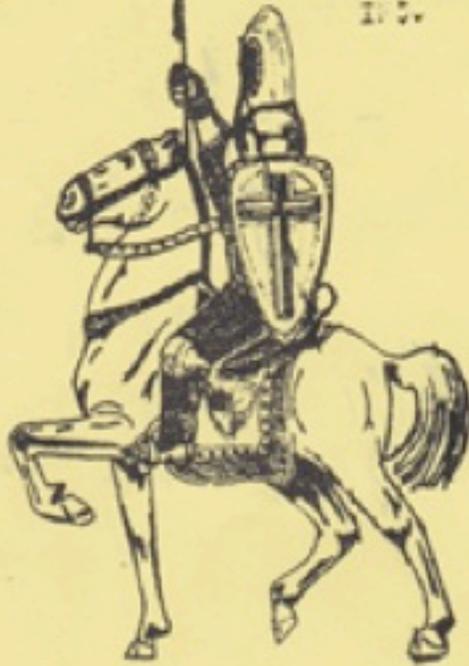


Christian Training Center

1917



**CHRISTIAN TRAINING CENTER, INC.
THE CHARISMATIC BIBLE INSTITUTE
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BOOK TWELVE, PART 3

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SPECIALIZED TRAINING IN GIFTS AND MINISTRIES

Lesson 13: The Thousand Years Reign Of Christ

Book 12

Revelation 20:1-7

By Dr. Albert Grimes

The kingdom, or the reign of Christ upon the earth, is referred to in Scripture as the Kingdom that God shall set up upon the earth as stated in Daniel 2:44, “And in the days of these kings shall the God, of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”

The kings referred to in this verse are the ten kingdoms of the revived Roman Empire under the Antichrist. This Empire will be destroyed by Christ at His Coming. This Kingdom was given to Christ by His Father. This is pointed out in Daniel 7:13-14, “I saw in the night visions, and behold one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

It is again spoken of in Daniel 7:27, “And the Kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the Kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”

Then it also states in regards to this kingdom that the kingdom of this world becomes our Lord’s as Revelation 11:15 states, “And the seventh angel sounded and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”

GOD’S COVENANT TO DAVID IN REGARDS TO THIS KINGDOM

God made a covenant with David regarding the fact that his descendants would sit upon the throne in a Kingdom that He would set up as in 2 Samuel 7:12,13,16, “And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee; thy throne shall be established for ever.”

This covenant was sealed by an oath. God must then, according to His own word, restore this earthly kingdom as Psalm 89:3,4 relates, “I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, 4 Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations.”

This same covenant was again spoken of in relationship to Mary by the angel of the Lord in Luke 1:31-33, “And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

THE PURPOSE OF CHRIST’S SECOND COMING IS THAT HE MIGHT SET UP HIS KINGDOM

That the setting up of the Kingdom is the purpose of his coming is brought out in the parable that Jesus himself gave in Luke 19:12-15, “And he said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a Kingdom, and to return 13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come...15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom...”

This is the reason why he is called in Scripture the King of Kings and Lord of Lords as Revelation 19:16 states, “And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Because he will reign over all the kings of the earth in the Kingdom, He will set up His own throne as stated in Revelation 3:21, “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

This throne that Christ will sit upon in this kingdom shall be called, the throne of his Glory, as stated in Matthew 19:28, “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man shall sit in the throne of his glory...” Then also in Matthew 25:31, “When the Son of Man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory.”

This Kingdom was fully understood and expected by the disciples, but Christ would not reveal the time to them as they asked him regarding it in Acts 1:6-7, “When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.”

The mother of Zebedee’s children desired her sons a high position in this kingdom in Matthew 20:21, “And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.”

A KINGDOM OF ONE THOUSAND YEARS DURATION

The kingdom after it is set up upon the earth will last for one thousand years. Some suggest that there is only one Scripture where this time period is stated but it also must be remembered that this same time period of a thousand years is mentioned six times.

In Revelation 20:2-7 we read, “...and bound him a thousand years...3...till the thousand years should be fulfilled...4...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5...until the thousand years were finished...6...and shall reign with him a thousand years. 7 And when the thousand years are expired...” The Kingdom then that God shall set up upon this earth shall be for one thousand years.

SATAN AND HIS HORDES SHALL BE BOUND IN THE BOTTOMLESS PIT

Before this kingdom is set up upon the earth, Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit in order that, while the nations are in this kingdom, he will not be able to deceive them as is stated in Revelation 20:1-3, “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled; and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

All during this thousand year period, Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit, and the nations of the earth will be free from his deceptions.

CHRIST SHALL BE PERSONALLY UPON THE EARTH AS KING

The Glorified Christ will be in person upon the earth, and he as King shall sit upon the throne of his father David, and reign over all the earth as is pointed out in Jeremiah 23:5-6, “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

Then in Zechariah 14:9, “And the Lord shall be king over the earth; in that day shall there be one Lord, and His name one.”

That Christ will reign is further pointed out in Revelation 20:4, 6, “...and they lived and reigned with

Christ a thousand years...6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

As Christ reigns then upon this earth his rule shall be over all the earth. Every nation shall be subject to him as pointed out in Psalm 72:8,11, “He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth...11 Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.”

TWO PRINCIPLES SHALL MAKE HIS REIGN DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER KING

For the first time ever, since nations existed as such, there will be world wide peace on earth. For the Prince of Peace will be ruling over the earth as Isaiah 2:4 states, “And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

This peace shall last throughout the whole Kingdom age as pointed out in Psalm 72:7, “In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth.”

The wicked shall not prosper in this kingdom, only those who are righteous. For Christ will reign in righteousness and judge the wicked as Isaiah 11:4-5 relates, “But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. 5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.”

HOW WILL CHRIST RULE THE NATIONS IN THIS KINGDOM?

In the Kingdom, different principles of government will have to be administered. For the most part, all of the nations, as the Kingdom begins, will not know Christ as we the Church will.

Most of them will be unsaved, and for this reason he will rule them with a rod of iron. This is made very plain in Scripture in Psalm 2:8-9, “Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potters vessel.”

The same is suggested in Revelation 2:27, “And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers, even as I received of my Father.”

Then also in Revelation 19:15, “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron...” Righteousness then shall be maintained in the earth by speedy judgment of sin. This is what is suggested by the iron rule of Christ. The earth and its inhabitants will be brought into subjection to Him. Those who openly sin shall be cut off as Isaiah 65:20 states, “There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days; for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.”

