouts to the angel with the sickle: “Use your sickle now to gather the clusters of the grapes from the vines of the earth for they are fully ripe for judgement. So the angel swung the sickle on the earth and loaded the grapes into the winepress of the wrath of God and the grapes were trodden down throughout the city” (vs. 18-20).

Here we see here two very distinct harvests. We see the harvest that Jesus comes to collect personally in the

clouds and we see a harvest of the grapes of wrath, which is the outpouring of God's judgement on the wicked.

All this happens at the seventh trumpet.

So it now appears that God's children are taken out of the situation since the harvest of the righteous has now been accomplished. Paul says that we have not been appointed under wrath, Jesus said except that those days are shortened... So what is going to be going on while we are not here?

Chapter 15 – The Angles Prepare and the Temple is Closed

John looks again and sees the temple and the tabernacle cover open. He sees the seven angels holding the bowls of seven plagues. These bowls are filled with the terrible wrath of God. The temple is filled with smoke and glory and power. He says something, which is significant. He says that no one could enter the temple until the seven angels had completed pouring out the seven plagues. So it would appear that these are going to be run off in a compressed way and as we shall see in chapter 16 this is borne out or appears to be borne out, as the plagues seem to follow one another in quick succession.

Chapter 16 – First Six Angles Sound

This is where things get a little hairy and really it is difficult to know exactly what or how these particular plagues would be worked out.

The chapter begins with John hearing a big shout from the temple to the seven angels to go their way and to empty their bowls of God's wrath on the earth.

- The first Angel left the temple and he poured his bowl out over the earth and horrible sores broke out over everyone who had the mark and worshiped the statue of the beast.
- The second Angel poured out his bowl and the sea became as blood and everything in it died.
- The third Angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and streams and they became as blood.
- The fourth Angel then poured out his bowl and the sun became a scorching fire and the heat of it burned everyone. Right through all this people are still cursing God and do not repent and give him Glory.
- The fifth Angel poured out his bowl upon the throne of the beast and plunged his kingdom into darkness. His subjects grind their teeth in anguish and they cursed the God of Heaven for their pains and their sores but they refused to repent.

- The sixth Angel poured out his bowl on the river Euphrates and it dried up so that the kings from the east could march their armies westward without any hindrance.

Then he sees three of the spirits that look like frogs leap from the mouth of the dragon, the mouth of the beast and the mouth of the false prophet. These are miracle-working demons that cause all the rulers of the world to gather themselves for battle against the Lord and the great Judgement Day of God almighty.

So this is the Day of the Lord and these demons persuade the rulers of the world to gather for battle against the Lord. It appears to be ridiculous that you would actually fight against God but that is what is going to happen. It is a bit like that movie “Independence Day”.

Interjected here is a very interesting comment in verse 15. It says, “Take note I will come as an unexpected thief. Blessed are all who are watching for me. Who keep their robes ready, so they will not need to walk naked and ashamed.” This is kind of a strange thing to say here. I mean you could hardly say that all this activity is being done quietly, but to say that he comes unexpectedly like a thief. There seems to be a contradiction in this context and it can be tied back to Mathew 24.

These evil demons try to persuade the rulers of the world to gather against the Lord, as it says *they gathered their rulers and their armies in a place called Armageddon*. So here we see the word Armageddon used for the first time.

- Then the seventh Angel poured out his wrath in the air.

Let us go over this again. The first 3 pour out their wrath on the earth, the 4th one pours it on the sun. The 5th one pours it on the throne of the beast. The 6th one pours it on the river Euphrates. The 7th Angel pours his bowl into the air and a mighty shout comes up from the throne. “It is finished”. So it is all over – the whole deal. The outpouring of the 7th Bowl brings the whole thing to and end.

The last 7 plagues brings God’s wrath to completion. This 7th Angel pours out his bowl in the air and it is finished. It’s a done deal. Then he hears a crashing thunder and rolls of lighting and there is the greatest earthquake in history. *The great city of Babylon is spilt into 3 pieces and cities all around the world fall into heaps of rubble. So God remembers all Babylon’s sins and makes it drink the cup that is filled with the fierce wine of his wrath*. This is followed by a hailstorm; with hailstones 75 lbs falling from the sky on the people below and they cursed God because of the hailstorm, which was a very terrible plague.

