

# *The End of the Matter*

*Richard C Baker*

## AUTHOR'S NOTE

There is a teaching which holds that Chapter 4 of The Revelation to John predicts the Rapture of the Church and all that follows the chapter is a description of events taking place after the Church is gone.

Would the Lord give us (the Church) a book of which 90% has nothing to do with us. To what use would we put it? On the contrary, I feel the Book of Revelation has been written to show us the many different events that lead up to the climax of Jesus' glorious return.

The actual time of the rapture remains a mystery and the only fact we can be reasonably sure of is; the Church will be taken out of the world, at least seven years before Jesus Christ's return. The purpose of the Book of Revelation, however, is not to show the time of the rapture but rather to reveal the triumphant return of Christ to this tired, sickened earth of ours. As with Beethoven's famous symphony, we are led many times to the climax only to be at the beginning again with a new approach.

I humbly trust that this small discourse on the Revelation of Jesus Christ will serve to clarify and make more understandable that book of diving mystery.

RICHARD C. BAKER.

## IMPORTANT WORDS

Before starting this study of the Book of Revelation, it is important to know and have clear in one's mind, the following facts.

Revelation was not written to foretell coming events but to recognize them as and when they occur, and thereby be comforted in God's foreknowledge and control.

It is said that history repeats itself, who would know it better than God? Certainly throughout history, Bible Prophecy has had more than just on meaning and it is unreasonable to suppose that the Book of Revelation would apply only to the end days, when most of the church age has passed.

Revelation was written as a comfort for all Christians of all ages and has had an application for all Christians of all ages and has had an application for each generation, that only that generation understands.

Therefore, it is not my intention here to gainsay or even to pass comment on anybody's interpretation, but rather to say this: From this book are we to receive God's message for ourselves in OUR Generation and, having received the message, cast aside all books and ideas of the previous generation and let the Holy Ghost speak to us of the present.

Let not thoughts or interpretations of past generations affect what God has to say to us NOW. Revelation is God's voice for the NOW, let it speak. God told Daniel to "seal much of the prophecy's meaning until the last days . . . when many will run to and fro" God tells us in these days that "the wise will understand".

There is a voice from Revelation for our time and I humbly pass on to you, what I feel God has brought home to my heart as the Political Message of Revelation for our Generation. As Elijah outran the King and his chariot to the city, so God gets us there ahead of the politicians of the world. We should and could know more than the politicians if we read this book of Revelation but since it is not within the scope of this book to do so, there are a few comments which should be made.

Chapter 1, verse 1, tells us that the Book is a "Revelation of Jesus Christ". This book has not been written to glorify the Antichrist or anyone else but to show Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

God wants us to read this book and in chapter 1 verse 3 promises "a blessing to those who read it". I personally have been constantly surprised and gratified to see new converts drawn to this book.

The theme of the book is reflected in verse 7; "He comes with clouds" . . . In this case "He" refers to Jesus Christ himself.

So - let me stress one last point before commencing the study proper: *Jesus Christ is coming*. If nothing else is remembered of this study, do not forget, He is coming back to this earth, literally, publicly and personally.

This book is a compilation of a series of seven sermons preached on the Book of Revelation. To preserve the original fervour and delivery of these sermons, certain scriptures have been paraphrased or used as lib while they in no way detract from their original content.

## Acknowledgements

The author humbly thanks those who have given their time and talents to the preparation of this book.

Among them are those who must receive special acknowledgement.

They are:

Len Lindeque            Cover Design

Mike Mulder            Editing and Proof reading manuscript

Annette Denny and  
Joelene Steyn            Typing

Dennis Kightley        Timescale pictogram

Die Vaderland           Photographs

Christian Global ministries wishes to thank:

Richard Baker for kindly allowing us to reprint "The end of the Matter"

Michelle Denning for re-typing the manuscript for computerization

Steve Onions for placing it on our website

## **PART ONE**

**God is on the throne thorough-out all History.**

### **Revelation Chapter 4**

This statement is the theme of chapter 4. Subsequent chapters give us a picture of devastating war, embattled Kingdoms overthrowing and overthrown, mighty armies on the move while cities burn to ashes, but the message given by chapter 4 is this: Things are never out of control, God is on the throne ". . . a throne was set in Heaven and one sat on the throne". (verse 2)

God has the reins and History remains HIS STORY until the last sentence is written. It is neither the Kremlin, or Washington but GOD who writes History. It is God who will decide when to place the last full-stop. Before the frightening scenes portrayed in later chapters, God shows us the power of the Heaven which rules over all.

