

# Understanding the Times and Ages

1. Wrath and Worldly Philosophies . . . . . pages 2-8
2. Ages and Cycles . . . . . pages 9-11
3. Four Generation Cycle . . . . . pages 12-46
4. Our Responsibility in a Crooked Generation . . . . . pages 47-50
5. Suffering and Persecution . . . . . pages 51-61
6. Daniel – Kingdoms, Beasts, 70 Sevens . . . . .pages 62
7. The Seventieth Seven . . . . . pages 63-73

# Wrath and Worldly Philosophies

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.” - Romans 1:18*

*“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”*

– Ephesians 2:1-3

*“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” – John 3:36*

*“Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.” – Romans 5:9*

*“...wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.” – 1 Thessalonians 1:10*

*“For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:9*

*“Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.” – Romans 1:22-23*

*“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”*

– Colossians 2:8

*“Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress?*

*“I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me;*

*I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath;*

*their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel.*

*For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come.*

*I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold;*

*so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me.*

*I trampled down the peoples in my anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.” - Isaiah 63:2-6*

*“But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation. Thus shall you say to them: “The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens.”*

– Jeremiah 10:10-11

*“Pour out your **wrath** on the **nations** that know you not, and on the peoples that call not on your name.” – Jeremiah 10:25*

*“Thus the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: “Take from my hand this cup of the wine of **wrath**, and make all the **nations** to whom I send you drink it. They shall drink and stagger and be crazed because of the sword that I am sending among them.” So I took the cup from the LORD’s hand, and made all the **nations** to whom the LORD sent me drink it.” – Jeremiah 25:15-17*

*“And in anger and **wrath** I will execute vengeance on the **nations** that did not obey.” – Micah 5:15*

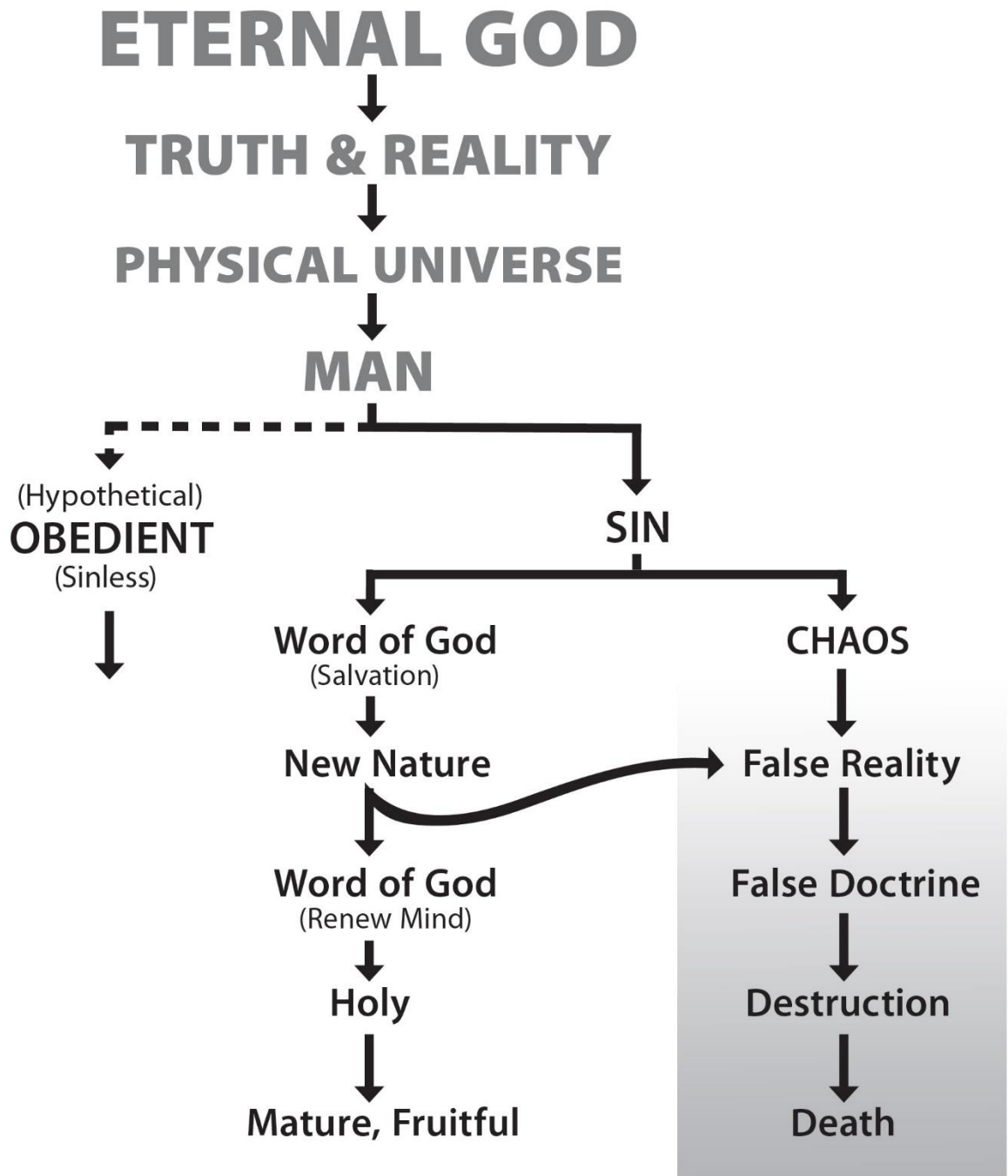
*“The **nations** raged, but your **wrath** came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.” – Revelation 11:18*

*“The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the **nations** fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his **wrath**.” – Revelation 16:19*

*“From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the **nations**, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the **wrath** of God the Almighty.”  
– Revelation 19:15*

	<b>Premodern</b>	<b>Modern</b>	<b>Postmodern</b>
<b>Defined</b>	Divine revelation is the source of Truth. Find and establish Truth through revelation.	Human reason is the source of Truth. Find and establish truth through human reason and science.	Postmodernism believes it is impossible to correctly describe reality. Truth may exist, but we cannot know it. We cannot recognize, find or judge Truth.
<b>Years</b>	<b>10,000 BC - 1500 AD</b> (several millennia)	<b>1500 - 1945</b> (several centuries)	<b>1945 - present</b> (several decades)
<b>Events</b>	4000 BC - Sumer in Mesopotamia 3150 BC - Egypt's First Dynasty 900 BC - Assyrian Empire Rises 605 BC - Fall of Assyrian Empire; Rise of Babylonian Empire 539 BC - Cyrus and Persian Empire 400 BC - Plato 350 BC - Aristotle 334 BC - Alexander the Great, Greeks 100 BC - Rise of Roman Empire 30 AD - Jesus begins Church 313 - Constantine's Edict of Milan 430 - Augustine 622 - Muhammad begins Islam 732 - Charles Martel stops Muslim advance in France at Battle of Tours 846 - Muslims sack Rome and Vatican 1054 - Greek and Latin Church Splits 1096 - Crusades begin 1274 - Thomas Aquinas 1453 AD - Muslims take Constantinople from Byzantine Christians	1456 - Johan Gutenberg's printing press 1517 - Martin Luther's 95 Theses 1543 - Copernicus' "On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres" 1626 - Francis Bacon 1632 - Galileo 1650's - Scientific Revolution 1700's - Age of Enlightenment (1620-1780) 1727 - Isaac Newton 1776 - United States 1789 - French Revolution 1799 - Napoleon 1800 - Industrial Revolution 1800-1850 - Romanticism 1838 - Darwin 1865 - Mendel's laws of heredity 1905 - Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity 1914 - World War I 1945 - WWII ends with atomic bomb dropped on Japan by USA	1948 - Israel becomes a nation 1950's - Television enters homes 1962 - Cuban missile crisis 1964 - Berkeley Free Speech Movement 1975 - Reyerabend's "Against Method" 1980's - Personal computers mass market
<b>Philosophy</b>	text	Rejection of mysticism in favor of materialism. Enlightenment (1620's-1780's) - from Kant, produced French Revolution Romanticism, an opposing intellectual movement, followed the Age of Enlightenment and the French Revolution	All truth is limited, approximate, evolving. No theory can ever be proven true. We can only prove a theory to be false. Physical reality is not deterministic. Scientific concepts are mental constructs. It is extreme skepticism.
<b>Proponents</b>	text	Francis Bacon (1562-1626) Rene Descartes (1596-1650) John Locke 1632-1704) Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677) Voltaire (1694-1778) David Hume (1711-1776) Isaac Newton (1642-1727)	Friedrich Nietzsche Ludwig Wittgenstein Thomas Kuhn Taborsky Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) Kierkegaard
<b>Values</b>	text	New ideas Tolerance Multiple Religions Science Literacy Knowledge	text
<b>Quotes</b>	"Finally, if nothing can be truly asserted, even the following claim would be false, the claim that there is no true assertion." - Aristotle	"Dare to know! Have courage to use your own reason!" - Immanuel Kant (1784)	"The only absolute truth is that there are no absolute truths" -Feyerabend
<b>Pros</b>	Premodern believed in God and a spiritual reality was embraced in daily life.	Modernism supports the concept of absolute truth. It works in God's arena of logic and reason.	Postmodern is open to spiritual reality, recognizes humans are flawed, understands the authentic need for relationships and the power of a community.
<b>Cons</b>	A premodern world void of correct understanding of God's natural revelation would embrace pantheism, polytheism, animism and superstitions that were mere speculation of mysticism, but always destructive.	Modernism developed into a hyper-belief in human ability to accomplish anything. It has to reject the concept of God because God cannot fit into their limited box of human logic and understanding.	Postmodern's downfall is its rejection of absolute truth and its skepticism of anyone or any institution committed to a portion of God's absolute reality.

	Premodern	Modern	Postmodern
Buzz Words	text		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mystery • journey • non-judgmental</li> <li>• tolerance • ambiguity • conversation</li> </ul>
Interaction with Scripture	<p><i>"See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways...if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed...For the LORD is your life."</i> (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)</p>	<p>Modernism denies the divine authority of Scripture. It leaves no middle ground for the Bible. The Bible is either inspired by a divine source (which is an impossible position for Modernism) or the Bible is stories, legends and myths mixed with a loose historical account written by men.</p>	<p>The Bible is not clear or understandable as it is. Postmodernism inside the church does not deny the Bible, but it adamantly denies the clarity of Scripture. Postmodernism denies our ability to know what the Bible means. We must access other sources to find meaning and clarity. Even if God is the author, we still do not understand the text without a mystical insight and a more complete understanding through conversations with others (even non-believers).</p>
Produced Results	<p>Premodernism produced cultures dominated by religion, witchcraft, superstition and corrupt spiritual leaders. Eventually the corrupt, unbiblical church led society into the Dark Ages.</p>	<p>Conclusion – Modernism does not work. Modernism produced the autocratic leaders (Hitler killing 6 million; Stalin killing 50 million; etc.) in the 1900's. The absolutes of science and its natural laws developed in the Modern Age failed to adequately explain reality, origins, humanity, truth and morality. This was proven in the 1900's when authoritative governments and dictators defended their views with the "absolutes" of the Modern Age to justify mass killing, world wars and atomic weapons.</p>	<p>Postmodernism is a depressing philosophy. It is difficult to discuss, indirect in its approach and impossible to articulate. In its reaction against the overconfidence of science in the Modern Age when science attempted to explain reality, origins, truth and morals, Postmodernism has deconstructed logic, reality to a useless, directionless level. Postmodernism has delivered society from the hands of absolute scientific tyranny to a freefall into a bottomless pit of chaos.</p>
Decline		<p>The seeds of destruction produced the fruit of destruction.</p>	<p>Postmodernism cannot sustain a democracy.</p> <p>The only philosophical virtue left is tolerance which is like a medical doctor diagnosing every infection, bacteria, cancer and mental disorder as "normal" and prescribing an aspirin until the patient gets acclimated to their "normal condition."</p>
Scriptural Response	<p><i>"They say to the seers, 'See no more visions!' and to the prophets, 'Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions... This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: 'In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.'"</i> (Isaiah 30:10-15)</p>	<p><i>"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.. their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools..."</i> (Romans 1:18-23)</p>	<p>As to Postmodernism's rejection of absolute truth and light, Jesus' words apply:</p> <p><i>"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed."</i> (John 3:19-20)</p>





	CHRISTIAN	ISLAM	SECULAR HUMANISM	MARXISM-LENINISM	COSMIC HUMANISM	POST-MODERNISM
<b>THEOLOGY</b>	God exists, is intelligent, powerful, loving, just. Died for sins.	Allah, one God, creator, master of universe	No God. Scientific process made God obsolete. Only matter. Man is matter.	Marx was atheist. Combat Religion. Atheism needs to overthrow existing social conditions.	All things are divine. God is within us and things. We discover this.	Not atheists like sec. hum. Like Nietzsche: "God is dead" or unbelievable
<b>PHILOSOPHY</b>	2 Co. 10:5; Col. 2:8; Non-Christian worldviews are vain and deceitful. Christian view is reasonable	Also, a "revealed" religion and is assumed to be reasonable	Only matter exists. Know only through scientific process and senses.	Materialism. THESIS is the way it is. ANTITHESIS is the opposite of the way it is. SYNTHESIS is the way it becomes as a result of the struggle.	God is in everything. Everything is spiritual. When this is realized the physical will not exist. Enlightened mind controls matter.	Objective reality is rejected. Reality is constructed by what a human thinks or believes. No universal truth or absolutes.
<b>ETHICS</b>	God is absolute & unchanging. He hates evil and loves good. God revealed his character.	Qur'an and Muhammad are foundational	Humans decide standards and values	Whatever advances communism is good and whatever stands in the way is evil. Thus, kill the opposition.	Follow inner universal god-consciousness to determine your right or wrong. Only evil is to say there is moral absolutes.	Local community determines moral truth. No "grand narrative" so each community of people identify ethics.
<b>BIOLOGY</b>	Only the creationist perspective can account for design, laws, order. Science tells us about God's universe.	Universe created by Allah, but Genesis is corrupted	Natural selection. Mutations provide variations. Evolution slow. If evolution is false there is no Secular Humanism	Depend on evolution and spontaneous generation. THESIS + ANTITHESIS=SYNTHESIS	Man evolving from disharmony to harmony. Evolution guides man from material world to spiritual beings, godhood	Rejects order and design of history so patterned evolution is replaced with chance and random leaps
<b>PSYCHOLOGY</b>	Emphasize spiritual. Understand fallen, sinful nature. Recognize need for salvation. Face guilt and repent	Man is not fallen. Adam forgiven and left no trace of sin in man	Monism (only body). Man is good. Achieve mental health by meeting physical and material needs. Behaviorism.	Everything a man does is: 1-from physical makeup 2-influence of environment Man is limited to this, but Marx expects man to revolt?	Society, environment stifles the god within us. Man must realize he is perfect, his impulses and intuitive urges are good.	We are many selves created from language, geography, family, education so we are a social construction.
<b>LAW</b>	The individual & the social order are important to God: Marriage, family, state	Family, religion, state are not distinguished	Civilization, culture are evil and make man evil. Family is the worst. Government education is most desirable method for abolishing old institutions	Everyone is both the laborer and the owner of production. No need for government, church or family since empowered men are responsible to act right	Evil in man is due to traditional society (especially in the West). Rebel against traditional values: fathers, families, state, free enterprise,	Even playing field by focusing on the cultural fringe: poor, oppressed, homosexual. Demonize privileged like white males, businesses.
<b>POLITICS</b>	Natural and revealed. Based on God's character. Government controls sinful man. All have unalienable rights, made in God's image	Law based not in God's character but on God's determined law	State has sovereign power to determine law since they are highest power. Crime is fault of social order not criminal. "Truth" is merely legal.	Sovereignty is taken from state and given to the working class. Law originate with property owners. Get rid of property and there will be no need for law.	Each person decides what is right. Need for law will fade away as we grow into god-consciousness.	Western understanding & justice is the root of problem. Get rid of white male view. Less objectivity, focus on subjectivity, minorities
<b>ECONOMICS</b>	God ordained the state, but it is limited, never totalitarian. Never removes freedom, religion or family.	Global Islamic theocracy set up under rule of Allah's laws	World government is next in evolution's process. This is the road to utopia. Goal: World Peace	Working class rises up to seize production & politics to form a world rule by working class until the state is no longer needed	Government exists because some are unaware of god in them. One world government will lead to spiritual unity	Empower women, minorities, homosexual. Get rid of white males and Western culture
<b>HISTORY</b>	System must check mans injustice and make man responsible to produce. Free Enterprise	Based on unity, care of poor, free will, responsibility	Man capable of planning perfect economy. Strict central control of world economy. Interventionist.	Economics determine all institutions. Society based on production. Improved slavery to feudalism to capitalism to socialism to abolish private property for a communistic world order. All needs met.	Traditional economic models stress material, so hinders enlightenment. Spiritual harmony will cause material needs to flow towards you.	Goal is to alleviate all human suffering through government's economic intervention
	Movement through history from creation, fall, redemption, restoration	Allah oversees & leads history to ultimately express his will	No supernatural influence or purpose. Without design history moves from simple to complex	History is THESIS+ ANTITHESIS=SYNTHESIS at work. History is a result of biological & economic evolution	Moving toward god-consciousness into unified enlightenment. Christians, etc. hinder this process	Facts are inaccessible since writers of history record their views. We re-write it w/ our own 'truth'

This information was studied and reorganized from Summit Ministries at <http://www.summit.org> by Generation Word at <http://www.generationword.com>

1. False Teaching and false philosophy in the first century church (See page 20-29 in "Titanic Faith" or at <http://www.titanicfaith.org/section2.html> for more details and Bible verses.)