THE CHURCH IN THE KINGDOM

It is pointed out in the Scriptures that not only will the church reign with Christ, but also all those who are in the first resurrection. This is made clear by Revelation 20:6, “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

The saints then with Christ shall judge the world as in I Corinthians 6:2, “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?” It is also evident that rulership in the kingdom will be a matter of rewards as stated in 2 Timothy 2:12, “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him...” Then with Revelation 3:21, “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne even as I also overcame and am set down with my Father in His throne.”

We have been made Kings and Priests and we shall also reign on the earth as Revelation 5:10 states, “And has made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth.”

The sense in which we shall reign is brought out in the parable. We shall be in government positions throughout the Kingdom as in Luke 19:17-19, "And he said unto him, well done, thou good servant; because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. 18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. 19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities."

It is in this Kingdom that we shall be manifest as the Sons of God. In this present world, we are not manifest as Sons of God as stated in 1 John 3:1, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

When Christ is manifest to the world as King of Kings, then we shall be manifest with him as Colossians 3:4 states, "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

With this manifestation of Sonship, the creation itself shall also be delivered from the bondage of corruption as in Romans 8:19-21, "For the earnest expectation of the creature (or creation) waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature (creation) was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature (creation) itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

The curse will be lifted from the earth and it will be restored to its former condition, not to perfection as in Genesis 1:1, but to its reconditioned state as it was when Adam ruled over it. The earth will not be made perfect until the events described in 2 Peter 3:7-13 take place which will produce the perfect earth of Revelation 21:1.

ISRAEL IN THE KINGDOM

Israel, before the kingdom, will be regathered to their land; but it must be understood that there will be different regatherings. There is one now.

The establishment of the State of Israel is a forerunner of the gatherings, so Israel is being gathered now. There will be a greater gathering just before the invasion of the State of Israel by Russia revealed in Ezekiel, chapters 38,39. This is stated in Ezekiel 36:24, "For I will gather you...out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land."

After the invasion is over many more will return to Israel, only to come under the rule of the Antichrist.

Then the final gathering will take place at the Revelation of Christ, when He Himself will gather them from all over the world as stated in Isaiah 11:11,12, "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. 12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

It is after this final regathering that they will be made to realize that Christ is their Messiah as Zechariah 12:10 reveals, "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

After this realization there shall be a national repentance, and a cleansing from sin as Zechariah 13:1 relates, "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness."

The whole nation having repented will be saved in one day. This is brought out in Isaiah 66:7,8, "Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. 8 Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children."

After this, God will make a new covenant with Israel, as is stated in Jeremiah 31:31-34. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my

people. 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquities, and I will remember their sin no more.”

At this time will be brought to fulfillment the prophecy regarding the outpouring of the Holy Spirit made by the prophet Joel in Joel 2:28,29, “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit.”

With this outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Israel, healing and deliverance will come to those who are in Israel as is pointed out in Isaiah 35:5, 6, “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.”

The New Testament mention of this is made in Romans 11:25,26, “For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. 26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:”

After this tremendous outpouring of the Spirit upon Israel and Judah, they will be again united as one nation as pointed out in Ezekiel 37:22, “And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel, and one king shall be king to them all and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all.”

Restored and saved and filled with the Holy Spirit, Israel will evangelize the Gentile nations during the kingdom age, and become a blessing unto them, and many shall find God in those days. For Zechariah 8:13,20-23 records, “And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong...20 Thus saith the Lord of hosts; it shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: 21 And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts: I will go also. 22 Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord, 23 Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass; that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.”

The land of Palestine, according to the promise which God made to Abraham in Genesis 15:18, “In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates”, will be divided in horizontal sections West to East beginning in the North, with the tribe of Dan, then Asher, and Naphtali, then Manasseh, and Ephraim, then Reuben and Judah.

Then a section fifty miles square will be separated for the temple and the city. After which we have the tribe of Benjamin, then Simeon, and, Issachar, Zebulun and Gad. This is according to scriptures found in Ezekiel 48:1-29.

In Ezekiel 37:25 we read, “And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children’s children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince forever.”

There shall be a restoring of Israel’s judges according to Isaiah 1:26, “And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counselors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, the city of righteousness, the faithful city.”

The twelve apostles will be ruling over the twelve tribes of Israel as stated in Luke 22:29,30, “And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; 30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

The Priests shall be restored in their office as Ezekiel 40:46 relates, “And the chamber whose prospect is toward the north is for the priests, the keepers of the charge of the altar: these are the sons of Zadok among the sons of Levi, which come near to the Lord to minister unto him.”

It is evident that the sanctuary worship shall be restored, as will be the feasts as Ezekiel 37:26-28 reveals. "Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. 27 My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 28 And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore."

Not only will Israel worship before the Lord in this sanctuary, and keep the feasts of the Lord, but it also suggests the fact that representatives of the nations shall also come to keep these feasts unto the Lord. In Zechariah 14:16,17 we read, "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. 17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain."

It is this part of the doctrine of the Kingdom that is not too understandable, the fact that the whole tabernacle system is to be revived in the kingdom age. But when we understand that this Kingdom is the kingdom which was offered to Israel, and was rejected by them while they were under law, and it is in this relationship that the Kingdom will be fulfilled in the world. But to the saved Israelites no doubt their sacrifices could be memorials as the Lord's supper is today in the age of grace.

The nation of Israel will be head over all the Gentile nations in the earth as stated in Isaiah 14:1,2, "For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob. 2 And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the Lord for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors."

THE NATIONS OF THE GENTILES

In our study in regards to the judgment of the nations that are left on the earth after Christ returns, we found that the sheep nations go into the kingdom as Matthew 25:34 reveals. "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:"

These nations will form the nucleus of the kingdom together with saved Israel, and no doubt multitudes will be born during the thousand years reign as stated in Zechariah 8:4,5. "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. 5 And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof." Because of the conditions that will exist in the kingdom age, life will be greatly prolonged. For there will be a return to the period just before the flood in Genesis 5, when the life span was over eight and nine hundred years. This is suggested in Isaiah 65:20, "There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed."

Long life will no doubt depend upon obedience to the rule of Christ, and His acceptance as King, as stated in Psalm 2:12, "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."