As a child I would watch a traffic officer on point duty directing rush hour traffic. In a typical child fantasy I could imagine myself as the traffic officer. I would give all the streams of traffic the right of way simultaneously, then rush to the pavement as the cars collided and caused the biggest accident imaginable.

Is this not perhaps what people feel God has done? That somehow things have got out of control and God in fright has thrown away the reins and sits upon some far distant star waiting for the big bang. On the contrary, chapter 4 says there is a throne in Heaven and God sits upon it. (We mean it when we sing "God is still on the throne".)

If ever History was HIS STORY, it is the story of today. Things are running swiftly along God's prophetic railroad even though to our ears the earth may be grinding and wobbling to a halt.

**What is going on behind History?**

### **Revelation Chapter 5**

It is in Chapter 5, that we are given the background to story of man's struggle and in fact the background to all of known history. A throne is before us and a "Book" is held in the hand of Him who sits upon the throne. By the description of the sealing of this "Book we recognize it as coming from the Old Testament laws and customs regarding title deeds.

The "Book" is the title deed of this earth.

In Jewish Old Testament law, we are told that family land could never be sold. It belonged to God. If a man fell into debt, his land could be confiscated but not sold.

As a slave he would work on his own land until the period of confiscation is over. Sometimes for 50 years and others for only 7. During this period, the title deed was held by his creditor who would write the debt on the outside of the title deed, then close and seal it. We know from God's laws that the nearest relative was then obliged to be a "Redeemer". The relative would pay the debt, break the seals, take the title deed back to his "brother" and set him free. If the confiscators refused to leave at once, the relative would help in driving them away. This is the story of chapter 5 of Revelation. Man was given the world to rule and govern, but he fell and sold out to Satan. Satan became the God of the world and man toiled, not as the owner but as a slave on his confiscated world.

The cry goes out for a Redeemer, but nobody will step forward to drive off Satan.

Then Jesus Christ steps forward as Man's Redeemer.

Appearing as a lamb fresh from the slaughterhouse, he pays the debt with his blood and suffering, and takes the "title deeds". Rejoicing breaks out in heaven and continues to the end of the chapter.

Some people think that the "elders" who appear amongst this throng, must be connected with the "church". However, they are merely some of the great dignitaries of heaven's pomp and splendour.

This chapter introduces the struggle that follows. Heaven may rejoice at the ultimate victory but it is one thing to take the "title deeds" and quite another to drive off the usurper.

Revelation describes the fight between right and wrong for the control of the world. Satan attempts to frustrate every move of Jesus Christ and at last, faced with certain failure, attempts to destroy both man and the world. Christ, to the end holds the title deeds.

The end is never in doubt although at times things do become exciting to say the least. Having taken the title deeds, Christ turns to free the earth of Satan's hold. More understanding of the reason for this battle is given when we reach chapter 12.

This battle is described by John using the seven seals as chapters to make the story telling easier.

The Seals, Vials and chapters do not follow in sequence, but are like telescopes lying side by side - focused on the same scene. Some telescopes are focused "close up" while others are focused more distantly to see things further back. As far as is possible we must see the order for ourselves.

God's dealing with us throughout this book is much the same as His dealing with Daniel in chapter 7 of Daniel. Here we see Daniel, as Prime Minister to two of the world's greatest powers, Babylon and Persia, wrestling with the frustrations and dangers of World power politics. As God revealed to him the future powers he fainted at the sight of coming tyrannies and wars. Daniel was one of the three holiest men ever to live, (this God tells us) yet he fainted when shown the future.

God revived him by showing him the ultimate end - Christ descending to earth as King of Kings. Daniel recovered and God resumed the story of the future Kingdoms, dictators and wars. And again it happened! Once more Daniel was overcome and fainted. Once more God had to revive him with the picture of Christ descending to earth. God also revealed to him that "the Kingdoms of the whole world would be given to the Saints of the most High". As Daniel recovers, God records these words: "Hitherto is the end of the matter". Daniel took comfort by putting these words . . ."in his heart". In the future when confronted with rumours of armies and wars, Daniel could leave the frustrated cabinet meetings and comfort himself with these words . . ."it does not end with the padding lion, it does not end with the blood-dripping-jaws of the bear, it does not fall to the flying leopard or succumb to the claws of the beast of steel. It ends with . . . "the Kingdoms under the whole of the heavens given to the Saints".