The New Testament Apostles Faced False Teachers in the First Century. Early in the New Testament, Jesus and the apostles warned that there would be false teachers who would appear and mislead the Church. Throughout the New Testament letters, we read about the apostles countering and confronting these false teachers. Finally, at the end of the New Testament period, we are shocked to realize that the false teachers had actually secured victory and established themselves within the Churches founded by the Apostles. We see three phases concerning false teachers:

- a. The warning that false teachers are coming (28-57 AD)
- b. The battle within the Church against the false teachers (49-64 AD)
- c. The "victory" of the false teachers over the apostles in the Churches (64-96)

Three Stages of Interaction with False Teachers in the New Testament Church of the First Century		
Warning of Coming False Teachers	Confrontation of Apostle's with False Teachers	Churches Lost to the False Teachers
28-57 AD	49-64 AD	64-96 AD
Matthew 7:15, 21-22 John 10; Mark 13:5 Acts 20:29-30	Galatians 1:6-7, 10 Galatians 5:7-8, 10 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 2 Corinthians 11:4-5 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 Ephesians 4:14 Philippians 3:1-3 Colossians 2:4 Colossians 2:8 1 Timothy 1:3-4 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 9-10 Titus 1:10-11 Titus 1:13-14	2 Peter 2:1, 17-19 2 Peter 3:16 Jude 3-4 Jude 12-13 2 Timothy 1:15, 17-18 2 Timothy 4:10, 16 1 John 4:1-6 2 John 7, 9-11 3 John 9-10 Revelation 2:2-3, 6, 9, 14-16 Revelation 2: 20, 24-25 Revelation 3:1-2, 8-9, 17, 20



# Ages and Cycles

*“He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.” – Acts 1:7*

*“In the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.” So he left them and departed.” – Matthew 16:3-4*

*“For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4*

*“Remember, then, what you have received and heard. Keep it and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know the hour when I will come upon you.”  
– Revelation 3:3*

*“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.” – Genesis 7:11-12*

*“Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.... But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The Lord said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.” So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.”  
– Genesis 11:1-2, 5-8*

*“The two men said to Lot, “Do you have anyone else here—sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the Lord against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it.”...The Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the heavens. Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land.” – Genesis 19:12-13, 24-25*

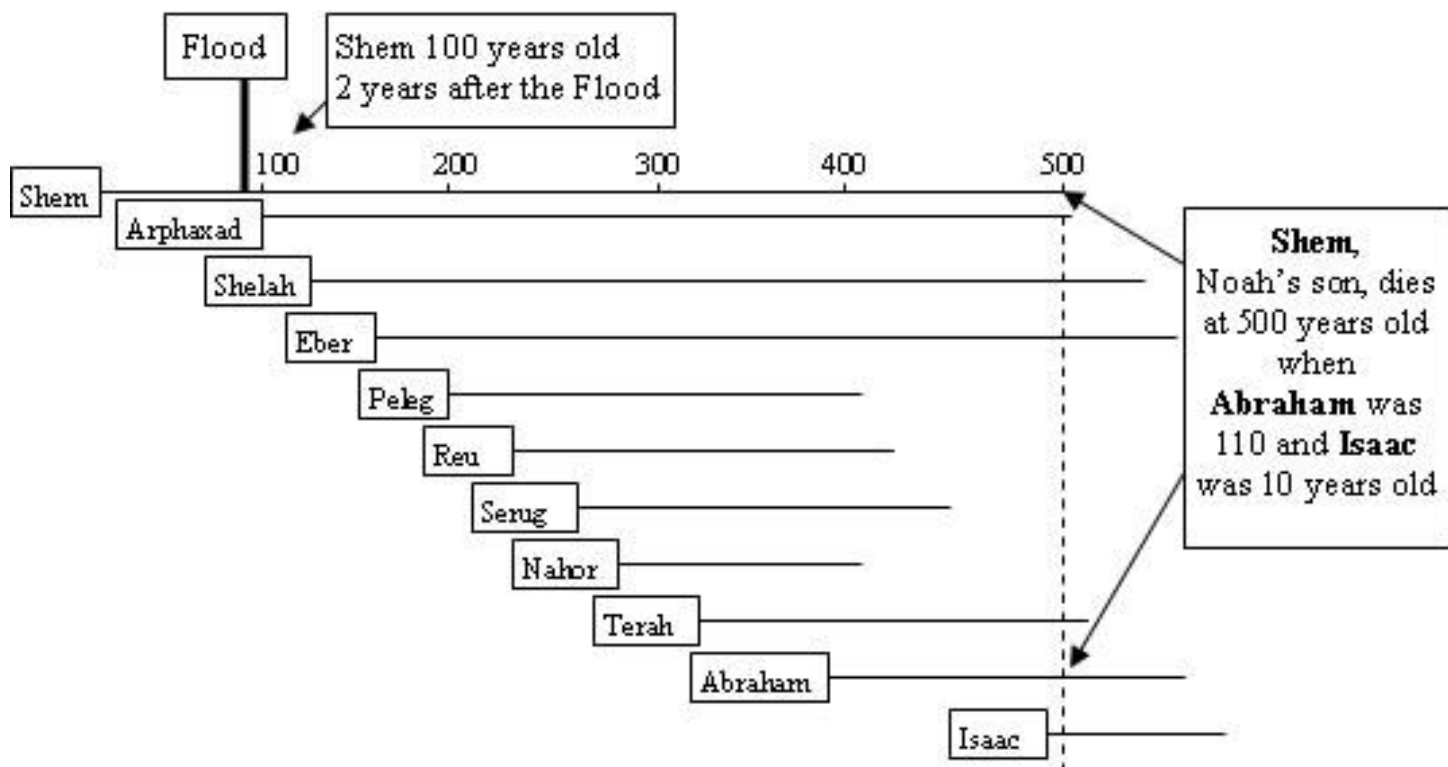
*“I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt....So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.” – Exodus 3:8-10, 20*

1. At this point in time, God has established five institutions for mankind to function within:
  - a. Individual volition with responsibility
  - b. Marriage
  - c. Family
  - d. Government
  - e. Nations (nationalism)
2. These institutions were established by God for the wellbeing of mankind as the history of fallen man began to unfold:
  - a. Individual responsibility in the Garden of Eden
  - b. Marriage in the Garden of Eden
  - c. Families between the fall of man and the Flood
  - d. Government between the Flood and the Tower of Babel
  - e. Age of Nations after the Tower of Babel
3. Following these five natural institutions, God also established two institutions for the advancement of his presence in this temporal age and the knowledge of his kingdom:
  - a. Israel – Genesis 12:1-2, God said to Abraham: *“Leave your country (government and nation) and your father’s household (family) and go to the land (national borders) I will show you. I will make you into a great nation (Israel)...”*
  - b. Church – Matthew 16:18, “I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.”

### **The Seven Institutions**

There are seven institutions established by God for the welfare of mankind:

	<b>Institutions</b>	<b>Scripture Found</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
1	Individual Volition	Genesis 1:16-17	Individuals can respond to God’s offer of salvation
2	Marriage	Genesis 2:24	Foundation for the family
3	Family	Genesis 4:1, 7:1	Foundation for society
4	Government	Genesis 9:5,6	Create and maintain a peaceful society
5	Nations	Genesis 10, 11	So societies can collectively respond to God
6	Israel	Genesis 12:2,3	Preserve the truth of God’s revelation on the earth
7	Church	Matthew 13; 16:18; Acts 2	Communicate to the kingdoms of the world the truth about God’s eternal kingdom



# Four Generation Cycle

*"There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers.*

*There are those who are clean in their own eyes but are not washed of their filth.*

*There are those—how lofty are their eyes, how high their eyelids lift!*

*There are those whose teeth are swords, whose fangs are knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, the needy from among mankind."* – Proverbs 30:11-14

*"And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."* – Genesis 15:16

*"The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,...who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."*

– Exodus 34:6-7

## 1. The Four Generation Cycle - Proverbs 30:11-14 – (More details beginning on page 78 of the online .pdf of the book "Hope for America's Last Generation" 2007 -

[http://www.generationword.com/hope\\_for\\_america.pdf](http://www.generationword.com/hope_for_america.pdf) )

- a. **"There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers; those who are pure in their own eyes and yet are not cleansed of their filth; those whose eyes are ever so haughty, whose glances are so disdainful; those whose teeth are swords and whose jaws are set with knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men."** (NIV)
  - i. We need to look also at the King James Version. Notice the different method of translation and notice the italics in the King James The italicized words in the KJ text are words that are not in the original language but added in the English translations to make reading easier:

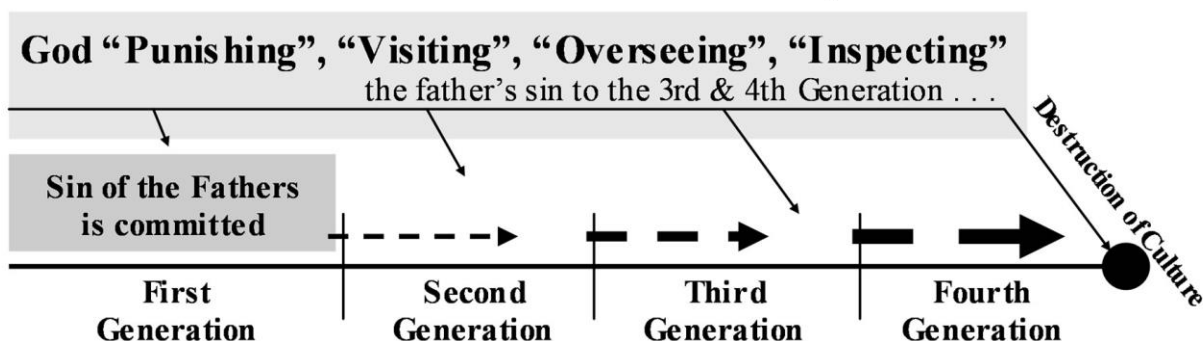
*"There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.  
There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.  
There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up.  
There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men."*
  - ii. Without the inserted italicized words the King James would read like this:

*"A generation curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.  
A generation pure in their own eyes, and is not washed from their filthiness.  
A generation, O how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up.  
A generation, whose teeth swords, and their jaw teeth knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from men."*
  - iii. In 1872 Joseph Bryant Rotherham captured the essence of these verses in his translation which reads:

*"A generation! Its father it revileth, And its mother it doth not bless.  
A generation! Pure in its own eyes, Yet from its filth hath it not been bathed.  
A generation! How lofty are its eyes, And its eyelashes uplifted  
A generation! Swords are its teeth, And knives its incisors, To devour the humbled out of the earth, And the needy from among men."*
- b. Exodus 20:4 - The Second Commandment's warning:

- i. **“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven, above or on the earth, beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of their fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.” (Ex. 20:4)**
  - a. The word “punishing” is the Hebrew word *paqad* (paw-kad') which means “to visit with friendly or hostile intent.”
    - i. The word indicates that God is “overseeing, caring for, looking after, inspecting or examining.”
    - ii. So God is overseeing, inspecting, and examining “the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”
    - iii. Why does he stop at the fourth generation? Why not go on to the fifth and sixth? We will see that by the fifth generation a father’s sin has been dealt with in one of two ways. Either the society of the third and fourth generations have:
      - 1. made the necessary corrections, as mentioned in Ezekiel 18:14-17, or
      - 2. God has punished and destroyed the third and fourth generations because they followed in their father’s sin.
  - b. There would therefore be no fifth generation in this culture. This fourth generation would be the last.
  - c. This is a principle of divine judgment—it is called the four generation cycle.
    - i. It is used by God to control history by judging specific cultures that have become corrupt and sinful.
    - ii. He no longer has to:
      - 1. Destroy the whole world as he did in Noah’s day or
      - 2. Disperse the world population as he did in Nimrod’s day in order to preserve his plan in the earth.
      - 3. Instead he can discipline the cultures that become so sinful they might hinder the plan of God on earth.

## The Four Generation Cycle





**2. Five Cycles of Discipline for each of the generations.** God sends each rebellious nation through five distinct cycles of discipline. Leviticus 26:14-33 describes these cycles as God promises to take Israel through them if they continue to rebel against him.

**a. Leviticus 26:14-33:** “But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands, and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant, then I will do this to you.”

i. Cycle Number One Comes to the First Generation (the first 40 years):

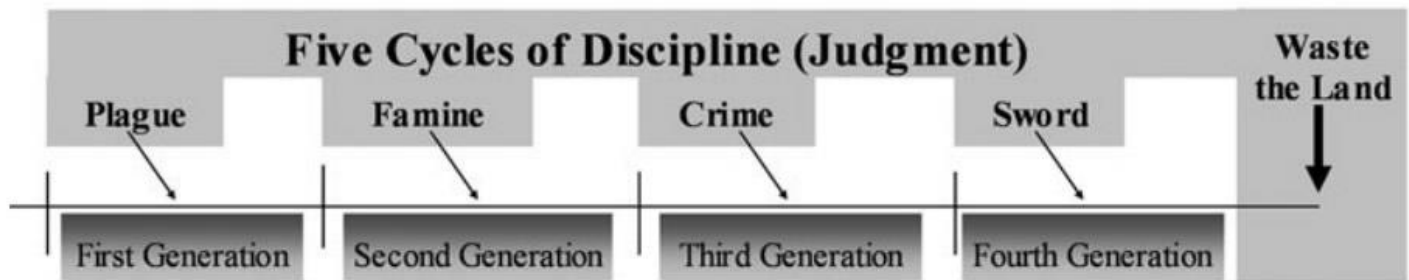
“I will bring upon you sudden terror, wasting diseases and fever that will destroy your sight and drain away your life. You will plant seed in vain, because your enemies will eat it. I will set my face against you so that you will be defeated by your enemies; those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee even when no one is pursuing you. If after all this you will not listen to me, I will punish you for your sins seven times over...”

ii. Cycle Number Two Comes to the Second Generation (years 41-80): “I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze. Your strength will be spent in vain, because your soil will not yield its crops, nor will the trees of the land yield their fruit. If you remain hostile toward me and refuse to listen to me, I will multiply your afflictions seven times over, as your sins deserve.”

iii. Cycle Number Comes to the Third Generation (years 81-120): “I will send wild animals against you, and they will rob you of your children, destroy your cattle and make you so few in number that your roads will be deserted. If in spite of these things you do not accept my correction but continue to be hostile toward me, I myself will be hostile toward you and will afflict you for your sins seven times over.”

iv. Cycle Number Four Comes to the Fourth Generation (years 121-160): “And I will bring the sword upon you to avenge the breaking of the covenant. When you withdraw into your cities, I will send a plague among you, and you will be given into enemy hands. When I cut off your supply of bread, ten women will be able to bake your bread in one oven, and they will dole out the bread by weight. You will eat, but you will not be satisfied. If in spite of this you still do not listen to me but continue to be hostile toward me, then in my anger I will be hostile toward you, and I myself will punish you for your sins seven times over.”

v. Cycle Number Five Comes at the End of the Fourth Generation (and it *completely* destroys that society): “You will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters. I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars and pile your dead bodies on the lifeless forms of your idols, and I will abhor you. I will turn your cities into ruins and lay waste your sanctuaries, and I will take no delight in the pleasing aroma of your offerings. I will lay waste the land, so that your enemies who live there will be appalled. I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ru



Cycle of Judgment	Generation it Strikes	Characteristics Described in Leviticus 26
1 <b>Leviticus 26:16-17</b>	First Generation 1-40 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sudden terror</li> <li><b>b. Wasting diseases</b></li> <li>c. Fever destroys sight</li> <li>d. Drain away life</li> <li>e. Plant seed in vain</li> <li>f. Enemies eat produce</li> <li>g. Defeated by enemies</li> <li>h. Ruled by those who hate you</li> <li>i. Flee when no one pursues you.</li> </ul>
2 <b>Leviticus 26:19-20</b>	Second Generation 41-80 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Break down stubborn pride</li> <li><b>b. Sky like iron (no rain)</b></li> <li><b>c. Ground like bronze (famine)</b></li> <li>d. Strength spent in vain</li> <li>e. No crops from soil</li> <li>f. No fruit from trees</li> </ul>
3 <b>Leviticus 26:22</b>	Third Generation 81-120 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Send wild animals (crime)</b></li> <li>b. <b>Robbed</b> of children</li> <li>c. Destroy cattle</li> <li>d. Reduce population</li> <li><b>e. Deserted roads</b></li> </ul>
4 <b>Leviticus 26:25-26</b>	Fourth Generation 121-160 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Sword upon you (war comes to your land)</b></li> <li>b. Seek shelter from attacks</li> <li>c. Plagues</li> <li>d. Given into enemies hands</li> <li>e. Cut of supply of food</li> <li>f. Poor living conditions</li> <li>g. Food rationed</li> <li>h. Hunger</li> </ul>
5 <b>Leviticus 26:29-39</b>	<b>No Fifth Generation And The End of Society</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Eat flesh of sons &amp; daughters</li> <li>b. Destroy high places, altars, sanctuaries</li> <li>c. Pile dead bodies on idols</li> <li>d. Ruin cities</li> <li>e. Lay waste sanctuaries</li> <li>f. Not listen to your prayers</li> <li>g. Lay waste the land</li> <li>h. Disperse the citizens among nations</li> </ul>
		<i>...But if they will confess their sins and the sins of their fathers . . . then when their uncircumcised ears are humbled and they pay for their sin, I will remember. . . (Leviticus 26:40)</i>

**3. Four Generation Cycle included Jesus Ministry in 30 AD** (90 BC-70 AD) – see “Chapter 13: Jesus, a Prophet to His Generation” in “Hope for America’s Last Generation” pages 107-118.

- a. John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah at the beginning of the fourth generation in Israel in 30 AD.
- b. Jesus came as a prophet to Jerusalem in 30 AD like Jeremiah did in 626 BC in King Josiah’s day:
  - i. Jerusalem fell 70 AD, 40 years after Jesus’ ministry ended in 30 AD
  - ii. Jerusalem fell in 586 BC, 40 years after Jeremiah began in 626 BC
- c. Luke 13:6-9 – “A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”
  - i. “three years” is three seasons for a tree, but three generations for a culture or 120 years (90 BC-30 AD)
  - ii. “leave it alone for one more year” is one more season for a tree, but one more generation for a culture, or 40 more years (30-70 AD)
- d. In Luke’s account of Palm Sunday, he records Jesus’ words and emotions as he approached the city crowds and the angry religious leaders.

Luke writes in Luke 19:41-44:

“As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, ‘If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace— but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.’” - Luke 19:41-44

- i. Six days later, Jesus was on his way to the cross after enduring a sleepless night on trial. He’d been beaten by Herod’s guards and had received a flesh-tearing scourging from the Romans. Now he was collapsing from the weight of the cross beam he was forced to carry. Crowds lined the streets to watch. In his horrible physical condition on the way to the cross, Jesus’ message was the same. He had not given up on his generation, and he wanted them to know what they would face if the fifth cycle of judgment was released. One final time Jesus warns his “wicked generation” to reconsider their ways and repent.

