**A Study about the Nearness of Christ’s Return for the Church and Succeeding Events Pertaining to Israel and the Nations, Leading into Christ’s Millennial Reign**

**We Are Almost There** (2019 Revised Addition)

*The World, as We Know It, Is about to End,*

*A New World Is about to Dawn*

**By Arlen Chitwood of** [**Lamp Broadcast**](http://lampbroadcast.org/)

*Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. . . . Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*  ([Matthew 24:42](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.42&t=NKJV), [44](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.44&t=NKJV))

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**BACK COVER**

**2014 Edition**

One way or another, the world as we know it is about to end. *One way is uncertain*, *the other is certain.*

Those out in the world (both unsaved man and the worldly Christian) look at *the uncertain* and know little to nothing about *the certain*. But the instructed Christian looks at the certain and does not concern himself with *the uncertain*.

Both are inseparably connected with *the times in which we live, a time very near the end of Man’s Day.*

The former (that which is *uncertain*) is associated with *man’s actions, that which is brought to pass by man* — centrally, a pollution of the earth, extending out into the atmosphere, resulting in seemingly unstoppable climate changes (droughts, super storms, ice caps in the Arctic and Antarctic regions melting [resulting in rising ocean levels], etc).

The latter (that which is *certain*) is associated with *actions that man has no control over whatsoever*. God is about to, once again, step into man’s affairs, resulting in major changes.

Changes that man may bring about are already occurring and are seen continuing to slowly occur over decades of time.

Changes that the Lord is about to bring about are seen occurring instantly in one respect (in an *atomos* of time [time equivalent to less than a microsecond], having to do with the removal of the Church in [1 Corinthians 15:52](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.52&t=NKJV)) and over a few subsequent short years (seven years, the Tribulation, Daniel’s unfulfilled Seventieth Week) in another respect.

Change is inevitable; there’s no question about that. And the world as we know it is about to end with this change; there’s no question about that either.

As long as time continues, change is going to occur. And, if an increasing number of the world’s scientists are correct, man has reached a point of no-return in this respect.

But the change that is about to occur, before any of the preceding can continue beyond certain points, has to do with God, once again, stepping into man’s affairs.

*And it has all been foretold in the Word.*

**2019 Revised Edition**

God works with set times — the beginning time, the ending time, the length of the time between those two points, and time which has been marked out or set in relation to things occurring during this time (dispensations, set periods [*e.g*., 7, 40, 70, 400, 430, 490 years], etc.).

God works with time in relation to numerics, with the whole of Scripture built on a numeric arrangement of time set in the opening thirty-four verses of His Word ([Genesis 1:1-2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV)), along with different numbers carrying different, specific meanings.

And the whole of the matter was set and established in a mathematical, precise manner by an omniscient, omnipotent God.

It is within Man’s Day — a 6,000-year period of time — set in complete keeping with the preceding, that man finds himself today. And it is within this 6,000-year Day that all of God’s redemptive plans and purposes, preceding a 1,000-year Lord’s Day, anticipating His Son’s coming reign, will be worked out.

This book, *We Are Almost There,* deals with a number of these set periods of time*, showing that God can ONLY be rapidly completing ALL of His work throughout the 6.000 years of Man’s Day, bringing this time and events during this time to a close.*

*God MUST work the entire six days, the entire 6,000 years; that’s the way matters are set forth in the opening verses of Genesis — six full days and nights — governing ALL things in relation to time seen throughout the remainder of Scripture.*

And, as well, *God’s work CANNOT exceed the six days, the 6,000 years;* this is the way matters have also been set forth in the opening verses of Genesis *(not exceeding six full days and nights), governing ALL things in relation to time seen throughout the remainder of Scripture.*

And, as clearly shown in the pages of this book, we are almost at the end of the six days, the 6,000 years. In short, *We Are Almost There.*

For a companion book dealing with some of the same material in this book, set forth after a different fashion, refer to the author’s book,[*End of the Days*](http://lampbroadcast.org/Books/EOTD.pdf)*.*

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**FOREWORD**

When Adam sinned in Eden almost 6,000 years ago, not only did “death” *pass upon all future mankind* ([Romans 5:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+5.12&t=NKJV)), but the creation itself was subjected to “*the bondage of corruption*” once again ([Genesis 3:4-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3.4-19&t=NKJV); [Romans 8:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.21&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV)).

And the entire creation, since that time, *has groaned and travailed in pain* ([Romans 8:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.22&t=NKJV)), *waiting, with fallen man, a coming day*.

The domain over which Satan ruled and continues to rule today — the earth — had been reduced to *a ruin* following his fall ([Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Isaiah 14:12-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+14.12-17&t=NKJV); [Ezekiel 28:14-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.14-16&t=NKJV)).

Exactly how long the creation lay in this ruined state is unrevealed; it is unknown; *and it CANNOT be known, for there is NO data to work with.*

But the day arrived when God, over six days-time, delivered the creation from this “*bondage of corruption*.” God restored the creation and then created man, *with a view to man ruling the restored creation in the stead* (place) *of Satan and his angels* ([Genesis 1:2-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2-28&t=NKJV) [2b]).

But Satan, knowing the reason for man’s creation, brought about his fall, with a resulting change not only in man but in the creation itself once again ([Genesis 3:4-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3.4-19&t=NKJV)).

Thus, though Satan continued holding the scepter, he, once again, found himself ruling over *a ruined domain*. The creation, again, found itself in *a corrupted state, groaning and travailing in pain, awaiting deliverance --* a deliverance seen occurring in [Romans 8:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.19&t=NKJV) at the time of “the manifestation of the sons of God.”

Contextually, “the manifestation of the sons of God” — *a new order of sons* — will occur in connection with and following “*the adoption*” ([Romans 8:14-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.14-17&t=NKJV), [23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.23&t=NKJV)). And this has to do with an event following decisions and determinations made at the judgment seat, following the present dispensation but preceding the Tribulation.

Christians who are to occupy positions as co-heirs with Christ during the Messianic Era will, at that time, be adopted into *a firstborn status as sons* (as God did with Israel in past time), for *only firstborn sons can rule in the human realm.*

And the manifestation of this *new order of sons*, which will occur following the Tribulation, once Man’s Day has run its course, *is the event that the entire creation awaits*.

*UNTIL then* the creation will remain in *a corrupted state, groaning and travailing in pain.* But *deliverance* *is in the offing, and the day WILL arrive* when God is going to step in and begin bringing events to pass that will culminate in the entire matter being rectified. *ONLY then* will conditions as seen in the currently existing situation be straightened out.

In relation to that coming day when these things will be brought to pass, *EVERYTHING and EVERYONE is presently out of place*:

*Christ is out of place*. His rightful place is seen in [Psalm 2:6-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+2.6-7&t=NKJV); [Luke 1:32-33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+1.32-33&t=NKJV) and [Revelation 3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.21&t=NKJV) — seated, as God’s King, both on David’s throne here on earth in the midst of a restored Israel and on His own throne, with His co-heirs, in the heavens.

*Satan is out of place*. His rightful place is in the abyss, then the lake of fire, after he has been removed from the throne, relinquishing his crown and scepter ([2 Samuel 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Samuel+1.10&t=NKJV); [2:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Samuel+2.4&t=NKJV); [5:3-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Samuel+5.3-4&t=NKJV); [Isaiah 14:15-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+14.15-17&t=NKJV); [Ezekiel 28:16-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.16-19&t=NKJV); [Revelation 20:2-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.2-3&t=NKJV), [7-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.7-10&t=NKJV)).

*Israel is out of place*. The nation’s rightful place is occupying the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in a restored state (following national repentance, conversion, and a restored theocracy), with the nations being ruled by and blessed by and through Israel ([Genesis 12:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.1-3&t=NKJV); [Ezekiel 36:22-36](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+36.22-36&t=NKJV); [39:25-29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.25-29&t=NKJV)).

*The Church is out of place*. The rightful place for Christians is ruling and reigning as co-heirs with Christ, occupying the throne with Him ([Romans 8:14-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.14-18&t=NKJV); [Revelation 2:26-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.26-27&t=NKJV); [3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.21&t=NKJV)).

*The Gentile nations are out of place*. The rightful place for the nations is being ruled by and blessed through Israel ([Genesis 12:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.1-3&t=NKJV); [Isaiah 52:13-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+52.13-15&t=NKJV); [54:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+54.1ff&t=NKJV); [60:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+60.1-3&t=NKJV)).

*The creation itself is out of place*. The rightful place for the creation is *NOT* *groaning and travailing in pain* *BUT delivered from* *the bondage of corruption* ([Romans 8:19-22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.19-22&t=NKJV)).

*But ALL of this is about to change*. Just how soon will these changes occur? Just how soon will God once again step into man’s affairs and begin straightening out the whole of the matter?

That’s what this book is about.

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Chapter 1

**ALWAYS IN REMEMBRANCE (1)**

*THINGS THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW AND NEVER FORGET*

*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,*

*as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*

*by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

*But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,*

*to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,*

*to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.*

*For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*. ([2 Peter 1:2-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.2-8&t=NKJV))

In verse two of the preceding passage ([2 Peter 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.2&t=NKJV)), any thought of “*peace*,” as anything else in Scripture, *MUST be preceded by God’s grace.*

And a multiplication of grace and peace is seen *in connection with, or through*, “*knowledge* [‘mature knowledge’] *of God and of Jesus our Lord*.”

Then in verse 3 ([2 Peter 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.3&t=NKJV)), “*all things that pertain to life and godliness*” are seen being manifested in a Christian’s life through *this SAME* “*knowledge* [‘mature knowledge’] *of Him that hath called us by glory and virtue*.”

Then in verse eight ([2 Peter 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.8&t=NKJV)), a manifestation of *seven qualities* in the Christian life, dealt with in verses five through seven ([2 Peter 1:5-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.5-7&t=NKJV)), *will RESULT in fruitfulness in connection with* “*the knowledge* [‘mature knowledge’] *of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

(The regular word for “knowledge” in the Greek text is *gnosis*. The word used in vv. 2, 3, and 8 is an intensified form of this word — *epignosis* [the preposition *epi* prefixed to the word, intensifying the word, referring to a knowledge beyond that which is described by *gnosis*, *i.e*., a more mature knowledge of the subject at hand].

Also, the structure of the Greek text beginning the epistle in v. 1 [which should read, “…God, who is our Savior Jesus Christ”] would allow v. 2 [a similar structure in the Greek text] to be understood in this same respect — *i.e.*, . . . *through the mature knowledge of God, who is the Lord Jesus Christ*.)

Note the seven things listed in verses five through seven, *inseparably connected with and emanating out of* *faith in relation to the things seen in the preceding verses*.

And, as well, with these qualities present in a Christian’s life, *that which are seen in verse eight will be the END result*.

Then the succeeding three verses form both negative (v. 9) and positive (v. 10) commentary, taking matters to their full end relative to the issue at hand (v. 11).

**“Add to [‘Supply in’] Your Faith”**

“Faith” is seen *FIRST*, with *the seven qualities* then listed, qualities that should be present in every Christian’s life, though absent in varying degrees in almost every Christian’s life.

*NONE* of the seven qualities can be separated from “faith.” That is plainly seen from both the manner in which the Greek text is structured, along with that which is clearly stated in [Hebrews 11:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.6&t=NKJV):

*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Thus, even without the benefit of the structure of the Greek text in [2 Peter 1:5-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.5-7&t=NKJV), it could only be plain from [Hebrews 11:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.6&t=NKJV) that “faith” has to be seen as an inseparable part of each of the seven qualities in these verses.

And “faith,” along with each of the seven qualities, is *articular*. It is not just any faith or any quality among those listed.

Rather, a *DEFINITE* “*faith*” *is inseparably connected with* *SEVEN DEFINITE, PARTICULAR qualities in relation to the SUBJECT MATTER at hand — things surrounding the manner in which Christians are to conduct their lives in relation to the coming kingdom of Christ*.

Each of the following seven sections in this chapter, dealing briefly with these seven qualities, will begin with the verse where the word from the KJV translation is shown at the beginning. The translation of the verse in each instance is the author’s, which one will find to be closer to the NASB than to the KJV. And the use of definite articles from the Greek text, as previously referenced, is shown in brackets.

Also, the way verse five begins as it introduces the first quality should be seen as carrying through into each of the other six qualities, though it is not repeated.

*1) Virtue (v. 5)*

“For this very reason, having given all diligence, supply in your [the] faith [*the*] *morality; and in* [*the*] *morality* [*the*] *knowledge.*”

The word translated “morality” (“virtue,” KJV) is *arete* in the Greek text. This word has to do with *moral behavior, with every virtue of righteousness being exhibited in one’s life.*

*2) Knowledge (v. 5)*

“For this very reason, having given all diligence, supply in your[the] faith [the] morality; and in [the] morality [*the*] *knowledge.*”

The word translated “knowledge” is *gnosis* in the Greek text.

As previously seen, this is the regular word for knowledge. *Epignosis* (mature knowledge), as seen in verses two, three, and eight, would not be used here, for the text is referencing an accumulation of knowledge over time which builds into and results in *epignosis* (seen brought to that point in v. 8).

And this would go hand-in-hand with “faith,” for “knowledge” is simply *an accumulation of facts, which, in this case, would come from the Word*; and “faith” is *believing that which God has stated about a matter in His Word*.

*3) Temperance (v. 6)*

“And in [the] knowledge [*the*] *self-control*; and in [*the*] *self-control* [the] patient endurance; and in [the] patient endurance [the] godliness.”

The word translated “self-control” (“temperance,” KJV) is *egkrateia* in the Greek text. This word has to do with *exercising control over oneself, one’s actions, in all aspects of life*.

*4) Patience (v. 6)*

“And in [the] knowledge [the] self-control; and in [the] self-control [*the*] *patient endurance*; and in [*the*] *patient endurance* [the] godliness.”