If Daniel was plagued by any further doubts whether spiritual or imaginary, he could well dispel his fears with the words of God himself: "Hitherto is the end of the matter". With this simple statement is Satan, or any other ruler, already defeated.

God gives us these glimpses of glory to prevent us despairing in the face of the coming, continual blood-shed and war.

This pattern of cutting across detail every few chapters to show us Jesus Christ as King should not be limited to the Book of Revelation. If churches do not preach this message every few weeks, the people grow tired. Christians today are certainly no stronger than Daniel was and need the same continual reminding.

A man wrapped himself in his huge coat before going down the street to buy the evening newspaper. Out of the gate, he turned up the street and began walking into the icy wind. At the corner, shivering in his rags, stood a lad waiting for people to brave the snow storm and buy his newspaper. The gentleman put his hand on the lad's head and said with a voice filled with warmth, "Are you not cold son?" Looking up into that kindly face, he replied, "Not since you came sir". There is an icy blast drifting across the planes of our time that chills us behind our closed doors. Its icy fingers touch us when we read our newspapers and the cold fingers long after the newspaper is crumpled into the waste basket. We need to see the coming of the King. We need tomorrow's joy to warm us today.

## **PART TWO**

### **Revelation Chapter 6**

With the thunder of hooves, chapter 6 of Revelation carries us into the midst of events, which take us from the ascension of Jesus Christ, to His subsequent descent to His throne.

What will the characteristics be of this period? John tells us what can be expected to happen in the valley between the Mounts of Ascension and Return.

## Chapter 6 verse 1-8

Since the Bible is its own best commentary, let us examine in Zechariah the meaning of the four horses, referred to in verses 2 to 8. Zechariah chapter 6 verse 1 to 7 tells of four chariots which came out from between the mountains. They are easily recognizable by their colours as the horses mentioned in Revelation 6. The first one being red, the second black, the third white and the fourth grisly or bay. The prophet speaks of these horses as, . . . "the four spirits". It is apparent, to be prophet at least, that the horses are of a ghostly nature.

### Zechariah Chapter 6 verse 6 4 Horses

This is an important observation that must be remembered for we will return later to this point.

Chapter 6 verse 6 of Zechariah reads: "The black horses go forth into the north country and the white horses go forth after them". The north country means north of Palestine - Europe, Russia, China, etc. Let us follow them and see what they do in the north countries. Verse 8 - "Behold these that go toward the north country have quieted my spirit in the north country". That is, they subdued the spirit. To find out what this means, let us study the black horse. This horse is the symbol of famine, John makes this clear to us and across the northern country great famines have swept throughout history. Famines in Russia, famine and unemployment in Germany and famine in China. Following upon the heels of the black horse, comes the white horse stamping out the spirit of the Lord. Times of famine and poverty brought governments that oppressed Christianity and, because the worldly church had oppressed the poor and fawned on the rich, it had only itself to blame for its oppression.

Following on unemployment in Germany, came Hitler and Nazi Government. Hunger and starvation brought communist governments to Russia and China. They certainly could not be expected to know the difference between nominal Christianity and true Christianity. The Backslidden Church had herself to blame. So the white horse lifted high its hooves and Christianity was persecuted.

### Famines - Chapter 6 verse 6

When the red horse of war started moving across the world. From the time Jesus left, to the time Jesus comes back, we have had and will have Antichrist governments, these will get worse until the Antichrist himself arrives. Famines worsen as the end draws near. In chapter 6 verse 6 of Revelation we see how every grain of wheat is weighed white selling a ration for a penny. In that day a man's pay is a penny a day. Famines grow worse with the world becoming so hungry that it is all a working man can do to stay alive. Are these times not on the horizon? Do we not hear about overpopulation and lack of food already? As for the red horse - the horse of WAR, has not the whole church age been one of wars. Wars are to multiply until there is no peace in the world. Jesus himself said the church age was to be one of wars and rumours of wars. The horse galloped on until the last horse, whose

colour is that of decaying flesh stands across the barren waste of our world and our time - a fourth part of the world lies dead.