It is quite evident that sickness and disease will not destroy for this kingdom will be a period of joy and happiness. Physical healing will be granted many. Isaiah 33:24 states "And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity." Also in Isaiah 35:5,6 we read "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing..."

THE CURSE WILL BE LIFTED FROM THE EARTH

This change that will take place in the earth's condition is called in scripture the regeneration as Matthew

19:28 relates, “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” It is the curse that was placed upon the earth because of Adam’s sin that will be taken away. Genesis 3:17,18, “...cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee;...” Rain and soil fertility will be restored in the earth as stated in Joel 2:22-24, “Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength. 23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. 24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil.”

Then also in Isaiah 35:1, “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.” These statements have to do mostly with the land of Palestine. However, it will affect all the world.

Crop failures will only come to those who will not come up to worship in Jerusalem. They will be judged in the sense that no rain will come upon their crops as stated in Zechariah 14:17-19, “And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. 18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.” So the earth will be restored back to conditions that existed before Adam fell. It will be delivered from the bondage of corruption as in Romans 8:21, “Because the creature (creation) itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”

GREAT PHYSICAL CHANGES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE EARTH

These great changes which will take place in the land of Israel will happen at the Revelation of Christ as pointed out in Zechariah 14:4-10, “And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south...” The mount of Olives shall be divided and a valley will come in between the mountain. This valley will open up to the Mediterranean Sea, and the Sea will flow through the mount of Olives, and down into the Dead Sea. “...8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea; in summer and in winter shall it be...” This will be made possible because of the great earthquake that will level the land surface as in: “...10 All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up...”

The temple and city will be built after this takes place.

It also must be understood that great changes will take place in all the cities of the earth. A great rebuilding program will be in progress at the beginning of the Kingdom because all the cities of the earth that were ruled by the false commercial system of Satan were destroyed in the earthquake as Revelation 16:19 relates, “And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.”

The whole system of government and education and commerce will be changed in order that the nations can become subject to the kingdom rule.

Prosperity and security shall exist in the kingdom as stated in Micah 4:3,4, “And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. 4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it.”

THE EARTH SHALL BE FULL OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD

The law shall go forth from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth, and all shall know of Him as Isaiah 2:3 states. "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." And as we have already stated, the Jews will be the missionaries to the nations.

ANIMAL LIFE SHALL BE CHANGED

Fellowship will be restored as it was before sin entered into the world, and the fear and dread which came upon the animals, birds and creeping things will be done away with. In Genesis 9:2 we read, "And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered."

A change will take place in the animal's nature as state in Isaiah 11:6-9, "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den." (The asp is a poisonous snake as is the cockatrice, an unidentified snake.) 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord..."

Then also in Isaiah 65:25, "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain..."

A covenant of peace shall be made with the beast of the field as stated in Ezekiel 34:25, "And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods."

THERE WILL BE ONE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE DURING THE KINGDOM

The confounding of the languages in Genesis 11:7,8, "Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. 8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city."

Language became the barrier that separated peoples, but in the kingdom there will be one language as there was before. Genesis 11:1, "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech." This fact is brought out in Zephaniah 3:9, "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent."

There will be one language spoken in the kingdom age. This then will bring nations together in one, and there will also be a better opportunity to spread the gospel of the kingdom.

This then is a description of the Kingdom that Christ will set up upon the earth for one thousand years. But regardless of these conditions, man will still be proven to be totally depraved, and capable of rejecting Christ, even with these existing conditions and Satan bound in the bottomless pit.

We are told, that after the kingdom is over, and Satan is once more loosed out of the pit, that he is still able to go forth and gather a great host in order to once again rebel against God as stated in Revelation 20:7-9, "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them."

Thus the kingdom will end with a rebellion against God. This will be Satan's final rebellion against God. After which he shall be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented for ever and ever as Revelation 20:10 records.

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

FUTURE EVENTS 3

Book 12

Lesson 13: Questions

1. What scriptures speak of the kingdom which is to be set up by Christ upon the earth?
2. Who did Christ make a covenant with regarding the kingdom?
3. What scriptures point out that the kingdom is the purpose of Christ's coming to this earth?
4. How long is this kingdom to be upon this earth?
5. What will happen to Satan when Christ comes to set up His Kingdom?
6. Give scriptures to prove that Christ will actually reign upon this earth as King.
7. What two principles will make His reign different from any other?
8. How will Christ rule the nations?
9. What will be the church's position in the kingdom?
10. What will be Israel's position in this Kingdom?
11. In what way will the land be divided between the tribes of Israel?
12. Why must a fifty mile square section of land be separated off also?
13. What will the twelve apostles be doing during the Kingdom Age?
14. Explain why the whole Tabernacle system will be restored, in what sense. Will the sacrifices be offered by Israel who is then saved?
15. Explain how the nations whom Christ brings into the Kingdom will be brought before the Throne of His glory as in Matthew 25:31-46.
16. Will sickness and disease be overcome in this kingdom? Explain.
17. What will happen to the curse which was placed upon the earth by God?
18. What physical changes will take place in the earth during the Kingdom?
19. What shall go forth to the ends of the earth from Jerusalem?
20. How will animal life be changed?
21. Will the different languages still be spoken during this Kingdom Age?

Lesson 14: The Judgment Of The Nations

Book 12

Matthew 25:31-46

By Dr. Albert Grimes

After the great battle of Armageddon is over, the Lord will judge the Beast and the False Prophet. Revelation 19:20 states, "and the beast was taken and with him the False Prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with fire and brimstone."

Also the armies that had come from all over the world to make war with the beast against Christ as Revelation 16:14 records, "...kings of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

Their armies were slain by the armies which came from heaven with the Lord as Revelation 19:14 says, "And the armies which were in heaven followed him..." Also in Revelation 19:21, "And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth; and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."

Their armies would not compose the whole of any nation, so nations are left after this battle. This is brought out in Zechariah 14:16, "And it shall come to pass that everyone that is left of all the nations which come against Jerusalem..."

It is also these nations that were left that the Lord will rule over with a rod of iron as Revelation 19:15 states, "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations, and he shall rule them with a rod of iron."

It is these nations that he will gather together in order to judge them in regards to their entrance into the kingdom as Joel 3:12 relates, "Let the heathen be wakened and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there will I sit to judge all the heathens round about."

This judgment will take place when He the Lord, will come to the earth in His revelations. Then He will sit upon the throne of His glory gathering all nations before Him, as we read in Matthew 25:31-32, "When the Son of man shall come in His glory; and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory. 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations and he shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats."