The word translated “patient endurance” (“patience,” KJV) is *hupomone* in the Greek text. This word has to do with *steadfastness, perseverance, as one exercises continuous patience in all things* (sufferings, etc.) *that life brings one’s way.*

*5) Godliness (v. 6)*

“And in [the] knowledge [the] self-control; and in [the] self-control [the] patient endurance; and in [the] patient endurance [*the*] *godliness.*”

The word translated “godliness” is *eusebeia* in the Greek text. This word has to do with *a godly manner of day-by-day living.*

*6) Brotherly Kindness (v. 7)*

“And in [the] godliness [the] brotherly love; and in [the] brotherly love [*the*] *love*.”

The word translated “brotherly love” (“brotherly kindness,” KJV) is *philadelphia* in the Greek text. This is a compound word (*philos*, “love”; and *adelphos*, “brother”), and a combination of the two words has to do with exactly what the words mean — “*brotherly love*,” *Christians loving one another.*

*7) Charity (v. 7)*

“And in [the] godliness [the] brotherly love; and in [the] brotherly love [the] love.”

The word translated “love” (“charity,” KJV) is *agape* in the Greek text.

There are two words in the Greek text for “love” — the previous word, *philos* (usually referenced in its verb form, *phileo*), and *agape* (verb form, *agapao*).

The two words are, at times, used interchangeably in Scripture (*e.g.*, both words are used of the Father’s love for His Son [[John 3:35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+3.35&t=NKJV); [5:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+5.20&t=NKJV)], and the Father’s love in this respect cannot change). But, in relation to a Christian’s love for God, only one word is used in the New Testament (*agape*).

Though the words can be used interchangeably, when compared one with the other, *agape* is always seen as the higher form of the two, *the highest form that love can take*; and, as previously stated, it is the only form that man is commanded to exercise toward God (*cf.* [Matthew 22:37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+22.37&t=NKJV); [Luke 10:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+10.27&t=NKJV); [1 Corinthians 8:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+8.3&t=NKJV)).

Note [1 John 4:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1John+4.7-8&t=NKJV) in this respect, where *agape*, or a form of the word, is used throughout:

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God* [has been brought forth from above, not from below] *and knows God* [Gk., *gnosis*, having to do with a knowledge gained by experience].

*He who does not love does not know God, for God is love* (*cf.* [1 Corinthians 13:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+13.1ff&t=NKJV)).

**“If These Things Are Yours and Abound…”**

Thus, there are seven qualities that should be present in the life of every Christian — *morality, knowledge* (of the Word), *self-control, patient endurance, godliness, brotherly love, and love* (*agape*, the highest form).

*And these seven qualities are seen, contextually,* *in relation to Christians possessing a mature knowledge of the things having to do with present Christian living in relation to the coming kingdom of Christ* ([2 Peter 1:1-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.1-11&t=NKJV)).

Continuing from the thought of “love” (*agape*) in verse seven, beginning verse eight, one thing in the entire matter (that which is seen in the introductory seven verses) goes hand-in-hand with all else. The abounding presence in one’s life of the seven things listed in verses five through seven — one built upon the other, all in connection with “faith” and that which is seen in the opening four verses, with nothing left out — will result in that which is stated in verse eight.

"*For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge* [*epignosis*, ‘mature knowledge’] *of our Lord Jesus Christ*.”

For all practical purposes, *that which is seen in verse eight will automatically occur. It can’t help but occur*. These seven things present and abounding in one’s life will result in that person being “fruitful in the knowledge [‘mature knowledge’] *of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

And this, in turn, will lead to that which is seen in verses eleven and twelve — *realizing one’s calling* (being called out of the called [*ref.* Chapter 2 following]) through having *an abundant entrance into the coming kingdom*.

But the Christian lacking these things is seen in a completely opposite respect in verse nine. He is seen as blind, one who could not possibly be fruitful, and one who is completely separated from anything having to do with his calling (and thus a subsequent out-calling) in the following verse (v. 10 [seen associated with the reason for past and present cleansing from sin in the latter part of v. 9]).

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Chapter 2

**ALWAYS IN REMEMBRANCE (2)**

*THINGS THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW AND NEVER FORGET*

*For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.*

*Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,*

*knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.*

*Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.*

*For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty* [Gk., superlative; *lit.*, ‘His greatest (regal) magnificence’].

*For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

*And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.* ([2 Peter 1:12-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.12-18&t=NKJV))

That which Peter referenced in verses twelve, thirteen, and fifteen — seeking to make certain that those to whom he was writing *ALWAYS REMEMBERED* “*these things*” — had to do with *the WAY Christians are to presently conduct and govern their lives, WITH a view to the coming kingdom of Christ.*

And different facets of the matter can be seen throughout the first eleven verses of the chapter.

Christians possess *a calling* to“glory and virtue [‘moral excellence’ (v. 3; *cf.* v. 5)],” having to do with “*exceedingly great and precious promises*” (v. 4), to be realized in the coming “*kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*” (v. 11).

And Christians, relative to this kingdom, are to make their “calling and election [*lit*., ‘calling and out-calling’] sure” (v. 10).

(The words “*call*” and “*election*” in v. 10 are the same word in the Greek text [meaning, “call,” “calling”], with the preposition *ek* [“out of”] prefixed to the latter word. Thus, the latter word, contextually, could only have to do with *a calling out from the called*.

All Christians have been *called to “glory and virtue”* (v. 3); but it will only be those *called out of the called, those removed from the complete body of Christians*, who, in the kingdom of Christ, will realize that to which they had been called.)

In verses three and eight, reference is made to *a mature knowledge of Christ in relation to these things* (the Greek word *epignosis* is used in both verses [also v. 2], calling attention to things beyond that which would be seen by the use of the regular Greek word for knowledge, *gnosis*).

And in verse nine, a Christian lacking the qualities described in verses five through seven — *qualities resulting in that seen in verse eight* (*ref*. Chapter I) — is depicted as:

*1) One who is blind, who cannot see afar off (having to do with a knowledge of the Word relative to his calling, out-calling, and the kingdom of Christ* [vv. 10, 11]).

*2) One who has allowed Christ’s present ministry in the heavenly sanctuary, as it relates to his calling and out-calling, to escape his attention* (v. 9b; *cf*. [John 13:5-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+13.5-8&t=NKJV)).

**On the Mount**

The Christians to whom Peter wrote had already been well-taught in the things which he was presenting.

But Peter considered these things of such importance that *he was going to KEEP ON setting these truths before these individuals UNTIL they had heard them enough times that they could NEVER get away from them, EVEN after he was dead and gone* (vv. 12-14).

Then, to drive the entire matter home, Peter called attention to an event in his life that had occurred years before, probably about three decades before that time, when Christ was on earth.

He called attention to *the scene on the Mount*, in [Matthew 17:1-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+17.1-5&t=NKJV), *when he, James, and John had been allowed to see “the Son of man coming in his kingdom”* ([Matthew 16:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+16.28&t=NKJV)).

He, James, and John had not followed “*cunningly devised fables*” when they “*made known . . . the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*.”

*These three men HAD BEEN EYEWITNESSES of that future day*.

*They HAD SEEN* “*the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.*”

*They HAD ACTUALLY SEEN the Son of Man in that future day when He will appear in “His greatest* [regal] *magnificence”* (v. 16).

*Peter HAD SEEN, with his OWN eyes, the kingdom to which Christians have been called. He had seen, with his own eyes, the kingdom that Christians can one day enter into, realizing a joint-heirship with Christ therein*.

And, because of that which Peter knew and had seen, *he was NOT reluctant to keep on hammering away at things pertaining to a Christian’s calling and Christ’s coming kingdom*.

(For additional information on the preceding, refer to the author’s book, [Coming in His Kingdom](http://bibleone.net/cihk2.htm))

**Blinded Christians, Apostates**

[2 Peter 2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+2&t=NKJV) deals with false teachers, apostates, which is simply a continuation from [2 Peter 1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1&t=NKJV). And both chapters deal with the saved, not with the unsaved.

Chapter two continues with thoughts on those which are seen as spiritually blind pertaining to truths concerning Christ’s coming kingdom from chapter one.

And the appearance of these false teachers, able to lead Christians astray, lead them away from their calling and out-calling (vv. 1, 2), is something that began very early in the dispensation.

And today, near the end of the dispensation, when the leaven that the woman placed in the three measures of meal back in these early years is doing its final, damaging work ([Matthew 13:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.33&t=NKJV)), one needs to only look around at the churches of the land to see what has happened.

Where are those proclaiming the message seen in 2 Peter chapter one?

*The question is self-answering!*

**Septenary Structure of the Epistle**

[2 Peter 3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3&t=NKJV) then continues the matter of false teachers from chapter two, with a reference back to blinded Christians and a septenary structure of the epistle introduced in chapter one. And the latter, in turn, is a reference back to the opening chapter of Genesis, dealt with in chapter three.

*"Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts* [‘their own desires’],

*And saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation* [contextually, a reference back to the creation of the heavens and the earth in [Genesis 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1&t=NKJV)].*”* ([2 Peter 3:3-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.3-4&t=NKJV))

God’s actions occur in relation to *set times* that He Himself has established. Things may appear to go on and on, relatively unchanged, for long periods of time — for centuries, even millennia.

But this is no indication that changes have not occurred in the past, or that changes will not occur in the future. The only thing seen by long periods with seemingly no change is very simple and singular:

*God’s set times when He will step into man’s affairs and bring about changes have yet to arrive* (*ref*. back cover of this book:[Back Cover & Contents](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#Back%20Cover%20&%20Contents))*.*

But *these set times WILL arrive, for they are SET*. And when they do arrive, *things will begin to change, probably quite rapidly at times*.

Matters will then be seen as described in the two continuing verses, describing *past set times* arriving on God’s calendar:

*For this they willfully forget: that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,*

*by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.* ([2 Peter 3:5-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.5-6&t=NKJV))

Though these individuals could have known that all things had not continued unchanged “*from the beginning of creation*” — for the Word reveals that they hadn’t — they had chosen to ignore the Word, living their own lives, after their own desires.

And, ignoring the Word, the only true means by which these things could be known, *they found themselves attempting to deal with, often questioning, something that they really knew NOTHING about — “Where is the promise of His coming* . . .?”

Continuing in the passage, attention is then called to that which these individuals could have known.

*Had they ONLY gone to the Word*, they would have found that a time had arrived in the past when God stepped in and destroyed “*the world that then existed*” through raging waters covering the earth (*NOT the Flood of* [*Genesis 6-8*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+6-8&t=NKJV) *BUT that which is seen in* [*Genesis 1:2a*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV)) — *a destruction resulting from Satan’s fall, the ruler over the earth then and now.*

(Sixteen hundred and fifty-six years following the restoration of the ruined earth, God once again stepped in and destroyed the earth by water [the Noachian Flood].

This though *was NOT the destruction referenced in* [*2 Peter 3:6*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.6&t=NKJV). The Flood during Noah’s day was a destruction having to do with the *PRESENT earth, NOT the earth* “*that then existed*.”

The destruction of the earth “*that then existed*” included the heavens as well, for the heavens were darkened [the heavens associated with this earth; [Genesis 1:2a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2a&t=NKJV)].

This would parallel a future destruction of both that are seen in the passage [v. 7], *which the subsequent Flood during Noah’s day did NOT do.*

*The Flood during Noah’s day is NOT seen in the passage*, though it does show another example of things not continuing indefinitely apart from change.)

The passage in 2 Peter chapter three then continues with a future time when God will once again step into the affairs having to do with man and the earth. And this time major changes will result — *the complete destruction of the present heavens and earth*, followed by the creation of “*a new heavens and a new earth*” (*cf*. [2 Peter 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.7&t=NKJV), [10-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.10-13&t=NKJV); [Revelation 21:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+21.1ff&t=NKJV)).

Then the passage shows how to avoid ever falling into the type of uniformitarian thinking held by the scoffers back in verses three and four.

And that is seen in verse eight:

*But, beloved, do not forget this one thing* [*lit.*: “stop allowing this one thing to escape your notice” (Gk. text — a command to stop doing something that they were doing)], *that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

This verse is *the APEX toward which thoughts in the preceding verses in the chapter move*; and, as previously seen, the allusion in the near context is back to a septenary structure of the book first seen in the opening chapter (vv. 16-18) and in the far context all the way back to the opening verses of Genesis, where this septenary structure is introduced and established.

In other words, *get the matter straight in your thinking at the outset of Scripture concerning HOW Scripture begins and CAN ONLY continue. THEN you will have NO problem with false uniformitarian teaching when it arises, for you will KNOW what the Word has to say about the matter.*

And, having an understanding of these things will allow an individual to see and understand not only what is happening in the world today but that which is about to happen as well.

Such an individual will then know *about where we are on God’s prophetic calendar, that the next set time is about to arrive, and that major changes are in the offing.*

(For additional information on the preceding, refer to in this site, The Study of Scripture, “[The Septenary Arrangement of Scripture](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/the-study-of-scripture.php#The%20Septenary%20Arrangement%20of%20Scripture).”)

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Chapter 3

**IT’S ALMOST OVER**

*MAN'S DAY HAS ALMOST RUN ITS COURSE*

*And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.*

*The night is far spent, the day is at hand. . . . .*([Romans 13:11-12a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+13.11-12a&t=NKJV)).

God established an unchangeable time-line at the beginning of His Word, at the beginning of both the Old Testament in Genesis and the New Testament in John. Man though has largely ignored this time-line in both Testaments, particularly in the New Testament, with John being erroneously placed at the end of the gospels rather than at the beginning.

(*Ref*. Chapter 1 in the author’s book, [Moses and John](http://bibleone.net/MaJ.htm), for additional information on the preceding.)

**The Length of Man’s Day, the Lord’s Day**

Both Testaments begin with the length of Man’s Day *SET* at *six days* and the length of the Lord’s Day which follows and is set at *one day*.