Death in the form of Atomic War, transforms cities into tombs and the world into a graveyard.

### **The Martyrs verse 9-11**

"I saw under the altar the souls of those that were slain for the Word of God".

From the time Jesus left this earth, to the time He returns, Christians have suffered. This is no future persecution but something which has been happening all through the church age, indeed, when has the Christian altar ever been free of the blood of the saints? The cry to the Lord to stop the slaughter of Christians has been rising in heaven since the first martyr arrived there. Actually today more Christians are dying for their faith, than ever before. However, even here, there is a wonderful promise that Christians, who have died, are in Christ's presence and conscious of who are entering Heaven. They know the persecution is still continuing on earth by the constant arrival of new martyrs in heaven.

### **The Atomic War - verses 12-17**

The earth shivers under "an earthquake", and the sun became as sackcloth of hair and the moon becomes as blood. The sun cannot shine through the tick dust and smoke-laden atmosphere and the moon appears as an orb of blood.

"Stars fell from heaven to earth as a fig tree casteth her figs when shaken with a mighty wind". This is all-out war that John sees; the strafing and bombing, planes falling from the sky burning, anti-aircraft shells exploding; but the bombing becomes worse, for we see in verse 14 that eventually, . . . "the heaven would depart as a scroll when rolled together and every mountain and every island would be moved out of their places". Mountains and islands would be moved out of their places". Mountains and islands will disappear and people will flee underground.

. . . "Kings of the earth, great men, rich men and free men hid themselves in the dens and caves of the mountains". Already there are air-raid shelters in Scandinavia, that make it possible for whole cities to disappear beneath the earth at a moments notice. The war becomes so devastation just before Christ's coming that man burrows into the ground like a mole and calls to the rocks and mountains; . . . "fall on us and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, for the great day of His wrath is come".

Chapter 6 has taken us right up to the return of Jesus and we see His coming at the climax of Atomic War!

It is not the aim of the Bible to paint a morbid picture but rather to show us a glorious end with Christ as King. In chapter 5 we saw that man had lost the title deeds while in chapter 6 we have been horrified by the coming of atomic war. Little

wonder that John echoes the prophet: . . . "Lord, it happens like this, who is going to be left alive?"

Will nobody be saved?

## PART THREE

### The Refuge for Israel Chapter 7 verses 1-8

Chapter 7 shows us how God is to provide protection for both the Jew and the Church for, as chapter 6 has us looking for a hiding place, so chapter 7 reveals the "hideaway" which is to be used by Jew and church alike.

First, we deal with God's protection for Israel. "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth holding the four winds of the earth".

The word winds or spirits should remind us of the four horses which Zechariah called spirits and in Zechariah 6 verse 6 we read of four mighty angels holding the reins of four great winds, that is, four horses. These four angels stand at the four corners of the compass and the horses that are held are red, white, black and grisly in colour. The obvious question is; why are the horses being held back?

"So that the wind should not blow on the earth nor on the sea nor on any tree".

The angels intervene and bring temporary peace to the world. The white horse or antichrist government is held back in check while emissaries of America make trips of friendship to Russia and China. There would appear to be nothing to worry about. What of the red horse of war? What fearful horse is apparently sufficiently under reign as to allow peace to come to Vietnam and the super powers to bring a cease fire in the Middle East. Famine? Never mind that black horse, everybody will be fed somehow. Grisly horse? - Atomic War! Ridiculous! We know better than that. The angles hold the horses and bring a short peace. The reason; . . . "and I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God". This angel cries with a loud voice, "hurt not the earth and the sea". The horses are held at bay; the atomic war is postponed until the Jews have been sealed.

Chapter 8 will show us a picture of devastated earth with one third of it totally destroyed. However, there is, for the while, a "lull" until . . . "we have sealed the servants of God on their foreheads". We are experiencing this lull now, but Atomic War is coming. Peace is temporary and will be at an end when the angels drop the reigns. **(The 144,000)** "Who", may we ask, "are these sealed people?" "And I heard the number of them which were sealed, and there were sealed a hundred-and-forty-four-thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel" . . . "12,000 out of each tribe". This is not a literal number for the Jews are no longer divided into tribes. God is showing us that when revival comes to the Jew, it will be a general revival coming to the whole Jewish nation.