Luke writes in Luke 23:26-31:

*“As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed! Then they will say to the mountains, fall on us! And to the hills, cover us! For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?’”* -

Luke 23:26-31

1. Even in his broken, bloody condition, Jesus tells the women to cry for themselves and their children because they will have to live through the fifth cycle of judgment.
2. In 70 AD, it will be better for these women and their children to die than to face the famine, crime, fires, foreign armies, slavery, and crucifixion they will face at the hands of the Romans.
3. Jesus then asks a question that connects back to his parable of the fig tree in the vineyard. After three seasons (or generations) the fig tree was given one final season to produce fruit. Jesus was about to be crucified, but because his death was part of this final season, the nation of Israel still had hope. The tree was still in the vineyard.
4. The day would come, however, forty years in the future, when that same tree would be cut down and removed from God's plan. The dead, dry tree would be taken from the vineyard and cast aside.
5. Jesus was hinting to these women that if they found his crucifixion horrifying, they wouldn't want to see what was in store for them after 70 AD when they would be hauled out of the vineyard.
6. The young mothers Jesus spoke to at this time were about 18-30 years old. They would have children ranging from infants to 12-year-olds. When Jerusalem fell to Rome under the fifth cycle of judgment, these same mothers would be 58-70, and their children would be 40-52. These women and children are the same people Josephus writes about in his eye witness account of Jerusalem's fall.

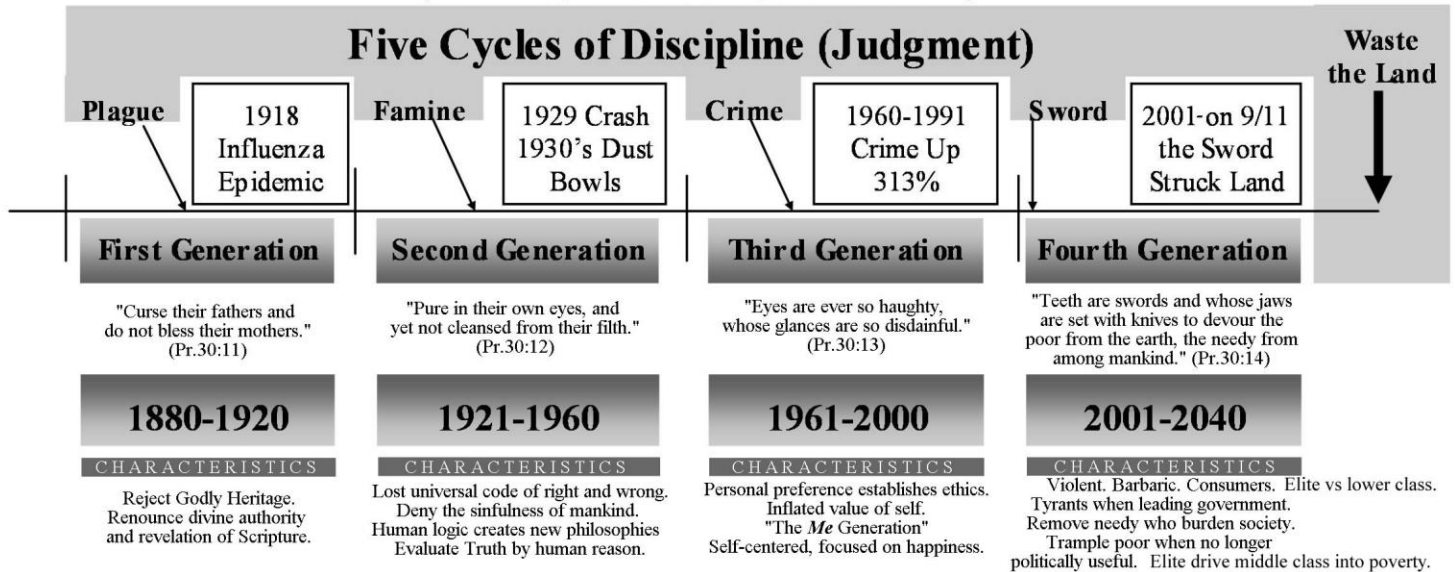
Generation	Years	Events	Cycle of Judgment
1 <sup>st</sup>	90-50 BC	63 BC Pompey invades Israel and Israel becomes a client kingdom of Rome	1 <sup>st</sup> – “Those who hate you will rule over you.” Leviticus 26:17
2 <sup>nd</sup>	50-10 BC	25 BC a famine strikes and Herod saves the Jewish people by selling his possessions and buying grain from Egypt	2 <sup>nd</sup> – “Make the sky...like iron and the ground...like bronze...” Leviticus 26:19
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 BC-30AD	29 AD John the Baptist preaches to the nation in the spirit of Elijah (Luke 1:17)	3 <sup>rd</sup> – “Wild animals...rob you of your children...destroy cattle...so few in numbers that your roads will be deserted.” Leviticus 26:22
4 <sup>th</sup>	30-70 AD	46 AD a famine strikes (as predicted by Agabus in Acts 12:28 and recorded by Josephus)  66 AD Roman General Titus lays siege to Judea/ Jerusalem	4 <sup>th</sup> – Leviticus 26:25-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Sword upon the land</li> <li>✦ Seek shelter</li> <li>✦ Cut off supply of food</li> <li>✦ Food rationed</li> </ul>
The End	70 AD	70 AD Romans burn Jerusalem and the temple	5 <sup>th</sup> – Leviticus 26:29-33 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Destroy altars, sanctuaries</li> <li>✦ Pile up the dead bodies</li> <li>✦ Ruin cities/lay waste land</li> <li>✦ Dispersed among nations</li> </ul>



## 4. Four Generation Cycle in United States

### The Four Generation Cycle in the United States from 1880-2040

(Exodus 20:4; Genesis 15:13-16; Leviticus 26:14-33)



### The Four Generation's of today's Laodicean Church Age

<u>1880-1920</u>	<u>1921-1960</u>	<u>1961-2000</u>	<u>2001-2040</u>
Systematic Growth Methodology Emotionalism	Showmanship Materialism Theology of Success	Charismatic Movement Individual Interpretation Personal Revelation Mysticism	Market Driven Church combined with the contemporary culture and pop theology

#### • 1880-1920 – REJECT TRUTH -

- **Robert Ingersoll**, "the great agnostic", between 1865-1899 he packed out the largest theaters that big cities could provide. People paid \$1 to hear him speak for up to 3-4 hours on the "Mistakes of Moses". He challenged his generation to reject the religious superstition of their parents and accept the fact that Moses did not write the first five books of the Bible. Ingersoll asked, "Has a man the right to examine, to investigate the religion of his own country – the religion of his father and mother?" Ingersoll said, "The foundation of Christianity has crumbled, has disappeared, and the entire fabric must fall."
- **Charles Darwin** (1809-1882) – the founder of the theory of evolution. By the time he died, his teachings had already captured the academic world.
- **Julius Wellhausen** (1844-1918) claimed the Old Testament evolved and was not invented or written down until after the Jews returned from Babylonian exile in 536 BC. He said, "According to the historical and prophetic books of the Old Testament, the priestly legislation of the middle books of the Pentateuch was unknown in pre-exilic time, and this legislation must, therefore, be a late development." Many of today's church denominations and religious universities still hold to Wellhausen's theory that the Bible was created by a group of people who eventually became the nation of Israel.

- **Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)** - Freud called religion a pointless delusion and said that all phenomenon of religious experience could be explained. He believed society would be much more productive and pleasant if Christianity was abandoned completely and, in its place, his own theories embraced.
- **1921-1960 – REPLACE TRUTH -**
  - 1925 State of Tennessee vs. John Thomas Scopes – Darrow vs Bryan;
  - Secular Humanism in 1933 signed by 34 people including John Dewey. In 1933 the May/June issue of “The New Humanist” printed the original Humanist Manifesto. It began like this:  
*“The time has come for widespread recognition of the radical changes in religious beliefs throughout the modern world. The time is past for mere revision of traditional attitudes. Science and economic change have disrupted the old beliefs. In every field of human activity, the vital movement is now in the direction of a candid and explicit humanism. In order that religious humanism may be better understood, we, the undersigned, desire to make certain affirmations which we believe the facts of our contemporary life demonstrate.”*  
...and...  
*“There is great danger of a final, and we believe fatal, identification of the word religion with doctrines and methods which have lost their significance and which are powerless to solve the problem of human living in the Twentieth Century...Today man’s larger understanding of the universe, his scientific achievements, and his deeper appreciation of brotherhood, have created a situation which requires a new statement of the means and purposes of religion...To establish such a religion is a major necessity of the present. It is a responsibility which rests upon this generation.”*

The Humanist Manifesto then went on to list fifteen articles (or affirmations). Here are a few of those articles:

1. #1-“Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created.”
2. #3-“Holding an organic view of life, humanists find that the traditional dualism of mind and body must be rejected.”
3. #8-“Religious humanism considers the complete realization of human personality to be the end of man’s life and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now. This is the explanation of the humanist’s social passion.”
4. #9-“In place of the old attitudes involved in worship and prayer, the humanist finds his religious emotions expressed in a heightened sense of personal life and in a cooperative effort to promote social well-being.”
5. #11-“Man will learn to face the crises of life in terms of his knowledge of their naturalness and probability...We assume that humanism will take the path of social and mental hygiene and discourage sentimental and unreal hopes and wishful thinking.”

Number eleven hints at a core belief for all secular humanists: man’s problem is not a sin nature but simply a lack of knowledge. The application of number eleven has resulted in our society emphasizing the attainment of knowledge above all else. Everyone who’s been influenced by secular humanist thinking believes that, to some degree, their “salvation” will be found in the area of education. By gaining more

information, a person will be able to better solve life's problems, thereby creating his own destiny and controlling his universe.

- **John Dewey**, one of the original signers of the 1933 Humanist Manifesto said, "The educational system must move one way or another, either backward to the intellectual and moral standards of a pre-scientific age or forward to ever greater utilization of scientific method in the development of the possibilities of growing, expanding experience."
- **1961-2000 – REMOVE TRUTH -**
  - 1962 Engel v. Vitale removed school prayer;
  - 1963 Abington Township School District v. Schempp removed the reading of the Lord's Prayer;
  - 1980 Stone v. Graham made the posted Ten Commandments illegal with the court claiming that they "had no educational function";
  - 1987 end Edwards v. Aguillard ended the teaching of creationism in public schools;
  - 1989 Allegheny County v. Greater Pittsburgh ACLU ruled Nativity scenes in public place as unconstitutional. Later it was adjusted to allow Nativity scenes with other fictional holiday personalities like Rudolph and Frosty the Snowman.
- **2001-2040 – REPRESS TRUTH - "HAMAS" – which is social violence and oppression**
  - The generation who devours the poor from the earth and the needy from among mankind.
  - This generation was in high school when the school shootings started.
  - They are still in their 20's (**written in 2007**) and do not yet have a grip on our society. Now, in 2021 they are 34-43 years old. For example:
    1. Mark Zuckerberg is 36 (born 1984)
    2. Jack Dorsey is 44 (born in 1976)
    3. AOC is 31 (born in 1989)
    4. Ilham Omar is 38 (born 1982)
    5. Rashida Tlaib is 44 (born 1976)

Exodus 20:4	Leviticus 26:14-39	Psalms 14:1-4	Proverbs 30:11-14	SEQUENCE OF DECLINE	<u>Jerusalem</u> (70AD) Luke 13:6-9 Luke 23:26-31	<u>USA</u> Generation Cycle	<u>USA</u> Cycles of Discipline
1-No Idols; Father's Sin	<b>1-Plague</b> "wasting diseases, fever . . ."	14:1 – "fool says 'no God'	1- Generation- "Curse Fathers Don't Bless Mothers"	<b>REJECT TRUTH</b> ↓	<b>90-50 BC</b> - Pompey invades in 69 BC. ("Those who hate you rule over you.")	<b>1880-1920</b> R. Ingersoll C. Darwin Wellhausen S. Freud	<b>1918</b> Influenza Epidemic- 28% infected
2	<b>2-Famine/ Economy</b> "sky like iron, ground like bronze, soil not yield crops"	14:2 – none under- stand or seek God	2- Generation: "Pure in own eyes, yet not cleansed of their filth"	<b>REPLACE TRUTH</b> ↓	<b>50-10 BC</b> – Great Famines strike ("Make the sky like iron, ground like bronze.")	<b>1921-1960</b> -1925 Scopes -1933 <i>Humanist Manifesto</i> -John Dewey	1929 Stock Market  1930 Dust Bowl
3	<b>3-Crime</b> "wild animals rob you, loss children, roads deserted"	14:3 – turned aside, together become corrupt	3- Generation: whose eyes are ever haughty, lances are disdainful"	<b>REMOVE TRUTH</b> ↓	<b>10 BC-30 AD</b> "For three years (seasons, generations) I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree, haven't found any. Cut it down!"	<b>1961-2000</b> <u>1962</u> -prayer <u>1963</u> -LdPray <u>1980</u> -Ten Command. <u>1987</u> -Teach Creation <u>1989</u> - Nativity	1960-1991 Crime increases 313%
4 "Punish" sin of the fathers to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> generation	4-Sword on Your Land "bring the sword upon you"	14:4 – devour my people as men eat bread	4- Generation: Teeth are swords Jaws are set w/ knives to devour the poor from the earth needy from among mankind"	<b>REPRESS TRUTH</b>  (RESULT: <i>Hamas</i> - social violence)	<b>30-70 AD</b> - "Do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children"  "If men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry "	<b>2001-2040</b> Hamas- ( <b>violence oppression, injustice</b> ) in -Physical -Psychologi. -Judicial -Social	Sept. 11, 2001

## 5. Four Generation Cycle in the Western Church in the United States of America

(More details on pages 48-67 in "Titanic Faith or here <http://www.titanicfaith.org/section2.html#5> )

**Laodicea**  
**The Four Generation Cycle**  
that has led today's church into the  
Laodicean Church Age

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**1880-1920**  
Systematic Growth  
Methodology  
Emotionalism