And it is plain from the whole of subsequent Scripture that *ALL seven of these days have to do with 1,000-year periods, perfectly in line with* [*2 Peter 1:16-18*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.16-18&t=NKJV)*;* [*3:8*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.8&t=NKJV) *for the complete seven days, or with* [*Revelation 20:2-7*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.2-7&t=NKJV) *for the Lord’s Day.*

In the former reference, Peter had called attention to this septenary structure of Scripture — six days, followed by a seventh day — in the first chapter of his second epistle by referencing an event that he and two other disciples had witnessed years before (vv. 16-18). Peter called attention to that which had occurred on “*a high mountain*” after Jesus had taken him, along with James and John, up upon the mountain apart from the other disciples ([Matthew 16:28-17:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+16.28-17.5&t=NKJV)).

The time was “*after six days” — AFTER the time that was foreshadowed by the six days in both Genesis and John had run their course* — these three disciples saw “*the Son of Man coming in His kingdom*,” which would be *ON the succeeding seventh day.*

Then in the third chapter, Peter continuing to deal with this same matter, stated:

*But, beloved, do not forget this one thing* [*lit*., “…stop allowing this one thing to escape your notice”], *that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day*” ([2 Peter 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.8&t=NKJV)).

The six and seven days beginning both Genesis and John point to *the SAME thing* as the six and seven days alluded to by the event referenced by Peter back in the first chapter of his second epistle, or anywhere else in Scripture where this septenary structure is dealt with.

These days foreshadowed *1,000-year periods of time — six days, 6,000 years; the one succeeding day, the seventh day, 1,000 years*.

*The Sabbath* was given to Israel for “*a sign*,” to keep that which is seen in this septenary structure ever before the Jewish people throughout their generations ([Exodus 31:13-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+31.13-17&t=NKJV)). Every seventh day, following six days of work, *they kept a day designed to remind them that God — in complete accord with the manner in which He began the Old Testament and would begin the New Testament — FOLLOWING six days of work, was going to rest ON the succeeding seventh day.*

In Genesis, God worked six days *to restore a ruined material creation, followed by a day of rest.*

In John, another facet of the matter is seen. The six days beginning John’s gospel have to do with the time God is taking *to restore ruined man, with the subsequent day of rest pictured by the first sign in this gospel* ([John 2:1-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+2.1-11&t=NKJV)), *pointing to God’s restoration of Israel* (again taking the nation as His wife, which will occur on the seventh day, the seventh 1,000-year period).

As previously stated, every time the Israelites kept the Sabbath, *they were to recall that to which the Sabbath* (a sign) *pointed — 1,000 years of rest following 6,000 years of restorative* (redemptive) *work*.

And at the end of Man’s Day in the book of Revelation, the length of this seventh day is clearly stated in no uncertain terms, as in [2 Peter 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.8&t=NKJV) (though it is clearly stated through the use of “*days*” numerous places throughout preceding Scripture as well, beginning in [Genesis 2:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.1-3&t=NKJV)).

*John in the latter part of the Book of Revelation references this Day, these 1,000 years, six times* ([Revelation 20:2-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.2-7&t=NKJV)).

*BUT*, we are still living during Man’s Day (the first 6,000 years), with the the Lord’s Day (the final 1,000 years) still out ahead.

And just how close are we to the end of Man’s Day and the beginning of the Lord’s Day?

That’s the subject of the remainder of this chapter, *with the matter dealt with* *largely through numerics, from a biblical standpoint*.

**Following Biblical Chronology**

There are sixty-two generations from the creation of Adam to Christ. Noah is the tenth from Adam ([Genesis 5:1-32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+5.1-32&t=NKJV)), Abraham the twentieth ([Genesis 11:10-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11.10-27&t=NKJV)), and there are then forty-two generations from Abraham to Christ ([Matthew 1:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+1.17&t=NKJV)).

The number of years comprising these generations can be followed by and through the first twenty generations, extending from the creation of Adam to the birth of Abraham. Those years are seen in that which is revealed in the two previous genealogies referenced in Genesis chapters five and eleven. And the total time in these two genealogies, from Adam to Abraham, is two thousand and eight years.

(Note that there would be room for a few years difference when viewing the number of years in these genealogies from the standpoint of a calendar, *for only whole years, not parts of years, are dealt with in the genealogies*.

And, actually, in the next section on dispensations, it will become clear that 2,000 years, not 2,008, evidently exist from Adam to Abraham.

Also, it must be kept in mind that Scripture uses a 360-day year, *NOT the 365.25-day year* that man uses today. In this respect, all references to time in Scripture are based on a 360-day year. And a person *CAN'T mix 360-day years and 365.25-day years.* Thus, any use of time from our calendar will have to be changed to years of 360 days, which can easily be done.

Note in this same respect that the time foreshadowed by the six and seven days beginning Genesis and John, or anywhere else in Scripture, would be 6,000 and 1,000 years of 360 days per year.)

Then, from the birth of Abraham to the Exodus under Moses was five hundred years (100 years to the birth of Abraham’s seed, Isaac [[Genesis 21:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+21.5&t=NKJV)], then 400 years from Isaac’s birth to the Exodus [the 400-year sojourn of Abraham’s seed in [Genesis 15:13-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.13-16&t=NKJV) — 190 years in Canaan before Jacob and his family went down into Egypt, then 210 years in Egypt]). Thus, going solely by biblical genealogies and chronology, it was 2,508 years (2,500 years [see previous statements]) from the creation of Adam to the Exodus under Moses.

Then, to have a base to work from — showing dates in relation to B.C. or A.D. time, along with showing that a subsequent second 2,000-year period evidently exists in God’s dealings with mankind — one can go back in secular history to illustrate that late archaeological finds for the date of the Exodus (usually seen as 1445 B.C.) are very much in line with the number of years that must exist between the Exodus and the events of Calvary (for this second 2,000-year period). In fact, only about six or seven years of difference exist between the archaeological date and that which Scripture would require.

Using the archaeological date (1445 B.C.), it is four hundred and one thousand, four hundred and seventy eighty (401,478) years between the Exodus and the events of Calvary (33 A.D.) — years of 365.25 days each. Then, converted to 360 day-years, this would be 1,499.5 years.

Scripture though, if dealing with a second 2,000-year period (which is evidently the case), would require only 1,493 years between the Exodus and the crucifixion (the reason for 1,493 years rather than an even 1,500 years [taking one to 4,000 years] is shown in the next section, dealing with dispensations).

Using dates as per the preceding (360-day years) — 2,500 years from the creation of Adam to the Exodus, then 1,493 years from the Exodus to the crucifixion — provides a total of 3,993 years of man’s history preceding the events of Calvary.

At the present time (spring of 2020), we are 1,986 years beyond the events of Calvary (the first and last years counted as one year because only a part of each year is used). Converting these 1986 years to 360-day years gives us 2,015 years, which is at least nine years too many.

If 3,993 years elapsed between the creation of Adam and the crucifixion, which they evidently did, there *CAN'T* be over 2,000 years between the events of Calvary and Christ’s return for the Church (2,000 years between these two points would provide a total of 5,993 from the creation of Adam to the rapture, which is the number that should exist).

Thus, there can *ONLY* be a problem with our calendar (one evidently orchestrated by God *so that man COULDN'T go beyond the times and seasons, setting dates, many though notwithstanding*).

**The Dispensations during Man’s Day**

“Dispensation” is the term used in Scripture *to show distinctions in God’s dealings with different groups of mankind during Man’s Day and the following Messianic Era.*

During Man’s 6,000-year Day, *there can ONLY be three dispensations; as well, there MUST be three dispensations* (no more, no less).

And this is for the simple reason that there are three groups of mankind for God to deal with, which He *MUST* deal with, after this fashion — *Jew, Gentile, and the Church of God*.

There could be breaks in a dispensation (as there is in the Jewish dispensation, which will be shown), but, if so, it is still the same dispensation.

And it is evident from numeric studies, as seen in the preceding part of this pamphlet, that God did something rather unique with these three dispensations.

*Man’s Day is EXACTLY six days long* (*SET* *in the opening chapter of Genesis*), *foreshadowing EXACTLY 6,000 years. And God evidently split these years into three parts, providing three 2,000-year dispensations, corresponding with His dealings with the three groups of mankind.*

The first 2,000 years extends from the creation of Adam to the birth of Abraham (2,008 years using the years through twenty generations in the genealogy accounts [[Genesis 5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+5&t=NKJV); [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11&t=NKJV)], though evidently 2,000 years, for reasons previously given). During this dispensation God dealt with mankind at large, with the group that would later be known as *Gentiles*. He dealt particularly with a specific lineage.

Then, as previously shown, from the birth of Abraham to Calvary would be 1,993 years, which is *the Jewish dispensation*, lacking seven years to complete.

God stopped the clock (so to speak) marking off time in this dispensation seven years short of completion, then called into existence *the one new man “in Christ,”* and began a new 2,000-year dispensation, *during which time He would deal with this new man, with Christians*.

And when God has completed His purpose for this dispensation, He will remove the Church, turn back to Israel and complete the last seven years of the previous dispensation (the seven-year Tribulation), completing the full 6,000 years of Man’s Day.

Note that the current dispensation cannot possibly last longer than 2,000 years, if the two prior dispensations encompass 2,000 years each, which they evidently do (and, if going by our calendar, it’s already some nine years above the 2,000 years; thus, as previously stated, something is apparently wrong with our calendar, though the calendar seemingly couldn’t possibly be off all that much).

The reason that the current dispensation *CAN'T exceed 2,000 years* is because 2,000 and 1,993 years have already expired in the previous two dispensations (with 7 years reserved to finish the Jewish dispensation). *That takes care of four days, 4,000 years of Man’s Day.*

*And Man’s Day CAN'T possibly run over six days, 6,000 years. This was SET in an unchangeable fashion at the outset of Scripture.*

Thus, there cannot possibly be more than 2,000 years from Calvary to that time when the Church is removed (the rapture), allowing God to turn back to Israel and finish His dealings with Israel during the last seven years of Man’s Day ([Daniel 9:24-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+9.24-27&t=NKJV)).

What time is it on God’s prophetic calendar in the preceding respect?  *It can ONLY be MUCH, MUCH closer to the end of the dispensation than anyone cares to think about or admit.*

In short: *Time is fast running out! It’s almost over!*

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Chapter 4

**IN SUCH A TIME**

*THE SON OF MAN COMING AT AN UNEXPECTED TIME*

*Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.*

*But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.*

*Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.* ([Matthew 24:42-44](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.42-44&t=NKJV))

Following a ministry lasting about three and one-half years, climaxed by His rejection, death, burial, and resurrection, Christ ministered to His disciples for a short period of time before His ascension.

And He spent this forty-day period teaching His disciples “*things pertaining to the kingdom of God*” -- the central message proclaimed in the preceding gospels and in the following Book of Acts.

Then, after instructing them to wait in Jerusalem, explaining the reason, Christ, as the disciples watched, ascended into heaven from the mount called Olivet ([Acts 1:3-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+1.3-9&t=NKJV)).

Christ, during His earthly ministry, spoke of the day when He would depart ([John 14:2-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+14.2-3&t=NKJV)).

Mark briefly mentions Christ’s departure at the end of his gospel ([Mark 16:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Mark+16.19&t=NKJV)).

Luke briefly mentions this at the end of his gospel and at the beginning of Acts ([Luke 24:50-51](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+24.50-51&t=NKJV); [Acts 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+1.2&t=NKJV), [9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+1.9&t=NKJV)).

And Paul mentions this in his first epistle to Timothy ([1 Timothy 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+3.16&t=NKJV)).

*Actually, very little is stated in Scripture about Christ’s departure. ONLY the bare facts are given.* *The EMPHASIS is upon His return, NOT upon His departure*.

His return and things having to do with His return are seen throughout Scripture, beginning with the manner in which Scripture is structured in the opening thirty-four verses of Genesis ([Genesis 1:1-2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV)).

(Note that [Genesis 1:1-2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV) sets forth a skeletal framework *upon which ALL subsequent Scripture rests*. The whole panorama of Scripture is set forth after the preceding fashion in these opening thirty-four verses, with the remainder of Scripture providing all the sinews, flesh, and skin to clothe the initial skeletal framework, *i.e.*, the remainder of Scripture simply provides commentary for the opening thirty-four verses [*cf*. [Ezekiel 37:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.1ff&t=NKJV)].

There are six days of redemptive [restorative] work, foreshadowing 6,000 years of redemptive [restorative] work, followed by a seventh day, foreshadowing a seventh 1,000-year period of rest [[2 Peter 1:16-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+1.16-18&t=NKJV); [3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+3.8&t=NKJV)].

And, subsequent commentary — the sinews, flesh, and skin — call attention not only to Christ’s first coming during the six days [during the 6,000 years] but His second coming at the end of these six days, to reign during the seventh day [during the seventh 1,000-year period].

*Thus, everything was SET and ESTABLISHED in an UNCHANGEABLE manner, through this septenary structure, at the very beginning of Scripture*.)

Christ, calling attention to His soon departure in John chapter fourteen, and Luke’s account of His departure in Acts, both have corresponding statements about His return.

Christ’s promise that He would return in John chapter fourteen *can ONLY have to have to do with His return for the Church* (preceding the Tribulation), called into existence shortly afterwards in Acts chapter two.

But the statement concerning His return in Acts chapter one, given by two men who were present, *could ONLY have to do with* *His return to Israel, with the nations in view* (following the Tribulation).

In the former, Christ returns to take His disciples to the place where He would be, in the heavens ([John 14:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+14.3&t=NKJV)).

In the latter, Christ returns with outstretched hands *to bless the nation to which He is returning, the nation of Israel here on the earth* (*cf*. [Luke 24:50-51](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+24.50-51&t=NKJV); [Acts 1:9-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+1.9-11&t=NKJV)), *with blessings then flowing out to the nations through Israel* ([Genesis 12:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.1-3&t=NKJV)).

