



Theme Thoughts

Time is running out! The human race today is facing a crisis that is literally unimaginable for most people. But indicators in God's Word reveal that the dramatic events happening all around us signal the end time is at hand. In this quarter we will be delving into these events and their meanings in light of prophecy. In the heart of every true believer is the assurance that Jesus Christ will come back to earth and deal with the insurmountable troubles that face this globe, and will establish His dominion here upon earth.

This quarter revolves around the statements made by a group of ancient Hebrew prophets, whose predictions and statements have the stamp of divine authenticity. Much of what they prophesied is yet to come. But we can have confidence in their predictions. All of their prophecies whose time for fulfillment has already come have been literally fulfilled with 100 percent accuracy. The events detailed by John in the Book of Revelation are interwoven with these earlier prophecies.

The first lesson focusses on Christ. By establishing the validity of prophetic statements concerning Him, we provide a basis for the remaining lessons in the quarter and for our faith that soon the end-time prophecies will be fulfilled.

The second lesson moves on to explore prophecies concerning the nation of Israel which have already been fulfilled. The third lesson, Signs of the Times, establishes where we now stand on the time-line of history. Succeeding lessons move on into events prophesied which are yet to come.

The purpose of this quarter is to help us understand the events we are facing in this world and to recognize the urgency of being ready for the most exciting and glorious event of all—the Rapture of the Church.

Christ the Cornerstone

TEXT:

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Isaiah 28:16-18	I Peter 2:6,7
Psalms 118:22	Acts 4:8-12
Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18
Isaiah 53:3	John 1:11
Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38
Isaiah 9:7	Matthew 1:1
Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34
Psalms 34:20	John 19:33
Psalms 16:10	Matthew 28:9

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Matthew 21:42; Ephesians 2:19-22

KEY VERSE: Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. — I Peter 2:6

What is going to happen next? Today as never before people are striving to find out what the future holds. If one makes the claim that he understands prophecy, people will flock to hear him. Many are turning to fortune-tellers, astrologers, and the occult to find answers. In our lessons for this quarter, we are going to study what God inspired some of the old-time prophets to write concerning the days in which we now live. Since they also foretold Christ's birth, death, and resurrection with 100 percent accuracy, we can believe that their predictions of the present time and of coming events will certainly happen.

1. The dictionary definition of the word prophet is, "one who declares what will happen in the future, one inspired by God to teach His will to men and to announce future events." How is it that seers, specialists in the occult, etc., of our day, appear to be correct in some cases?

2. What are the qualifications of a true prophet? How can we determine if the words of a prophet in our day are true or false?

3. In Matthew 21:42, Jesus refers to Psalm 118:22. Why do you think He made this reference?

4. Read Acts 4:11, Ephesians 2:20, and our key verse. What do these Scriptures have in common?

5. Genesis 3:15 is the first prophetic reference to Jesus in the Bible. How do you think the salvation of a sinner “bruises” the head of Satan?

6. Which Scripture in our text foretells the virgin birth? How does the fulfilling Scripture in the New Testament confirm it?

7. Isaiah 9:7 tells of Jesus upon the throne of David. Matthew 1:1 confirms that He was of the lineage of David. How long will Jesus actually sit on the throne of David? See Luke 1:31-33.

8. In Psalm 34:20 there appears an isolated prophecy concerning the crucifixion of Jesus. How does John 19:32,33 confirm this?

9. Read Isaiah 53:3, then define the words despised and rejected. Using John 1:11, with these definitions in mind, write your own description of how the Jews received Christ.

10. In the study of this lesson we have seen how the prophecies about Christ have been fulfilled with complete accuracy. What does this reveal to you concerning the prophecies of the future?

Historical Israel

TEXT: Genesis 22:15-18 — Promise to Abraham

Deuteronomy 28:64-66; Ezekiel 37:21,22 — Dispersion and restoration of people

Leviticus 26:27,31-33; Ezekiel 36:8-11,29-35 — Desolation and restoration of land

Leviticus 26:42-46 — National identity

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Genesis 13:16; Nehemiah 1:8; Jeremiah 16:10-13; Hebrews 6:13,14

KEY VERSE: For thus saith the Lord; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them. — Jeremiah 32:42

The nation of Israel began with a promise to Abraham. Its name was taken from that of Abraham's grandson, Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. In later years the twelve tribes were dispersed in fulfillment of earlier prophecies. When they were restored to their land and became a nation in 1948, they named their country Israel.