**1921-1960**  
Showmanship  
Materialism  
Theology of Success

**1960-2000**  
Charismatic  
Individual/Personal Experience  
Mysticism

**2001-2040**  
Market Driven

~~~~~

"You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.'  
But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and  
naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you  
can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your  
shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see."

- Revelation 3:17-18

**a. 1880-1920 – Systematic Growth, Emotionalism**

- i. Systematic, orchestrated, and methodical are words that can be used to describe church activity.
  1. **Revivals (1830)** - Revivalism moved from the US northeast (New England) to the south and west, reaching Tennessee and Kentucky on the western frontier. The revival became more and more emotional as it moved west, and thousands of people were converted in this region in the early 1800's. In 1801 an estimated ten thousand people were in the camp meeting revival at Cane Ridge, Kentucky that was accompanied by people falling down, jerking, rolling,



dancing and barking like dogs (Christianity Through the Centuries, by Earle E. Cairnes, 429). Soon the preaching, showmanship and emotional appeal of revival meetings would backwash from the western frontier eastward into the established churches in America's New England states. The Presbyterian churches did not use the new camp meeting techniques, but the Methodists and Baptist churches did, and began to grow.

2. **Emotionalism** – The intense emotional experiences of the great revivals became the expected response to religion and spiritual reality in the late 1800's and early 1900's. People commonly responded to an assumed "spiritual" experience with shouting, falling, dancing, and other forms of outwardly emotional expression. As textual criticism continued to undermine the authenticity of Scripture in the academic world in the late 1800's and modern science and technology seemed to provide logical challenges to the existence of God, the Church took refuge in emotionalism. Instead of seeking the truth of God in the text of Scripture or in creation, the Church quickly turned to finding truth and proving the validity of its faith in the personal experiences of its members. This personal approach to finding truth and experiencing God is most easily described using expressions about the heart: "know in my heart it is true", "finding God in my heart", "asking Jesus into my heart", "feeling the presence of the Holy Spirit", etc. Emotionalism in the Church made personal faith a highly subjective "reality" that could easily be overturned with any subjective change in personal emotions, cultural beliefs, or temporal circumstances. With this phase of emotionalism the Church that was to be the house built on the Rock, was shifted to a foundation of sand. Things could only get worse for the Church, down on the beach with society.
3. **Charles Finney** (1792-1875) studied law in New York and was admitted to the state bar. Since his study of legal books had led him to many biblical references, Finney began to study the Bible itself. He joined a church, studied for the ministry, and was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1824. Finney began to travel on horseback to villages speaking to crowds in an articulate courtroom manner, as an educated attorney trying to persuade a jury of common folk to accept his legal position. Finney wrote the following in "On Revivals of Religion":  
"Men being so reluctant to obey God, will not act until they are excited."  
Based on this opinion, Finney pursued an emotional connection with his crowds by exciting his listeners. Finney believed that as he did his work of exciting the people, the Holy Spirit would do his work of convicting and converting them. By 1834 Finney had left the Presbyterian Church and their doctrinal stance of Calvinism. Finney took his emotionalism and revival meetings to the mainstream church, and the Broadway Tabernacle (a Congregational church) was built for Finney to lead. The crowds that followed were moved by excitement, and demonstrated their strong feelings through shouting and groaning. Although this method was criticized, the fact remained that the churches that followed Finney's model grew.

**b. 1921-1960 – Showmanship, Materialism, Theology of Success**

- i. **Billy Sunday** – took Finney’s “stand up to confess Christ” and Moody’s “walk to the counseling room” to stand up publicly to confess Christ and then walk to the front of the arena to meet with the counselors. Billy Sunday left his mark on America’s culture and the Western Church between the years of 1900-1935. Sunday gained attention as a former professional baseball player with spectacular mannerisms while preaching on stage and informal ministry style.
- ii. **Materialism** – By 1914 Christendom had experience population increase, territorial expansion into every part of the populated world and unprecedented increase in material prosperity and wealth. In the modern Western world the industrial revolution made the production of material goods abundant and attainable. With the high standard of material living possible and within reach of the average Western man, the average man’s daily focus was on attaining and maintaining this material wealth and high standard of living instead of spiritual truth, spiritual development and the advancement of his soul. Churches had to follow, and this is most obvious when we consider that these material men were leading the Western church. A standard of success in life was materialism, and thus a successful church must also be materialistically comfortable and a reflection of the good life that would indicate God’s blessing.
- iii. **Theology of Success** found its way into the Western culture and the Western church when an old idea received new momentum with Civil War captain and Baptist pastor Russell H. Conwell’s 1869 essay, 1882 message and, ultimately, 1890’s book all entitled “Acres of Diamonds”. The essay originated from an Arab guide who was leading Conwell’s camel down the Tigris and Euphrates rivers while he was traveling from Baghdad. Conwell’s guide told him a story of a man named Ali Hafed who owned a large farm with orchards, fields and gardens, but sold it to go in pursuit of diamonds. After years of fruitless wandering Ali Hafed died off the coast of Spain in the Mediterranean Sea as a failure with no money and no diamonds. But, the man who bought Ali Hafed’s farm discovered diamonds on the very land Ali Hafed had abandoned to go search for diamonds. A portion of Conwell’s lecture and the point of his message can be found in the quote below:
  1. “I say that you ought to get rich, and it is your duty to get rich. How many of my pious brethren say to me, ‘Do you, a Christian minister, spend your time going up and down the country advising young people to get rich, to get money?’ ‘Yes, of course I do.’ They say, ‘Isn’t that awful! Why don’t you preach the gospel instead of preaching about man’s making money?’ ‘Because to make money honestly is to preach the gospel.’ That is the reason . . . ninety-eight out of one hundred of the rich men of America are honest. That is why they are rich. That is why they are trusted with money. That is why they carry on great enterprises and find plenty of people to work with them. It is because they are honest men. . . Some men say, ‘Don’t you sympathize with the poor people?’ Of course I do, or else I would not have been lecturing these years. I won’t give in but what I sympathize with the poor, but the number of poor who are to be sympathized with is very small. To sympathize with a man whom God has punished for his sins, thus to help him when God would still continue a just punishment, is to do wrong, no doubt about it, and we do that more than we help those who are deserving. While we should sympathize with God’s poor-

that is, those who cannot help themselves-- let us remember there is not a poor person in the United States who was not made poor by his own shortcomings, or by the shortcomings of someone else. It is all wrong to be poor, anyhow . . . as Mr. Carnegie said, the great iron squeezers that laid the foundation of all the steel millions of the United States, 'we men' can invent anything under the stars!"

At the time of Conwell's death in 1925 he had presented this story as a lecture 6,152 times and had earned \$8,000,000. Pretty good for a Civil War captain. The original audio of Russell Conwell's presentation can still be heard on YouTube. Today the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary still carries his name after his Theology school in Philadelphia merged with Gordon Divinity School.

- iv. **World War I** - In spite of the growth and advancement of Christianity which was accompanied by the increase in wealth and material production the Christian countries (stronghold of Christendom from 900-1800 AD) erupted into World War between the years of 1914-1918 which resulted in the death of 9 million soldiers and 7 million civilians. Christendom in the midst of the Industrial Age had brought history's deadliest and most devastating conflicts.
- v. **Between 1926-1950 church membership in the United States increased 60%** while the population growth of the United States for the same period of time was merely 29%. Church membership in 1950 was 57% of the whole population of the United States. (A History of Christianity, vol. 2, by Kenneth Scott Latourette, page 1410) Note that in 1800 that number was 7%; in 1850 it was 15.5% and in 1900 it was 36%. Church membership of the entire population of the United States had gone from 36% to 57% in fifty years. That is a 21% membership increase in the modern Western church of the United States between the years 1900-1950. It is easy to see how the ideals and attitudes in the Church in those years had an impact on the United States and, likewise, how the Western World had an impact on the ideals and attitudes in the church.
- vi. 1950 the United States was the most powerful nation and its values and culture were being felt everywhere in the world.
- vii. **Radio** – Radio broadcasting became popular in the 1920's and by 1925 it could be printed in an opinion article that "one out of every fourteen broadcasting stations in the United States is today owned by a church and operated by a church." (Popular Radio, New York, March 1925) Charles E. Fuller began broadcasting "The Old-fashioned Revival hour" in 1925 and by 1942 claimed to have a world-wide audience ("A History of Christianity", vol. 2, Kenneth Scott Latourette, page 1419) Soon, Christian broadcasting became a big American business.
- viii. **Television** – With the upsurge of television beginning around 1939 entrepreneurial preachers realized their broadcasts required a ministry focused on entertainment, music, visual appeal, celebrity appearances and ministers with appealing personalities. By 1955 half of American homes had a TV set and by 1980 almost 50% of Americans watched weekly religious TV programming. This added to the drive of individual religion and personalization of the Christian experience and opinion.

- ix. **Individualism** – The value of the individual sprang out of nationalism which had its roots in Christianity's stance on the dignity and worth of each person's selfconsciousness
- x. **Norman Vincent Peale** (1898-1993) and preaching the Power of Positive Thinking instead of the Word of God – Peale was ordained as a Methodist minister in 1922, but in 1932 affiliated with the Reformed Church and took a 600 member church in Manhattan (New York City) to over 5,000 members. Peale began to use radio in 1935 and in 1952 wrote the book "The Power of Positive Thinking," the same year he began his TV show. Peale's teaching focused on the concept that our physical world could be controlled with our thoughts and a man could change his life, his health and his destiny by simply believing it. Below is one of my favorite, or actually least favorite, quotes of Peale's. This quote seems to me to be a form of self-abandonment to fate that is combined with a denial of reality but sweetened with self-hypnosis:  

"Tell yourself every morning as you go to work that you love your job. Think of it as interesting, even fascinating. By so doing you will ultimately get enthusiastic about your work — and you will undoubtedly do a better job." (From "Power of the Plus Factor", 1987, by Peale)

Concerning the personhood of God, Peale said this:  

"Who is God? Some theological being? He is so much greater than theology. God is vitality. God is life. God is energy. As you breathe God in, as you visualize His energy, you will be reenergized!" (From "No More Stress or Tension" in the monthly periodical "Plus: The Magazine of Positive Thinking" in May 1986, p. 22)

In a 1984 interview with Phil Donahue Peale said:  

"It's not necessary to be born again. You have your way to God; I have mine."

Donahue countered Peale by saying,  

"But you're a Christian minister; you're supposed to tell me that Christ is the Way and the Truth and the Life, aren't you?"

To this Peale gave the politically correct answer before political correctness was clique when he said,  

"Christ is ONE of the ways! God is everywhere."
- xi. **Evangelism with music** – Gospel hymns had become popular and had a wide appeal at revival meetings and over the radio
- xii. **Methods, practices and forms of worship spread from one denomination to another.** If a church found success and growth by implementing a particular style or outreach it was sure to imitated and initiated by a hundred other churches. This included the use of songs, children's and youth ministries, summer assemblies/vacation Bible school
- xiii. **Billy Graham** – began in 1949
- c. **1960-2000 – Charismatic, Individual/Personal, Mysticism, Success**
  - i. **Charismatic Movement** – The charismatic movement was recognized in 1960 with Episcopal priest Dennis Bennett's public announcement to his congregation in California on April 3, 1960 that he had received the power and filling of the Holy Spirit with the manifestation of the gift of speaking in unknown tongues. This incident may have slipped by public notice, although similar events were occurring around the nation, unless the event had not been reported to and covered by Newsweek (July 4,

1960) and Time (August 15, 1960). By 1963 most Protestant publications and journals had published articles concerning the charismatic movement and the phenomena of glossolalia, or speaking in tongues. Every major protestant church had been influenced by these events and most accepted the movement with caution. This movement was seen as more than a prayer movement, but a renewal of the mission and development of the Church. Ultimately, the charismatic movement brought people closer to accepting a personal encounter, a personal word, personal direction and personal revelation from deity. More focus was moved towards a personal encounter with God, than with a personal understanding of the revelation given in the Scripture.

- ii. **Individualism** – Individual's making decisions to place faith in Christ and individual's receiving the filling of the Holy Spirit and speaking in other tongues paved the way for individual's to form opinions about the nature of God, the interpretation of Scripture and the source of divine authority. Soon the common man was receiving personal directions, insights and revelation from his personal Lord by means of an inner voice in his heart or the "spirit" speaking to his heart.
  - iii. **Mysticism** – Direct contact with and expression from the divine presence appeared to be much easier to attain to than the serious study of the Scriptures. Personal views, individual behavior and imaginary desires could easily be justified and pursued with the support of a mystical encounter with "god" or his "spirit." And, who could negatively judge one person's mystical encounter without themselves sounding unloving and not Christ-like? The need for church growth and church unity led the Church to abandoned accurate Bible teaching, and instead favor a more culturally relevant redefining of the character of God as tolerant and the nature of Jesus as loving and non-judgmental. This developmental direction allowed more tolerance of socially acceptable spiritual opinions.
  - iv. **Bill Bright** (1921-2003) – 1952 wrote "Four Spiritual Laws"; 1979 produced the "Jesus Film"; 1951 founded Campus Crusade for Christ. Although great evangelistic tools with accurate biblical insight, this work flooded Christianity with multitudes of converted, but untransformed individuals. The Church was unprepared and unfocused on transforming these converts and preparing them for true spiritual service of work in the Church. Instead, like the converts of other successful evangelists, these new additions to the Church helped conform the Church into the image of culture instead of themselves being transformed into the image of Christ.
  - v. **Robert Schuller** (1926-2015) – Began his television program "Hour of Power" in 1970
  - vi. **Oral Roberts** (1918-2009) – Emphasized seed-faith giving; laid foundation for prosperity gospel and abundant life teaching ministries; 1947 began his radio broadcasting; 1954 began broadcasting revival meetings by television
- d. **2001-2040 – Market Driven**
- i. **Market driven church** – The market driven church is designed to create numerical growth (not conversion or spiritual growth). The New Testament message, purpose, growth process, success target and future goal is thrown under the bus. The foundational philosophy of the Church of this age is based on market-driven principles. The methodology is focused on marketing strategies, demographic studies and business techniques.



- ii. **The Market driven church seeks spiritual enlightenment for temporal benefits –**  
According to the American Demographics article “Choosing My Religion” from April 1999, today’s religious person claims to be:  
 “...into spirituality, not religion...Behind this shift is the search for an experiential faith, a religion of the heart, not the head. It’s a religious expression that downplays doctrine and dogma, and revels in direct experience of the divine – whether it’s called the ‘Holy Spirit’ or ‘cosmic consciousness’ or the ‘true self.’ It is practical and personal, more about stress reduction than salvation, more therapeutic than theological. It’s about feeling good, not being good. It’s as much about the body as the soul...Some marketing gurus have begun calling it ‘the experience industry.’ ”
- iii. **Spiritual Gift assessment** tests are a perfect example of the market driven church tapping into it’s natural resources for organization purposes and effective management methods. This is the style of the in-house systematic approach the CEO (head pastor) and his support network (pastoral staff) use to turn a profit for their business (church)
- iv. **Manipulation of Customer** (church members) and advertisement strategies
- v. **Bible studies are led by a facilitator** who does not teach, but seeks to include everyone’s opinion as the groups ignorance is pooled together.
- vi. **Product development** of the Market Driven Church is focused on “meeting people’s needs.”
- vii. **Originally Jesus sent his disciples out with the Great Commission,**
  - 1. “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:18-20) Notice, Jesus’ commission was Jesus-centered – “All authority...given to ME”... “go and make disciples” to follow ME... “baptizing them in the name of” ME ... “teaching them to obey everything I have commanded”
    - a. Notice: Jesus’ commission was not man-centered – “Go solve world problems”... “Go meet people’s needs” ... “Go make people feel connected” ... “Go build relationships between people”