So as this is the end and the finish, there were still people on the earth who are cursing God. So not everyone is destroyed. We will come back now to the battle of Armageddon. It is important to remember that it occurs, that it is put together at the 6th plague. Here again we have another side, another application, and another flashback type of the Angels who had poured out the 7 bowls. So this Angel came to John after it had poured out one of these bowls. Timing wise this vision occurred during this wrath period.

Chapter 17 – The Scarlet Woman and Victory for the Lamb

The Angel says, “Come with me and I will show you the judgment that is going to come on the great prostitute who sits on many waters. The rulers of the world had immoral relations with her and the people who belong to this world have been made drunk with the wine of her immorality” (v. 1). Then the Angel takes John in the spirit into the wilderness and here he sees a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, which has 7 heads and 10 horns.

So there you go, here it is again, we know what this is. It now talks about the woman as opposed to the beast. The beast and the women are two different entities.

The woman wore purple and scarlet clothing, with beautiful jewelry made of gold and pre-

cious gems and pearls. She held in her hand a gold goblet full of obscenities and the impurities of her immorality. A mysterious name was written on her forehead. “Babylon the Great” – the mother of all prostitutes and obscenities in the world. And I could see that she was drunk, drunk with the blood of God’s holy people who were witnesses for Jesus and stared at her with complete amazement. (vs. 4-6)

As you could imagine John had not the faintest idea what this was. The angel said, “Why are you so amazed I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast with the 7 heads and 10 horns” (v. 7). He begins with the beast.

He says, “The beast you saw was alive but is not now, and yet he will soon come out of the bottomless pit and go into eternal destruction. And all the people who belong to this world who’s names were not written in the book of life from before the world began will be amazed at the reappearance of the beast who had died” (v. 8).

Now we see in other places where the anti-Christ is wounded or assassinated and comes back to life. This is the same guy. He now goes on to say, “Understand this that the 7 heads of the beast represent the 7 heads of the city where the woman rules” (v. 9). Many people have said over the years that this must be Rome because Rome has 7 hills. I have never counted the hills in Rome but you

can try to shoe horn something in this and maybe who knows Rome will have something to do with the Woman at some stage but I certainly don't think that this woman is the Catholic Church because we have seen that the 7 heads are actually 7 kingdoms. Now if you continue on to the next lines, it says they also represent 7 kings.

So these 7 heads do not just represent the 7 hills in a particular city. Because it clearly goes on to say that the 7 heads represents 7 kings. Then it goes on and actually gives more details of these kings.

It says that 5 have already fallen so as we said we have the five kingdoms. We have Egypt, Syria, Babylon, Media/Persia and Greece. They are the five that have fallen. It says that the sixth now reigns. Now obviously John was alive during the Roman Empire. And it says that the seventh is yet to come. So we have tremendous detail again confirmed over and over.

There is one final world kingdom, which is to come. John was speaking during the Roman Empire and since the Roman Empire this 7th kingdom has not appeared. It goes on to say that this 7th kingdom has yet to come, but then it says its reign will be brief.

So this 7th kingdom will only be around for a short time. It goes on to say that the Scarlet Beast that was alive and then died is the eighth king. So here is another 8th king. But if you remember from Daniel that there were 10 horns and

then another little horn came up which subdued 3 horns. So this is the anti-Christ. He is a king himself but he uses the 10 king empire to reign. It goes on then to say that he is like the other 7. For he too will go to his doom. His 10 horns are 10 kings that have not risen to power, but they will be appointed to their kingdom for one brief moment to reign with the beast.