There are some Bible teachers who teach that at the end of the age that there is only going to be one resurrection of both righteous and wicked, and one judgment, and that Matthew 25:31-46 and Revelation 20:11-15 are both relating to the same event. But a close study of both these events will prove that they are two different events, and that they are separated by a period of one thousand years. For Christ will judge the nations before the Kingdom begins. And He will judge the wicked dead at the end of the thousand years after the kingdom is finished.

At the judgment of the nations Christ will sit upon the throne of His glory as Matthew 25:31 states, "...Then shall He (Christ) sit upon the throne of his glory."

At the judgment of the wicked dead mentioned in Revelation 20:11-15, Christ will sit upon a great white throne as Revelation 20:11 records, "And I saw a great white throne and Him that sat on it..." Then again the judgment of the nations is upon this earth as Joel 3:12 states, "Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about."

The judgment of the wicked dead takes place in heaven because at this event the heaven and earth fled away, and no place was found for them as Revelation 20:11 relates, "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them."

This statement relates to the judgment of the earth and heaven by fire as related to us in 2 Peter 3:5-13, and in verse 10, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. The earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

The judgment of the nations takes place before the kingdom is set up, for the sheep nations go into the kingdom, as Matthew 25:34 states, "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

The judgment of the wicked dead is after the kingdom is finished as Revelation 20:7 relates, "And after the thousand years are expired..." relating to the thousand years of the kingdom. And in verses 7-10, Satan is loosed, and the last rebellion takes place, after which, in Revelation 20:11-15, the judgment of the wicked takes place, as Revelation 20:11 states, "And I saw a great white throne..."

Before the judgment of the nations, all the nations of the earth are to be gathered as Matthew 25:32 states, "And before him shall be gathered all nations..."

At the judgment of the wicked, only the dead are gathered as Revelation 20:12 records, "And I saw the dead small and great stand before God."

At the judgment of the nations there is no resurrection spoken of at all. But in the judgment of the wicked dead, a resurrection is mentioned as Revelation 20:13 relates, "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged according to their works."

Before the first throne, in the judgment of the nations, three classes are mentioned: Sheep, goats, and Brethren, as related in Matthew 25:33, "And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on his left." Then in verse 40, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren..."

Before the second throne, the great white throne, there is only one class spoken of, the dead as in Revelation 20:12, "And I saw the dead, small and great stand before God..."

At the judgment of the nations no mention is made of books. In Matthew 25:40, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." They are, therefore, not judged from any book or books. But at the Great White Throne Judgment, two types of books are mentioned in Revelation 20:12, "And the books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of life..."

In the first judgment of the nations, the sheep nations go into the kingdom as in Matthew 25:34, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation, of the world."

In the second judgment, the Great White Throne Judgment of the dead, "All those who are not found written in the book of life were cast into the Lake of Fire", as we read in Revelation 20:15, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of Fire."

After considering all these facts, it is quite evident that there are two different judgments.

THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS DESCRIBED

The time of this judgment is at the Revelation of Christ, after Christ has judged the Antichrist, and the False Prophet, and the armies which followed them. The section of scripture in Matthew 25:31-46 describes this event, "When the Son of Man shall come in his glory; and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." That this is referring to his coming to this earth in His Revelation is further pointed out in 2 Thessalonians 1:7, "And to you who are troubled, rest with us when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels."

Also in Matthew 24:30, "And they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Also Matthew 25:32-35 states, "And before him shall be gathered all nations and he shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world..."

This Kingdom that is spoken of in this section of scripture is the Thousand years reign of Christ spoken of in Daniel 2:44, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and shall stand forever."

It is also mentioned in Revelation 20:4, "...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years," and in Revelation 20:6, "But they shall be priests of God, and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand Years."

It is this Kingdom that the Lord has prepared from the foundation of the world as Matthew 25:34 relates,

“Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, “Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

THE CONDITIONS FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM

Now it is to be noticed the conditions by which they enter into this kingdom. They are allowed into this kingdom as nations absolutely upon their treatment of Christ's brethren, the Jews, in the tribulation that has just passed, just before the Lord's coming back to this earth. This is pointed out in Matthew 25:35-36, “For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took-me in; 36 Naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me.”

That Christ's brethren are spoken of is without question as Matthew 25:40 states, "And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me.”

The brethren here spoken of are the Jews, and, as this event is relating to the Revelation of Christ, as He comes to this earth, and this judgment is referring to nations that are gathered together on the earth, the Lord then is describing conditions which took place prior to His coming to earth. These conditions can only refer then to the tribulation period that has just ended. What Christ is discussing is the Jews, his brethren, and he is referring to those nations who, finding Christ's brethren in these conditions described, did as Christ said. They fed, clothed, visited them, and took them in. And because of what they did to Christ's brethren, the Jews, they were actually doing it to Christ.

Because of this they were classed as righteous, and also as sheep nations. This then is their entrance into the kingdom. This relates to the promise that God made to Abraham regarding his seed in Genesis 12:2-3, "And I will make thee a great nation; and I will bless thee and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing. 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee, and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

The nations of the earth are still being blessed, or cursed, according to their treatment of Christ's brethren, the Jews. The goat nations which did as the Lord describes in Matthew 25:41-43, "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink. 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in, naked and ye clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.” These shall come under the judgment of God as Matthew 25:46 states, “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.”

It must be understood at this judgment that the sheep nations do not receive eternal life at this judgment, but that they will be allowed to enter into the kingdom where, if they desire as individuals, they may find eternal life by their acceptance of Christ as Saviour.

It seems clear that these nations elected by this method will form the nucleus of the Millennial Kingdom, and that the nations which are saved during this Millennial Kingdom shall be transported unto the New Earth still as nations as Revelation 21:24 relates, “And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it, and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.”

That these same nations will be kept in an eternal state just the same as Adam and Eve would have been kept by eating of the tree of life is stated in Revelation 22:2, “In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

The plan that God had for Adam and Eve to replenish the earth in Genesis 1:28 has never been put to one side. God still plans in these nations to populate this New Earth with a race of sinless human beings which are not glorified human beings as those who will come forth in the first resurrection.