    - b. The Church is about Jesus. And, Jesus’ people will follow when Jesus is glorified. When the Church is made to be all about man, then men will follow that church. So, if the Church is built on the Gospel of Jesus Christ men will be offended and think of it as foolishness, but if the Church is built on a marketable product such as solving social problems, meeting people’s needs, or being tolerant, loving and not judgmental, then the world of men will pick that product up and use it like a tool to advance their own social agendas and philosophies.
  - 2. Yes, that’s right. When the system of any local church is up and running full speed, the leadership of that church will have made one of two choices:
    - a. Be rejected by the world by preaching the Gospel, teaching the Word of God and glorifying Jesus Christ.
    - b. Be used like a tool by the world to solve world problems, social issues and meet people’s needs without preaching the Truth, without teaching

3. The choice is between being the Church in Smyrna or the Church in Laodicea.
  - a. Smyrna was told: "I know your afflictions and your poverty – yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer ... Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:8-11)
  - b. Laodicea was told: "I am about to vomit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see." (Revelation 3:14-22)

## Samples of Prophets Identifying the Fourth Generation

Verse by verse teaching through Hosea notes, charts, maps, audio and video →

1. Hosea 4:1-2 – *“Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.”*:
  - a. No faithfulness
  - b. No steadfast love
  - c. No knowledge of God
  - d. Cursing, lying, murder, stealing, adultery
  - e. Breaking all bounds

- f. Bloodshed follows bloodshed (or, “bloodshed upon bloodshed”)
2. Hosea 4:4-9 - *“Yet let no one contend, and let none accuse, for with you is my contention, O priest, You shall stumble by day; the prophet also shall stumble with you by night; I will destroy your mother. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. The more they increased, the more they sinned against me; I will change their glory into shame. They feed on the sin of my people; they are greedy for their iniquity. And it shall be like people, like priest; I will punish them for their ways and repay them for their deeds.”*
- Blame the Priest
  - Priest have rejected knowledge
  - Priests feed on the sins of the people and priest relish in the people’s wickedness
  - Hosea 4:4 literal: “Now let contend no man or rebuke another for your people are like those who contend with the priest!”
  - Hosea 4:4 paraphrased: “Don’t blame each other! Blame the priests!”
3. Hosea 5:10 – *“The princes of Judah have become like those who move the landmark; upon them I will pour out my wrath like water.”*
- The princes or leaders are moving the established landmarks or boundary stones
  - Property rights and standards for legal ownership are being changed.
    - Micah 6:16 identifies these things as the “statutes of Omri...works of the house of Ahab” when it says – “For you have kept the statutes of Omri, and all the works of the house of Ahab; and you have walked in their counsels, that I may make you a desolation, and your inhabitants a hissing; so you shall bear the scorn of my people.”
    - 1 Kings 21 – Jezebel has Naboth executed for in a false court case with corrupt judges and lying witnesses so Ahab can take the allotted family inheritance of Naboth.
      - “So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name, placed his seal on them...”
      - “She wrote...”seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them bring charges that he has cursed both god and the king...stone him to death.”
      - “When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up and went down to take possession of Naboth’s vineyard.”
4. Hosea 5:13 – *“When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his wound, then Ephraim went to Assyria, and sent to the great king.”*
- Both nations (Northern Israel and Judah) declined into trouble, but went to Assyria for help.
  - God used Assyria to destroy and punish both nations
  - Hosea 7:11-12 – “Ephraim is like a dove, silly and without sense, calling to Egypt, going to Assyria. As they go, I will spread over them my net; I will bring them down like birds of the heavens; I will discipline them.”
  - Hosea 8:9-10 – “For they have gone up to Assyria, a wild donkey wandering alone; Ephraim has hired lovers. Though they hire allies among the nations, I will soon gather

them up. And the king and princes shall soon writhe because of the tribute.

5. Hosea 7:3-10 – *“By their evil they make the king glad, and the princes by their treachery. They are all adulterers; they are like a heated oven whose baker ceases to stir the fire, from the kneading of the dough until it is leavened. On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine; he stretched out his hand with mockers. For with hearts like an oven they approach their intrigue; all night their anger smolders; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire. All of them are hot as an oven, and they devour their rulers. All their kings have fallen, and none of them calls upon me. Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples; Ephraim is a cake not turned. Strangers devour his strength, and he knows it not; gray hairs are sprinkled upon him, and he knows it not. The pride of Israel testifies to his face; yet they do not return to the Lord their God, nor seek him, for all this.”*
  - a. Assassination plots inside the government leadership
  - b. Trusted people in the royal court plan overthrow and coup
6. Hosea 8:2-4 – *“To me they cry, “My God, we—Israel—know you.” Israel has spurned the good; the enemy shall pursue him. They made kings, but not through me. They set up princes, but I knew it not. With their silver and gold they made idols for their own destruction.”*
  - a. Israel cries to the LORD, “we acknowledge you” or “we know you!”
  - b. But, at the same time Israel has rejected or spurned the “good”
  - c. They use the cover of the name of the Lord without knowing, wanting or embracing the nature of the Lord.
7. Hosea 8:7 – *“For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.”*
  - a. “Wind” is the false philosophies, the alternative realities and the empty deceit. The harvest of these will be a society in chaos that resembles a social hurricane.
  - b. This is a proverbial saying that means what you sow is what you reap in abundance:
    - i. Seeds always multiply in the sowing and reaping principle
    - ii. Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”
    - iii. This verse is telling Israel that they have sown the seed of wind and the harvest is going to be wind that is pressed down, shaken together and running over – the whirlwind.
    - iv. Ideologically, the wind represents empty philosophy and worldview based on a false reality. The harvest for the seeds of empty philosophy and false worldviews is a whirlwind of social, economic, international, military disasters.
    - v. If you think and act stupid, you will get a life and a world overflowing with stupid.
  - c. The second part of this verse just explains the vanity of a little apparent success would only be lost during the next phase of the cycle:
    - i. The seeds produce a crop (“standing grain”), but the grain has no fruit on it (“heads”)
    - ii. The crop will produce no flour
    - iii. If the seeds produce a crop, with a head, that is ground into flour, then you still would lose it to strangers.

- iv. Even if Israel is successful in planting, growing, harvesting a crop to produce flour for bread, that bread would be taken by the enemy.
  - d. POINT:
    - i. Israel's thinking is so bad that it will always result in failure.
    - ii. Israel's plans are so worthless it is not feasible anything they intend will happen.
8. Hosea 9:7-9 – *“The prophet is a fool; the man of the spirit is mad, because of your great iniquity and great hatred. The prophet is the watchman of Ephraim with my God; yet a fowler's snare is on all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God. They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the days of Gibeah: he will remember their iniquity; he will punish their sins.”*
- a. The **prophet** speaking for God is considered a **fool** (paraphrase: “is considered as one who is not following the science.”)
  - b. The man **inspired** by the Spirit of God is considered a **maniac** (paraphrase: “a conspiracy theorist.”)
  - c. People who are “God's watchmen” set in place to protect society:
    - i. Face snares set by society (cultural)
    - ii. Face hostility in the House of God (religious)
  - d. “Days of Gibeah” are the final days of the book of Judges. See Judges 19-21!!)
    - i. Total breakdown of institutions
    - ii. Society faced unsolvable problems
    - iii. The solutions provided only made the problems worse
9. Hosea 10:3-4 – *“For now they will say: “We have no king, for we do not fear the Lord; and a king—what could he do for us?” They utter mere words; with empty oaths they make covenants; so judgment springs up like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.”*
- a. Northern Israel's dynasties have ended and their ruling king in Samaria is a puppet king set up by the Assyrian government (2 Kings 17:4).
  - b. Again, Hoshea, the king of Northern Israel, was NOT the rightful king of Israel, but had been set up by a foreign government:
    - i. 731 BC - King Hoshea assassinated King Pekah
    - ii. 738 BC – King Pekah assassinated King Pekahiah
    - iii. 752 BC – King Menahem assassinated King Shallum
    - iv. 752 BC – King Shallum assassinated King Zechariah (son of Jeroboam II) who reigned for only 6 months of the fifth generation of the Jehu dynasty which began by executing everyone in the household of Ahab (Omri's dynasty) in their fourth generation according.
  - c. Because there is no legitimate government or legal oversight, there are many words and empty contracts that result in countless court battles.
  - d. Because of these lies and broken contracts, “Lawsuits spring up like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.”
  - e. The court system is out of control with frivolous cases and broken contracts.
  - f. Nothing is fair. Anything could be legal, or the same thing could be illegal. No one knows.
10. Hosea 11:12-12:1 – *“Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit, but Judah still walks with God and is faithful to the Holy One. Ephraim feeds on the wind and*

*pursues the east wind all day long; they multiply falsehood and violence; they make a covenant with Assyria, and oil is carried to Egypt.”*

- a. Leadership in Ephraim (or, Northern Israel) has lied to its citizens, they've lied to each other, they have tried lying to Assyria, but now, they have lied to the LORD.
- b. They have sown to the wind (Hosea 8:7), but now they are feeding on the fruit produced by the seeds of:
  - i. False philosophies
  - ii. Alternative realities.
- c. This leads to:
  - i. more lies (multiplying their falsehoods)
  - ii. more violence (“hamas” – social injustice)
- d. Now they are messing with Assyria and Egypt which are powerful empires at this time.

11. Hosea 12:7-11 – *“A merchant, in whose hands are false balances, he loves to oppress. Ephraim has said, ‘Ah, but I am rich; I have found wealth for myself; in all my labors they cannot find in me iniquity or sin.’ I am the Lord your God from the land of Egypt; I will again make you dwell in tents...their altars also are like stone heaps on the furrows of the field.”*

- a. Israel had refined the art of using false balances and oppression.
- b. Israel thinks they have mastered the craft of deception and no one will be able to prove their guilt.
- c. The Lord will:
  - i. The Lord will send them back to a wandering life in tents
  - ii. The Lord will turn their altars into piles of stones and their sanctuaries into fields that are plowed and used to raise crops.

YEAR	EVENTS OF NORTHERN ISRAEL'S FINAL GENERATION
760	<b>Amos prophesies to Israel</b>
753	After a six month reign, King Zechariah is assassinated by Shallum who then takes the throne.
752	After a one month reign, King Shallum is assassinated by Menahem who then becomes king.
752	Menahem reigns as king of Israel for ten years.
743	Tiglath-Pileser III, the King of Assyria, invades Israel and carts away thirty-seven tons of silver (II Kings 15:19).
740	Pekahiah is assassinated after two years by Pekah who then becomes the second to last king of Israel. <b>Hosea prophesies to Israel</b>
732	Tiglath-Pileser takes possession of the northern part of Israel's land (II Kings 15:29).
732	Pekah is assassinated by Hoshea who becomes the final king of Israel.
723	Hoshea betrays Assyria's new king Shalmaneser and is taken to Assyria when Shalmaneser lays siege to Samaria.
721	<b>Israel's capital city of Samaria falls to Sargon, king of Assyria; the people are deported.</b>

**Amos** (760-754 BC to Northern Israel in the period of prosperity. Total destruction 38 years later in 722 BC.)

Verse by verse teaching through Amos notes, charts, maps, audio and video →

[http://www.generationword.com/audio\\_series/amos.html](http://www.generationword.com/audio_series/amos.html)

1. Amos chapters 1-2

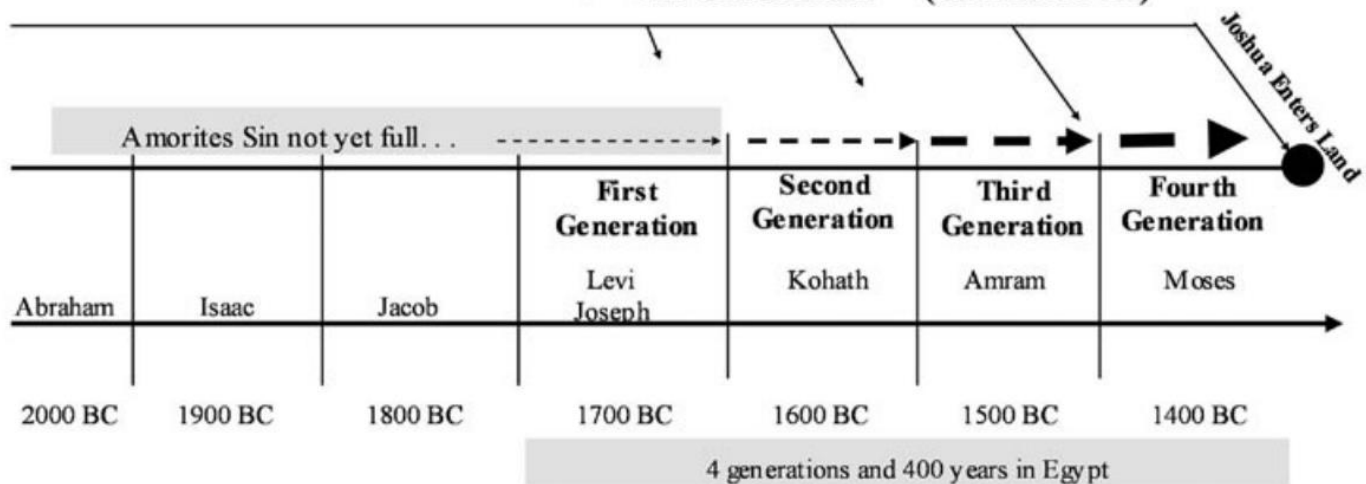
- a. Six Gentile nations (without the Law of Moses or revealed scripture) were called to account for their "violence"
- b. The Gentile nations were judged based on general revelation (Romans 1)
- c. The Gentile nations were not judged base on:
  - i. Law of Moses
  - ii. For following false gods
- d. The Gentile nations were judged for their crimes against humanity:
  - i. "hamas" – violence
  - ii. Social violence:
    1. Punishing captives of war with iron threshing sled (Aram)
    2. Capturing non-battle captives (abduction of entire people groups) and selling them into slavery for profit (Philistia)
    3. Deceiving a people with a treaty, then capturing them to sell them into slavery (Phoenecia)
    4. Violent war crimes (Edom)
    5. Violating national borders to expand their territory even slaughtering pregnant women with their "hamas" or violence. (Ammon)



6. Desecrating the dead in an attempt, they believed, to punish the person in the afterlife (Moab)
2. Amos 2:4-5 – Judah is judged for:
    - a. Rejecting the Law of Moses (Truth)
    - b. Following false gods (False philosophies and false realities)
  3. Amos 2:6-16 – Israel is judged for social oppression of their own people:
    - a. Trampled on the poor (which had previously been the middle class)
    - b. Denied justice to the oppressed
    - c. Engaged in sexual abuse
    - d. Corrupted the financial system to benefit the elite
    - e. Enacted government penalties and taxes on the middle class that only benefited the elite
    - f. Forced people to compromise their convictions
    - g. Refused to let the prophets of God speak
    - h. For the rich and powerful in Israel, these were the best of times. People who occupied prestigious positions had many advantages. The financial, judicial, and governmental systems were all set up to benefit them (having first been corrupted by them). While the rich continued to profit, the poor were further oppressed. God teaches that the rich have a social responsibility to society. God does not teach socialism or communism but calls for social responsibility. Men are to care for and assist those who are less fortunate. This is tempered with Paul's words to the Thessalonians: *"When we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat'"* (II Thessalonians 3:10). Here are a few things God says in Deuteronomy and James regarding the rich and their duty to the poor:
      - i. Deuteronomy 15:10-11 – *"You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'"*
      - ii. James 5:3-5 – *"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter."*
  4. Amos 2:9 – *"Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars and who was as strong as the oaks; I destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath."*
    - a. The Lord destroyed (overthrew) the Amorites (Canaanites) in their fourth generation.
    - b. The Lord told Abraham in Genesis 15:16, *"In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."*

## Sin of the Amorites

- 400 years
- 4th Generation (Gen.15:13-16)



5. Amos 2:11-12 – “*And I raised up some of your sons for prophets, and some of your young men for Nazirites. Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel?*” declares the LORD. “*But you made the Nazirites drink wine, and commanded the prophets, saying, ‘You shall not prophesy.’*”
  - a. Israel made the Nazirites drink wine which violated their conscience and personal vow.
  - b. Israel commanded the prophets not to prophesy.
  - c. Northern Israel overruled personal conviction and censured those who spoke out.
6. Amos 3:9 – “*Proclaim to the strongholds in Ashdod and to the strongholds in the land of Egypt, and say, ‘Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria, and see the great tumults within her, and the oppressed in her midst.’*”
  - a. “Great tumults” (or, “great unrest”) in Northern Israel’s society during the 40 years preceding the total overthrow in 722 BC.
    - i. “Great tumults” or “great unrest” is from *mehumot* in Hebrew which means “tumult, confusion, disquietude, discomfiture”
    - ii. This “confusion”, “unrest” or “tumult” is promised as a curse to Israel in Deuteronomy 28:20
  - b. “Oppressed” in the midst of Northern Israel’s society
    - i. “oppressed” is *ashuqim* which also means “extortion”
7. Amos 3:10 – “*They do not know how to do right,*” declares the LORD, “*those who store up violence and robbery in their strongholds.*”
  - a. They do not know how to do “right” (*nekoach* meaning “equity, right thing, uprightness”)
  - b. Store up “violence” (*hamas*) in their “strongholds” (*armon* meaning “palace”, “citadel”, “strongholds”, “fortified building”)
  - c. Store up “robbery” (*shod* meaning “violence, havoc, devastation, ruin”) in their strongholds

8. Amos 4:1-2 – *“Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to your husbands, ‘Bring, that we may drink!’ The Lord GOD has sworn by his holiness that, behold, the days are coming upon you, when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks.”*
  - a. The elite Women in Northern Israel:
    - i. “cows of Bashan” refers to the well fed cattle on the fertile hills of Bashan on the east side of the Sea of Galilee
    - ii. They oppress the poor
    - iii. They crush the needy
    - iv. They are living in a society that has deconstructed the natural order:
      1. Giving orders to their husbands
      2. Husbands are serving the wives drinks
      3. Wives, mothers, women are living life like well fed cattle in a fertile hills. They are only good for slaughter or captivity.
        - a. Pleasure
        - b. Luxury
        - c. Upside-down and deconstructed institutional roles
9. Amos 4:4-5 – *“Come to Bethel, and transgress; to Gilgal, and multiply transgression; bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three days; offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened, and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them; for so you love to do, O people of Israel!” declares the Lord GOD.”*
  - a. Go to Bethel, Gilgal (religious centers and religious shrines)
  - b. Religious activities were leading the people into sin and even more sin practicing their religion
  - c. Their sin or transgression was their:
    - i. Morning sacrifices
    - ii. Tithes
    - iii. Thanksgiving sacrifices
    - iv. Offerings
    - v. Proclaiming or publishing their religious performances
  - d. They were using the name of YHWH, but practicing pagan rituals while thinking in line with pagan theology
10. Amos 4:6-12 – Five Cycles of Discipline for the Four Generation Cycle of a Declining Culture:
  - a. **First Generation** faces = 4:6 – “lack of bread...yet you did not return to me.”
  - b. **Second Generation** faces = 4:7-8 – “withheld the rain...random weather pattern...yet you did not return to me.”
  - c. **Third Generation** faces = 4:9 – “blight and mildew...gardens...vineyards...fig trees...olive trees the locust devoured...yet you did not return to me.”
  - d. **Fourth Generation** faces = 4:10 – “pestilence (plague)...sword (war in your land)...loss of military equipment (horses)...yet you did not return to me.”
  - e. At the end of the Fourth Generation:
    - i. = 4:11 – “overthrew...yet you did not return to me.”
    - ii. = 4:12 – “Therefore,... prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”

11. Amos 5:7 – *“O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth!”*
  - a. Justice becomes bitterness
  - b. Cast righteousness to the ground
  
12. Amos 5:10 – *“They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth.”*
  - a. Hate the one who reproves in court
  - b. Despise him who tells the truth
  
13. Amos 5:11 – *“Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.”*
  - a. Trample poor
  - b. Force poor to give the elite their grain
  
14. Amos 5:12 – *“For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate.”*
  - a. Oppress the righteous
  - b. Take bribes
  - c. Deprive the poor of justice in court
  
15. Amos 5:13 – *“Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time.”*
  - a. The times are evil (described in 5:7-12):
    - i. Justice produces bitterness in your life
    - ii. Righteous men are thrown down
    - iii. Non-elite get trampled
    - iv. Middle class give their crops (earnings, profits) to the elite
    - v. Righteous men are oppressed
    - vi. Elite make decisions based on bribes
    - vii. Poor (middle class) deprived of courtroom justice
  
16. Prudent know they can't win, so they keep quiet Amos 5:21-23 – *“I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.”*
  - a. The LORD:
    - i. hates,
    - ii. despises,
    - iii. takes no delight in,
    - iv. will not accept,
    - v. will not look upon them,
    - vi. will not listen to:
      1. Religious feasts
      2. Assemblies (religious gatherings and services)
      3. Offerings

#### 4. Noisy songs and music

17. Amos 6:1 – *“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel comes!”*
- a. Woe to the elite at ease!
    - i. At ease
    - ii. Feel secure
    - iii. Notable men
    - iv. First of the nations
    - v. Those to whom the people come
18. Amos 6:4-6 – *“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!”*
- a. Woe to those who:
    - i. Lie on beds inlaid with ivory
    - ii. Lounge on couches
    - iii. Dine on choice lambs and calves
    - iv. Strum on harps (guitars) and improvise music
    - v. Drink wine by the bowlful
    - vi. Use finest lotion
  - b. But, do not grieve over the ruined condition of the nation and cultural decline!
19. Amos 6:12 – *“you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood”*
- a. To do justice is like drinking poison
  - b. Righteousness produces bitter fruit
  - c. This means it is painful and deadly to do the right thing in this culture
20. Amos 7:10-17 – Amos is forbidden to proclaim the Word of the Lord in Northern Israel by the priest Amaziah
21. Amos 8:4-6 – *“Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying, ‘When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?’”*
- a. Trample the needy
  - b. Bring an end to the poor
  - c. Change the standards of measurement for financial gain
  - d. The elite use deceit in financial exchanges with the middle class
  - e. The middle class becomes poor and end up selling themselves and being exchanged like commodities

f. Inferior products are sold as genuine

22. Amos 8:11 – The Lord will prevent this generation from hearing the Truth of the Word of God. He will make them suffer in their false reality and false philosophies:

*“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.”*

## Obadiah

(After 586 BC to Edom after assisting the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem. Edom was removed.)

Obadiah 3 – THIRD GENERATION operates in PRIDE: *“The **pride** of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in your lofty dwelling, who say in your heart, “Who will bring me down to the ground?”*

Obadiah 10 – FOURTH GENERATION operates in VIOLENCE: *“Because of the **violence** done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever.”*

## Micah

(735-700 BC to Jerusalem and Judah facing Assyria. Hezekiah and the nation listens according to Jeremiah 26:12-17 and was spared from the 701 Assyrian invasion that came within 40 years of Micah’s prophecy.)

Verse by verse teaching through Micah notes, charts, maps, audio and video →

[http://www.generationword.com/audio\\_series/micah.html](http://www.generationword.com/audio_series/micah.html)

Micah 2:1-2 – *“Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand. They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away; they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.”*

1. Woe to those who have the power to perform the wickedness they devise and the evil they plan:
  - a. They covet fields and seize them
  - b. They covet houses and take them
  - c. They oppress or defraud a man of his house
  - d. They oppress or defraud a man of his inheritance
2. Elites driving middle class into poverty

Micah 2:6-7 – *“Do not preach”—thus they preach—“one should not preach of such things; disgrace will not overtake us.” Should this be said, O house of Jacob? Has the Lord grown impatient? Are these his deeds? Do not my words do good to him who walks uprightly?”*

1. The elites and their prophets tell the prophet Micah:
  - a. "Do not preach (or, prophesy)"
  - b. "You should not preach (or, prophesy) such things!"
  - c. "Disgrace will not overtake us."
  - d. "Should it be said,
    - i. "The Spirit of the Lord is angry?"
    - ii. "The Lord is impatient?"
    - iii. "Are these His deeds?" or, "Does he do such things?"

Micah 2:8-9 – *"But lately my people have risen up as an enemy; you strip the rich robe from those who pass by trustingly with no thought of war. The women of my people you drive out from their delightful houses; from their young children you take away my splendor forever."*

1. Elite drive the middle class into poverty:
  - a. The elite strip the rich robe from those who trust them
  - b. The elite drive women from their delightful, pleasant houses
  - c. The elite take away the allotted tribal inheritance of the children (or, descendants)

Micah 2:11 – *"If a man should go about and utter wind and lies, saying, 'I will preach to you of wine and strong drink,' he would be the preacher for this people!"*

1. They censure prophets and preachers who say things that they do not approve.
2. They only want prophets and preachers saying things that support their agenda and life style.
3. They only will accept preaching, prophecy and words that agree with their:
  - a. False philosophies ("utter wind")
  - b. False realities that deconstruct Truth ("lies")

Micah 3:1-3 – *"And I said: Hear, you heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel! Is it not for you to know justice?—you who hate the good and love the evil, who tear the skin from off my people and their flesh from off their bones, who eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them, and break their bones in pieces and chop them up like meat in a pot, like flesh in a cauldron."*

1. The elite and the leaders ("heads...and rulers"):
  - a. They do not know justice.
  - b. They hate the good and love the evil
  - c. They devour the people, which means the middle class are driven into poverty just like Proverbs 30:14 identifies the fourth generation:
    - i. Tear the skin from off my people
    - ii. Tear the flesh from off their bones
    - iii. Eat the flesh of my people
    - iv. Flay their skin from off them
    - v. Break their bones in pieces and chop them up like meat in a pot, like flesh in a cauldron
  - d. Proverbs 30:14 describes the elite in the fourth generation as:

***"those whose teeth are swords,  
whose fangs are knives,  
to devour the poor from off the earth,***



***the needy from among mankind."***

- the fourth generation in Proverbs 30:14

Micah 3:5-7 – *"Thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry "Peace" when they have something to eat, but declare war against him who puts nothing into their mouths. Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without divination. The sun shall go down on the prophets, and the day shall be black over them; the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame; they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God."*

1. Professional prophets or career religious leaders:
  - a. Lead people astray
  - b. If the people "feed" or "pay" the prophets they proclaim "peace"
  - c. If a people do not support the desires of the professional prophets then these same prophets and religious leaders will "prepare to wage war" against this group of people
2. God will stop speaking to that generation through the culturally appointed prophets and preachers.

Micah 3:8 – *"as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin."*

1. Micah's experience is contrary to the elite, professional, career driven prophets who are in darkness
2. Micah remains:
  - a. Filled with power
  - b. Filled with the Spirit of the Lord
  - c. Filled with justice
  - d. Filled with might
3. Micah continues to:
  - a. "declare to Jacob his transgression"
  - b. "declare...to Israel his sin."

Micah 3:9-12 – *"Hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who detest justice and make crooked all that is straight, who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with iniquity. Its heads give judgment for a bribe; its priests teach for a price; its prophets practice divination for money; yet they lean on the Lord and say, "Is not the Lord in the midst of us? No disaster shall come upon us." Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height."*

1. The elite, or the "heads...and, rulers" are described:
  - a. They "detest justice"
  - b. They "make crooked all that is straight"
  - c. They build their society and city "blood and...iniquity"
  - d. The judges decide legal cases based on "a bribe"
  - e. The priests (philosophical, higher education, academia, religion) teach for a price
  - f. The "prophets practice divination for money" or mystical insight for cash
2. The elite (judges, rulers, priests, prophets) do all this evil for temporal gain and worldly advances, but yet still claim the HIGH GROUND saying they are on God's side by stating: "Is not the Lord in the midst of us?"

Micah 3:12 – *“Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height.”*

1. This verse was spoken by Micah around 744 BC, and his generation in Jerusalem took it to heart and repented and were delivered about 40 years later in 701 BC from Sennacherib’s invasion and overrunning of the southern nation of Judah. (Northern Israel did not listen to the prophets and were totally destroyed by Sennacherib’s father, Sargon, and his uncle, Shalmaneser.
2. In 608 BC this verse and how the people of 744 BC responded to it 136 years before was still remembered by the elders and government officials in Jerusalem when the elite prophets and priests brought Jeremiah to them to be convicted and executed for giving a similar warning:

*“Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and all the people, “This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against this city. You have heard it with your own ears!”...Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, “This man should not be sentenced to death! He has spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God.” Some of the elders of the land stepped forward and said to the entire assembly of people, “Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah. He told all the people of Judah, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says:*

***‘Zion will be plowed like a field,  
Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,  
the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.’***

*“Did Hezekiah king of Judah or anyone else in Judah put him to death? Did not Hezekiah fear the Lord and seek his favor? And did not the Lord relent, so that he did not bring the disaster he pronounced against them? We are about to bring a terrible disaster on ourselves!”*

*-Jeremiah 26:11-19*

Micah 6:10-11 – *“Can I forget any longer the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is accursed? Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales and with a bag of deceitful weights? Your rich men are full of violence; your inhabitants speak lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.”*

1. Ill-gotten treasure
2. Short ephah
3. Dishonest scales
4. False weights
5. Violent rich men
6. Lying people
7. Deceitful tongues

## Nahum

(645 BC to Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire, during the reign of Ashurbanipal (reigned 669-631 BC). Assyrian decline was setting in by 640 and total destruction by the rising Babylonians occurred 33 years later in 612 BC.)

Nahum 3:1 – *“Woe to the bloody city (Nineveh), all full of lies and plunder—no end to the prey!”*

Nahum 3:15-19 – *“There will the fire devour you; the sword will cut you off. It will devour you like the locust. Multiply yourselves like the locust; multiply like the grasshopper! You increased your merchants more than the stars of the heavens. The locust spreads its wings and flies away. Your princes are like grasshoppers, your scribes like clouds of locusts settling on the fences in a day of cold—when the sun rises, they fly away; no one knows where they are. Your shepherds are asleep, O king of Assyria (Ashurbanipal); your nobles slumber. Your people are scattered on the mountains with none to gather them. There is no easing your hurt; your wound is grievous. All who hear the news about you clap their hands over you. For upon whom has not come your unceasing evil?”*

1. Extreme and exaggerated multiplied titles, degrees, honors and positions until these seats of distinction are meaningless. Everyone has an award, an advanced degree, a noble title, so in reality there is no longer any actual heroes or distinguished citizens. Mediocrity rules the day when Nineveh is rolled over by the invading and rising Babylonians.
  - a. “Multiply yourselves like locusts...grasshoppers”
  - b. “Increase your merchants like stars”
  - c. “Your princes are like grasshoppers”
  - d. “Your scribes like clouds of locusts”
  - e. “Your shepherds are asleep”
  - f. “Your nobles slumber”
2. The leaders, the merchants, the military are not committed to the society, but to their own finances and advances. So, when the city begins to fall the elite flee to the next financial opportunity.
  - a. “The locust spreads its wings and flies away.”
  - b. “Your princes like grasshoppers...fly away...no one knows where they are.”
  - c. “Your scribes like clouds of locusts...fly away...no one knows where they are.”
3. The middle class is scattered, lost and wounded to death
  - a. “Your people are scattered on the mountains.”
  - b. “None to gather them.”
  - c. “No easing your hurt.”
  - d. “Your wound is grievous.”

## Habakkuk

(609-598 BC concerning Judah’s coming fall to the Babylonians. Habakkuk would wait for the day that Babylon itself would be overthrown.)

Habakkuk 1:5-7 – *“Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own. They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves.”*

Habakkuk 1:12-13 – *“Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One? We shall not die.*

*O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof. You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?"*

*Habakkuk 3:16-18 – "I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us. Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.  
To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments."*

# Our Responsibility in a Crooked Generation

*“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.”*

– Philippians 2:12-16

*“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming...now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self[d] with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”* – Colossians 3:1-6, 8-11

*“Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation...For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.”*

– First Peter 2:12

*“Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”*

– First Peter 3:15-16

## From “**Hope for America’s Last Generation**” (2007), Chapter 26 “*What Should We Do*” -

With all this information we have about our responsibility at this time in history, what would be some reasonable goals or next steps?

1. We should **continue to proclaim the truth**, but we must remember that no matter how compelling we make our message, some people simply won’t want to hear it. It’s their choice. God gave them free will and wants them to use it. He allows everyone to choose, and so should we.
2. We need to **become more biblically literate concerning our past and future so we can understand where we are today** and what we should be doing. This is one of the most important roles of the local church and its pastors and teachers. If we don’t communicate past revelation and future prophecy, we will stay busy doing a variety of worthless and unproductive things.

3. **Staying alert** was a theme in Jesus' teachings. Scripture warns us how easy it is to become distracted from the spiritual dimension of life.
4. **We will be rewarded for our service.** Faithfully serving God for unseen future rewards is an act of faith. Teaching about rewards will provide a source of encouragement among believers.
5. False teachings and philosophies will continue to mislead people. We can't stop this from happening, but we can **identify false teachings and speak out against them.** We can always turn on a light in a dark room.
6. Do not forget that we are in the midst of a spiritual awakening. The **darkness in our country became so dark that many people decided they liked the light better.** Americans have had enough crime, immorality, and corruption. They are finally seeking some kind of standard that will produce better things in their lives.
7. **Our nation is faced with problems that we can't solve by ourselves.** God designed it that way. This is why the fourth generation must turn to him and let him lead us out of the disaster we face. Then we will see:
  - a. good leadership in churches, government, business, and education
  - b. favorable weather patterns
  - c. production of natural resources
  - d. good international relationships
  - e. reversal of self-destructive cultural behaviors including alcoholism, drug abuse, pornography, etc
  - f. compassion for people in our society
8. **Church leadership needs to love people again,** not merely love using people. They can best do this by **empowering them with the truth of God's word.** Our culture will only change when individual people change.
9. We are in the fourth generation and are experiencing the beginning of the fourth cycle of judgment. **These judgments are designed by God to bring people to a point of decision.** Do you love God and his ways, or do you hate God and reject his standards? This is a decision we must all make.
10. The standards God has set for our nation here on earth are not the same standards he has set for the kingdom of God. Jesus told Nicodemus, "No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again" (John 3:3). Being born again is a requirement for entrance into God's kingdom not our earthly kingdom. Salvation is not a prerequisite to the success of a nation today. **For a nation to prosper on earth requires only these few things** identified in Micah 6:8 and Isaiah 56:1:
  - a. "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." – Micah 6:8
  - b. "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed." – Isaiah 56:1
11. We must remember the lesson of the "sin of Jeroboam." By the second, third, and fourth generations, **people find it hard to identify the sin of the first generation. The sin of our great-grandfathers was secular humanism.** They ushered in an idolatrous philosophy based on the assumption that there is no God and that man is the ultimate end of everything. This sin has not only infested our culture in the areas of government and education, but it has polluted the thinking of our churches as well. We must correct our own "sin of Jeroboam" which begins with identifying the fallacy of secular humanism.

12. **Families must be restored.** The hearts of the fathers must turn to their children and children to their fathers. This is the foundation of not just the Christian culture, but all culture. A society can't endure without fathers and families. Malachi 4:6 says, "He (Elijah) will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I (the Lord) will come and strike the land with a curse." **The institutions that God set in place must be strengthened and maintained.** Those institutions are:
- individual volition with responsibility,**
  - marriage,**
  - family,**
  - government**
  - nationalism.**
- Together these provide structure for the natural world. On the other hand, the two institutions God has used and is using to provide for man's spiritual wellbeing are: the nation of Israel (the past) and the church (the present).
13. The fourth generation always receives warnings through prophets and natural signs. **If a society doesn't respond to these warnings, God pours out his wrath and judgment. There is no escaping his discipline.**
14. The **church's mission is to represent the spiritual kingdom of God to mankind at this point in history.** This mission **advances only when the seed of scripture is sown.** The word of God in the heart of man combined with the Spirit of God in a believer is the most powerful force on earth today.
15. **The true church is not a "holier than thou" separatist organization.** From the very beginning, Jesus told his disciples that the church is made of common people who've come from pagan societies to build a spiritual body where the gates of Hades had previously stood. In the Old Covenant, if the holy was touched by the unholy, the holy thing became unclean. In this age of the New Covenant, the holy has been sent into the world of the unholy.
16. The church was derailed 1600 years ago when "clergy" were deemed "specially anointed people," holier than the average person. For centuries, believers have brought money to churches, providing a payroll for clergy and missionaries. **Our churches will only see revival when lay people realize they have the same anointing as clergy and missionaries.**
17. The end of the 1700s and the beginning of the 1800s was a time in American history that closely resembles today—drunkenness, crime, profanity, extreme skepticism, and universities that openly mock Christianity. The Chief Justice said the church "was too far gone ever to be redeemed." Voltaire said, "Christianity will be forgotten in thirty years." But the thirty years following his statement saw the greatest spiritual awakening America has ever experienced. The results of that awakening are still part of our culture today. Revival can happen again.
18. **Revival must take place at two levels.**
- The natural level:** our culture must become just, humble, and moral. Institutions must be restored.
  - The spiritual level:** the church must learn the word of God and let the Holy Spirit empower them. Believers should encourage the natural virtues God requires of both Christians and non-Christians alike.

The United States is fighting for its survival in this fourth generation.

We have the hope of a coming kingdom as we pray, "Come Lord Jesus!"

But we also have the responsibility to serve our earthly kingdom now so that we might



hear the Lord say to us: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."  
May God find reason to bless the United States of America!



Believers have the  
hope of the coming  
Kingdom but also  
the responsibility  
to serve our  
nation today.



# Suffering and Persecution

*“Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.” – First Peter 3:13-17*

*“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” – First Peter 4:12-17*

## **The Paradox of Suffering** (From “Titanic Faith”, 2015, Section Six, pages 249-261)

Go to this link → <http://www.titanicfaith.org/section6.html#9>

Suffering is promised to the Church in the New Testament.

When he wrote the letters in the early chapters of Revelation, John was clearly writing to the Church, since he addressed his readers as “brothers”. By that time he had already outlived the other apostles, who had all been violently executed for their faith. He begins his letter concerning the Tribulation by referring to himself as, “your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom.” It seems that if the modern Western Church wants to be part of the kingdom John is referring to, it is going to have to embrace the same kind of tribulation that John and the Church he addressed had suffered together.

*“I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.” - Revelation 1:9, ESV*

Paul addressed the young churches of Galatia by strengthening their souls with teaching, encouraging them with words of hope to continue in the faith, but also by reminding them that the journey into the kingdom of God will include tribulations for the faithful believer:

*“They returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.” - Acts 14:22, ESV*

Paul also said to the Church:

*“if we endure, we will also reign with him;  
if we deny him, he also will deny us” - 2 Timothy 2:12, ESV*

*“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” - 2 Timothy 3:12*

*“For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him  
but also suffer for his sake.” - Philippians 1:29, ESV*

Paul may have spoken like this to the Church, promising them trouble, persecution, and tribulation on their way into the future physical manifestation of the Kingdom of God, because the Lord had spoken similar words to Paul:

*“For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” - Acts 9:16, ESV*

Or, Paul may have learned it from those who had traveled with Jesus and were apostles before him, because they themselves had been beaten and flogged for their faithful testimony concerning Jesus. Most of these men would eventually be executed for their faith.

*“Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer  
dishonor for the name.” - Acts 5:41, ESV*

When the early Church faced persecution and death, the apostles encouraged them to remain true to the point of death. In this passage John relays a message from Jesus in 96 AD to the Church John oversaw in Smyrna of Asia:

*“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into  
prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto  
death, and I will give you the crown of life.” - Revelation 2:10, ESV*

Suffering was promised by Jesus.

*“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have  
tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” - John 16:33, ESV*

*“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world,  
the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out  
of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is  
not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.”  
- John 15:18-20, ESV*

Suffering was experienced by Jesus. His great victory over death came only after he had suffered much.

*“From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.” - Matthew 16:21, ESV*

*“He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.” - Mark 8:31, ESV*

*“Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.’ ” - Luke 24:46, ESV*

*“What God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.” - Acts 3:18, ESV*

Suffering, persecution, and tribulation was experienced by the apostles and the first century Church.

*“When they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.” - Acts 5:40, ESV*

*“With far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.” - 2 Corinthians 11:23-27, ESV*

*“For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.” - 2 Corinthians 1:8, ESV*

*“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair.” - 2 Corinthians 4:8, ESV*

Consider this list of only a very few of those who experienced death in the early Church as martyrs for their faith - by sword, crucifixion, torture, flaying, stoning, falling, exposure, and more: James son of Zebedee, Stephen, James brother of Jesus, Peter, Paul, Mark the Evangelist, Philip, Andrew, Jude , Bartholomew , Thomas , Simon the Zealot, Fabian, Sebastian, Giovanni di Paolo, Alban, Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp of Smyrna, Justin Martyr, Scillitan Martyrs, Perpetua and Felicity, Ptolemaeus and Lucius, Pothinus, and Blandina, Martyrs of Lyon and Vienne, Felix and Adauctus, Marcellinus and Peter, Origen, Forty Martyrs of Sebaste, Euphemia.

Many more martyrs and groups of believers could be listed throughout Church history. This list would include names of believers who were even executed by the institutional Church itself. And it is not just a phenomenon of the past. The persecution and martyrdom of Christians continues around the world today. In fact, today (July 30, 2015) the news is reporting on a story entitled, "Pope Warns of 'Genocide' As Persecution of Christians Rises Worldwide."

**Now, with this background in mind, why would the Western Church think they are the only geographic area at the only period in history in the only phase of church history, where true believers could not be persecuted? And that, in fact, God's will for this modern, Western group of believers is that they have their best life now and testify to the world the glorious message of Jesus Christ through their materialistic, luxurious, compromised lifestyles?**

**So consider! Is it really possible that the list of believers who suffered persecution, martyrdom and tribulation in the Western Seeker-Church phase of Christianity will be blank? Can it really possibly read something like this:**

NONE

THEY WERE ALL RAPTURED BEFORE THEY SUFFERED.  
AFTER ALL, THEY WERE THE BRIDE OF CHRIST!

Really?

How does that even make sense?

How does someone with that mindset even consider himself to be part of the same Church as the apostles?

Christians of the end times must learn what their brethren of the Church's earliest years knew well – how to suffer. As Saint Paul reminded young Timothy, '*All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution*' (2 Timothy 3:12). God's gift of salvation in heaven does not necessarily improve one's earthly situation; it merely renders it irrelevant. '*It is of no consequence where you are in the world – you who are not of it,*' Tertullian pointed out. (Reference B, 224-225)

Leonid Ouspensky described the paradox in these terms: 'The Cross is then the concrete expression of the Christian mystery, of victory by defeat, of glory by humiliation, of life by death – symbol of an omnipotent God, Who willed to become man and to die as a slave, in order to save His creature.' The paradoxes of Christianity range from the historical to the doctrinal. The Lord taught that 'the last will be first, and the first last' and Saint Paul declared that 'the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.'...The Church makes no attempt to resolve this spiritual mystery in a material fashion, or according to human logic. Instead, she opens the eyes of her children to faith and wisdom, and bestows a vision which, encompassing more than this earthly domain, reaches into heaven itself. (Reference B, 228-229)

Giving all for the faith has always meant enduring some degree of isolation, ridicule, and estrangement from the society of man. This is not an easy task, and there is always the danger of complacency and compromise with worldliness. In apostolic times, as now, Christ called His followers

to be on guard against this. (Reference B, 230)

## God's Wrath is not the Same as Suffering or Tribulation

The English Bible uses the words "wrath" and "tribulation" to translate three different Greek words. In the Greek, the difference between "wrath" and "tribulation" is easy to see.

The English word "wrath" comes from the Greek words *orge* or *thumos*. The Greek meaning is not the same as *thlipsis*, a word translated into English as "tribulation". This is often noticeable even within the English text where the words are used.

**Orge** is translated as "wrath" and means "anger, indignation, wrath." BDAG (the (Bauer, Danker, Arndt and Gingrich Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature) describes *orge* as both "a human emotion" and, also, as "the divine reaction towards evil, not so much as an emotion as in terms of the outcome of an angry frame of mind (judgment),...but more often is to be expected in the future, as God's final reckoning with evil." Vines Dictionary explains that *orge* originally meant any "natural impulse, or desire, or disposition," but came to signify "anger" as the strongest of all passions. And, Thayer's Dictionary identifies *orge* in Biblical Greek as "anger, wrath, indignation...anger exhibited in punishing"; hence, *orge* is a word used for punishment itself. In the New Testament *orge* is attributed to God when God "stands opposed to man's disobedience, obduracy and sin, and manifests itself in punishing the same." Believers are promised to be "delivered from" the *orge* of God in Rom. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10 and 5:9. The anger of God is against sinners and unbelievers, not the believers who have been delivered from God's *orge*. Individuals who are saved during the Tribulation should not experience the *orge* of God, since this is what they are saved from.

*"Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath (**orge**) of God."* - Romans 5:9, ESV

*"...wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath (**orge**) to come."* - 1 Thessalonians 1:10, ESV

*"For God has not destined us for wrath (**orge**), but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."* - 1 Thessalonians 5:9, ESV

**Thlipsis** literally means pressing or pressure. Frequent used in a figurative sense of oppression, affliction, or tribulation. BDAG describes *thlipsis* as being rarely used outside the Biblical Greek, but when it is used in the ancient Greek outside of Scripture it is used to refer to "pressing" or the application of "pressure". *Thlipsis* is frequently used in the Septuagint (LXX, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures and used in New Testament times). *Thlipsis* is used in the New Testament in the figurative sense to refer to "oppression, affliction and tribulation." Vine's Dictionary identifies the primary meaning of *thlipsis* as "a pressing, pressure...anything which burdens the spirit." In the forty-five times *thlipsis* is used in the New Testament, it refers to believers forty-two those times. Clearly, according to the New Testament there will be *thlipsis* in the world for the follower of Jesus. There is

also a time of *thlipsis* mega, or “pressure great”, Great Persecution (Matthew 24:21). However, this is not “wrath”.

This example clearly refers to unbelievers persecuting believers:

*“Then they will deliver you to tribulation (**thlipsis**).”* - Matthew 24:9

This is Jesus promising the Church it will have tribulation in the world:

*“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation (**thlipsis**). But take heart; I have overcome the world.”* - John 16:33

Here Jesus identifies the second portion of the seven-year Tribulation as the great *thlipsis*, in comparison to the earlier part referred to in Matthew 24:9, when he had earlier said, *“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation (**thlipsis**) and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.”*

*“For then there will be great tribulation (**thlipsis**), such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.”* - Matthew 24:21

**Thumos** means “passion, passionate longing and anger, wrath, rage.” *Thumos* is the fury of a state of intense anger, with the implication of passionate outbursts. Vine says, “*Orge* is less sudden in its rise than *thumos*, but more lasting in its nature. *Thumos* expresses more the inward feeling, *orge* the more active emotion. *Thumos* may issue in revenge, though it does not necessarily include it. It is characteristic that it quickly blazes up and quickly subsides, though that is not necessarily implied in each case.” Thayer agrees when he writes that *thumos* can be translated as “wrath” just like the Greek word *orge*, yet *thumos* is different since it has the meaning of “passion, angry heat, anger forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding again, (*orge* on the other hand, denotes indignation which has arisen gradually and become more settled.)” Strong’s Expanded Dictionary says, “*Orge* takes over when *thumos* has subsided and longs for revenge and desires to injure the one causing the harm.” *Thumos* is used in these verses in Revelation:

*“Woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath (**thumos**), because he knows that his time is short!”* - Revelation 12:12, ESV

*“If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath (**thumos**), poured full strength into the cup of his anger.”* - Revelation 14:10, ESV

*“Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath (**thumos**) of God is finished.”* - Revelation 15:1, ESV



*“One of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath (thumos) of God who lives forever and ever.” - Revelation 15:7, ESV*

*“Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, ‘Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath (thumos) of God.’ ” - Revelation 16:1, ESV*

There are two places in Revelation where the Greek words *thumos* and *orge* are used together to identify God’s “fierce wrath” poured out on the world.

*“God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury (thumos) of his wrath (orge).” - Revelation 16:19, ESV*

*“He will tread the winepress of the fury (thumos) of the wrath (orge) of God the Almighty.” - Revelation 19:15, ESV*

The seven year Tribulation includes a period of persecution (*thlipsis*, “tribulation”) of the Church by the world and a period of God’s judgment (*orge*, “wrath”) on the world. The time of persecution of believers is not the same as the time of God’s wrath. This is clear for several reasons.

First, the “wrath” (*orge*) is not mentioned in Revelation until the sixth seal is opened and the Lord appears in the sky. It is at that time the people of the world cry out, “hide us from the wrath (*orge*) of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath (*orge*) has come, and who can stand?” (Revelation 6:16-17)

The next time the word “wrath” (*orge*) is used is in Revelation 11:18 when the seventh angel blows his trumpet and those around the throne (presumably, the one in the sky that everyone can see) say, “The nations raged, but your wrath (*orge*) came.”

Second, the seven seals broken in Revelation chapter six would logically and historically be seven seals on the outside of the same scroll, not seven seals placed somewhere within the scroll to be exposed as it was unrolled. This means that the scroll contains the wrath of God, and so the seven seals are not the wrath of God itself; in fact, they are seals holding back the wrath of God. This means that the breaking of the seals, or the releasing of the Antichrist, is God allowing the full manifestation of evil in time (thus, the extreme tribulation and persecution of the Church) before his wrath on evil is revealed.