So these 10 end time kings reign together with the beast, with the anti-Christ. They will agree to give their power and authority to him. They will be willing to allow him to take over and it says that together (i.e., the same kings and the beast) all working together will wage war on the lamb. But the lamb will defeat them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings over all kings. And his people are called the chosen and the faithful ones. So he will wage war against the Lamb. Now that is he will literally wage war against the Lord by waging war against his people, those that are called, chosen and faithful.

I like this chapter because it is so detailed. It fills in so many of the holes left in other chapters in Daniel and Revelations. But this would really make no sense unless you had the framework to put it into.

The angel then goes on to say the waters where the prostitute is sitting represents the masses of people in every nation and language. Again we see that in chapter 7 of Daniel. The scarlet beast and its 10 horns which

represent the 10 kings who will reign with him all hate the prostitute. Now this is interesting. They will strip her naked and eat her flesh and burn her remains with fire. For God has put this plan into their minds to carry out his purpose. They will mutually agree to give the authority to the Scarlet beast and so the word of God will be fulfilled. “And this woman you saw in your vision represents the great city that rules over the kingdoms of the earth” (v. 18)

All this stuff seems to be fairly straightforward and there is no mumbo jumbo here. But it is difficult to try to understand what this woman is. The beast is fairly clear but where the woman fits in, the whore of Babylon is a little bit more complicated. In chapter 18 John goes on to deal with her in greater detail.

Chapter 18 – The Whore of Babylon

Chapter 17 makes one thing very clear that the woman, the great whore of Babylon and the beast on which she rides are two very separate entities. It also says that the woman sat upon many waters. The woman comes out of the people. Here now in chapter 18 we get a very detailed description of this great whore of Babylon. I would like to bring out certain distinct elements and features of this great whore.

The angel tells John that all nations have drunk of the wine of her passionate immorality. The rulers of the world

committed adultery with her and the merchants throughout the world became rich as a result of her luxurious living. So the first thing is that all nations have been touched by this. By their relationship with her the rulers of the world have committed adultery with her. Now in the Old Testament where God's people are accused of adultery, in other words they gave their love to their idols and their false Gods and not to the real God.

It says that the merchants of the world have grown rich as a result of her luxurious living. So she has got something to do with wealth. The entire world has been involved with her and the rulers have committed adultery with her. So the rulers being basically agents of the beast with the seven heads and ten horns. The Angel calls on God's people to come away from her.

And do not partake of her sins or you will be punished with her. (v. 4)

So we God's people are told not to have anything to do with her that we are to give our love to God and not to this woman. After this comes a warning to her that she has lived in luxury and pleasure, so it says match it now with torment and sorrow.

She boasts "I am a queen, I am no hapless widow, I will not experience sorrow, therefore the sorrows of death and of mourning and famine will overtake her in a single day" (vs. 7-8).

So she is going to be destroyed in a single day (like a twin towers job). And she will be utterly consumed by fire. The Lord who judges her is mighty and when people saw the twin towers fall they thought of this chapter. However the twin towers were only a small part of this great city.

We are told that the woman whom we saw in the vision represents the great city that rules over the kingdoms of the earth. The great city – the city of London when they talk of the City, they are talking about money. The people controlling the money, the global economy, Walls St, London, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Shanghai. The great cities that control the financial empire and really at the end of the day they control the political empire as well. The Beast, the political rulers are to some extent controlled by the financial system.

The woman represents the financial empire of the global economy.

It goes on to say that “The rulers of the world who took part in her immoral acts and enjoyed her great luxury will mourn for her as they see the smoke rising from her charred remains. They will stand at a distance, terrified at her great torment. And they will cry out ‘How terrible, how terrible for Babylon the great city. For in one single moment God’s judgment has come on her’. And the merchants of the world will weep and mourn for her but there is no one left to buy her goods. She bought great quantities of Gold

and Silver, pearls and fine linen, purple dye, silk scarlet cloth, very kind of perfumed wood, ivory goods, objects made from expensive wood, bronze, iron and marble". All of the fancy things that you loved so much are gone they cried. The luxuries and splendor that you prized so much will never be yours again. They are gone forever.