FUTURE EVENTS 3

Book 12

Lesson 14: Questions

1. What will happen after the battle of Armageddon, to the beast and his armies?
2. What will Christ do to the nations, which are left upon the earth?
3. Has this judgment of the nations have anything to do with the Great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20:11-15?
4. Describe the Judgment of the Nations.
5. What are the conditions for entrance into the Kingdom?

Lesson 15: The White Throne Judgment

Book 12

Revelation 20:12-15

By Dr. Albert Grimes

After the thousand years reign of Christ is over, and Satan is finally put away for ever into the lake of fire, Revelation 20:10, we are then taken into heaven, and we have described to us in Revelation 20:11-15, "The Great White Throne Judgment".

After this event in heaven, in Revelation 21:1, we have described the new heaven and earth. John the Apostle does not explain to us what happens to the earth in order to bring it to the condition described in Revelation 21:1.

But when we examine the epistle of 2 Peter 3:7-13, we have explained to us what will happen to the earth in order to bring it to the condition described in Revelation 21:1, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."

The earth after the Kingdom is over will be burned over and renewed. So we are to understand that this present earth is reserved unto fire as stated in 2 Peter 3:7, "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

So after the Kingdom is over on the earth, two more events will then take place; The Great White Throne Judgment in the heaven, and the burning over of the heavens and earth by fire.

If these two events are to take place after the kingdom is finished, what will happen to those who have been left on the earth after the kingdom comes to an end?

The scripture is silent in this respect. However, before the earth can be burned over, those who are upon it must in some way be taken off the earth. All those glorified such as Christ and the first resurrection saints will no doubt go back to heaven. For, it is Christ and the saints who will preside at the Great White Throne Judgment as stated in Daniel 7:10, "A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened."

But the nation of Israel and those saved in the kingdom are not glorified human beings. What will happen to these nations? A close study of scripture reveals the fact that these nations are again spoken of in Revelation 21:24,26, "And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it...26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it."

It is to be noticed that this is after the renovation of the earth by fire when the Holy City is upon the New Earth.

We can understand this when we know that God's plan for Adam and Eve was to populate the earth with a race of human beings. This was never put to one side, but it is to be brought to pass by taking from the kingdom those saved nations, and transporting them unto the New Earth.

We have a type of this in the Ark and the transporting of Noah and his family over the flood and placing them upon the earth in order to begin life again.

How these nations are kept in an eternal state is brought out in Revelation 22:2, "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

This was the way in which Adam and his descendants were to be perpetuated as they populated the earth as Genesis 2:9 states, "And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden..."

They were to freely eat of the tree of life as stated in Genesis 2:16, "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:"

It was only after Adam had sinned that he was driven from the tree of life, in Genesis 3:24, "So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned

every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

This judgment of the wicked dead takes place after the thousand year reign of Christ.

Then we must also understand that there are two resurrections. The first resurrection which takes in a period of time from Christ’s resurrection until the end of the tribulation period.

The order of this resurrection is given in 1 Corinthians 15:22-24, “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. 24 Then cometh the end...”

The order of the first resurrection then is:

- I. Christ the firstfruits. This part of the first resurrection took place over 1900 years ago.
- II. They that are Christ’s at his coming. This event will take place as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, which is the Rapture.
- III. “Then cometh the end”, referring to the gleanings out of the tribulation period.

This completes the first resurrection as stated in Revelation 20:4,5, “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.” Or this completes the first resurrection.

So the first resurrection saints reign with Christ a thousand years; but the wicked dead, are not resurrected until after the thousand years are finished as stated in Revelation 20:5. “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished...”

THEIR RESURRECTION DESCRIBED

This resurrection of the wicked dead is mentioned in other parts of the word of God as in Daniel 12:2, “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

Then the Lord himself speaks of this resurrection in John 5:28,29, “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”

Then further explanation is given regarding this resurrection in Revelation 20:13, “And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them, and they were judged every man according to their works.”

The possible explanation here is that the bodies of the wicked, with the soul and spirit, were raised out of the sea. And “death” refers to the graves. They also yielded up the wicked dead, “and hell” refers to the place where their soul and spirit is confined. These were given up.

They are raised body and soul and spirit to stand before the great White Throne. Revelation 20:12, “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God...”, in their mortal bodies.

THE BASIS OF THIS JUDGMENT

Two things are said to be the basis of this judgment. First, they will be judged according to the things written in the books as Revelation 20:12 relates, “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

What is the purpose of the two types of books at this judgment? First, the book which contains the record of their works, and it states that they were judged according to their works.

Now it must be understood that their works have to do with their position in the Lake of Fire, as pointed out in Revelation 21:8, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all Liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Their "part" or position, place, is determined by their works. There are eight places in this Lake of Fire. Places for the Fearful, Unbelieving, Abominable, Murderers, Whoremongers, Sorcerers, Idolaters and Liars.

What actually sends a person to the Lake of Fire is his rejection of Christ as stated in John 3:18,19, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

But what gives a person his position in the Lake of Fire are the works which he performs in his life upon this earth, just the same as our works determine our place in God's kingdom.

The book of life determines their destiny, for every one not written in it, or who hath not accepted Christ as Saviour, was cast into the Lake of Fire. For Revelation 20:15 states, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of Fire."

It is only those written in the book that belong to God. This is the evidence from the word of God as Luke 10:20 records, "...but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."

Then also in Revelation 3:5, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

Then in Revelation 13:8, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

THE DURATION OF PUNISHMENT

After the final judgment, those condemned are cast into the Lake of Fire as stated in Revelation 20:15, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

It is what is described as the Second death or eternal separation from God stated in Revelation 21:8, "...which is the second death."

This condition is eternal. This is the clear teaching of the Word of God. Matthew 18:8, "...to be cast into everlasting fire". Also in Matthew 25:41, "...Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Then in Matthew 25:46, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Then also in 2 Thessalonians 1:9, "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

It is suggested by some that the word "everlasting" means age long, one age upon another, and only relates to a period of time. Therefore it cannot mean eternal in the sense we try to understand it. The reason why this word is used in the Word is because there is no word in the Greek language which could express eternity.

The fact that it is describing an eternal condition is proved by the fact that the same word "everlasting" is also used of the saints in Matthew 19:29, "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life." Then in Matthew 25:46, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Then again in John 3:16, "For God so Loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life".

The word eternal and the word everlasting come from the same source, and it is used to express the eternal duration of God, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit in Romans 16:26, "...of the everlasting God", And in 1 Timothy 1:17, "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise Cod, be honour and glory for ever and ever." Also in Hebrews 9:14, "...who through the eternal Spirit..." Speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ in Revelation 1:18, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the

keys of hell and of death.”