1. In reference to our text, what were the promises God made to Abraham?

2. How were all the nations of the earth blessed through the seed of Abraham? See Matthew 1:1,21.

3. Ten tribes of Israel went into captivity to the king of Assyria and were dispersed according to the prophecy in Deuteronomy 28. Why and how did this occur? See Deuteronomy 28:58 and II Kings 17:6-8.

4. Jeremiah 25:1,11 tell us that the kingdom of Judah (which included the tribe of Benjamin) would go into captivity for seventy years. The name of the king who would order their return to Jerusalem was prophesied some two hundred years earlier in Isaiah 44:28. Read II Chronicles 36:22,23, and tell how these verses show a fulfillment of both of these prophecies.

5. The destruction of the Temple, as foretold by Jesus, occurred when the Roman general, Titus, captured the city in A.D. 70. However, Jews continued to live in the land of Israel until A.D. 135. The Roman emperor, Hadrian, decided to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, make it a Roman colony, and build a temple to Jupiter on the former site of the Jewish Temple. The Jews revolted and were defeated and scattered over all the world, not having a nation of their own until 1948. What prophecy does this fulfill?

6. For over 1800 years the Jews were without a homeland. Why, in spite of all their persecution, were they not completely destroyed?

7. God told the Children of Israel that their land would be desolate if they disobeyed. Other than by the dispersion, how did God accomplish this? See Deuteronomy 28:23,24.

8. What other events in today's history verify that Ezekiel's prophecy is coming to pass? Bring some documentation to class from current encyclopedias, newspapers, magazines, etc.

Signs of the Times

TEXT: Matthew 16:1-3; 24:3-28,32-34; II Timothy 3:1-5

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Luke 12:40; 17:22-30

KEY VERSE: But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end.

— Daniel 12:4

Jesus endeavored to have those about Him “discern the signs of the times.” He explained to them that by looking at the changes in the sky they could forecast what the next day’s weather might be. We have the promise of the Lord’s return, but we cannot name the exact date this event may occur. Its nearness may be known by the happenings (signs) of our time.

1. In Matthew 16:1-3, the people asked for a sign from Heaven, tempting Christ. However, He directed their attention to the signs of the times. What signs of the times mentioned in our text should we be watching for today?

2. In Matthew 24:3, Jesus’ disciples asked Him three questions. In answering them He said, “Take heed that no man deceive you.” Look up the following Scriptures and write down ways one might be deceived:

Matthew 24:5

Luke 21:34

Romans 16:18

Ephesians 4:14

II Thessalonians 2:10,11

Titus 1:10

II John 7

3. In Matthew 24:6,7, wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes are mentioned as signs of Jesus' coming. Have any of these things happened before? What then is different about their happening in our day?

4. Verse 11 brings out the fact that in the last days false prophets shall arise and many shall be deceived by them. How is this happening today?

5. Verse 12 implies that there is a danger even for those who love God. What is that danger? What are some ways Christians can strengthen their defenses against Satan in order to guard against this danger?

6. Read verse 14, then write your reasons why you feel this is a positive indicator of the return of Christ.

7. Jesus often spoke in parables. In verses 32 and 33 of our text, He speaks of the blossoming of the fig tree and concludes with the statement, "It is near, even at the doors." What did He mean by this statement? Refer to Matthew 24:3.

8. In the text in II Timothy, we read that the last days will be marked by perilous or dangerous times. How do the signs given in this text differ from the ones given in Matthew?

Be Ready

TEXT: Matthew 24:36-44; Hebrews 9:28

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Matthew 25:1-13; Mark 13:35; Luke 12:40; Revelation 3:3

KEY VERSE: Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. — Revelation 16:15

Just a knowledge that we are living in the last days does not make us ready for Jesus' coming. We are commanded to watch for His coming, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 25:13). True watching is an attitude of mind and heart, which would joyfully and quickly turn from any occupation or activity to meet the Lord. In this lesson we will consider how we can be ready. It is vital to prove by our daily living that we both know and are prepared for the most exciting event of all ages—the Rapture of the Church.