The merchants that became wealthy by selling her these things will stand at a distance, terrified by her great torment. And they will weep and cry. And in a single moment all the wealth of the city is gone. It's a bit like black Thursday stock market crash. In one moment all can be gone. Like September 11th and it was only a tiny blip but had long reaching consequences. John goes on to say in verse 17, "And they will say where in the world is another city like this one".

They will throw dust on their heads to show their great sorrow and they will say "how terrible, how terrible for the great city for she made us rich with her great wealth and now in a single hour it is all gone." (v. 19)

We will go back and look at this now. In verse 9 it talks about the rulers of the world who took part in her immoral acts and enjoyed her great luxuries will mourn. Then we see the merchants of the world have made money from buying and selling her luxuries and goods. Verse 15

says the people who became wealthy selling these things mourn her.

Then it talks about the ship owners and captains along with the traders. So the merchants, the transport companies, everyone is in on the act. So here we see the financial system, the global economy or at least a significant part of it being destroyed in a single moment and the merchants, rulers and traders are all crying because of her demise, which will happen in a single day, in a moment. This is not a gradual thing. It says this four times in the chapter: verse 8 "Therefore the sorrows of death and of mourning will overtake her in a single day." In verse 10 it says "they will stand at a distance terrified at her great torment, and they will cry how terrible, how terrible for Babylon the great city. In one single moment God's judgement has come on her." Verse 17 it says "In a single moment all the wealth of the city is gone" and again in verse 19 "and now in a single hour it is all gone."

This is not a gradual demise, this is a sudden death. Cities all over the world are very much the same. The skyscrapers, entertainments, highways. I have recently been in Shanghai and Hong Kong and they are building magnificent towers of glass and mirrors.

It is hard to know exactly what this great whore represents but the following things are very clear.

- That it is a global affair. It is not just one city in one place, though it seems to be referred to as such.
- It is a spiritual city – a spiritual concept even though it has a physical representation.
- It symbolises or represents the money system – the global economy.
- The Bible says that the love of money is the root of all-evil. And ultimately rulers and the women are inextricable linked because at the end of the day it is all about money and power.

If we go back and look at the Old Testament we will see over and over again that God's people are accused of committing fornication with their idols. What this means is that they committed spiritual adultery by forsaking their relationship with God and forming relationships with their idols.

Now today we don't have idols per se but most people do idolise their possessions, whether this is their car, their career, their family people today are in love with their idols.

An idol is simply something that you give your love to, spend your time on, and focus your attention on. Football can be an idol. Your wealth can be an idol. Your motorcar or your job can be an idol. If it is that you are focusing your love and your affections on that object or activity and not on God you are committing spiritual adultery with the woman with this Great Whore. I realise I may have lost

some of you here because this is pretty deep stuff but it is the only explanation for the existence of this woman.

Then you may say why will the king with the ten horns and the beast hate the women and destroy her, because that is what is says happens. It also says that God puts it into their heart that they would fulfil his plan. That is because Satan is also jealous of the woman. The second commandment says, “I am a jealous God and will have no other God’s before me”. Satan is also jealous of the woman. Satan wants the whole world to worship him, to give all of their affections to him. So he will also be jealous of the woman and will want to destroy her so people will be focused on him as the complete ruler on the earth. Again it is not completely clear at what point in the proceedings this actually happens. However the destruction of the global economy and the money system as we know it today would lead to the collapse of currencies on a global scale.

It would also create global crises, which would facilitate the rise of this Antichrist and nictitate the introduction of a worldwide electronic, digital currency.

Chapter 19 – The Wedding Feast and the return of the White Horse people

Chapter 19 opens with a huge crowd in heaven singing and giving glory to God. This scene portrays a great victory

party. People happy praising God for his victory over their enemies. They say that now it is time to have the marriage feast of the lamb and his bride, which has prepared itself.

It says, “The bride is permitted to wear the fine white linen”. The fine linen represents the good deeds done by the people of God. The angel says to John, “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb”. Now we have a wedding feast.