Then also the fact that the same word is used to describe both the sufferings of the wicked, and the happiness of the righteous, reveals the fact that it is punishment without end. Matthew 25:46 reveals this. “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

THIS EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT IS DESCRIBED

It makes it very plain in regards to the place of punishment. It is called the Lake of Fire, as Revelation 20:15 states, “...into the lake of fire.”

We are told that it burneth with fire and brimstone in Revelation 21:8, “...in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone...” This fire is everlasting fire as Matthew 25:41 states, “...into everlasting fire...”

It is a place where there is no light for it is described as a place of outer darkness in Matthew 22:13, “Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Then also in Matthew 25:30, “And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

We understand that this place is located in the heart of our earth. This will account for the darkness.

We are told also in the Word of God that there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, a continual torment as Matthew 8:12 describes, “...there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” And in Luke 16:24, “...that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue: for I am tormented in this flame.”

It is a place where the worm dieth not. What is to be understood by this statement is not too clear, but the word used refers to the maggot that eats away at the dead body, as in Mark 9:44, “Where their worm dieth not...” And also in Mark 9:46,48.

Some teach that it relates to the continuous eating away of conscience, or it may have something to do with the memory; for all will remember in this state. These were the words of Abraham to the rich man in hell. For we read in Luke 16:25, “But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.”

DO THE WICKED DEAD RETAIN THEIR BODIES IN THE LAKE OF FIRE?

We have already stated that the scripture indicates that at the resurrection of the wicked they will be raised in their bodies, their mortal bodies. In Revelation 20:13 we read, “And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; (this can only relate to the bodies of the dead) and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them.” Hell is the place where the spirits and souls are confined.

Other scriptures indicate this fact also such as Matthew 5:29,30 “And if thy right eye offend thee, cut it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. 30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.”

These scriptures point out the fact that the whole body will be cast into hell or the Lake of Fire.

Other scriptures that refer to the same thing are Mark 9:43,45,47, “...than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched. 45...than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched. 47...it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.”

While this Great White Throne Judgment is taking place in heaven, the earth and heavens relating to the first and second heaven will be burned over and renewed. This is the meaning of the statement in Revelation 20:11, “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.” This is referring to the renovation of the earth which we will study in our next lesson.

FUTURE EVENTS 3

Book 12

Lesson 15: Questions

1. What is described to us in Revelation 20:11-15; and in Revelation 21:1; and in 2 Peter 3:7-13?
2. What will happen to the glorified saints before this earth is burned over, and what will happen to the saved nations? Explain.
3. When does the judgment of the wicked dead take place?
4. Explain when the first resurrection begins and ends, and when the resurrection of the wicked takes place.
5. What are the principles of the White Throne Judgment?
6. What is the duration of punishment of the wicked?
7. In what scripture is this everlasting punishment described?
8. Will the wicked dead retain their earthly bodies?

Lesson 16: Seven Stages of Earth's History

Book 12

2 Peter 3:10,13

By Dr. Albert Grimes

While the wicked dead are being judged in the third heaven, before the Great White Throne, another judgment is referred to in Revelation 20:11, "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."

This statement about the earth and the heaven fleeing away, doubtless is speaking about the renovation of the earth and heaven. For it is after this statement that John saw the new earth and heaven in Revelation 21:1, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away..."

John did not see what actually happened in order to bring about the condition described in Revelation 21:1. But Peter, the apostle, received revelation regarding this event and he described it to us in 2 Peter 3:10-13.

However as we study regarding the earth and its renovation, that earth's history began in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." And it will end in Revelation 21:1 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth..." During this period of time from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 21:1, the earth will go through seven stages. We will study these stages.

EARTH'S HISTORY

Earth history then began in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

It is quite evident that our earth as it was created by God was the last planet to be created, for after its creation, all of God's universe was completed as is pointed out in Genesis 2:1, "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them." This suggests to us that this earth was the last planet to be created, so in the vast universe there are other planets which were created, and in proper function long before our planet was ever created.

This earth then came from the hand of God perfect in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

This verse of Genesis 1:1 only relates to our earth and its first heaven, the heaven of clouds, or our atmosphere, not to the second or third heaven.

The purpose of this earth was that it might be inhabited. This is the statement of God's word in Isaiah 45:18, "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited..."

This verse gives us the answer in regards to whether there is life upon other planets. If this is God's reason for creating our earth, the same reason would apply to all the other planets that God had created in this universe. To think that our planet is the only one that has life upon it is to minimize God Himself.

This may be the only planet that has fallen into sin, and, as the plan of redemption is being unfolded, who knows but what the whole universe is looking on, learning a never to be forgotten lesson of what sin can do.

And who knows but what the whole of redeemed mankind will not be put on exhibition before the whole universe of beings which have never sinned as we have done.

This perfect earth of Genesis 1:1 was a perfect earth inhabited with different forms of life. Does the Bible give us any information in regards to what forms of life may have been upon this earth?

It is evident from Isaiah 14:12-15, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!... 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." A close study of this section of scripture proves two things: First, that a being existed whose name was Lucifer; Second, it also suggests to us that this same Lucifer ruled over this planet as a King for he had a throne. "I will exalt my throne". "I will ascend into heaven". "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds". These statements prove

that Lucifer was upon this earth, and that he ruled over it.

Other scriptures relating to this same person are to be found in Ezekiel 28:13-15, "...15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." This whole section of scripture proves that the same being is being described. God created him and established him as ruler over this earth.

What was earth's condition? The climate of this earth was tropical. The plant life was of that same nature. The animal life was gigantic for this was the dinosaur age.

Was there a race of men upon the earth? In our study on spirits in Book Five, Lesson 7, we deal with the theory regarding the origin of spirits.

It is reasonable to think that there was a race of men existing upon the original earth. This race of beings was under the governorship of Lucifer before he fell. It is quite evident that this earth was the place from which Lucifer started his rebellion against God.

In speaking of this rebellion it is stated in Isaiah 14:12-14, "...13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven..." It is quite evident that these words suggest the fact that Lucifer was not in heaven but upon this earth.

This revolt resulted in judgment not only upon Lucifer, who became Satan, but also upon the earth which he ruled over. The result of this judgment is described to us in Genesis 1:2, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters".