In Revelation 5:1 we see one scroll “sealed with seven seals”. When the Lamb, the only one who is worthy, breaks the first seal the Antichrist’s Tribulation activities begin. With the breaking of the last seal the outpouring of God’s wrath begins.

The believers (the saints, the Church, etc.) in the Tribulation will not face the trumpets or receive the bowls of God's wrath, which are poured out on the unbelievers who are clearly identified in the underlined text below:

**First bowl** – “So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.” (Rev. 16:2) and “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.” (Rev. 14:9-10)

**Second and third bowls** – “Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!” (Rev. 16:5-6)

**Fourth bowl** – “They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.” (Rev. 16:9)

**Fifth bowl** – “The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.”

**Sixth bowl** – “They are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty...they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.” (Rev. 16:14-16)

**Seventh bowl** – “God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.” (Rev. 16:19)

## **Top Ten Reasons to Consider the Presence of the Church in the Tribulation**

1. The Pre-trib rapture is not explicitly taught in Scripture.
2. Early church writers (70-450 AD) teach and use Scripture to support a premillennial return of Jesus. But, they never present a rapture of the Church before the revealing of the Antichrist and the Tribulation. In fact, the early writers warned of the Tribulation and prepared people to face the Antichrist.
3. The word “meet”, as used in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 when believers “meet the Lord in the air”, is the word *apantesin*. *Apantesin* is used in only two other places in the New Testament, and both times it is used to refer to a group of delegates who go out to meet a dignitary and accompany him back to the place where they came from.
  - a. One example is Acts 28:15
  - b. Another is Matthew 25:6 - a parable about the Second Coming which ties the use of *apantesin* in 1 Thes. 4:17 into the Second Coming
4. A consistent sequence of events in Matthew, Paul, Revelation.

5. Laodicea (which is a representation of our modern seeker church) does not present a good reason to rapture the Church. It is more likely a reason for this church to enter the Tribulation. This church needs to come to some decisions and make some tough choices.
6. “Wrath” (*orge* or *thumos*) which refers to God’s anger against sin, does not mean the same thing as “Tribulation” (*thlipsis*) which refers to the world’s persecution of believers.
7. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 refers to the “assembling to meet him” on “the day of the Lord” that Paul is trying to explain to them. Here (again) the rapture and the Second Coming seem to be the same event.
8. The “gathering” that is spoken of in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 is the same word used in Matthew 24:31 in an extremely clear reference to the Second Coming.
9. The “rebellion” (*apostasía* – “falling away, rebellion, revolt, apostasy”, usually referring to a military, political or religious switching of allegiances) of 2 Thessalonians 2:3 is the rebellion of believers falling away from the faith and switching allegiances during the Tribulation when the “man of lawlessness” is revealed.
10. If Paul had had pre-trib understanding it would have been easier for him to explain that “the day of the Lord” (or, the Tribulation) has not arrived by saying, “Look, you are the Church and you are still here! So, the Tribulation cannot be here yet.” Or, if Paul doubted the Thessalonians’ salvation he could at least say, “Look, the Church will not see the Tribulation. I’m an apostle of the Church. I’m still here. Next question, please.” (And, Paul does not teach that the concept that the church would see the revealing of the anti-christ and see the abomination in the Temple are false teaching. Instead, Paul uses these to prove to the church that the Day of the Lord has not yet come. In other words, the church will see the anti-christ and the abomination in the temple. )

And although not in the Top Ten, here are a few more things to consider on this topic.

- John Walvoord, who is a champion of the Pretribulation rapture model, writes in his extensive defense of the Pretribulation rapture position that “there is no single verse of Scripture that by itself clearly teaches the Pre-Trib Rapture” (*The Rapture Question*, 72).
- Many of the leaders and pillars of the protestant church were not Pretrib in their eschatology. A few examples would include names like: John Calvin, Martin Luther, George Whitefield, John Wesley, John Bunyan, Charles Spurgeon, Charles Finney, and more.
- Even Tim LaHaye acknowledges the scriptural lack of any explicit Pretribulation passages. (*No Fear of the Storm*, 188)
- Many teachings that are used to support the Pretrib rapture view are merely teachings that developed out of the preconceived assumption that Pretrib rapture teaching was correct. If a person’s assumption is that the Pretrib rapture model is scriptural, then many other things can also be assumed true. These “truths” are then re-circled in the argument to be used as proofs for the Pretrib rapture position. Much of the reasoning behind arguments used to support a Pretribulation rapture is circular, and is ultimately trying to make the claim for the absolute necessity for the continuation of the belief in a Pretrib rapture system.

But ultimately, erring in the timing of the rapture theologically is not nearly as devastating as erring in the application of the Truth. Failing to be sober, awake, alert and watching when these things actually take place historically will have eternal repercussions at some level. History will not bow to a theological model, because when history happens it will be the Truth. History will crush all eschatological models and leave humanity in the wake of Reality.

Our modern Western educational system has trouble explaining the reality of the history that has already taken place. Why would we think the modern Western Church has any greater ability to unravel the prophecy of history yet future?

### **Titanic-like Theology**

This generation (like Laodicea) in the Western Church of the USA is on sedatives. The Church is spiritually drugged with luxury, pleasure and self-help sermons based on a best-life-now-theology.

Adding to this stupor is the promise these believers have been given that they will avoid any kind of judgment or evaluation of their life in eternity, because they have some get-your-mansion-for-free coupon through faith in Jesus Christ. If that weren't enough to put the believers to sleep, they are also taught that there will be a prompt evacuation of all believers from earth before any eschatological conflict or tribulation persecution begins. Armed with this kind of thinking, a believer is basically free to live his life in a spiritual coma.

Paul warned the Church of Rome concerning the development and acceptance of a Titanic-like theology. Paul warned the Gentile church to "not be arrogant, but afraid" concerning their place in the program of God and to not "be ignorant of this mystery" concerning Israel. Despite the warning, it seems the Western church may have done these very things. For one, it has arrogantly overrated its place in God's divine program. For another, it has ignorantly discounted Israel and its place in fulfilling the mystery of God's plan for history.

*"Do not be ARROGANT, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either...(23) if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again." - Romans 11:20-23*

*"I do not want you to be IGNORANT of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved..." - Romans 11:25*

Honestly, today's Pretribulation rapture theology might just be the eschatological equivalent of the Titanic arrogance Paul warns Rome about in verses 11:20-21. Why make room for lifeboats? This eschatological model cannot fail! We hear them claim, "The Lord will not let his Church suffer!" But the fact is, he did, he has, and he is. He actually promised it would!

Every eschatological model created out of the study and speculation of man has and will fail. What if you have mis-estimated the rapture by 42-84 months? It would be a small mistake in time certainly,

but a tremendously disastrous mistake for those without the faith to understand the tests and trials they are about to endure.

My purpose in this section is simple: to give you a map and a lifeboat to take along with you on your Titanic journey as a supplement to the Titanic-like faith it produces. Because, if you happen to hit an iceberg you did not see coming (due to ignorance or arrogance), you will be glad to have them.

The Antichrist comes to purify the seeker-seeking, mega, market-driven, Laodicean church by forcing every person in it to individually make a decision and a commitment to Christ. Usually, this kind of intentional growth is a life-long process, engaged as experience, age, situations, etc. force the confessing believer to either fall away or grow in his faith. This final "rapture generation", however, will have to be moved quickly to a point of decision and the production of fruit before the Lord's return. The Antichrist will cause significant growth toward the Son of God, or repulsion away from the True Son of God, Jesus the Christ. There will be no middle ground.

"Signs are not given so the idle or curious can predict dates and speculate on personalities, but so believers can prepare to do battle against evil."

- Dennis Engleman, Ultimate Things, page 28

"Christians must guard against assigning interpretations based on fallen human reason, or confidently assuming that 'Y' is impossible because 'X' has not happened yet."

- Dennis Engleman, Ultimate Things, page 45

## Daniel – Kingdoms, Beasts, 70 Sevens

*“The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” – Daniel 2:32-35*

*“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 out of the sea, different from one another. The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, ‘Arise, devour much flesh.’ After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.” – Daniel 7:2-8*

# The Seventieth Seven

*“Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.” – Daniel 9:24-27*

*“...and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.” – Revelation 12:6*

*“The woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. “ – Revelation 12:14*

*“He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.” – Daniel 7:25*

*“I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished.” – Daniel 12:7*

*“Do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.” – Revelation 11:2*

*“The beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.” – Revelation 13:5*

*“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)” – Matthew 24:15*

*“Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, **we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed**, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And you know*

*what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For **the mystery of lawlessness is already at work**. Only **he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way**. And **then the lawless one will be revealed**, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, **because they refused to love the truth and so be saved**. Therefore **God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**"*

– 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

*"For this **we declare to you by a word from the Lord**, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words."*

– 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

Details can be found here → <http://www.titanicfaith.org/section6.html>

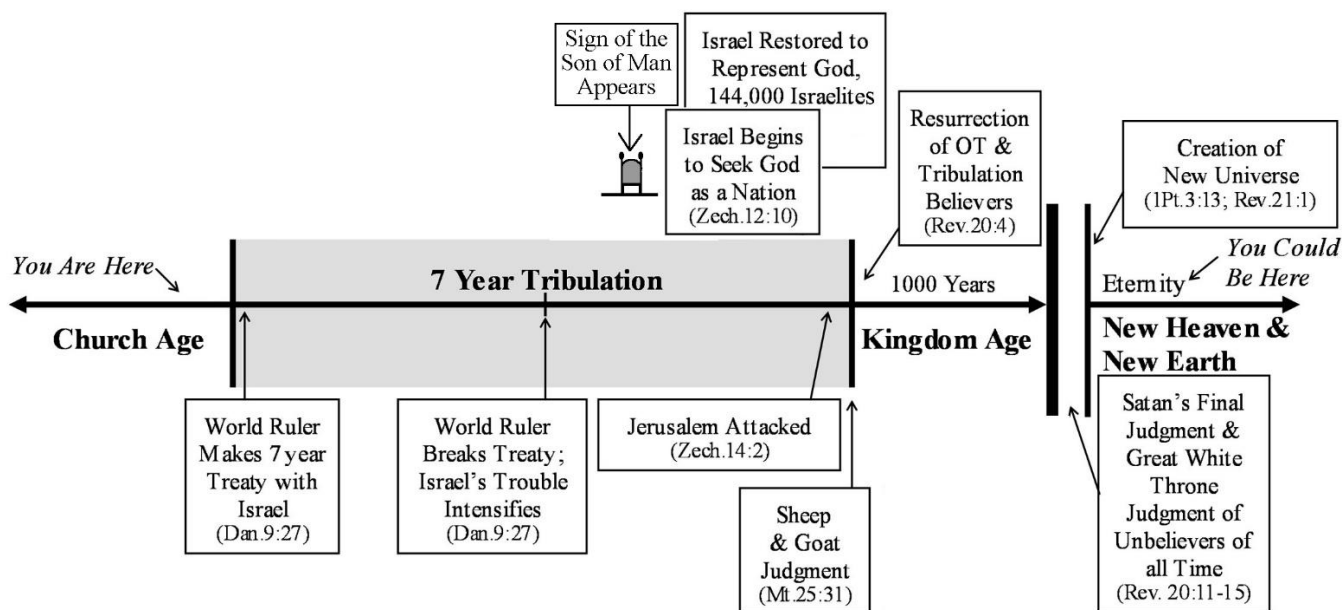
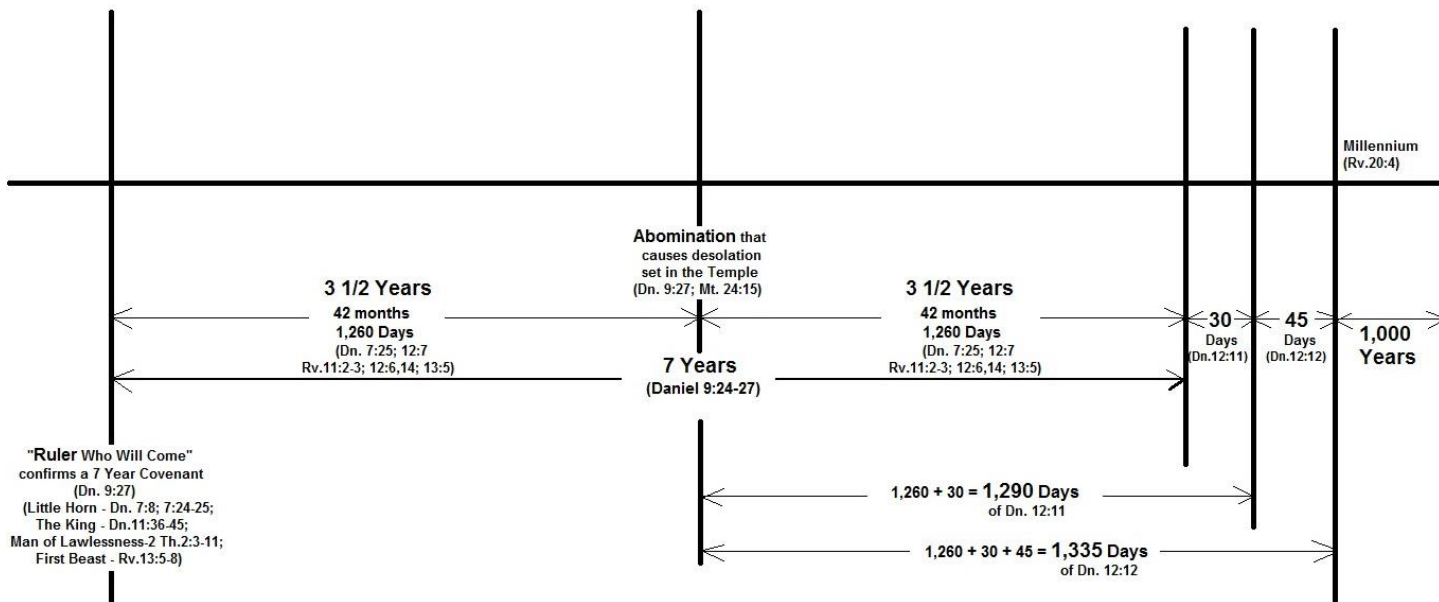
Online video teaching with notes, charts and audio here → [http://www.generationword.com/audio\\_series/Titanic\\_Faith.html](http://www.generationword.com/audio_series/Titanic_Faith.html)

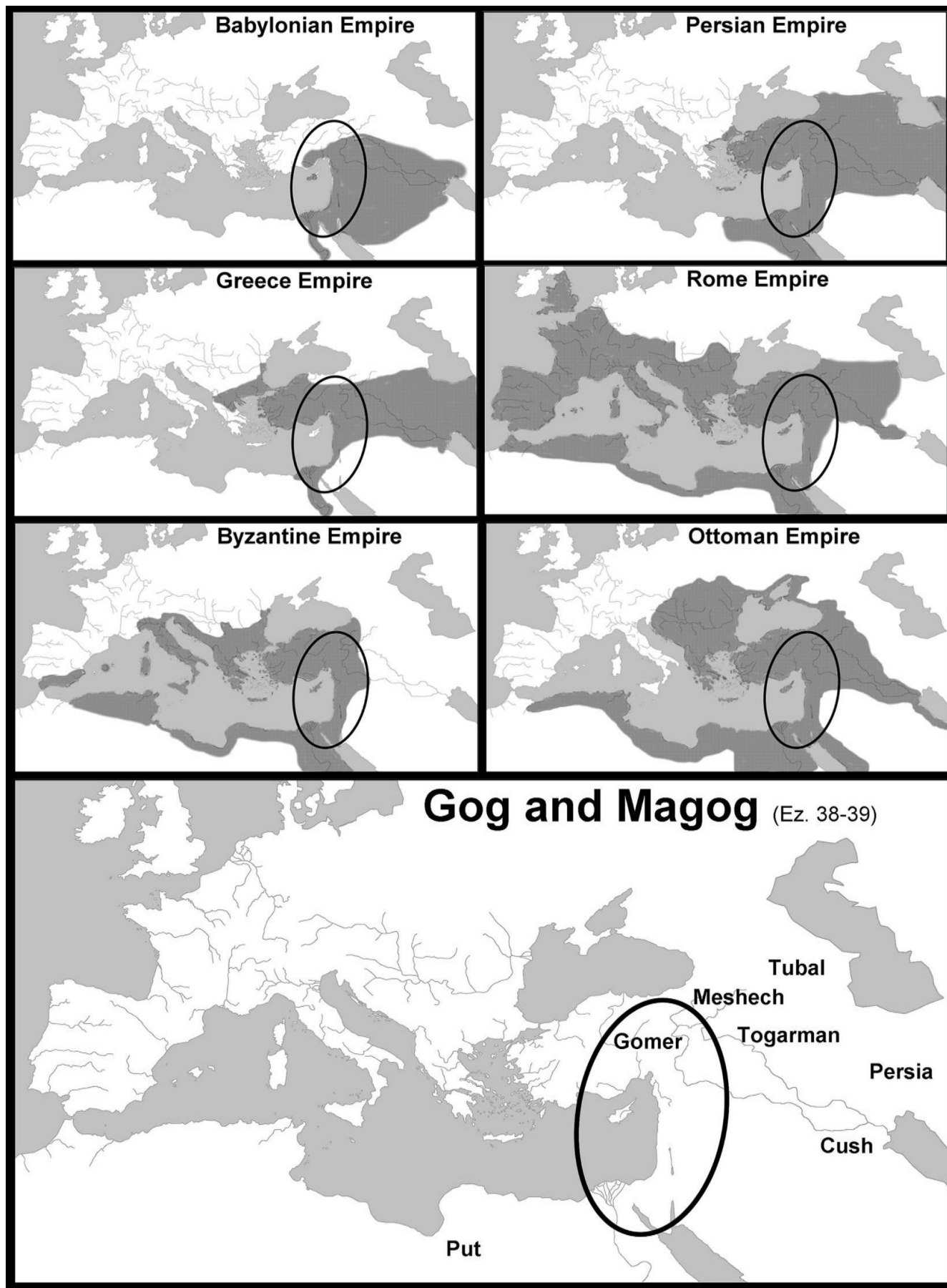
Eschatological Overview Genesis-Revelation is here → [http://www.generationword.com/audio\\_series/Eschatology\\_overview\\_book\\_by\\_book\\_Genesis\\_to\\_Revelation.html](http://www.generationword.com/audio_series/Eschatology_overview_book_by_book_Genesis_to_Revelation.html)

Verse by verse teaching through Revelation and End Times subjects is here → [http://www.generationword.com/audio\\_series/end\\_time\\_basics.html](http://www.generationword.com/audio_series/end_time_basics.html)

	Daniel	Matthew	Luke 21	Paul	Revelation
			Intro - Luke 21:5-9 Luke 21:10-24		
<b>165 BC or 70 AD</b>	Daniel 9:26				
<b>Early Signs/ 1<sup>st</sup> 3 ½</b>	Daniel 7:19, 23-24	Matthew 24:4-14			
<b>Anti-Christ Revealed</b>	Daniel 7:20, 24-25 Daniel 9:27 Daniel 11:36-40	Matthew 24:15		2 Thess. 2:3-12	Rev. 6:1-8
<b>Persecution</b>	Daniel 7:21 and 25 Daniel 11:41- Daniel 12:1	Matthew 24:16-28			Rev. 6:9-11
<b>Rapture</b>	Daniel 7:26 Daniel 12:2	Matthew 24:31 Matthew 24:36-25-30	Luke 21:28 Luke 21:29-36	1 Thess. 4:14-18 2 Thess. 2:1 2 Thess. 2:13-17	Rev. 7:9-17
<b>Return of Christ</b>	Daniel 7:26 Daniel 12:1	Matthew 24:27-30 Matthew 25:31-46	Luke 21:25-28	1 Thess. 4:14-18 2 Thess. 2:1 2 Thess. 2:8- 1 Thess. 5:1-11	Rev. 6:12-17 Rev. 8:1-5
<b>Judgment/Punish</b>	Daniel 7:27	Matthew 25:31-46			Rev. 8:5-21; 9:1-21 Rev. 11:15-19









## SIGNS: Warned to Watch for These Signs

# JESUS

(Mt.24)

They will deliver you up to tribulation and **put you to death**...hated by all nations for my name's sake...  
then **many will fall away**...betray one another...hate one another...the love of many will grow cold...  
when you see **the abomination of desolation** ... standing in the holy place...  
then there will be **great tribulation**..." (Mt. 24:9-21)

**PAUL**  
(1 Th. 5:3)

"While people are saying, '**Peace and safety**', destruction will come on them suddenly" (1Th.5:3)

**PAUL**  
(2 Th. 2:3-4)

"That day will not come unless:

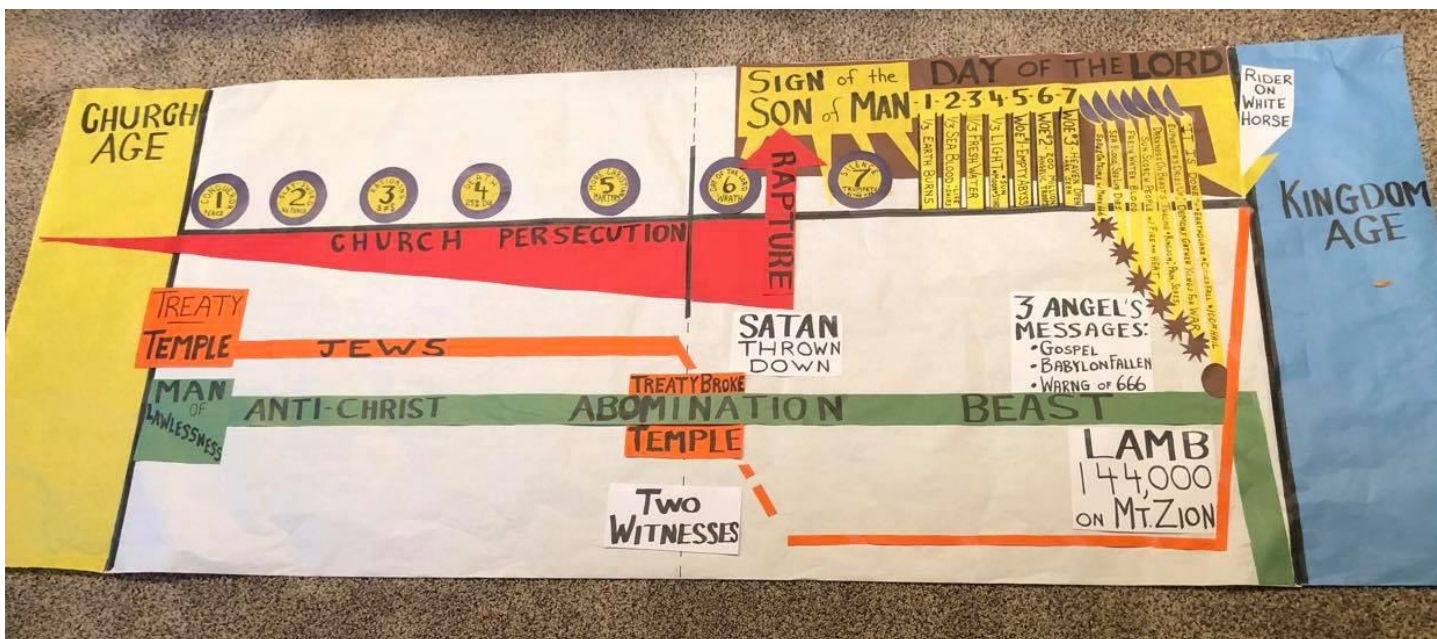
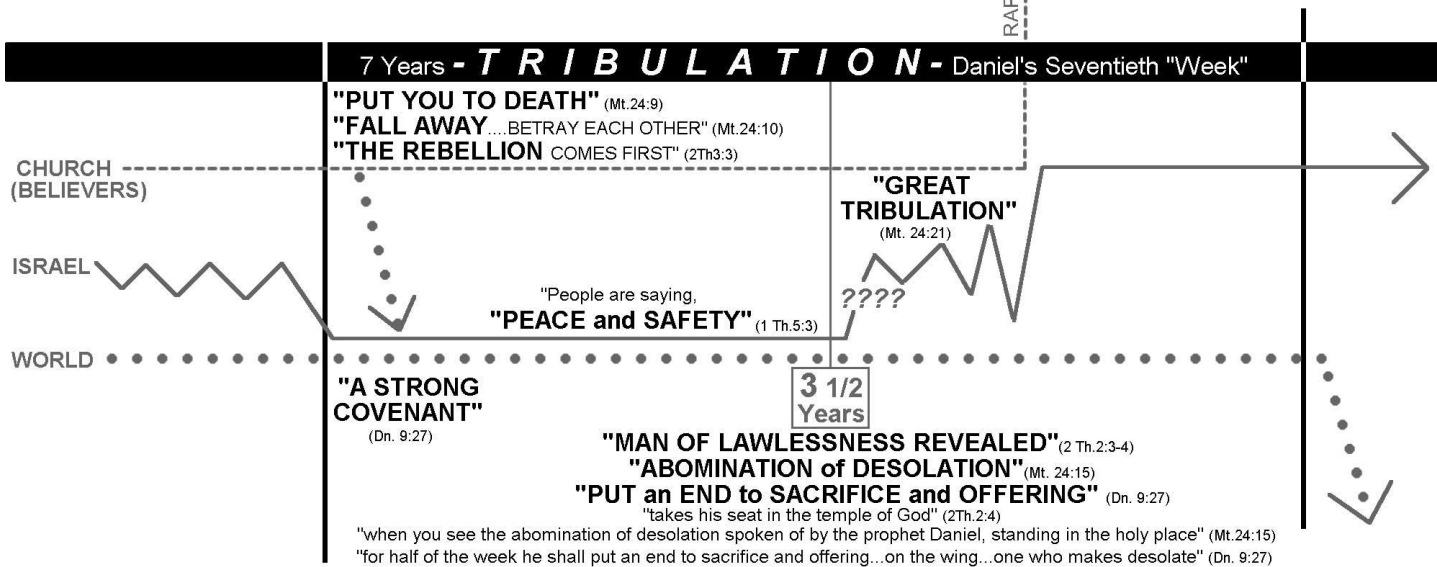
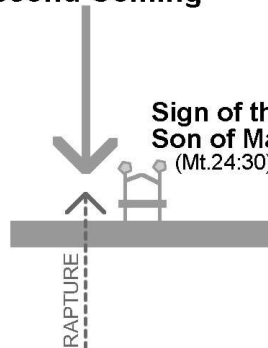
- 1) **the rebellion comes** first, and
- 2) the **man of lawlessness is revealed**, the son of destruction,
  - a) who **opposes and exalts himself** against every so-called god or object of worship,
  - b) so that he **takes his seat in the temple of God**,
  - c) **proclaiming himself to be God**

## DANIEL

"He shall make a **strong covenant** with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall **put an end to sacrifice** and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate." (Dn.9:27)

## Second Coming

## Sign of the Son of Man











# Jesus identifies how he will NOT return at the Second Coming.

This is a warning to the Jews, and to others, who are waiting for a man to appear in history as the Messiah.

*"Then if anyone says to you,  
'Look, here is the Christ!'*

*or*

*'There he is!'*

*do not believe it.*

*For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.*

*See, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you,...."*

## **FALSE OPTION #1 - THE MILITANT**

**" 'Look, he is in the wilderness'**

*[...forming his military to advance into Israel and capture Jerusalem],*

**do not go out**

*[...to join the forces of the antichrist]."*

## **FALSE OPTION #2 - THE POLITICIAN**

**" 'Look, he is in the inner rooms'**

*[...negotiating treaties and forming political alliances],*

**do not believe it**

*[...,because this is the work of the antichrist and the false prophet]."*

## **THE ONLY OPTION - THE APPEARANCE OF THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN**

"Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

See, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out.

If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For **as the lightning comes** from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the

**coming of the Son of Man.**

Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then

will **appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man,**

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 out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and

they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Matthew 24:23-31)

Muslim	EGYPT ASSYRIA BABYLON PERSIA GREECE ROME BYZANTINE EMPIRE OTTOMAN EMPIRE (ends 1918) 1948 - Israel returns 2000 - Islam rises	Christian
632 - Muhammad		30 AD - Jesus  <u>Matthew 24:4-8</u> - Deceivers - Wars - Nations Rise - Kingdoms Fall - Famines - Earthquakes (not the end)
<b>MAHDI APPEARS</b>  MAHDI makes 7 year treaty with Rome and Israel  MAHDI LEADS HOLY WAR  MAHDI ESTABLISHES ISLAM AS WORLD RELIGION  MAHDI CHANGES CALENDAR  MAHDI CONTROLS RAIN  MAHDI SLAUGHTERS CHRISTIANS  JESUS, son of Mary, RETURNS as a MUSLIM  MAHDI DISCOVERS ANCIENT BIBLICAL TEXTS and Ark of the Covenant	<b>7 YEAR TREATY</b>  <b>MAHDI = Antichrist (First Beast)</b>  <b>Peace and Security for Israel</b>  <b>PERSECUTE CHURCH » THE REBELLION</b> - many fall away from the faith  <b>JESUS, the son of Mary = False Prophet, (Second Beast)</b>	<b>ANTICHRIST APPEARS</b>  ANTICHRIST makes 7 year treaty with Israel  <b>SEAL #1</b> Conqueror to Conquer  <b>FIRST BEAST</b>  <b>SEAL #2</b> Takes Peace Large Sword  <i>THIS CALLS FOR PATIENT ENDURANCE BY THE SAINTS (Rev. 13:10)</i>  <b>SEAL #3</b> Economic Inflation  <b>SEAL #4</b> Kill 25% of Earth  <b>SECOND BEAST</b>  <i>"God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie" (2 Th. 2:11)</i>
MAHDI WILL BRING THE ARK OF THE COVENANT TO JERUSALEM  MAHDI INVADES JERUSALEM, SLAUGHTER JEWS AND ESTABLISH HIS RULE ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT  DAJJAL WILL APPEAR ON HIS MAGIC MULE	<b>3 1/2 Years</b>  <b>ABOMINATION of DESOLATION</b> Covenant with Israel Broken  Mahdi (Antichrist) begins major Persecution of Jews  <b>DAJJAL = Jesus, the Son of God</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;">         Sets himself up in the holy place          Standing in the holy place.          In the middle of the seven he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And...          set up an abomination that causes desolation.       </div> <b>SEAL #5</b> Souls slain for word of God and testimony for Jesus  Antichrist invades Israel and pitches his tent in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah  Jews Flee Judea Jews protected in wilderness and mountains of Ammon, Moab, Edom  <b>SEAL #6</b> Sun black, moon red, stars and sky gone <b>SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN</b>  <b>RAPTURE OF CHURCH</b> • gather the elect from four winds (Matt. 24:31) • The Lord will come down...those in the church that are still alive will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thes. 4:15-18) • Great multitude from out of Tribulation stood before Lord on Throne (Rev. 7:10)  <b>JEWS ENVOIOUS OF CHURCH</b> <b>JEWS REPENT</b> <b>JEWS SEALED</b>  <b>SEVEN TRUMPETS</b>  <b>JEWS MEET JESUS on earth</b>  <b>SEVEN BOWLS</b>
<b>MUSLIM ENDING:</b>  JESUS, the son of Mary, descends to destroy <b>DAJJAL</b> (Jesus, son of God) and slaughter the Jews		<b>CHRISTIAN ENDING:</b>  JESUS, the son of God, descends to destroy <b>ANTICHRIST</b> (MAHDI) and <b>FALSE PROPHET</b> (JESUS, son of Mary)



# THE ESCHATOLOGY SUPERSTARS

ISLAMIC view		CHRISTIAN view	
<i>the...</i>	<b>MAHDI</b> (Twelfth Imam)	<i>...is the...</i>	<b>ANTICHRIST</b> (First Beast, Little Horn)
	<b>JESUS, son of Mary</b>	<i>...is the...</i>	<b>FALSE PROPHET</b> (Second Beast)
<i>the...</i>	<b>DAJJAL</b>	<i>...is...</i>	<b>JESUS, Son of God</b> (Messiah)

More details on Islamic eschatology and parallels with Christian eschatology can be found here → <http://www.titanicfaith.org/section5.html>