And the preceding (returning both before and following the Tribulation) should be viewed as *ONE return of Christ*, *NOT two returns*. Christ’s return has *TWO aspects to it* — one relative *to the Church* and the other relative *to Israel, with the nations also in view.*

The matter is much like the gospel, the good news. There is *ONE complete gospel*, *with different aspects to the good news*, *NOT two gospels*.

*The initial aspect* has to do with *the good news concerning the grace of God*, *which has to do with the unsaved*, and is foreshadowed by that divine restorative work seen on day one in Genesis chapter one.

*The continuing aspect* has to do with *the good news concerning the coming Glory of Christ, which has to do with the saved*, and is foreshadowed by that divine restorative work seen on days two through six in Genesis chapter one.

*And restorative works throughout all six days are with a view to the seventh day* seen beginning in the second chapter, with the complete six days leading into the seventh, forming, as previously stated, a septenary structure upon which the whole of subsequent Scripture rests.

And there are two inseparably related ways to view this septenary structure:

One way has to do with *six being man’s number and God’s work during the six days having to do with restoring ruined man throughout Man’s Day. And this is with a view to matters being finished preceding a seventh day of rest.*

And the other way has to do with *the time involved in this restorative work. These six days of restorative work foreshadow 6,000 years of restorative work* (occurring throughout Man’s 6,000-year Day), *with a view to this work being finished preceding a seventh 1,000-year period of rest.*

*Any way that the matter is viewed, EVERYTHING moves toward that seventh day. “Six” is an incomplete number, ONE short of completion.*

*And all of God’s works MUST be brought to completion, which can ONLY be done with a view to a seventh day, a seventh 1,000-year period of rest, wherein completion lies.*

**Christ’s Return for His Church**

How close are we to the end of the sixth day, the sixth 1,000-year period? *Time can ONLY be fast running out, and we can ONLY be much closer to the end of six days, 6,000 years, than individuals dare to imagine.*

Three dispensations of 2,000 years each comprise Man’s 6,000-year Day, corresponding to the three divisions of mankind — *Jew, Gentile, and Christian*.

*The first dispensation* (Gentile), from Adam to Abraham, has run its course. *The second dispensation* (Jewish), from Abraham to the Messianic Kingdom, has seven years to run (the coming seven-year Tribulation). Time during this dispensation was stopped seven years short of completion, and *God began to deal with Christians for a third 2,000-year dispensation*, which is almost complete.

Once the present dispensation has run its course, the Church will be removed, God will turn back to Israel and complete the last seven years of the prior dispensation, and Christ’s return in possession of the kingdom (with all ensuing events leading into the kingdom) will follow.

*1) Condition of the Church in that Day*

Conditions in Christendom in that day will be exactly in line with how Scripture stated that they would exist at the end of the present dispensation — Christians, enmeshed in the things of the world, paying little to no attention to the times in which we live, putting that day far from them.

Accordingly, that day will overtake many Christians *unaware*. Numerous Christians will be very much like the people during Noah’s day, *eating, drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, with the Flood coming and destroying them all.*

That is to say, most Christians will be going about every day activities, giving little thought to the fact that God is about to once again step into man’s affairs and bring about major changes.

God stepped into man’s affairs at times in the past, with man totally oblivious to the matter. And God is about to once again step into man’s affairs, with man, once again, totally oblivious to the matter.

Man couldn’t do anything about it in the past, aside from suffering the consequences of being unprepared.

And man won’t be able to do any more about it in the future than in the past; and he, likewise, will suffer the consequences of being unprepared.

*2) Two Types of Christians in that Day*

When Christ returns for the Church at the end of the present dispensation, all Christians — faithful and unfaithful alike — will be removed to appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

Many in that day, as previously seen, will be caught *unprepared for that which will have occurred and is about to occur*. And they can only experience the things awaiting unfaithful servants of the Lord, those not having looked for His return and not having conducted their lives accordingly.

Others in that day though will be *prepared for that which will have occurred and is about to occur*. And they will experience the things awaiting faithful servants of the Lord, those having looked for His return and having conducted their lives accordingly.

(For both sides of the preceding picture, note how Paul presented the matter in [1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+4.13-5.9&t=NKJV). For comments on this section of Scripture in 1 Thessalonians, see in this site [The Rapture I, II, III](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#The%20Rapture%20I,%20II,%20III) and [The Rapture and Beyond](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-seven.php#The%20Rapture%20and%20Beyond).)

**Christ’s Return to Israel, the Nations**

Christ’s return to the earth at least seven years following His return for and dealings with the Church will occur following Israel’s repentance. The severity of particularly the last three and one-half years of the Tribulation will, after 2,600 years of Gentile rule and dominance, bring Israel to the place of repentance.

And, true to His many promises, *God will hear, remember His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and send the Deliverer* ([Exodus 2:23-3:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+2.23-3.12&t=NKJV); [2 Chronicles 6:24-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Chronicles+6.24-27&t=NKJV); [7:12-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Chronicles+7.12-14&t=NKJV)).

*The Deliverer* whom God will send at this time will be the same One who was present in Israel’s midst 2,000 years earlier — the One whom the Jewish people rejected, spat upon, smote, and crucified ([Matthew 26:67](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+26.67&t=NKJV); [27:22-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+27.22-25&t=NKJV)). This is the One who will appear in Israel’s midst in that coming day.

And to better understand exactly what type of situation will exist at that time, note two things:

*The Jewish people will be placed in the position of having just crucified their Messiah*.

*And NOT ONLY will the Jewish people be placed in this position,* but *EVERY Jew living in that day — NO exceptions — will be held PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE for Christ’s crucifixion*.

*On the former*, note that God stopped the clock (so to speak) marking off time in the Jewish dispensation at the time of the crucifixion, ushering in a new dispensation fifty-three days later, on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter two.

And, with the beginning of the Tribulation, God will re-start the clock (so to speak) marking off time in the Jewish dispensation, completing the last seven years, *placing the Jews alive in that day in the position of having just crucified their Messiah in relation to time in the dispensation*.

*On the latter, EVERY Jew alive in that day, regardless of the passing of generations, will be seen by God as DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE for “all the righteous blood shed upon the earth,” extending all the way back to “the blood of righteous Abel”* ([Matthew 23:35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+23.35&t=NKJV), [37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+23.37&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Genesis 4:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+4.1ff&t=NKJV); [45:1-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+45.1-4&t=NKJV); [Zechariah 12:10-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Zechariah+12.10-14&t=NKJV); [Matthew 21:33-45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+21.33-45&t=NKJV); [Revelation 1:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+1.7-8&t=NKJV)).

That which is foreshadowed by events on the seventh day in [Genesis 2:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.1-3&t=NKJV) awaits Israel and the nations (foreshadowed as well by events every time Israel kept the Sabbath [[Exodus 31:13-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+31.13-17&t=NKJV)]).

*But Israel and the nations MUST FIRST pass through that which Scripture presents occurring at the end of Man’s Day, the Tribulation, Daniel’s unfulfilled Seventieth-Week.*

*The darkest time in man’s history* (the Tribulation) *awaits Israel and the nations, to be followed by* *the brightest time in man’s history* (the Messianic Era).

*And BOTH can ONLY occur in the very near future!*

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Chapter 5

**AT MIDNIGHT**

*A TERMINAL HOUR, JUDGMENT, A NEW BEGINNING*

*Then Moses said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt;*

*and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die . . .’”*

*And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt .* . . . ([Exodus 11:4-5a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+11.4-5a&t=NKJV); [12:29a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.29a&t=NKJV)).

*Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor . . .*

*So she went down to the threshing floor . . .*

*Now it happened at midnight . . .* . ([Ruth 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ruth+3.3&t=NKJV), [6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ruth+3.6&t=NKJV), [8a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ruth+3.8a&t=NKJV) [3a, 6a]).

*And at midnight a cry was heard: “Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!”* ([Matthew 25:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.6&t=NKJV)).

The first reference to “midnight” in Scripture is in [Exodus 11:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+11.4&t=NKJV) and it is associated with *God’s JUDGMENT occurring at a TERMINAL time, with a NEW beginning in view* (the death of the firstborn, followed by the Exodus).

And the use of “midnight” after this fashion, at this point in Scripture, establishes *a first-mention principle that NEVER changes throughout Scripture.*

That is, as established at this point in Scripture, anytime the word “midnight” is subsequently used throughout Scripture — as seen in [Ruth 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ruth+3.8&t=NKJV) or [Matthew 25:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.6&t=NKJV) — there is a direct allusion to *God’s JUDGMENT occurring at a TERMINAL time, with a NEW beginning in view.*

The original, basic framework for the entire matter is seen in the opening thirty-four verses of Scripture ([Genesis 1:1-2:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.1-2.3&t=NKJV)) — having to do with God’s restoration of a ruined creation over six days time, followed by a seventh day rest — *UNCHANGEABLY ESTABLISHED within a septenary structure of Scripture at the very beginning*.

(Refer to the first three chapters in the author’s book, [The Study of Scripture](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/the-study-of-scripture.php), in this site, for information on different facets of the preceding.)

Attention is called to this opening framework and structure of Scripture because of the references used at the beginning of this chapter to three different places where the word “midnight” appears in Scripture ([Exodus 11:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+11.4&t=NKJV); [12:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.29&t=NKJV); [Ruth 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ruth+3.8&t=NKJV); [Matthew 25:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.6&t=NKJV)).

The first appearance, in Exodus, relates to that which is foreshadowed by God’s restorative work on day one ([Genesis 1:2-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2-5&t=NKJV) [2b]). And the appearances in Ruth and Matthew relate to that which is foreshadowed by God’s restorative work on days two through six ([Genesis 1:6-31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.6-31&t=NKJV)).

Then, that which is foreshadowed by God’s restorative work throughout all six days is with a view to that which is foreshadowed by the seventh day of rest ([Genesis 2:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.1-3&t=NKJV)).

That being introduced at the beginning of Scripture and dealt with in the preceding manner has to do with *the COMPLETE panorama of salvation -- past, present, and future.*

*The PAST aspect of salvation* (salvation by *grace*, having to do with *the spirit*) is foreshadowed by God’s restorative work on day one and is seen typified by the events in [Exodus 11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+11&t=NKJV); [12a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12a&t=NKJV).

*The PRESENT aspect of salvation* (the saving of *the soul*, the life) is foreshadowed by God’s restorative activity on days two through six and is seen in typical form in [Exodus 12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12&t=NKJV)b ff and [Ruth 3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ruth+3&t=NKJV) and in parabolic form in [Matthew 25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25&t=NKJV).

And, again, the entire matter is with a view *to the FUTURE, deliverance* (salvation) *in the seventh day* ([Genesis 2:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+2.1-3&t=NKJV)).

Thus, the thought of “midnight,” seen in all three portions of Scripture referenced, has to do with *a TERMINAL time at the END of that which is foreshadowed by the six days* (6,000 years, Man’s Day).

*And this is with a view to a NEW beginning, which is foreshadowed by the seventh day* (1,000 years, the Lord’s Day).

(But, relative to that foreshadowed by the God-established foundation opening Genesis and the salvation message taught throughout Christendom today, *note what an individual, far more often than not, finds*.

The emphasis is placed on *salvation by grace* [that foreshadowed by events on day one ([Genesis 1:2-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2-5&t=NKJV) {2b})], *with LITTLE to NO attention given to present and future aspects of salvation* [that foreshadowed by events on the remaining five days ([Genesis 1:6ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.6ff&t=NKJV))].

Then there is *the matter of EVERYTHING throughout ALL six days of work moving toward a climactic seventh day of rest, something which is either NOT dealt with at all or NOT dealt with in a proper manner because of a failure to properly deal with that foreshadowed by events on ALL six preceding days*.

*Is it any wonder that things are so skewed in Christendom today?*)

**God’s Past and Future Judgments**

“Midnight” in relation to that which is seen in Exodus chapters eleven and twelve, originally dealt with through God’s work on day one in Genesis chapter one — *the Spirit of God moved, God spake, and light came into existence* — as will be shown, has to do with *a PAST judgment, followed by a NEW beginning*. *And EVERYTHING is performed through a divine work, completely APART from man’s actions*.

(Ruined man (dead in trespasses and sins) *is NO more in a position to bring himself out of his ruined state than the earth on day one in chapter one of Genesis was in a position to bring itself out of its ruined state*.)

As well, there is *NO such thing* as a future judgment of man in relation to that part of God’s restorative work originally foreshadowed in [Genesis 1:2-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2-5&t=NKJV) [2b]. There is a present work, performed by the Spirit breathing life into the one having no life, based on a past divine work (God, in the person of His Son, paying the price which He required at Calvary). *But ALL judgment connected with this initial part of God’s restorative work is PAST.*

*God has ALREADY judged sin in the person of His Son*. And this would relate to *BOTH* those whom the Spirit has presently breathed life into and those whom He has not breathed life into.

There is *NO difference* *in this respect*, for, as previously stated, all judgment pertaining to the matter is *PAST*.

Note how [John 3:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+3.18&t=NKJV) reads in this respect:

*He who believes in Him is not condemned* [judged]; *but he who does not believe is condemned* [judged] *already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

There is simply *NO such thing* as any man, whether saved or unsaved, appearing at a future judgment where his eternal salvation will be an issue.

*That would be IMPOSSIBLE, for* *God has ALREADY judged the whole of mankind, BOTH the saved and the unsaved, pertaining to the matter.*

Future judgments of both saved and unsaved man will result in God carrying out that which is already determined in His past judgment on sin.

Again, man simply *CANNOT* be brought into judgment at some future time pertaining to that for which he *has ALREADY been judged.*

Note how this is seen in the type in Exodus chapter twelve.