This race of men who later became the fallen spirits were somehow involved in this rebellion, and, in that judgment, suffered the loss of their bodies, and became disembodied spirits. So the statement which the spirits themselves make, that they are the spirits of the dead, is not without foundation.

They are possibly the spirits of a race of men that perished in the judgment of Genesis 1:2. This is the reason why they seek to enter human bodies in order to be able to express themselves.

So in the first stage of earth's history we find a perfect earth with life upon it.

THE SECOND STAGE OF EARTH'S HISTORY: THE RUINED EARTH

This second stage began because of the rebellion of Lucifer whom God had placed upon this earth as its ruler.

This judgment described in Genesis 1:2, describes to us just what happened to the perfect earth of Genesis 1:1. For Genesis 1:2 states that the earth became without form. This points out the fact that the perfect earth became waste, a desolation, a worthless wilderness, "and void," meaning to be empty. All forms of life perished. "And darkness was upon the face of the deep." The whole planet became a waste, a wilderness, void of life, covered with water.

This earth then became a worthless waste covered with water, a frozen lifeless mass. We still have with us today the evidence of this judgment by the ice formations which we find at the north and south Poles.

The earth was left incased in ice. It perished as to its purpose. This is described in 2 Peter 3:6, "Whereby the world that then was, being over flowed with water, perished:"

So the perfect earth of Genesis 1:1 created in a dateless past, became the ruined earth of Genesis 1:2. How long the earth was left in this condition, we have no way of knowing.

Now this judgment is referred to in other scriptures, for Isaiah 24:1 relates, "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof." Then again in Jeremiah 4:23-26, "I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. 24 I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. 25 I beheld and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. 26 I beheld, and lo the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger."

This is a perfect description of God's judgment which brought about the conditions of Genesis 1:2.

THE THIRD CONDITION IN THE HISTORY OF THE EARTH

This third condition is related to the reconditioning of the earth of Genesis 1:1. As to the time of this reconditioning we have no way of knowing, but when God was ready to begin again the plan for this planet, the Spirit of God began the reconditioning.

In Genesis 1:2,3 we read, "...And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. 3 And God said..." or God commanded, and the reconditioning took place.

The order of reconditioning is described in Genesis 1:2-25, "...3 And God said, Let there be light..." This light was not sunlight, but cosmic light. Light produces heat. Heat produces evaporation, or a cloud formation, which covered the face of the earth.

God then divided the evaporated waters from the fluid waters which were upon the earth. This was brought about by forming a heaven or firmament between these two forms of water. This formed the first heaven of clouds.

After which God gathered the waters into seas, and made the dry land to appear. In this land, or earth, were kept in storage all the different kinds of types of seeds for plants and trees which afterward grew.

With the formation of this first heaven the Sun and Moon appeared to take their place for the dividing of the day and night, and for signs and for seasons. This is when time began in relationship to our earth.

Then again in Genesis 1:21, we have the word "created" as found in Genesis 1:1. It is pointed out that all animals, birds and creeping things perished in Genesis 1:2. All the gigantic forms of life were destroyed.

God again created new forms of animals, birds and creeping things, and it is these which we have with us today, everything created after its own kind.

After this reconditioning, God created man to be God's under ruler.

THE FOURTH CONDITION IN EARTH'S HISTORY

The sin of Adam brought about the fourth condition. The earth was cursed. This curse brought upon the earth thorns and thistles, and the earth itself would not yield to man its strength, or the full capacity of production. For in Genesis 3:17,18 we read, "...cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee;"

Man would have to labour in order to obtain his living from it as Genesis 4:12 states, "When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength..." Also in Genesis 3:19, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread..."

Also the fear and dread would come upon the birds, beasts and creeping things as in Genesis 9:2,3, "And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. 3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you;"

It is quite evident that before sin came into the human race, the trees and plant life, all existed without the ravages of disease, worms and bugs, and the many things that bring death and destruction.

The same did not exist amongst the birds, beasts, and creeping things. Everything that exists in this sense has its tormentors that bring to it death and destruction.

The awful condition of one animal killing the other for meat; all these conditions were brought about because of sin, and are explained in the Word of God in Romans 8:19-22, "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God, 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope. 21 Because the creature (creation) itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."

Not only does the creation wait for the manifestation of Sonship of the Sons of God, for when we are manifest as Sons of God, then the whole creation shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption.

This is a deliverance which is a future event, and it will take place when Christ sets up his kingdom upon the earth. The earth will be restored back to the conditions which existed in the reconditioning of the earth in Genesis 1 and 2. But the perfect condition of Genesis 1:1 will not take place until the event described in 2 Peter

3:7-13 takes place. Then the earth will be restored back to perfection as it was in Genesis 1:1, and as described in Revelation 21:1.

So this fourth condition will continue until the Kingdom is set up by the Lord upon the earth.

THE FIFTH CONDITION OF EARTH'S HISTORY

This is the period when the earth was flooded with water. The question is often asked, "Was the whole earth flooded, or was only a part of the earth covered?"

To some it seems too great an event to have the whole world flooded. The scripture is very clear in regards to this, and it points out that the flood covered the whole earth. For in Genesis 7:6 we read, "...when the flood of waters was upon the earth." Also in Genesis 7:17-20, "And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased and bare up the ark, and it was lifted up above the earth. 18 And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth... 19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. 20 Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered."

The fact that the whole earth was covered with water twenty two feet above the highest mountain can be clearly understood when we see that not only did it rain for forty days and nights, but all the springs in the seas were also opened up as stated in Genesis 7:11,12, "...the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. 12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights."

The reason for the flood is given in Genesis 6:1-5. The cohabitation of fallen angels with the daughters of men. This union contaminated the human race. Satan moved in this way in order to try and hinder the seed that would come as promised in Genesis 3:15. Christ was the seed of the woman that would finally bruise the serpent's head.

From the time God opened the windows of heaven, and the springs in the sea which flooded the earth, until the flood was over, and the land was dry, was a year and ten days. The rain started in February 17th, and the earth dried the following February 27th.

THE SIXTH CONDITION OF EARTH'S HISTORY

This was the earth again restored after the flood. This earth was still under the curse from Adam's sin, but in Noah's day the impact of this curse was fully brought to pass. For instead of the conditions which existed amongst the birds, beasts and creeping things in Adam's time, Noah would have no fellowship with God's created creatures as stated in Genesis 9:2,3, "And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. 3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things."