So here we have a group of people who collectively are the bride of Christ. Who have kept their love for him as opposed to the people who have loved the god of this world? Now at the time of the seventh phial, we see a huge party, a wedding feast, going on in Heaven. After the party John sees heaven opening and he sees a white horse standing there.

The one sitting on the horse is named faithful and true He judges and then goes to war.

- So there is a party, a wedding.
- There is a judgement and
- Then there is war.

His eyes are like bright flames of fire and on his head were many crowns and his name was written on him but only he knew what it meant. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood and his title was “The word of God”. (vs. 12-13)

In John chapter 1 it says that, “In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the word was God. And the word became flesh and dwelt among us” (vs. 1, 14). So Jesus is called the word. Jesus is riding on the white horse with the crowns. This guy looks familiar, like the rider in the first seal who is riding on a white horse with crowns and who goes out to war and who conquers. This is obviously the Lord. The armies of heaven dressed in pure white linen follow him on a white horses.

Out of his mouth came a sharp sword and with it he struck down the nations and he ruled with a rod of iron and he trod the wine press of the fierce wrath of the Almighty God. (v. 15)

So here we see the wine press of the Wrath of God again as we saw in chapter 14. *And on his robe was written the title “King of kings and Lord of Lords”*. So this is absolutely Jesus riding a white horse with a crown on his head and he comes with the armies of heaven. In other words with all of his followers also on white horses. They come down and strike the nations who oppose his authority to rule with a rode of iron. Verse 19 says that John sees the beast gathering the kings of the earth together, as we saw at the sixth phial/Bowl of wrath that the frogs persuaded the kings of the earth to come and fight against the Lord. To gather their armies to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his armies. So they are coming to fight against The Lord, against God.

It says that the beast was captured and with him the false prophet who had done many miracles on behalf of the beast. The miracles that deceived all who accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped the statue.

And both the beast and the false prophet were thrown alive into the lake that burns with sulphur. And their entire army was killed by a sharp sword that came out of the mouth of the one riding the horse and all the vultures of the sky gorged themselves on the dead bodies. (vs. 20-21)

So a nasty one but we see everything fits together here. At the 6th phial/Bowl the demons persuade the kings of the earth on behalf of the beast to come to fight against the Lord at Armageddon. While all this is going on there is a bit party in Heaven, the wedding feast where those who have given their love to God and kept themselves for him are rewarded and judged and at the 7th phial the armies lead by Jesus return and defeat the enemies of God at the battle of Armageddon. After this, Jesus will accept his position as ruler of the earth and we see that in chapter 20.

It is all about love. The first commandment is all about love. It says, "You should love the Lord your God with all thy heart, with all thy might, with all thy soul".

The second commandment says, "The Lord they God is a jealous God, I will have no other God before me".

God wants us to love him, he does not mind us having a comfortable life, enjoying the things that he has created as long as we do not love the creation more than the Creator. As long as we do not love things more than we love the person who created the things. If we love light we will automatically gravitate towards loving God. It is when we love darkness that we give our love to Satan. It is when we love things and luxuries and they become the most important things to us that we give our love to the Great Whore. Whether it is status or possessions, if we give our love to those things, we are loving the Great Whore. If we live our life for a cause or a war then we are loving the beast and either one is only an illusion and they will eventually be destroyed.

We were created and designed to love God and only that love will ever fulfil us.

Chapter 20 – The Millennium

This is where things start getting a really weird. In chapters 20 and 21 we see an angel comes down from Heaven with a key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. He seizes the Dragon who is now called by his various names, that old serpent that was in the Garden of Eden, the devil, as we know him and Satan. He is captured and bound for a thousand years. This is the first mention of the famous millennium. The angel threw him into the pit, which is then shut and locked so Satan could

not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished.

Afterwards he will be released again for a little while. So Satan is locked up in the bottomless pit for a thousand years so he will not be able to deceive the nations. During the thousand years there will be evil but it will not be organised in the same way that it is today. In Alfred Hitchcock's Movie "The Birds" you can see when a force organises the otherwise harmless birds they became quite a powerful force. In the same way individual evil people doing their own thing, a little here and a little there don't normally do much damage. The destruction or the levels of evil are much greater when they get together and are organised by Satan.