1. At Jesus' coming, the Bride of Christ will be raptured to meet Him in the air. Look up the following Scriptures and determine what qualities the Bride will have.

Psalm 15:1-3

Psalm 24:3,4

Matthew 5:8

Ephesians 5:27

Titus 2:11-13

Revelation 19:7,8

2. A number of sins are listed in Galatians 5:19-21, including adultery, fornication, witchcraft, and drunkenness. The sins listed are commonly accepted by many in the world today, even in some so-called religious circles. What does the Bible say about those who do such things? How do the above sins compare with those of Noah's time?

3. Use Hebrews 9:28 and I John 3:2 to fill in the blanks in the following statements: The purpose of Christ's first coming was to bear the _____ with His death on Calvary. To those who look for Him, He shall appear the second time without _____ unto _____. We know that, when He shall appear, _____; for our bodies shall be changed to be like Christ's glorified body. These promises apply to those who can say, "Now are we the _____."

4. Read the parable of the ten virgins given in Matthew 25:1-13. Why were some of the virgins left behind? What will it take to be a "wise virgin"? Use I John 1:6,7 as a supplementary Scripture in formulating your response.

5. Prior to the beginning of Jesus' ministry at His first coming, John the Baptist preached, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." The message of the Gospel to mankind today anticipates Jesus' second coming. Compare the responses of men in those days, with the responses of men today.

6. Compare Matthew 24:42-44 and I Thessalonians 5:6. What point do these verses make?

7. In spite of Noah's warnings for about 120 years, life continued as before, with man's attention diverted to things other than the coming Flood. List some things that you think capture the attention of people today, preventing them from being ready for Jesus' return.

8. What will be the consequences of our not being ready? See Revelation 21:8.

The Rapture

TEXT: I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-10

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: John 14:1-3; Revelation 22:20

KEY VERSE: For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. — I Thessalonians 4:16,17

According to Scripture, the Second Coming of Christ encompasses two separate events: the Rapture of the saints, experienced only by those who are overcomers; and the Revelation of Christ, when Jesus comes with His saints from Heaven to set up His Kingdom. During the intervening time, the raptured saints will meet at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, while the Great Tribulation is taking place here on earth. In this lesson we will be studying the Rapture of the Church.

1. The dictionary gives several definitions for the word rapture. Which definition best fits the event described in our key verse?

2. At the time of the Rapture, who will rise first? What happens next?

3. What is the difference between the words resurrect and translate? Paraphrase our key verse using these two words.

4. We read in Revelation 1:7 that every eye shall see Him. This is speaking of the Revelation of Christ, not the Rapture. Why are we sure that only the saints will see Christ at the Rapture?

5. What is the warning implied in our text in I Thessalonians 5, as well as in Matthew 24:27 and I Corinthians 15:52?

6. The Bible teaches that there will be a great separation when Jesus comes for those who are ready. After reading Luke 17:34-36 and Matthew 25:10-12, describe the two groups mentioned in these accounts.

7. What change will take place in our physical bodies at the Rapture (Philippians 3:20,21)? Using the following Scriptures, describe the characteristics of Jesus' glorified body:

Matthew 28:9

Luke 24:31

Luke 24:41-43

John 20:19

Acts 1:9

8. In reading the following Scriptures, what conclusions can we draw as to the timing of the Rapture in regard to the Tribulation and the revealing of the Antichrist? See Isaiah 26:20,21; Matthew 24:37; Luke 21:36; II Thessalonians 2:3-8.

9. What promises do these Scriptures contain for those who look for His coming?

Matthew 24:45-47

John 14:3

Hebrews 9:28

The Marriage Supper

TEXT: Revelation 19:7-9; Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 12:35-38

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: John 14:3; I Corinthians 3:14; Colossians 3:4

KEY VERSE: Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. — Revelation 19:7

We live in the dispensation of the Holy Ghost. God has sent His Spirit into the world to seek a Bride for His Son. When the Bride has made herself ready, and when the time on God's clock has reached the hour that He has appointed, the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, will appear in the azure above to catch away His Bride. Then the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will take place while the Great Tribulation is running its course here on the earth. No wonder that the text tells us, "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb."