Exactly as at Calvary, almost fifteen centuries later, God judged sin through the death and shed blood of the paschal lambs.

The Lord passing through the land of Egypt at midnight had to do with judgment in another respect entirely. It had to do with a carrying out of the decree pertaining to a past judgment, based on the death and proper application of the blood of the paschal lambs.

*For the one who had followed the Lord’s instructions* (the blood of a dead lamb had been applied to the door posts and lintel, showing that the firstborn in the family had died in a substitute), the Lord passed over that house.

*All judgment was PAST, and NO present execution of judgment remained. The firstborn had ALREADY died.*

*But for the one who had not followed the Lord’s instructions (the blood of a dead lamb had NOT been applied to the door posts and lintel, showing that the firstborn in the family had NOT died in a substitute), the Lord executed the past judgment upon the firstborn in a personal manner.*

*The firstborn had NOT yet died; consequently, he paid the penalty himself, apart from a substitute*.

Thus, the first mention of “midnight” in Scripture is connected with *JUDGMENT*, though dealt with concerning the execution of previous judgment.

And, following this thought throughout Scripture, the same basic thing is seen relative to Christians in the type in Ruth chapter three and the parable in Matthew twenty-five.

**God’s Present and Future Judgments**

That already judged in the previous section had to do with Christ’s finished work at Calvary. Both the saved and the unsaved, believers and non-believers, have already been judged relative to this finished work.

And a continuing aspect of judgment for sin can be seen relative to Christ’s present ministry in the heavenly sanctuary on the basis of His shed blood on the mercy seat.

*This though is a ministry SOLELY for Christians, with the unsaved NOT in view at all.*

In [Genesis 1:2-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.2-5&t=NKJV) [2b], when the Spirit of God moved, God spoke, and light came into existence, the light didn’t replace or do away with the darkness. Rather, God placed the light alongside the darkness, leaving the darkness entirely alone.

In the words of [John 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.5&t=NKJV) and [2 Corinthians 4:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+4.6&t=NKJV), *the light shined out of the darkness, with the darkness having no comprehension or understanding of the light*. The two are completely incompatible.

Both saved and unsaved man have that which is foreshadowed by darkness (the old sin nature), but only saved man has that which is foreshadowed by light (a new, God-imparted nature).

And, because the darkness, the old nature, remains with saved man, he can easily be led into following this nature if he takes his eyes off that which is associated with the new nature.

(Relative to the preceding — Christians possessing both a new nature and the old sin nature — note the author’s book, in this site, [Brought Forth from Above](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-three.php#Brought%20Forth%20from%20Above).

This book deals with the matter from places in the four N.T. books where a form of the expression, “brought forth from above,” is found, though mainly from I John [for the expression is found ten times in this short, five-chapter book].)

Christ is presently ministering in the heavenly sanctuary, *providing a present cleansing for Christians because of this very problem*.

This is what is seen in John chapter thirteen when Christ girded Himself, took a basin of water and began to wash the disciples’ feet.

Or this is what is seen throughout John’s first epistle ([1 John 1:5-2:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1John+1.5-2.2&t=NKJV)).

There is a present judgment for sin in the preceding respect. And if a Christian judges himself during the present time ([1 Corinthians 11:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+11.31&t=NKJV); [1 John 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1John+1.9&t=NKJV)), he will not be judged yet future ([Romans 8:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.1&t=NKJV)).

In that future day when Christians appear before the judgment seat of Christ, judgment, in one respect, will all be past — whether judgment that occurred at Calvary, or judgment that occurred in the heavenly sanctuary, at the mercy seat. In this respect, the judgment seat of Christ will be an execution or reckoning of that which is already judged, though referred to in a judgmental respect as well.

But there is another side to the matter — Christians appearing at the judgment seat with unconfessed sins, sins not previously dealt with by Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, at the mercy seat. And, for Christians with sins of this nature, *judgment can ONLY be future, NOT past*.

And when will this occur?

Ruth appeared on Boaz’s threshing floor at *midnight*, *but in a cleansed manner* ([Ruth 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ruth+3.3&t=NKJV), [6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ruth+3.6&t=NKJV), [8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ruth+3.8&t=NKJV)). *Thus, NO judgment awaited her, ONLY a carrying out of particular matters* (redemption of the inheritance, and marriage).

In the parable of the ten virgins, the Bridegroom came at *midnight*. *Five, as Ruth, were prepared for the things that were to occur* (the marriage festivities); *the other five though were NOT prepared.*

*And ALL were dealt with accordingly.*

*Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.* ([Matthew 25:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.13&t=NKJV)).

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Chapter 6

**THE SELFSAME DAY**

*GOD’S SET TIMES, WHICH HAVE AND WILL COME TO PASS*

*Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.*

*And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years — on that very same day — it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.* ([Exodus 12:40-41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.40-41&t=NKJV)).

God works with *SET times* that He has pre-established.

UNTIL these *SET times* arrive, matters may appear exactly as they appeared to both the Israelites and Egyptians throughout the years when the Israelites were in Egyptian bondage.

Aside from conditions deteriorating, *LITTLE to NO change occurred throughout this time*.

BUT when Moses appeared to the Jewish people a second time, *things BEGAN to change rapidly*.

**A Set Time during Moses’ Day**

According to [Exodus 12:40-41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.40-41&t=NKJV), the Exodus from Egypt under Moses occurred, *to the VERY day, that a four-hundred-thirty-year sojourn of the Israelites ended.*

But how can this possibly be the case? Following biblical chronology back in time, four hundred thirty years would take one to the days of Abraham while he was still in Ur — prior to the birth of Isaac.

*Thus, “the children of Israel” did NOT exist four hundred thirty years prior to the Exodus.*

*OR, did they?*

Then, there is *a four-hundred-year period seen back in Genesis in connection with the Exodus* ([Genesis 15:13-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.13-14&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Acts 7:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+7.6&t=NKJV)). Abraham’s seed, through whom the nations were to ultimately be blessed, would sojourn “*in a land that is not theirs*” for *four hundred years*. *And it was ONLY at the END of this period of time that the Exodus under Moses would occur.*

Thus, there are both *four-hundred and four-hundred-thirty-year periods in connection with the Exodus from Egypt*. And, showing what is involved in distinctions between the two, along with showing the existence of the children of Israel four hundred thirty years prior to the Exodus, is quite simple if Scripture is allowed to be its own interpreter.

*1) Strangers and Pilgrims*

It was the seed of Abraham that was to sojourn in a strange land for *four hundred years*. That seed was born when Abraham was one hundred years old, which is *when the sojourn relative to his seed in* [*Genesis 15:13-14*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.13-14&t=NKJV) *began*.

Then *the four-hundred-thirty-year sojourn* which is seen in [Exodus 12:40-41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.40-41&t=NKJV), also in connection with the Exodus, *can ONLY date back to a time thirty years prior to the birth of Abraham’s seed*.

And, according to these two verses in Exodus, the children of Israel date back to this time as well, which could be seen only one way — *a people in the bowels of Abraham while he was still in Ur of the Chaldees* (*cf*. [Genesis 12:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.1-3&t=NKJV); [15:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.4&t=NKJV); [Joshua 24:2-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joshua+24.2-14&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 7:9-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+7.9-10&t=NKJV); [11:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.9&t=NKJV)).

Thus, *the complete sojourn of the Israelites* — existing four hundred thirty years prior to the Exodus, in the bowels of Abraham — is seen going back thirty years behind the actual birth of Abraham’s seed, from whom the nation descended. And, as can easily be shown, this time goes back to the very beginning, to the promise given to Abraham thirty years earlier, as seen in [Genesis 12:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.1-3&t=NKJV):

*Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.*

*I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.*

*I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

Note how the preceding is clearly stated in [Galatians 3:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+3.17-18&t=NKJV):

*And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.*

*For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise.*

(Note that “the covenant” [v. 17], having to do with “the promise” given to Abraham [vv. 17, 18], was *confirmed* to Abraham, in the land, over a decade later [*cf*. [Genesis 12:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12.1-3&t=NKJV); [15:7-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.7-21&t=NKJV)]. *The four hundred thirty years date back to the promise, not to the confirmation*.)

The Law, the Magna Charta for the kingdom, was given through Moses at Sinai during the first year following the departure of the Israelites from Egypt. Thus, it was given the same year of the Exodus, four hundred thirty years after the promise. And, since Abraham was one hundred years old when Isaac was born, *beginning the four-hundred-year sojourn of His seed*, this promise, as previously seen, could only have occurred in Ur when Abraham was seventy.

*2) Viewing the Time Correctly*

Individuals often come up with the erroneous idea, from a misreading of [Genesis 15:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.14&t=NKJV), that the Israelites spent four hundred years in Egyptian bondage. But that can’t be true. [Galatians 3:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+3.17&t=NKJV) alone would show the fallacy of this type thinking.

Note in this verse that only four hundred thirty years existed between the promise given to Abraham while still in Ur to the time of the giving of the Law at Sinai — the same four hundred thirty years to which attention was called at the time that the Israelites departed Egypt under Moses in [Exodus 12:40-41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.40-41&t=NKJV).

Thus, Abraham’s seed (Isaac and his descendants) sojourned in a land not theirs *for four hundred years*; and *an additional thirty-year sojourn* is seen immediately preceding this time, going back to the promise given to Abraham in Ur, for reasons previously given.

And reference to the sojourn during this time can be seen in verses such as [Genesis 37:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+37.1&t=NKJV) and [Exodus 6:2-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+6.2-4&t=NKJV), verses that are explained in [Hebrews 11:8-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.8-9&t=NKJV), [13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.13&t=NKJV):

Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was *a stranger, in the land of Canaan*. ([Genesis 37:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+37.1&t=NKJV))

And God spoke to Moses and said to him: “I am the LORD.

I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob . . .

I have also established My covenant with them, to give them *the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers.”* ([Exodus 6:2-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+6.2-4&t=NKJV)).

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

By faith *he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country,* dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise . . .

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that *they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.* ([Hebrews 11:8-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.8-9&t=NKJV), [13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.13&t=NKJV))

Thus, the Israelites are seen in Scripture as *strangers and pilgrims throughout this time*, whether in Ur before Abraham departed (the Israelites seen in his bowels), whether during the time Abraham and his seed dwelled in the land of Canaan, or whether between the time Jacob took his family down into Egypt and the subsequent Exodus from Egypt under Moses.

From the birth of Isaac, the seed of Abraham spent one hundred ninety years in the land of Canaan and two hundred ten subsequent years in Egypt (*cf.* [Genesis 25:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+25.26&t=NKJV); [47:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+47.9&t=NKJV)), completing the full four hundred years. And only during a latter part of this time spent in Egypt was Israel under bondage to a new pharaoh, who had come into power while they were in Egypt ([Exodus 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+1.8&t=NKJV)).

This time of bondage could not possibly have been more than about one hundred forty years and may have been considerably less (times derived from Joseph’s age when the 210 years began [abt. 40], his age at the time of his death [110], and the fact that the persecution of the Israelites in Egypt began only at a time following Joseph’s death [[Genesis 41:46ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+41.46ff&t=NKJV); [50:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+50.26&t=NKJV)]).

This persecution began following the ascension of “*a new king over Egypt* [an Assyrian; [Isaiah 52:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+52.4&t=NKJV)], who did not know Joseph” [[Exodus 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+1.8&t=NKJV)]). And we’re not told anything about the time that would have elapsed between Joseph’s death and the ascension of this new king.

Since the persecution existed at the time of Moses’ birth, with Moses being eighty years old at the time of the Exodus, we can only say that the persecution began sometime between about one hundred forty and eighty years preceding the Exodus. There is *nothing* in Scripture that would allow the time when the persecution began to be determined any closer than this.

(For additional information on the loins of Abraham in connection with the 400 and 430 years, see in this site, [“Salvation is Of the Jews”](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-seven.php#%E2%80%9CSalvation%20is%20Of%20the%20Jews%E2%80%9D) and “[In the Loins of Abraham](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-seven.php#In%20the%20Loins%20of%20Abraham).”

Note in [Exodus 12:40-41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.40-41&t=NKJV) that the “sojourning” of the Jewish people is one thing, but the time that they “dwelt” in Egypt is quite another. The latter included the last 210 years of the 430 years seen in the former.

The KJV and NKJV are more in keeping with the Hebrew text on these two verses than are many other translations [*e.g.* NASB, NIV].)

**The Present and Future Day**

*The departure of the Israelites from Egypt under Moses forms a type, which will be fulfilled in the minutest detail under Christ in the antitype.*

This departure in the type will be fulfilled through a yet-future departure of the Israelites from that which Egypt typifies (the Gentile nations). And, as Moses led them out following his return to the Jewish people, Christ will lead them out following His return to the Jewish people.

And all the details seen in the type will occur in the antitype — from the death of the firstborn (future conversion of the nation) and restoration of the Jewish people to their land, to the destruction of Gentile world power, to the restoration of the theocracy to the Jewish people under a new covenant.

(Details on the preceding can be found in different books and pamphlets that the author has written over the years. Note particularly, in this site, the author’s [The Time of the End](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-in-revelation.php#The%20Time%20of%20the%20End), [The Son of Man Coming in His Kingdom](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-two.php#The%20Son%20of%20Man%20Coming%20in%20His%20Kingdom) and [Israel from Death to Life](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-three.php#Israel%20from%20Death%20to%20Life).)

*And, relative toTIME, these things can ONLY occur in the antitype EXACTLY as seen in the type — to the VERY day, within a time that God has previously SET.*

*These things can occur NO OTHER WAY!*

In Scripture, God is seen working after *ONLY one fashion* throughout Man’s Day.