Then John sees thrones with people sitting on them who have been given authority to judge. It is still not quite clear who they are going to judge but he saw the souls of those who were beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the work of God. These are the people who have been murdered, and killed through the ages. These are the souls of those who had not worshiped the beast or the statue or accepted his mark on their forehead or their hand. And they came to life again and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years. So this group of people will rule together with Christ over the nations for a thousand years. I will give you more examples of it in the section on the Millennium but we will keep going here.

This is called the *first resurrection*. The rest of the dead do not come back to life until after the thousand years have ended. So blessed and holy are those who share in this first resurrection. For them *the second* death holds no power. But they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for the thousand years.

So this is their reward for rejecting the dragon, the beast and the great whore and giving it all to Jesus. They will be getting it back a thousand fold and will be part of the first resurrection and exempt from the second death. We will come back to those two, the first resurrection and the second death later on in this chapter.

The Ultimate defeat of Satan

When the thousand years have ended, Satan will be let out of jail and he goes back to his old ways. He goes around and deceives the Nations of the earth again. He gathers them together for battle, Armageddon part two. With a mighty force numberless as the sands on the sea-shore, he then comes up and surrounds God's People and the holy city, Jerusalem. This time fire comes down from heaven and consumes them, and then Satan is thrown into a lake of fire that burns forever and ever.

Even after a thousand years of righteous rule people will again turn against God. They will not trust in the Lord and when they are given a chance to choose, many will chose

to follow the wrong man again! Then John sees a great white throne and he sees the ancient of day sitting on it. Both great and small standing before God's throne and the books were opened including the book of life.

These are books of judgement. The dead will be judged according to the things that were written therein according to what they had done. The people who were not born again, who had not been resurrected in the first resurrection are being judged here. And the sea gave up the dead and death and the grave gave up the dead in them. They were all judged according to their deeds. Death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire.

This is the second death, the lake of fire. And anyone whose name is not found recorded in the book of life were thrown into the lake of fire. So you see there are two resurrections and two deaths. It works like this. If you have been born twice, you will die once.

If you are born physically and spiritually you will be resurrected in the first resurrection. Your name will be written into the book of life and you will not face the second death.

If you are born only once, in other words you have not been born again, spiritually into God's kingdom then you will take part in the second resurrection and you will have to die twice.

You will die physically in the first death, which we will all go through, and spiritually in the second death. Now I don't really understand what the second death really is. There is certain finality about it. It talks about a lake of fire but I do not really know what it is. The only thing we know for sure is that it is not going to be fun and that anyone who's name is not found in the book of life will have to pass through it. The message of the gospel is that we are saved by faith and not by works. We are given the very basic idea of what is going to happen and this would appear to be enough for now.

Chapter 21 – The New Jerusalem

John saw a new heaven and a new earth for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared and the sea was also gone. *And I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a beautiful bride prepared for husband (v. 2).* Here we see something new. God is always doing something new. This is a new heaven and a new earth and John hears a shout from the throne saying: *Look the home of God is now among his people. And he will live with them and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them (v. 3).*

At this time we will have Jesus ruling on the earth. Ruling and administering the kingdom. It now appears that God himself has come to live among his people in his great

city. And it says that he will remove all of their sorrow and there will be no more death or sorrow, or crime or pain.

For the old world and its evil are gone now forever.

And the one sitting on the throne said Look I am making all things new and then he said to me "Write this down for what I tell you is trustworthy and true". An he also said "It is finished. I am the Alpha and the Omega. To those who are thirsty I will give springs of life without charge. For all those victorious will inherit all these blessings and I will be their God and they will be my children. (vs. 4-7)

Now he changes his tone and says:

But the cowards who turn away from me, the unbelievers, the corrupt, the murderers, the immoral and those who practice witchcraft idolatry. Their doom is in the lake that burns with sulphur and fire.