1. Matthew 9:14,15 and John 3:28,29 help us understand that Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, is the Bridegroom at the Marriage Supper. Draw a parallel between an earthly bridegroom and Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom of those who have made themselves ready.

2. The Bride of Christ is made up of overcoming saints who have "washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." What is the significance of the white wedding apparel of the Lamb's wife as indicated in the following Scriptures?

II Corinthians 11:2

Ephesians 5:27

II Peter 3:14

Revelation 3:4,5

Revelation 19:8

3. In our Matthew text, we read a parable about a king who made a marriage for his son. Describe what happened to the guest who came without a wedding garment, and make a spiritual application.

4. Luke 12:35-37 tells us that at the Supper, the Lord himself will serve those servants whose lights are burning. Describe the feelings one might have realizing they are being served by Jesus, and compare them to the feelings Peter might have had when Jesus washed his feet. See John 13:6-9.

5. After the Lord's coming at the Rapture, He will reward His servants for faithful service. What are some of the rewards promised to the overcomer? See Revelation 2:7,11,17,26-28; 3:5,12,21.

6. Two of Jesus' parables in Matthew liken the Kingdom of Heaven to a marriage — Matthew 22:1-4 and 25:1-13. The requirements for being in the wedding party are very specific. If we fail to meet these requirements we will be left behind. Name some of these as shown in the following Scriptures:

Matthew 22:3

Matthew 22:5 and Luke 14:18-20

Matthew 22:11-13

Matthew 22:14

Matthew 25:6,13

Matthew 25:7,8

7. The Apostle was instructed to write, "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." In Revelation 17:14, those who are with the Lamb are "called, and chosen, and faithful." In your own words, identify the called, the chosen, and the faithful.

The Antichrist

TEXT: Revelation 13:1-18; 14:9-11

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: II Thessalonians 2:1-12

KEY VERSE: Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come.— I John 4:3

The name Antichrist introduces to us one who is absolutely opposed to Jesus Christ. The spirit of antichrist is already in the world, working in the children of disobedience. As Jesus Christ is the express image of God, so it appears that the Antichrist is the culminating manifestation of Satan. Also known as the Beast, his coming is through Satan who gives him power to work signs and lying wonders. His reign during the Tribulation will be ushered in by flatteries, prosperity, and a call for peace, but he will cause all, both small and great, whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life, to take a mark which seals their doom.

1. What is another name given for the Antichrist? Using II John 7 as a reference, explain the purpose of the Antichrist.

2. Since the spirit of antichrist is in the world today, how can we avoid being deceived? The answer can be found in II Thessalonians 2:10-12.

3. Using Matthew 24:24, tell how the spirit of antichrist will work, and the schemes that will be used.

4. As the Antichrist gains control of the world during the Tribulation period, those who follow him will wear an identifying mark. What are the consequences of having the mark?

5. Anyone who does not take the mark will not be allowed to buy or sell. The Antichrist will have complete control of all the world's economy: commercial, political, and religious. Name some specific aspects of your own life which would be affected by such control.

6. What role does the false prophet perform during the Tribulation period? See Revelation 19:20.

7. What will be the end of the Beast (Antichrist), the false prophet, and the devil? See Revelation 20:10.

8. What can we do each day to be accounted worthy to escape all these things and to be ready to stand faultless before the Son of Man? See Luke 21:36.

The Tribulation Plagues

TEXT: Revelation 15:1; 16:1-21

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Luke 23:28-30; Revelation 6:15-17; 8:1-13

KEY VERSE: Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. — Matthew 24:22

During the period known as the Great Tribulation, there will be misery, suffering, trouble, and sorrow such as this world has never known. It will be a time of God's wrath upon the earth because of mankind's rejection of God's love and mercy. Human language could never paint the horrible picture that will unfold here on earth during this time. We try to imagine as best we can, using the insights that the Word of God gives us, yet it is certain that our minds grasp only a small portion of the horror that will be the experience of those who live on the earth during this fearful period.

1. After the saints are raptured, the term "tribulation" is never mentioned again in Holy Scripture. Instead, the term "wrath of God" is mentioned thirteen times from Revelation 6:16 to 19:15, during which time "they repented not," is mentioned three times. Using Romans 1:18 as a reference, tell why this time of trouble comes upon the earth.