In the opening verses of Scripture, *He is seen working for SIX days, foreshadowing 6,000 years*. And throughout this time *He is seen working with THREE groups of people during SET times in THREE dispensations.*

And, as evident from the timing of the Exodus in relation to four hundred and four hundred thirty years of time (to the very day at the end of the latter period, and evidently the former as well), *ALL of God’s activities are undoubtedly SET in a perfect timing of this nature.*

(For additional information, refer to preceding [Always In Remembrance (2)](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#Always%20In%20Remembrance%20(2)).)

Man’s Day itself is not only *SET within a predetermined time* (6,000 years, NO more, NO less), but time occurring during the three dispensations are *SET with the SAME predetermined precision* (each lasting 2,000 years, completing the full 6,000).

God is seen intervening within man’s affairs at *the EXACT END of each dispensation*, and He is also seen acting at times during the dispensations *with the SAME precision, having to do with pre-determined times* (*e.g*., timing of events seen in Daniel’s Seventy-Week prophecy, particularly between the sixty-ninth and seventieth weeks).

*Also note when the kingdom is established — NOT before, BUT at the FULL END of the prophecy; at the END of the FULL seventy weeks, at the END of the FULL four hundred ninety years.*

Individuals, prefacing or following a particular statement, sometimes say, “If the Lord tarries…”

*But the Lord is NOT going to tarry. The Lord works with SET times, and when these SET times arrive, He acts!*

*The matter is EXACTLY as stated in* [*Hebrews 10:37*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+10.37&t=NKJV):

For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and *will not tarry.*

The present dispensation *can ONLY last for a SET time, which is a PRESET 2,000 years*. The removal of the Church at the end of the dispensation will occur at *a SET time*; God’s dealings with Israel that follow will occur within *SET times*, as will events occurring during and at the end of this time.

*This is simply the manner in which God does things, which MUST be recognized!*

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Chapter 7

**AFTER 2,600 YEARS**

*THAT FUTURE TIME WHEN ISRAEL WILL AGAIN HOLD THE SCEPTER*

*Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations* [Gk. *gowy* – a foreign nation, hence a Gentile].

*Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow — for their wickedness is great.*

*Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.*

*The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness.*

*The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel*. ([Joel 3:12-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+3.12-16&t=NKJV))

From the days of Moses (during the fifteenth century B.C.) to the days of Nebuchadnezzar (the king of Babylon at the end of the seventh century B.C.) *a theocracy* existed on the earth.

Throughout this time, covering a period of over eight hundred years, God’s firstborn son — Israel ([Exodus 4:22-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+4.22-23&t=NKJV)), exercising the rights of primogeniture — held the scepter.

But, after eight centuries, during Nebuchadnezzar’s day, God, in His sovereign control of all things, brought conditions to pass after such a fashion that Israel -- apart from repentance, which was far from forthcoming -- was left with *NO recourse other than to RELINQUISH the scepter, with a corresponding END to the theocracy.*

*And God brought these conditions to pass for a reason and a purpose*:

*The reason: Israeli disobedience, extending over centuries of time.*

*The purpose*: *To ultimately bring Israel to the place of repentance regarding their disobedience.*

*And, once Israel had relinquished the scepter, the nations would CONTINUE holding the scepter UNTIL God had worked out His purpose for bringing these conditions to pass.*

*ONLY THEN would conditions change!*

**The “Times of the Gentiles”**

The period during which the Gentiles hold the scepter is called in Scripture, “*The Times of the Gentiles*.” This period, as previously stated, began about 2,600 years ago, dating back to the days of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon whom God allowed to uproot the Jewish people from their land, *bringing an END to the Old Testament theocracy.*

*The theocracy though WILL one day be restored to Israel, with the “Times of the Gentiles” correspondingly being brought to a close.*

And this is NOT simply one of the subjects seen in the Prophets. Rather, this is *the OVERRIDING, MAJOR subject of ALL the Prophets.*

*ALL Scripture moves toward this coming day.*

*NOR* is this something that will be brought to pass at some distant time in the future.

Rather, *THIS is something that will be brought to pass in the immediate future*, during the days of the last king of Babylon, typified by Nimrod, the first king of Babylon ([Genesis 10:8-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+10.8-10&t=NKJV); [11:1-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11.1-9&t=NKJV)).

And that which happened to Nimrod’s kingdom, will happen to this man’s kingdom. The Lord is going to once again come down, take a look at, and destroy this kingdom.

*This has been SET in the type, and it MUST occur in the antitype.*

This time though, unlike in the past, *the destruction will be FINAL and COMPLETE, with Babylon NEVER to rise again* ([Jeremiah 51:20-26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jeremiah+51.20-26&t=NKJV); [Daniel 2:34-35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.34-35&t=NKJV), [44-45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+2.44-45&t=NKJV)).

And as Abraham came into the picture at this time in the past, the descendants of Abraham will be brought back into the picture at *this SAME time yet future*, with matters then occurring *EXACTLY as seen in the overall ty*pe *in* [*Genesis 11:10ff*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11.10ff&t=NKJV)).

*All these things have been set forth in the Word of God for ALL to see; and they have lain there for centuries and millennia, leaving ANY and ALL without excuse for NOT knowing and understanding what is about to transpire.*

**A Brief History of the Theocracy**

For some eight hundred years preceding Nebuchadnezzar’s day, a theocracy had existed in the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The theocracy had come into existence at Mt. Sinai about one year following the Exodus (upon completion of the tabernacle, when the Glory filled the tabernacle [[Exodus 40:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+40.1ff&t=NKJV)]). And the theocracy existed in the land almost forty years later after Joshua had led the Israelites across the Jordan River into the land (abt. 1,400 B.C.).

The Old Testament theocracy reached its greatest heights during the days of King David and King Solomon, but it never came anywhere near approaching the heights that God had reserved for the theocracy.

Then, following King Solomon’s death (abt. 925 B.C.), a division occurred in the theocracy, in the kingdom (mainly because of disputes concerning leadership), forming northern and southern segments of the kingdom.

Two tribes (Judah and Benjamin) remained in Jerusalem, ruled by Rehoboam, the son of Solomon. And the remaining ten tribes settled in the northern part of the land; Samaria became their capital city, and they were ruled by Jeroboam.

The days of Elijah and Elisha followed [in the northern segment of the kingdom], with a renewed call to repentance. But even with the events of Mt. Carmel during Elijah’s ministry, no lasting change was effected. And things continued to deteriorate throughout the kingdom — something seen even more so in the northern segment of the kingdom than in the southern segment, for not a single godly ruler rose to power in Samaria.

And by the latter part of the eighth century for the northern segment of the kingdom and the latter part of the seventh century for the southern segment of the kingdom, the cup of iniquity for the children of Israel had become full (*cf*. [Genesis 15:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+15.16&t=NKJV)).

About 722 B.C., God allowed the Assyrians (the Gentile power of that day) to come over and begin taking the northern ten tribes into captivity. Then slightly over a century later, about 605 B.C., God allowed the Babylonians [the Gentile power of that day, having previously conquered the Assyrian Empire] to come over and begin taking the southern two tribes into captivity.

This latter removal of the people occurred over time (some twenty years); and about 586 BC, with the Babylonians completing what they had begun, the Glory departed from the temple, resulting in the theocracy coming to an end ([Ezekiel 10:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+10.4&t=NKJV), [18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+10.18&t=NKJV); [11:22-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+11.22-23&t=NKJV)).

And the “*Times of the Gentiles*,” with the Gentiles holding the scepter, has existed ever since.

**How Much Longer?**

How much longer will the “*Times of the Gentiles*” last? The answer to that question is clearly stated time after time in Scripture.

This period of time will last *UNTIL God has accomplished His purpose for removing the scepter from Israel’s hands, placing it in the nations’ hands, uprooting His people from their land, and scattering them out among the same nations that then held the scepter.*

Rather than ruling at the head of the nations, with the nations being evangelized by and blessed through Israel, the nations would now rule over Israel, with the evangelization and blessings of the nations being withheld.

Then, beyond the preceding, the Jewish people would increasingly find themselves hated and persecuted by the nations. And *God would allow this to continue UNTIL His purpose for bringing these conditions to pass had been fulfilled.*

Things though *will NOT continue after this fashion indefinitely*. The day is *rapidly approaching* — the coming Tribulation, Daniel’s unfulfilled Seventieth Week — when the Jewish people will find themselves in such dire straits that they will have *NO place* to turn other than to the God of their fathers. And this will be brought to pass during the latter part of the coming Tribulation when Satan -- through the man to whom he will have given “*his power, his seat* [*lit.* 'his throne']*, and great authority*” ([Revelation 13:2b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+13.2b&t=NKJV)), *seeks to destroy the Jewish people from off the face of the earth*.

In *THAT DAY*, *which can only be in the VERY near future*, God’s purpose for that which He brought to pass 2,600 years ago will be fulfilled. *The Jewish people WILL be brought to the place of repentance*.

(Note something about evangelization and blessings among the nations being withheld because of *the current condition and state of Israel*.

Though Israel is presently out of place in the world in relation to God’s calling, plans, and purposes for the nation, *the very presence of the nation in the world* [though completely out of place in the preceding respect] *can ONLY result in an issuing forth of some things connected with the nation’s calling.*

For example, *note the vast number of Jews whom God has used in recent times to bring about scientific discoveries, particularly in the field of medicine. And even where a Jew is not seen as directly involved, the Jewish people cannot possibly be absent, for God views and deals with the nations through Israel* [*cf*. [Deuteronomy 32:8-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+32.8-10&t=NKJV); [Ezekiel 5:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+5.5&t=NKJV); [Zechariah 2:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Zechariah+2.8&t=NKJV)].

Or, any evangelistic efforts throughout the present 2,000-year dispensation can occur *ONLY* *because of the presence of the Jewish people*.

“*Salvation is of the Jews*” ([John 4:22b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+4.22b&t=NKJV)). *The one new man* “*in Christ*” has *a Jewish Savior, uses a Jewish book, and has been grafted into an existing Jewish trunk*. And this *new man*, today, can take the message to the nations, as well as to the Jew, *ONLY because of the continuing existence of the Jews.*

[If the Jewish people could be *completely removed*, conditions worldwide would become very much like they existed in the garden in Eden following Adam partaking of the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The question that God asked at this that, calling to Adam, “*Where are you*?” ([Genesis 3:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+3.9&t=NKJV)), *would then exist relative to the nations worldwide, for, again, God views and deals with the nations through Israel*].

And, if positive conditions of this nature can exist with Israel even in the nation’s current state [which it can and does], think how conditions will be following that time when God brings things in the world to pass after such a fashion that the Jewish people cry out to the God of their fathers in repentance.)

***Then…***

In that coming day, after the Jewish people have been brought to the place of repentance, *THEN* God will begin to work with the Jewish people once again, and for the final time, *relative to restoration*.

The Jewish people possess *a promise*, dating back to the days of Moses, reiterated during the days of Solomon, then by the Prophets:

*But if they* [the Jewish people] *confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me,*

*and that I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they accept their guilt*

*then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land.* ([Leviticus 26:40-42](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Leviticus+26.40-42&t=NKJV); *cf*. [2 Chronicles 6:24-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Chronicles+6.24-27&t=NKJV); [7:12-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Chronicles+7.12-14&t=NKJV); [Ezekiel 36:16-39:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+36.16-39.29&t=NKJV); [Joel 2:12-3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+2.12-3.21&t=NKJV); [Jonah 2:1-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jonah+2.1-10&t=NKJV))

*When the Jewish people FULFILL the condition in God’s promise, He will do EXACTLY as the Old Testament Scriptures state. God will, at that time, hear from heaven and, apart from delay, begin acting on behalf of His people in COMPLETE accord with His numerous promises — which begin in Genesis and end in Malachi.*

How close are we to that time when God will remove the Church and bring about conditions during Daniel’s unfilled Seventieth Week which, after 2,600 years of Gentile dominance, will bring Israel to the place of repentance?

How close are we to that time when regal conditions between Israel and the nations will be reversed, with the nations then not only being ruled by but evangelized by and blessed through Israel?

*The answer to both parts of the question are the SAME*:

*We’re MUCH, MUCH closer than anyone dares to even think or admit!*

*The hands on the clock are ABOUT to strike midnight!*

*The time is ALMOST up!*

*It’s ALMOST over!*

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Chapter 8

**CHRISTIANS AND THE WORLD**

*THE BIBLICAL RELATIONSHIP OF CHRISTIANS TO THE WORLD*

*I have given them Your Word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

*I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.*

*They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth.* ([John 17:14-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+17.14-17&t=NKJV)).

Christians live in a world governed and controlled by Satan and his angels. It is a world in which Satan and his angels continue a rule, which they have held since time immemorial, since a time preceding Satan’s fall, along with one-third of his original contingent of angels ruling in lesser positions of power under him.

And this, in turn, would date back to the time following the creation of the heavens and the earth when God appointed and placed Satan and his angels in the positions of power that they, since that time, have occupied (*cf*. [Ezekiel 28:14ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+28.14ff&t=NKJV); [Daniel 4:17ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+4.17ff&t=NKJV); [Romans 13:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+13.1&t=NKJV)).

Then, since man’s creation and fall 6,000 years ago — an individual created in God’s image, after His likeness, created to take the scepter in the stead of Satan and his angels ([Genesis 1:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+1.26-28&t=NKJV) [though the fall, requiring redemption, has delayed man from occupying this position]) — Satan and his angels, continuing to rule, have carried out this rule *through* *fallen man, through rulers among the nations* ([Daniel 10:12-20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.12-20&t=NKJV)).

And since the bringing into existence of the nation of Israel over two millennia following man’s creation (descendants of Jacob, a special creation, separate from the nations), *the rule of Satan and his angels through fallen man has been restricted to the Gentile nations.*

Israel’s ruling angel is *Michael*, with undoubtedly a large contingent of angels ruling under him.  *And Michael, with his angels, is not part of Satan’s kingdom* ([Daniel 10:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+10.21&t=NKJV)).