It was also at this time that God made a covenant with Noah relating to this earth, that no more would he flood the earth as Genesis 9:11 records, "And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth."

It must be remembered that the earth has twice been flooded with water as in Genesis 1:2, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Peter also speaks of this same event in 2 Peter 3:5,6, "...that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished."

The earth was left incased in ice, thus it perished. Then the flood in Noah's time, Genesis 7:19,20, "And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. 20 Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered."

The token of the covenant would be the rainbow in the sky as Genesis 9:13 states. "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth."

Thus the earth of Noah's day still retained the curse because of Adam's sin. The same conditions remain with us today, in regards to the earth's curse and the fear and dread amongst the birds, beasts and creeping things.

Creation still groans and travails in pain and corruption, and death reigns. But this earth in which we live will be restored back to its former condition which existed at the reconditioning of the earth in Genesis 1:2-25.

But regardless it is still reserved unto fire which fire will bring about the perfect conditions of Revelation 21:1.

THE SEVENTH STAGE OF EARTH'S HISTORY

This final stage is called by many the "Renovation" of the earth, because the earth and its two heavens will be burned over by fire. Not consumed, or totally destroyed, but burned over.

This is the statement of scripture in 2 Peter 3:7-13, "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

Just reading this section of scripture, one would be made to understand that the earth and its related heavens are to be all destroyed, and possibly created again. But a careful reading of the words used in this section cause us to understand that all that takes place is a burning over of the surface of the earth, and not its complete destruction,

The word "earth", which in this section comes from the Greek word "ghay", means the land surface, the inhabitalness of the earth, not the earth itself. This would cause us to understand then that it is the surface of the earth that will be burned over.

Then also the words "pass away" does not mean complete destruction, but just the passing from one form to another.

After this judgment by fire the earth will be restored to its former perfection just as it was in the first creation of Genesis 1:1. The earth was in a perfect state, but was judged because of Lucifer's rebellion. It was at this judgment that the earth was flooded with water as stated in Genesis 1:2. "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Afterwards this same earth was reconditioned in Genesis 1:2-25, but it never has been restored back to the condition of Genesis 1:1, but it will be as we have stated. For in Revelation 21:1, it says, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."

By this we are to understand that the first heaven, the heaven of clouds, will be made new, and the earth will be made new, and there will be no more sea.

These seas, ever since God made them in Genesis 1:10, have separated nations and continents, and they cover over two thirds of the earth's surface. So our earth will be restored back to the perfect state of Genesis 1:1.

THE HOLY CITY

As this earth is renewed, we are then made to understand that the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, will come down to this earth.

This city which was built by God as stated in Hebrews 11:10, "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

This city has been in the third heaven, and it is mentioned in the prophetic Psalm of Psalm 48:1,2, "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. 2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King."

This location in the sides of the north is referred to in Isaiah 14:13, "...I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north," speaking of Lucifer's rebellion in Isaiah 14:12.

This city then will descend out of heaven, and will come down to this new earth as stated in Revelation 21:2, "And I John saw the Holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Then also in Revelation 21:10, "...and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God."

This city as it comes upon this earth will occupy more than one half of the United States. This New Jerusalem will be the capital of the New Earth, and in it God Himself will dwell. For Revelation 21:3 states, "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."

As God Himself comes to dwell with men upon the New Earth, all the things of the former life will pass away forever as Revelation 21:4 relates, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

We shall enter into an eternal state where all things shall be new as Revelation 21:5 reveals, "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new..."

THE HOLY CITY DESCRIBED

This city will be possibly the largest in the whole universe. In describing it we first suggest that in its formation it is that of a pyramid, 1,500 miles square. In Revelation 21:16 we read, "And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal."

The wall around this city is possibly referred to in Revelation 21:17, "And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel." This, if it refers to the height of the wall, would make the wall around the city 216 feet high.

There are twelve foundations in this wall, or we could say that the city itself is built upon twelve foundations, and that each one of these foundations is garnished with twelve different kinds of precious stones. For we read in Revelation 21:19,20, "And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones..." then the list of the twelve stones.

Then there are twelve gates in the walls. Each gate is guarded by an angel of God, and written upon these gates are the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. In Revelation 21:12-14 it is stated, "And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."

In this city there will be no place of worship, no temples or churches, and this city will not need any light, from either sun or moon, or any artificial lighting as stated in Revelation 21:22,23, "And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb, are the temple of it. 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof."

Then in Revelation 22:5, "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."

Then we are told that the saved nations which will come out of the Kingdom age, these saved human beings forming nations, will replenish the earth as God had planned in Genesis 1:28, and with the glorified saints will have access into the Holy City as stated in Revelation 21:24,26, "And the nations of them which are

saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it...26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.”

Only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life shall be able to enter into this Holy City. For the wicked will be forever put away in the Lake of Fire. There shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth or worketh abomination or maketh a lie. For we read in Revelation 20:15, “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Also in Revelation 21:27, “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”

From God’s throne will flow the river of life. This water will flow as a river through the middle of the city and on either side of this river will grow the trees of life. These trees will bare twelve manner of fruits every month. And the leaves of these trees will be for the healing of the nations which will come from the Kingdom age.

For we read in Revelation 22:1,2, “And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

There will no longer be any curse in this New Earth, and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in this Holy City. All upon the New Earth shall serve God, and they shall reign for ever and ever. In Revelation 22:3,5 we read, “And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him...5...and they shall reign for ever and ever.”

This shall be the seventh stage of the earth. The nations will populate this earth, but the glorified saints will have access to the heavens also. They will doubtless travel out into the universe learning more and more about the wonders of God.

FUTURE EVENTS 3

Book 12

Lesson 16: Questions

1. During the period from Genesis 1:1 through to Revelation 21:1, how many stages will earth pass through?
2. What does Genesis 2:1 suggest to us?
3. According to Isaiah 45:18, what was the purpose for God creating this earth?
4. What kind of beings may have inhabited this earth before man?
5. What possibly was the earth's condition?
6. Is it possible that a being called Lucifer ruled over this earth?
7. What happened to this earth because of Lucifer's rebellion?
8. Describe the second stage of earth's history.
9. Describe how the third stage came into being.
10. Explain the fourth condition of the earth.
11. Explain the fifth stage of the earth.
12. Explain the sixth stage of the earth.
13. Explain the seventh stage of the earth.