2. What is the time frame of the plagues listed in our text, as compared to the other happenings in the Book of Revelation?

3. The plagues spoken of in Revelation 16 are literal and are not meant to be spiritualized or symbolized.

List the seven plagues mentioned.

4. Compare the reaction of Pharaoh to the plagues in Egypt (Exodus 7:13), to the reaction of the people on the earth at the time of the seven plagues.

5. Describe what takes place when the sixth vial is poured out.

6. Give the meaning of Jesus' words, "It is finished" (John 19:30), and the words of the great Voice out of the Temple of Heaven, "It is done."

The Revelation of Christ and Armageddon

TEXT: Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 19:11-21

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Zechariah 14:3-5; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Jude 14,15; Revelation 14:20

KEY VERSE: Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. — Revelation 1:7

Something big is about to happen. Jesus Christ is coming for His Church. Once He has come and taken them to be with Him at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the full fury of the Great Tribulation will break upon our world with the Antichrist as the world ruler. Then the climax of the Tribulation will take place when Christ returns with His saints at the time of the Battle of Armageddon.

1. Jesus' ascension into Heaven is recorded in Acts 1:9-11. In Zechariah 14:4,5 and Revelation 1:7 we read of the coming of Jesus Christ as King. Note here some similarities between Christ's ascension and His return to govern the world.

2. After reading the text in Matthew 24:29-31 and Revelation 6:15-17, describe how the sinners will react to the Revelation of Christ.

3. Using Revelation 1:13-16 and 19:11-16, describe the manner and appearance of Jesus Christ as He leads His heavenly army to meet Satan's earthly army in the Battle of Armageddon. Complete the following statements:

He is riding

His eyes are like

On His head are

His clothing was

His name is called

Out of His mouth goes

On His clothing was written

His feet were

His countenance was like

4. What does Revelation 19:19 predict?

5. Where is this great battle to be fought? See Revelation 16:14,16.

6. What characterized the armies which followed Christ from Heaven? See Revelation 19:8,14.

7. During the battle, what happened to the Beast and the false prophet?

8. What happened to the army of the Antichrist?

9. Who came with Christ when He came back from Heaven?

10. How can we qualify to be a part of Christ's army when He comes back to earth to destroy the Antichrist and rule for a thousand years? See Revelation 3:5.

The Millennial Reign

TEXT: Revelation 20:1-10; Isaiah 35:1-10

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:1-10

KEY VERSE: They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. — Isaiah 11:9

Have you ever considered what life would be like if . . .

- every mother really wanted and truly loved her children?
- every father loved his wife as himself and enjoyed his role as the moral leader and character example for his family?
- every child loved, revered, and obeyed his parents?
- every businessman was satisfied with a fair profit?
- you could walk the streets of any of our large cities at night in safety?
- you could always leave the keys in your car, and your house unlocked?
- every judge was incorruptible and supernaturally wise?
- death was a rarity instead of an overwhelming, daily occurrence?
- the leader of every country was a direct appointee of Jesus Christ?

Would you be surprised to learn that the Bible declares that there will soon be 1000 years during which the world will be in such a condition?

1. What three events must immediately precede Christ's rule on earth? See Revelation 19:14,20,21; 20:1-3.

2. According to Philippians 3:20,21, the returning saints will have a glorious spiritual body like Christ's after He had risen from the dead. What are some attributes of Christ's glorified body? See John 20:19-29.

3. What city will be the capital of the whole earth during the Millennium (Micah 4:2)? What is the one requirement of all people living on the earth during this time? See Zechariah 14:16-19.

4. How will the people who remain on earth be governed during the Millennium? See Revelation 11:15; I Corinthians 6:2.

5. During this time, what will happen to the deserts of the earth and what will happen to vegetation? See Isaiah 35:6,7; 41:18; 55:12,13.

6. How will animal life be changed? See Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:25; Ezekiel 34:25.

7. How will length of life and health for the people with natural bodies be affected? See Isaiah 65:20.

8. From any newspaper, clip a news item concerning something which could not happen during the Millennium. Bring the clipping to class.