(*Ref*. the author’s book, “[The Most High Ruleth](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#The%20Most%20High%20Ruleth),” in this site, for a more complete, overall picture of the preceding.)

**A World That Hates Christians**

The preceding, according to [John 17:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+17.14&t=NKJV), describes *a world that hates Christians, for a revealed reason — a world presently governed and controlled by Satan and his angels*.

Something though is evidently wrong in today’s world, *for there is no presently existing hatred between the world and Christians*.

The world and Christians appear to get along with one another *just fine*. The conflict described in Scripture, for all practical purposes, *simply doesn’t exist in today’s world.*

So, what is this all about?

The answer is simple.

All a person has to do is read the first part of [John 17:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+17.14&t=NKJV), then take a look at Christendom in the world today.

And doing so, that person can know, solely from a Scriptural standpoint, what is wrong. He can know, solely from a Scriptural standpoint, why Christians are not hated by the world today.

Note the verse again:

*I have given them Your Word; and the world has hated them . . . .*

The world either hates or does not hate Christians, the world either gets along with or does not get along with Christians, *on one basis ALONE — the WORD.*

Christians holding to the Word, proclaiming the Word, will not find the world to be their friend.

On the other hand, Christians not holding to the Word, not proclaiming the Word, will have no problem with the world. The two can walk hand-in-hand.

Stated another way, there can be *NO such thing* as Christians holding to, proclaiming the Word, and, at the same time, being loved by the world.

And the inverse of that would have to be equally true. The world would have *NO basis for hating Christians NOT holding to the Word, NOT proclaiming the Word.*

The base for the entire matter is *singular*. It’s *the WORD, the WORD, the WORD*, *NOTHING else*.

*It’s NOT aids to devotions, it’s NOT so-called Christian music, it’s NOT anything connected with any type of so-called Christian activity.*

*Rather, it’s the WORD, with that being the END of the matter.*

Why?

*The “WHY” of the world’s hatred for Christians holding to and proclaiming the Word* *is very simple*.

*Satan could only have an extreme hatred for what the Word reveals about where matters are headed.*

Satan is “*the god of this age*” ([2 Corinthians 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+4.4&t=NKJV)), he and his angels rule through and control the nations, and the nations could only follow suit concerning what the Word has to say about that which the future holds for Satan, his angels, and unsaved man under his control and sway.

But, if *the Word is REMOVED, then NOTHING is left*.

*APART from the Word, there would be NO basis for an existing enmity between the world and Christians.*

*Again, it’s the WORD, the WORD, the WORD, NOTHING else!*

So, What Has Happened?

*The Church* and *the world* find themselves today at the very end of a 2,000-year dispensation in which God has been dealing with *the new creation “in Christ.”*

*Israel* was set aside for a dispensation, *a new creation* was called into existence, and the Spirit of God has been performing a special and particular work throughout the dispensation. The Spirit has been calling out a bride for God’s Son, who will reign as consort queen with Him — co-heir over all things — following Satan and his angels being put down.

Satan and his angels know these things, which form the heart of the message to be proclaimed by and heard in the churches of the land today.

But how many Christians know anything about or have ever even heard these things proclaimed?

The answer to that question will explain the “*WHY*” *of the problem presently existing throughout Christendom*.

*1) In Christendom*

In the chronology of Church history, as depicted in the first four parables of Matthew chapter thirteen, or in the letters to the seven churches in Revelation chapters two and three (the only two places in the New Testament where this complete history is revealed), *the Church at the end of the dispensation is seen in two descriptive ways*:

a) *As completely leavened* ([Matthew 13:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.33&t=NKJV))

b) *As wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked* ([Revelation 3:17b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.17b&t=NKJV)).

In the latter, the Church has been deceived into believing that it is “*rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing*” ([Revelation 3:17a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.17a&t=NKJV)).

Yet, the state of the completely leavened Church at the end of the dispensation is seen by God in a completely opposite respect.

Why is this the case?

The answer, part and parcel with the working of the leaven, is very simple. *The Church has progressively strayed from the pure, unadulterated proclamation of the Word* ([John 16:9-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+16.9-11&t=NKJV)).  *The Church has progressively gone the way of the world, and the world has won the Church over.*

*Accordingly, the world has disarmed the Church, stripping the Church naked of the armor that God has provided* ([Ephesians 6:11-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+6.11-17&t=NKJV) [again, note the end result of this “*naked*” condition in [Revelation 3:17b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.17b&t=NKJV)]).

If a person doesn’t believe that this is the case, all he has to do is open his eyes and look around. *There is no hatred between the world and the Church*; and it is difficult to know whether we have a worldly Church or a Churchly world — probably both. Equally difficult is to know where one begins and the other ends in the world today.

*2) In the World*

The world though, by disarming the Church, has sealed its own fate. In a respect, the nations comprising the world, by and through disarming the Church, have committed genocide.

The Church, possessing the Word, believing and proclaiming this Word, is in possession of a restraining power for all that exists among the nations. But a disarmed Church, having ignored the Word, is another matter entirely.

Note how such a Church is aptly described in [Matthew 5:13-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+5.13-16&t=NKJV).

The Church, in this passage, can be seen as the “*salt of the earth*” which “*loses its flavor*” and is now “*good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men*.”

The Church can be seen as the “*light of the world*,” though now “*put under a basket*.” And, occupying this position, there is no longer a shining light that can glorify the “*Father in heaven*.”

The restraining power of such a Church is gone. And apart from this restraining power, *there is NOTHING* withholding “*the god of this age*” from taking the nations under his control and sway to heretofore unseen depths of degradation — *e.g.*, homosexuality and same-sex marriage running rampant, uprisings in nations worldwide, etc.

The Church has allowed this to occur on the one hand; and the world, under Satan, has brought it to pass on the other. And the end result will be far from anything that anyone might desire.

*3) The End of the Matter*

The principle pertaining to all of that which exists is seen in [2 Thessalonians 2:3-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Thessalonians+2.3-12&t=NKJV). This passage, dealing with an already working “*mystery of lawlessness*,” has to do with things that will occur, yet future, after an existing restraining power has been removed.

Once this restraining power has been removed, the man of sin (the Antichrist) is going to be revealed, one whose coming is after the “*working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders*.” This man, seated on Satan’s throne, will take the nations of the earth, including Israel, to the very brink of complete destruction ([Matthew 24:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.22&t=NKJV); [Revelation 13:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+13.2&t=NKJV)).

And, leading into this man’s rise, paving the way for him to put the finishing touches on all that is seen happening in the world today, is the worldly Church no longer holding to or proclaiming the Word, *opening the door for the world under Satan and his angels to become fully engaged in the madness seen all around us.*

The world, spiritually speaking, is *dead*; and the Church, the only means through which the world could possibly find life, for all practical purposes, has become like the world. And the same fate awaits both ([1 Corinthians 11:31-32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+11.31-32&t=NKJV)).

Note from the preceding two verses that it is possible for Christians who do not judge themselves during the present time to one day be judged by the Lord after a fashion that they will be “*condemned with the world*.”

For *the Christian*, this would have to do with his calling, with millennial verities in view; but for *the world*, without life or a calling, this could only have to do with eternal verities.

And that brings matters back to the existing problem. *The Church*, by forsaking the Word (progressively brought about by the working of the leaven), *has allowed a friendship with the world to ensue* (*cf*. [James 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=James+4.4&t=NKJV); [1 John 2:15-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1John+2.15-17&t=NKJV)), sealing its own fate in one respect; and *the world, having disarmed the Church, has sealed its own fate in another respect.*

How much worse will it become on both fronts before the Lord steps in and removes the Church? Only time will tell.

But when the Church is removed, and the existing flicker of light, though under a bushel, is gone — with nothing but *darkness* and *death* remaining — *things will begin tumbling completely out of control, probably quite rapidly.*

And you don’t want to be here, but you will be if unsaved; and you don’t want to be among Christians at Christ’s judgment seat, “*condemned with the world*,” but you will be if . . .

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Chapter 9

**GOD GAVE THEM OVER**

*TERMINAL ACTIONS IN GOD’S DEALING WITH CHRISTIANS*

*Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness . . .*

*For this reason God gave them up to vile passions . . .*

*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge* [Gk., *epignosis*, ‘mature knowledge’], *God gave them over to a reprobate mind . . .* . ([Romans 1:24a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.24a&t=NKJV), [26a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.26a&t=NKJV), [28a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.28a&t=NKJV)).

The first chapter of Romans divides itself into two fairly equal parts, dealing with *TWO fairly equal parts, dealing with TWO types of Christians, in relation to ONE central subject.*

The first half of the chapter ([Romans 1:1-17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.1-17&t=NKJV)) has to do with *FAITHFUL Christians in relation to the gospel message, the good news* — *though NOT that facet of the good news pertaining to the grace of God, but that facet of the good news pertaining to* *the coming Glory of Christ.*

And the last half of the chapter ([Romans 1:18-32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.18-32&t=NKJV)) has to do with *UNFAITHFUL Christians in relation to the SAME Gospel message, the same good news.*

**The Type of Christians Presented in** [**Romans 1:1-17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.1-17&t=NKJV)

The Christians described in the opening part of the chapter are, as Paul described himself, “*not ashamed of the gospel of Christ*” (v. 16); or, using an explanation of that which is being referenced in the words “*gospel*” and “*Christ*” in the verse, a person could say that Christians of this nature are “*not ashamed of the good news of the One who will rule and reign*.”

There is really *NOTHING* about salvation by grace through faith in these first seventeen verses. The verses, among related issues, have to do with “*the seed of David*” (v. 3), declared to be “*the Son of God with power* [*‘sonship’ has to do with RULERSHIP*]” (v. 4), with “*obedience to* *the FAITH* [‘*the faith*,’ an expression peculiarly related to *the Word of the Kingdom*]” (v. 5), with the faith of Christians in Rome being “*spoken of throughout the whole world*” (v. 8), and with Paul’s expressed desire to go to and proclaim this good news to the Christians in Rome, for a stated purpose — “*that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles*” ([Romans 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.10&t=NKJV), [13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.13&t=NKJV), [15-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.15-16&t=NKJV)).

**The Type of Christians Presented in** [**Romans 1:18-32**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.18-32&t=NKJV)

Then, with verse seventeen as a closing statement for the opening part of the chapter, the other type of Christians are presented. And the type of Christians presented in this section, rather than exercising faith and looking forward to the salvation that is in view in verse sixteen, had, instead, through their unfaithfulness, been led into various types of disobedience and will suffer “*the wrath of God*” (v. 18).

Exactly the opposite of that which is seen in the previous section is seen in this section. And that becomes increasingly evident as one continues studying this section.

First of all, *note the subject matter at hand*.

As previously stated, *the gospel of grace* (having to do with the unsaved and one’s eternal salvation) *is NOT the message Paul called attention to in various ways in the opening seventeen verses*.

And this will become increasingly evident through progressive material in this chapter.

Then, to further illustrate that *Christians ALONE* are in view throughout chapter one, note the words “*knowledge*” and “*knowing*” in verses twenty-eight and thirty-two.

Both of these words are translations of the Greek word *epignosis* (the verb form of this word is used in v. 32 [*epiginosko*], meaning the same as the noun form in v. 28).

In the Greek text there is the regular word for knowledge (*gnosis*); and there is an intensified form of gnosis, formed through the preposition *epi* (meaning, “upon”) being prefixed to the word (*epi-gnosis*, which has to do with a knowledge of something beyond a regular knowledge, *i.e*., some facet of *a mature knowledge concerning the matter at hand*).

And, according to [1 Corinthians 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.14&t=NKJV), the natural man (which is all that the unsaved person possesses) can’t even come into possession of a type of knowledge described by *gnosis* (the Greek word used in this verse). The reason, of course, is because he is spiritually dead. *He simply cannot understand spiritual things.*

But the individuals in the latter part of Romans chapter one came into possession of a “*knowledge*” of that which is in view and is described by “*epignosis*.”

*HOW, IF unsaved*, did they do this? *They DIDN'T*, for, according to [1 Corinthians 2:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.14&t=NKJV), *IF unsaved, they COULDN'T* have even come into possession of a type of knowledge of that which is in view and is described by the word *gnosis*, much less *epignosis*.

And, aside from the preceding, it wouldn’t make any sense whatsoever to see the first seventeen verses correctly, dealing with the saved (a message [vv. 15, 16] having to do with *faith* [vv. 8, 16, 17], in relation to *fruit-bearing* [v. 13]), and then to attempt to see the latter part of the chapter (vv. 18-32) dealing with the unsaved.

*Scripture is simply NOT structured in such a fashion.*

(Note that *NOT every unfaithful Christian* would fit into the category of those committing the sins mentioned in vv. 18-32, *though MANY would* [an ever-increasing number in the world today].

The division between these two types of Christians is on the basis of an exercise of faith. *One exercises faith, the other does not.*

And, there is *NO middle ground in this realm*. Christians *EITHER* find themselves among those described in the first part of the chapter *OR* among those described in the latter part of the chapter, regardless of whether or not they are guilty of the sins named in the chapter.

*He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad* [[Matthew 12:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+12.30&t=NKJV); *cf*. [Luke 11:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+11.23&t=NKJV)].)

**Three Divisions in** [**Romans 1:18-32**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.18-32&t=NKJV)

The latter part of Romans, chapter one, dealing with unfaithful Christians, can be divided into three parts, followed by four concluding summation verses. Three times, after certain sins of the flesh have been enumerated, emanating out of and resulting from unfaithfulness, Scripture states that “*God gave them up/over*” (vv. 24, 26, 28). Then the last four verses in this chapter somewhat present the entire matter in a summation statement.

(Though the wording in the English text [KJV] is slightly different in the passages [“*God gave them up*”; “*God gave them over*”], the wording in the Greek text is the same in all three verses [an aorist form of the word *paradidomai*, meaning “to hand over,” “to deliver over,” to that seen in the context is used in each].