This is the second death. So we see the list here begins with cowards and unbelievers. So the Lord classes unbelief and cowards the same as idolaters and murderers.

An angel comes and takes John off to show him the bride the wife of the lamb. Here we see John being taken

to a high mountain and been shown the holy city, the New Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God. Now this is a huge structure. It is a cube, it is 1,400 miles long and 1,400 miles wide and 1,400 miles high and it has 12 gates. It has different levels. Interestingly there is no temple in this city and there is no sun or moon because the glory of God illuminates the city.

It says that the nations of the earth will walk in its light and the rulers of the world will come and bring their glory to it. Its gates never close at the end of the day because there is no night. And all the nations will bring their glory and honour to the city. (vs. 24-26)

Nothing evil will be allowed to enter and no one who practices shameful idolatry or dishonesty only those whose names are written in the book of life. So only those who are written in the kingdom book will be allowed to actually enter this city. But the kings of the earth will come to pay tribute there.

Chapter 22 – The City and the River of Life

The last chapter of the Bible chapter 22. The first part of it expands on the description of the holy city. It starts with the Angel showing him a river of pure water of life, clear as crystal flowing from the throne of God and from the Lamb coursing down the centre of the main street. On

each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing 12 crops of fruit, with a fresh crop for each month and the leaves were used for the healings of the nations.

Again we see reference to nations outside of the city who are being healed by this fruit. No longer will anything be cursed but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there and his servants will worship with him.

And they will see his face and his name will be written on their foreheads. There will be no night there. There will be no need for lamps or sun. For the Lord God will shine on them and they will reign forever.

These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord God who tells his prophet what the future holds.

CONCLUSION

Why now???

Most of the afore mentioned views have been held by me since I first started reading the Bible in 1970, much of it was shown to me by others and some I just worked out for my self. Initially in my youthful enthusiasm I was highly motivated by the prospect for the shortness of time and the proximity of the end.

However I soon realised that the conditions were not right for the fulfilment of the necessary conditions to allow things to proceed and that we were here for the long haul.

I have watched many cry wolf reading into events such as the Y2K signals that simply were not there. Over and over again commentators have come to the fore to frighten and confuse the church with snippets of truth and build a case on circumstantial evidence to sell a book or promote a ministry.

Ever since the Lord ascended into the clouds on that hill-side in Galilee 2 thousand years ago the Church has gone

in and out of periods of expectancy. This was rampant even among the very early church and Paul had to write to the church in Thessalonica to tell them to not be shaken in mind or in spirit but that the Day of the Lord would not come until a number of things happened first.

First a great falling away and *second* that the man of sin would be revealed and that he would sit in the temple of God proclaiming himself to be God and all down through history this advice has been ignored.

As Jesus said to the Pharisees: *“you look at the sky and say tomorrow will be fine, you can discern the weather but you cannot discern the signs of the times”*.

So what are these conditions which are required for the rise of this man and what infrastructure will he require to put his agenda into action and fulfil his destiny.

1. Something will have to happen which will persuade a large majority of countries to form some kind of loose alliance led by 10 large countries which will provide a platform for the rise to power of this man.
2. There will have to be a convergence of the world's currencies possibly into one world currency.

3. The transformation from a paper based currency to an electronic or digital currency.
4. Technology would have to be in place to simultaneously monitor the actions and the commercial transactions of just about every person on the planet.
5. The Jews would have to return to the land of Israel.
6. An agreement will have to be worked out between the Arabs and the Jews, which would allow the Jews to rebuild the temple and restart their Daily Sacrifice, which has been stopped since 70 AD. This agreement would be endorsed by the anti Christ on his way up the ladder to world domination.

It is very obvious that all of these conditions are not in place yet so even today we cannot expect the glorious appearing or the Rapture BUT it is obvious that things are moving quickly in the right direction.

So what has changed? When did it change? And what's next?

The movement towards a *global governing body* has been *accelerating* since the end of the First World War. It began with the League of Nations and after the Second

World War with the foundation of the United Nations but the USA has always kept a break on the expansion of its Powers and Authority as it has been quite obvious that many factions within the organisation see it as a world government in waiting.