9. What events bring the Millennial Reign to a close?

The Great White Throne Judgment

TEXT: I Timothy 5:24,25; Revelation 20:11-15

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Daniel 12:2; Acts 10:42; 17:31; II Peter 2:9

KEY VERSE: Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. — I Timothy 5:24

At the time of the Great White Throne Judgment, God will assemble before Him all the unsaved, "small and great," regardless of what their status on earth might have been. The wicked dead are raised; death holding the body and Hades the soul, surrender their prisoners. In the agony and shame of their sins, they stand before a Throne which is described as "great" and "white." Each sinner is face to face with God alone, and is doomed because he did not accept God's salvation. The doom of the unsaved is a "lake of fire," the place of isolation from God for all evil and sinners.

1. When does the Great White Throne Judgment take place? What happens to the devil just prior to this time? See Revelation 20:5-10.

2. The overcoming saints will not be judged at the White Throne Judgment. Why?

3. What three words in verse 12 of our text show us that even a person who considers himself to be insignificant will be at the Great White Throne Judgment?

4. How do we know that the sinner who has had his body cremated will still be at the Great White Throne Judgment?

5. What is the importance of the record kept in the Book of Life? Why do you think this book will be opened at the Great White Throne Judgment?

6. To get our names recorded in the Book of Life we must experience God's forgiveness for our sins. How can we receive this forgiveness? See I John 1:9.

7. How is it possible to have your name removed from the Book of Life? See Exodus 32:33.

8. What is recorded in the "books" mentioned in our text?

9. What is the second death? See Revelation 21:8.

Worthy Is the Lamb

TEXT: Revelation 5:1-14; John 1:29

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: John 1:36; Revelation 7:13,14

KEY VERSE: Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. — Revelation 4:11

The seven-sealed book spoken of in Revelation 5 is generally thought of as a scroll or a series of scrolls, each portion being sealed with an individual seal. It is thought by many that this book has to do with the price and purchase of redemption. God's plan for the salvation of mankind from sin had to be fulfilled before the seals could be broken. As we begin our text we find this question, "Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?"

1. In reference to the seven-sealed book in Heaven, John wept when the strong angel proclaimed that "no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon." He then was comforted by an elder who assured him that there was One who was worthy, One who prevailed. Who was worthy? What is significant about the name which the elder used as a title for Him?

2. In Revelation 5:6, John speaks of seeing a "Lamb as it had been slain." Who is the "Lamb," and what is the significance of the Lamb to the Christian?

3. Why was only the Lamb worthy to open this Book and the seals?

4. After we are redeemed, it is important to offer our thanksgiving and praise through prayer. Verse 8 tells us that these prayers are not wasted. Explain, using our text and Revelation 8:3,4.

5. In Revelation 4 and again in this lesson, the description is given of twenty-four elders and four beasts (or living creatures). What is their position in Heaven (Revelation 4:4,6), and how did they arrive at this exalted state?

6. What was the theme of the “new song” sung by the four beasts and the elders?

7. In our key verse, we read that mankind was created for God’s pleasure. How can mankind live to please God (Hebrews 12:14)? Find at least two additional Scripture references which give other ways to please God.

8. Verses 11-14 speak about the universal worship of the Lamb in Heaven. What are some ways we worship the Lord while we are still on earth?

The New Heaven and New Earth

TEXT: Revelation 21:1-27; 22:1-5

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: II Peter 3:13,14

KEY VERSE: For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. — Isaiah 65:17

Imagine walking through one of twelve enormous gates—each made of a single pearl—and being surrounded by massive walls of crystal-clear jasper. People may stroll along streets of pure gold, to a beautiful, pure river that is also crystal clear. On either side of the river is the tree of life bearing twelve kinds of fruit. Everyone is so happy! There is no sorrow or crying or pain. This City was prepared for you by God himself. It is more than just an imaginary scene. It was revealed by God to John the Revelator, and it will someday become a reality to us if we prepare for it here on earth.