The context has to do with particular sins of the flesh; and, because of the nature of the sins that these Christians had committed/were committing, God is seen as simply pulling back, taking His hands off of the matter so to speak, and turning them over to these sins.)

Shades of the warning passages in the book of Hebrews are seen in God simply giving these Christians over to their sins in Romans chapter one (particularly, the falling away and the wilful sin in Hebrews chapters six and ten). And there is good reason for viewing the matter after this fashion.

But first, note a parallel in Paul’s ministry, as seen in Acts, to the manner in which he began as he wrote Romans. Then, with this parallel in mind, along with the warning passages in Hebrews, the matter, as seen in Romans chapter one, will be dealt with.

*1) Three Times in Acts, Three Times in Romans*

It is evident that Paul wrote Romans toward the end of but during the time of the re-offer of the kingdom to Israel (which would be during the time covered by the book of Acts). This can be clearly seen in the opening two chapters of Romans from the fact that the offer of the kingdom was still open to Israel, with Israel holding priority in the order in which this message was to be proclaimed — “*to the Jew first*” (*cf*. [Romans 1:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.16&t=NKJV); [2:9-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+2.9-10&t=NKJV)).

(For information on the preceding, refer to the author’s two pamphlets, titled, “Salvation in Romans,” [[Salvation in Romans 1](http://lampbroadcast.org/plets/ppdf11/Salvation%20in%20Romans%20Part%20I.pdf) and [2.pdf](http://lampbroadcast.org/plets/ppdf11/Salvation%20in%20Romans%20Part%20II.pdf)] where this matter is dealt with, particularly as it is seen in these opening two chapters.)

During the re-offer of the kingdom to Israel, as seen in the book of Acts, Paul, on his travels, always followed God’s order when entering into a new city to proclaim the gospel message. He always went *to the Jew first* in that city, taking the message to the Gentiles *ONLY* after he had been rejected by the Jews (which would, of necessity, be saved Gentiles [for the message carried “to the Jew first” *was the SAME message carried* “also to the Greek,” the Gentile, *which was a message for the saved ALONE*]).

*On three occasions* throughout these travels, after being rejected by the Jews in three different cities, Paul stated words similar to those that he penned in the latter part of Romans chapter one. *Three different times, because of* *the Jews’ continued unbelief*, he stated words to the effect that he was giving them over to their unbelief and going to the Gentiles with this message.

*The first time was in Antioch* ([Acts 13:46](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+13.46&t=NKJV)).

*The second time was in Corinth* ([Acts 18:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+18.6&t=NKJV)).

*And the third time was in Rome* ([Acts 28:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+28.28&t=NKJV)) [when and where the re-offer of the kingdom to Israel ended, abt. 62 A.D.]).

Rome was the center of Gentile power in that day, with the Gentiles holding the scepter, which the Gentiles had held since the days of Nebuchadnezzar for over six hundred years.

And it is only fitting that Paul ended this re-offer of the kingdom to Israel in this particular Gentile city, for Rome was the central city among the nations holding the scepter that rightfully belonged to Israel.

And Israel, having been driven out among these nations to effect repentance — *with God ultimately giving Israel over to their continued unbelief in this central Gentile city* — would now have to wait for *the fullness of the Gentiles to be brought to pass* (*cf*. [Acts 15:14-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+15.14-18&t=NKJV); [Romans 11:24-26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+11.24-26&t=NKJV)).

*2) The Subject Matter at Hand in Acts, in Romans*

As previously seen, that being dealt with in both Acts and Romans had to do, *NOT with salvation by grace, but with the Word of the Kingdom*.

In Acts, in relation to *God giving the Jews over to their unbelief three times*, this had to do with the re-offer of the kingdom to Israel (which was to be proclaimed “*to the Jew first*”). Then, in Romans, in relation to *God giving Christians over to their unbelief three times*, this had to do with an offer of *the SAME kingdom being made to the Gentiles* (saved Gentiles — “*and also to the Greek*”).

And their “*unbelief*,” in both instances, would be *EXACTLY the SAME as the unbelief exhibited by the Israelites under Moses at Kadesh-Barnea*. And this unbelief, exhibited at Kadesh-Barnea, had to do with the things that God had stated that He would do relative to leading the Israelites into the land, destroying the enemy therein, and their possessing the land within a theocracy.

Both accounts are seen in the warning passages in Hebrews.

*The first warning passage in Hebrews* references “*so great a salvation*,” which will be realized when man, rather than Satan and his angels, rules the earth ([Hebrews 2:1-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.1-5&t=NKJV)).

Then, in *the second warning passage in Hebrews*, the Israelites under Moses at Kadesh-Barnea are dealt with throughout the better part of two chapters ([Hebrews 3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3&t=NKJV), [4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.4&t=NKJV)), forming the type, with Christians seen in the antitype.

And, *the third warning passage in Hebrews* ([Hebrews 6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+6&t=NKJV)) draws from this type set forth in chapters three and four, spelling out in no uncertain terms that the same thing that happened to the unbelieving Israelites will happen to Christians who exhibit unbelief and fall away after the same fashion.

(The Israelites who fell away at Kadesh-Barnea were in possession of the Word of God [the Magna Charta for the kingdom, given at Sinai], and they had both *heard the report concerning the land and tasted the fruits of the land* [a report given and fruits brought back by the twelve spies]. They possessed more than a rudimentary knowledge of that which they turned away from when they sought to appoint a new leader and return to Egypt.

They, in a respect, as previously seen in Romans, had moved from a knowledge described by the Greek word *gnosis* to a knowledge described by the Greek word *epignosis* [*which in the type* (*SAME in the antitype*) *had to do with realizing an inheritance in the land set before them*].

This is *the SAME thing* seen relative to the Christians in Romans chapter one. Two places in this section, relative to their knowledge of the subject at hand, which was the good news being proclaimed in the first part of the chapter — the good news concerning the coming kingdom of Christ, with Christians being invited to have a part as co-heirs with God’s Son in this kingdom — the word *epignosis*, rather than *gnosis*, is used [vv. 28, 32 (with the verb form of the word used in v. 32)].

This, of course, was during the first century, early in the dispensation, when this message was proclaimed universally among and within the churches. In that day, it would have been very unusual to go into a meeting of Christians and not hear this message proclaimed.

Thus, Christians in that day, possessing a mature knowledge of this message, could easily find themselves in a position to fall away in the antitype of that which happened to Israel at Kadesh-Barnea, as seen in the second and third warning passages in Hebrews.

Today though, the matter is *completely different*. Because of the working of the leaven over two millennia of time [[Matthew 13:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.33&t=NKJV)], Christians don’t even have a *gnosis* type of knowledge of the matter.

It would be very unusual to attend a meeting of Christians today and hear this message proclaimed. And, if someone did come in and proclaim the message, he would likely be spoken against, with his message possibly associated with that which is taught by certain cult groups [*e.g*., Jehovah’s Witnesses].

Thus, in this respect, it would be a rare thing for a Christian today to find himself in a position where he could fall away in the antitype of that which is seen in the second and third warnings in Hebrews.

In respect, in relation to *Christians in a past day and Christians today*, the matter in the latter part of Romans chapter one will have to be dealt with accordingly.

*Christians in a past day* had something from which they could fall away [expressed by the word *epignosis*, having to do with their knowledge of the subject at hand ([Romans 1:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.28&t=NKJV), [32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.32&t=NKJV))].

*Christians today* though, with not even a knowledge of the matter that could be described by the word *gnosis*, have nothing from which they can fall away. But the end result — the complete panorama of all that is involved in God giving them over to where their unfaithfulness has led them — *is STILL the SAME*.)

*3) The Third and Last Time in Acts, in Romans*

In the preceding, note again the same place of unbelief reached in both Acts and Romans where God simply gave them over to their unbelief — *the Jews in Acts and the Christians in Romans.*

The third time in Acts, as previously seen, was *the terminal point*; and, in essence, as also previously seen, that’s what occurred in Romans as well. And the whole of the matter relating *to the Jews in Acts* and *the Christians in Romans*, as has been shown, is, for all practical purposes, the same as that which is seen in the second and third warnings in Hebrews (*cf.* [2 Corinthians 13:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+13.1-2&t=NKJV)).

“Three” is the first of five numbers used in Scripture to show different forms of *completeness* (three, seven, ten, twelve, and forty).

“Three” shows *divine completeness*.

“Seven” shows *the completeness* *of that which is in view; also this is God’s number*.

“Ten” shows *numerical completeness.*

“Twelve” shows *governmental completeness*.

“Forty” is used in *a somewhat general sense to show completeness.*

The three appearances of individuals being given over *to unbelief and the results of unbelief* in both Acts (having to do with *the Jews*) and Romans (having to do with *Christians*) take each group of individuals to *a terminal point in their unbelief*. At this point, regarding both groups, God is seen to simply turning away and letting them have that which their unfaithfulness has led them into, that which they appear to desire.

*4) That which is Seen in Romans during Modern Times*

Though a parallel doesn’t exist relative to *a knowledge about the Word of the Kingdom* between first century and twenty-first century Christians, a parallel does exist between *the depths to which Christians during both times could/can sink in their depravity.*

Note that which is stated about Christians in Romans preceding each of the three times that God refers to giving them over to their unfaithfulness, leading into these various types of depravity.

Also note [2 Timothy 3:1-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+3.1-8&t=NKJV), where the same basic depravity is seen, though the passage may relate more to the present state of Christendom relative to “knowledge” than the passage in Romans.

In the passage in 2 Timothy chapter three, these individuals are seen, “*always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth*” (v. 7). The word “*knowledge*” in this verse is *epignosis* in the Greek text, the same as in [Romans 1:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.28&t=NKJV), [32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.32&t=NKJV). But where all the “*always learning*” efforts had led those whom Paul referenced in [2 Timothy 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+3.7&t=NKJV) is seen to be the same as where individuals in Romans had been led (who, unlike those described in 2 Timothy, *had possessed* a mature knowledge of the truth).

In the next verse, verse eight, they are seen as “*men of corrupt minds, reprobate* [KJV, Gk: *adokimos*, ‘rejected’] concerning *the faith* [again, an expression peculiarly related to *the Word of the Kingdom*].”

The third and last time God gave the unbelieving, disobedient Christians in Romans over to the error of their ways, *homosexuality is brought to the forefront, being practiced by them* ([Romans 1:26-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+1.26-28&t=NKJV) [26b]).

And that is *EXACTLY where Christendom finds itself today, though, again, the type of unbelief* behind the gross sins of the flesh is different, but still *unbelief* nonetheless (an *unbelief* not connected with *epignosis*, relating to “*the faith*”), *with the same end result*.

In this parallel respect to Romans, *homosexual activity in the world today is rampant; and numerous churches are falling in line with what is viewed as discriminatory practices if they don’t follow suit, along with the appearance of an increasing number of homosexual church groups*.

(As well, this chapter is being written during a time [June, 2014, revised June, 2019] in which there is a month-long recognition on a national level accorded homosexuals, along with other sexual deviants. And efforts have been made and are continuing to be made — some through legislative means — to force the entire matter upon the general populace at large.

But not to worry, though the nation, along with many of the churches, have signed their own death warrants by and through this type of activity, the One who can straighten it all out is at the door.

So, bide your time; He will be here shortly.)

*5) A Few Thoughts by Way of Closing*

There is far more to the homosexual activity, along with the same-sex marriages and other forms of sexual deviation, than would appear on the surface. All of this coming to the forefront on a national scale — both religious and political — can only have to do with the times in which we live, times immediately preceding Christ’s return, with all attendant events ([Luke 17:26-30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+17.26-30&t=NKJV)).

*ALL of this can ONLY be* *a Satanic-led attack on that which is designed and established by God. It can ONLY be an attack, for a purpose, on the God-designed marriage relationship between a man and a woman* ([Ephesians 5:22-33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+5.22-33&t=NKJV); [1 Peter 3:1-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+3.1-7&t=NKJV)).

*And Satan’s purpose has to do with what can ONLY be his goal in this realm — an attack upon things pertaining to God’s future relationship to Israel, as His wife, and His Son’s future relationship to His bride* (relationships that *MUST* be realized before the Son can reign).

All of it is just another of the many stops Satan has pulled out in these last days in a vain effort to thwart God’s plans and purposes for *Israel* on the one hand and *the Church* on the other, seeking to prevent the inevitable (the end of the matter, as revealed in the Word).

In this respect, note *the departure* “*from the faith*” and Christians *giving heed to* “*deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons*” in [1 Timothy 4:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+4.1&t=NKJV), with *the heart of the matter, the central doctrine of demons referenced in the text, seen in verse three*:

*forbidding to marry* [‘Hindering,’ ‘standing in the way of,’ ‘seeking to prevent marriage’], *and commanding to abstain from foods which God created . . .* . ([1 Timothy 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Timothy+4.3&t=NKJV))

Note that “doctrine” is being dealt with (v. 1), something beyond just present-day marriage between two individuals per se; and “solid food,” as opposed to milk, would take the matter in this respect into “*the depths* [*lit*., ‘deep things’] *of Satan*” ([Revelation 2:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.24&t=NKJV)), as opposed to “*the deep things of God*” ([1 Corinthians 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.10&t=NKJV)).

The picture can clearly be seen by and through that which is occurring on an ever-increasing scale today. And, because of the gravity of the situation, it is of more than passing interest to note that this type of activity is what was seen in Romans, in first-century Christianity, in connection with the third and last reference to *God giving them over* to the place where their unfaithfulness had led them.

And this is exactly where present-day Christendom finds itself today as well — *the third and last reference to the place where unfaithfulness has led so many Christians.*

*And there is NO fourth statement about God giving them over. A third statement ENDED the matter in Romans* (as it did with the Jews in Acts).

*And the matter is EXACTLY the SAME today!*

*So, bide your time, for it is almost over!*

*We are almost there!*