The political landscape has been changing rapidly in recent years. First with the integration and enlargement of the European Community who would have thought 30 years ago that there would be a single market and a single currency.

The disintegration of the Soviet Empire and communism has now opened up the possibility that Eurasia that is from Ireland to Siberia could become a single block both politically and economically.

September the 11th has speeded up this process and has produced a collision of nations that would have been unthinkable only a few months ago.

Well, in 1970 there were very few computers. A computer as powerful as this laptop that I am using typing this on would have cost millions, have weighed Tons, been the size of a bus And would have required an army of technicians to run it.

That has changed big time thanks to IBM, Intel, Microsoft and the rest. So computing power is now not an obstacle.

There weren't many credit cards around then either, now just about everyone has one and money flashes around the world at the speed of light. Money is digital and we are fast becoming a cashless society.

In 1994 when I first heard about the Internet another piece of the jigsaw fell into place. There is no good having computers unless you have some way to tie them together.

GPS was another piece. You cannot control people if you don't know where they are.

There is no use having all this technology unless people are willing to let you use it on them and this is why September 11 is so significant. *Now for the first time people appear to be prepared to trade freedom for security.*

They are replacing their faith with fear. They are putting their faith in the system and one day soon that the wrong guy will hijack that system.

Since Israel declared independence in 1948 millions of Jews have returned and it has been in a constant state of war.

The war against terrorism cannot be won without a solution in the Middle East. There cannot be a solution without incredible pressure being brought to bare on both Israel and the Palestinians. *The right wing religious Jews hold the key and the balance of power in Israel.*

The only thing that I can see that would persuade them to compromise would be an agreement, which would allow them to rebuild the Temple and re-institute the daily sacrifice.

Another not so obvious sign is that things are getting out of hand in the same way they were before the Lord divided and scattered mankind at the Tower of Babel. At that time the whole earth had one language and one speech.

Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

Genesis 11:3-7

I personally believe that the deciphering of the *human Genome* was a decisive act the equivalent to building Babel and while it was not an inherently evil act in itself, may have been the final brick in the Tower. Man will not be willing or able to control this knowledge and “now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do”.

I’m not saying like so many before that this thing is going to blow up next week or even in my lifetime but it is hard to imagine all these things not converging and aliening within the next 20 or 30 years.

I find it hard to believe that we will still be using cash in 20 years time, and that the state wont be monitoring our movements very closely. (Written, 2001)

All it will take is for the wrong guy to get his hands on the controls and away ya go!!!

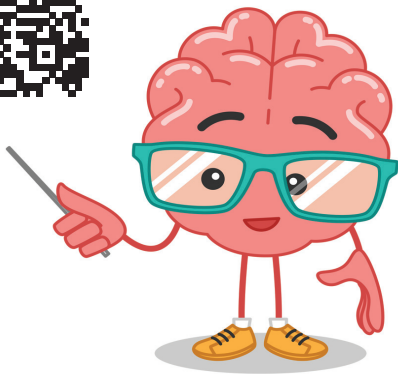
Paul said that we are not in darkness that this thing should come up on as a thief. We are supposed to be children of the light and don’t need to be in the dark. We should know what is going on in the world and be able to read the signs of the times.

All in all the cumulative effects of September 11th has shortened the fuse considerably and the consequences for our personal freedoms will be significant.

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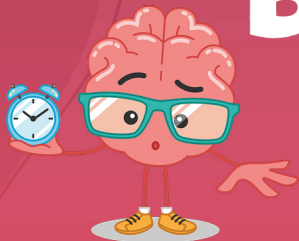


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TOM MAC GUINNESS

PRESENTS

THE NO BRAiNER GUIDE



TELLS IT LIKE IT IS!

**THIS IS A WARTS AND ALL GUIDE
TO WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS IS COMING,
MAYBE SOON, MAYBE IN 100 YEARS,
BUT IT'S COMING.**

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