1. What great event precedes the coming of the new heaven and the new earth? See Revelation 20:11.

2. Write a brief description of the new Jerusalem that John saw.

3. Explain what the absence of sorrow, pain, crying, and death will mean to you.

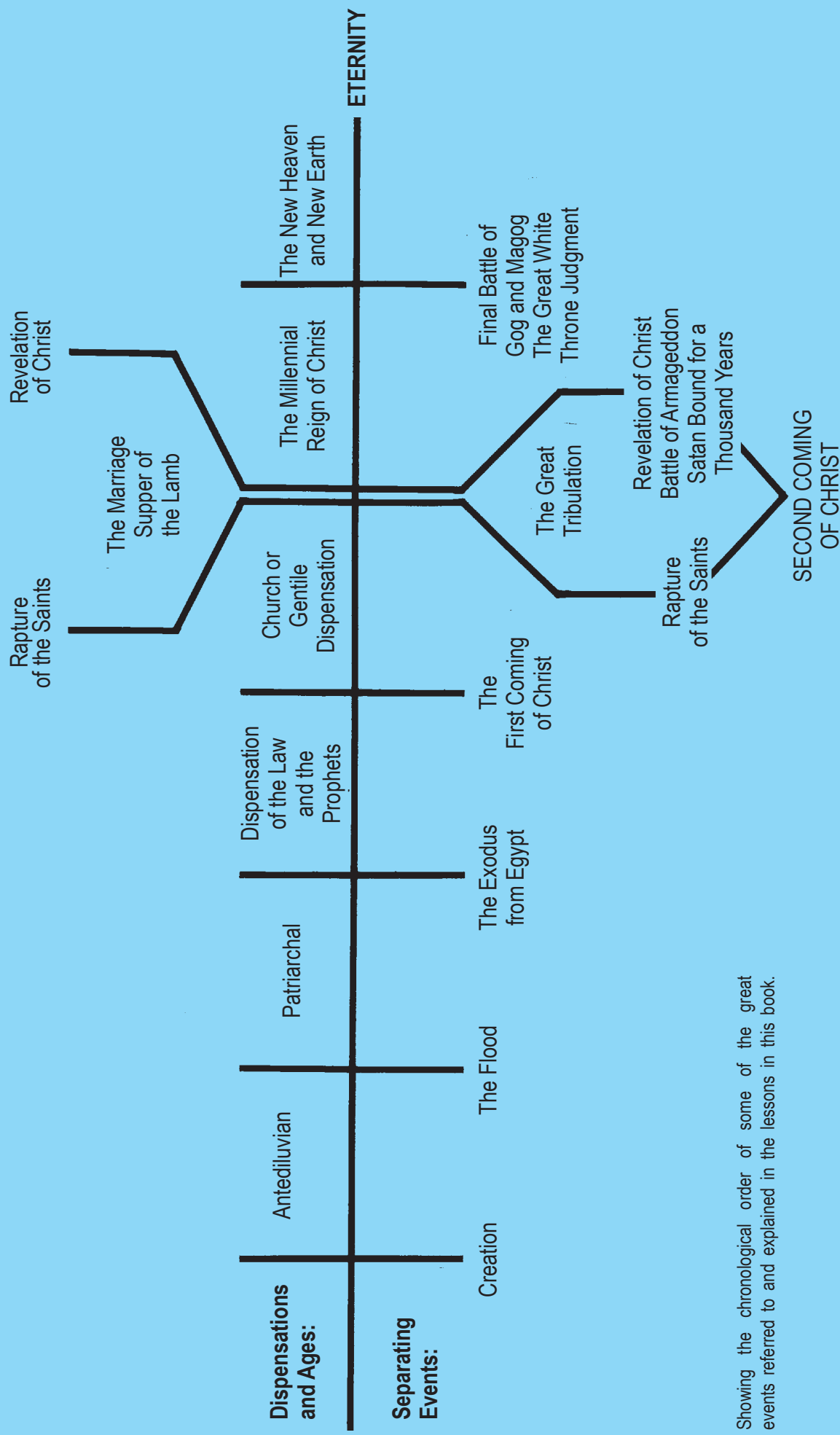
4. Revelation 21:7 tells us that "He that overcometh shall inherit all things." What constitutes an overcomer? See I John 5:4,5; Revelation 2:26; 12:11.

5. Who will be excluded from the new Jerusalem?

6. Who is the Light in this City? How does that relate to us today? See John 8:12; Matthew 5:14-16.

7. II Peter 3:13 lets us know that there will be only goodness in the new heavens and new earth. Not everyone will be able to enter. How can you be sure you will have a part in that wonderful place?

The Order of Dispensations and the Separating Events



Showing the chronological order of some of the great events referred to and explained in the lessons in this book.