## **Ezekiel Chapter 9**

### **Jewish revival**

Ezekiel chapter 9 also covers this event . . . "He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice saying, cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen with a writer's inkhorn by his side. And the Lord said to him, go through the midst of the city through the midst of Jerusalem and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and cry for all the abomination that be done in the midst thereof".

The only Jews to receive the seal will be those in Jerusalem. There are many Jews to whom the love of material wealth and security is more important than the call to return to their land. The opportunity for salvation comes in that day to the Jew who has obeyed the desire and has returned to Israel. Many fight a battle in their hearts, between the comforts of money and the call of the Lord.

Merely being back in the land, however, is not enough for, as Ezekiel says, the seal is for all those who . . . "sighed and cried for all the abomination". There will be a repenting but only after Israel is brought low in defeat. This is dealt with in another chapter. . . . "And to the others he said in mine hearing. Go ye after him through the city and smite, let not your eyes spare, neither have ye pity, but come not near any man upon whom is the mark. Begin at my Sanctuary". This sanctuary, the Temple, is to be the very centre of World trouble, as will be seen in Chapter 11 of Revelation. After the man with inkhorn had put a mark on the foreheads of those who were repenting, only then did God say . . . "go through and kill". This is as we saw it in Revelation 7. God sent his angle who said to the four angles . . . "hold the horses until I have finished". This seal is a supernatural protection, much like that given to the Jews under Moses when God decimated Egypt with the plagues. Throughout the coming germ warfare and throughout Atomic War, the 144,000 pass unhurt to stand upon the Mount of Olives and welcome Jesus Christ's return with songs of victory. **(Germ Warfare Revelation 4 verse 9.) (Christ's return to Mount of Olives Revelation 14 verses 1-3.)**

## **The refuge for the Church**

### **Chapter 7 verses 9-17**

The last part of the seventh chapter, verse 9 to 17 shows how the church will be protected. "After this I beheld and lo a great multitude which no man could number of all nations and kindreds and people and tongues stood before the throne and before the lamb clothed with white robes and palms in their hands". (While the Jew is protected on earth by the seal, the church is in heaven) . . . "One of the elders answered saying unto me, what are these which are arrayed in white robes and

whence came they? . . . he said to me these are they which came out of great tribulation".

### **Christians martyred throughout church age Revelation Chapter 6 verse 9**

What is the "great tribulation"? It is the church age and we see in chapter 6 verse 9 the blood of Christians on the altar. It is the church's tribulation which lasts as long as the church age. The Bible says "all those who would live Godly lives shall have tribulation". True the Bible talks about a great time of trouble, so bad that unless God were to shorten the time, nobody would be left alive. (Matthew 24). But this the Bible calls the "time of Jacob's trouble". That is the tribulation of the Jews - (Daniel 12 verse 1 and 2).

There will come to earth a time of false peace, a lull before the storm. During this period God will do two things before the peace is broken by Atomic War of Revelation chapter 6: (1) He will call the Jew to repentance and revival, (2) The Church will be taken out of the world, and be caught up to meet Jesus Christ.

Later studies will show that the conversion of Israel takes place long after the church is called out of the world. We now have the false peace while God moves amongst the Jews. The Jesus Revolution is touching Jewish youth and Rabbi's worry as many turn away from their dead Synagogues.

One burning question remains on our minds: How long? How long before all this comes to pass? How long before the Christian is called home? How long?

However, while we wait the call home, we must not be disturbed by the raging of those four horses.

A G.I. writing home from the battle in Vietnam was obviously having wife trouble, for the army censor read these lines in his letter: "Will you please stop nagging me in your letters and leave me alone so that I can enjoy this war in peace".

We do not enjoy the present world with its stresses and its wars, but we can enjoy life in the midst of it all, in the Peace that Jesus Christ gives, for he said; . . . "When these things come to pass, lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh".

## **PART FOUR**

### **Satan's War Plan - Chapter 9**

. . . "And the fifth angel sounded and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth, and to him was given the key to the bottomless pit". This star was a person; "HIM" being none other than the devil. Even Jesus . . . "saw Satan fall like a star from

heaven" . . . and in the last days we see a panic-stricken devil coming down to take personal command upon earth. He sees the church age coming to its close and watches the Jews return to their land, and one thing is obvious to Satan, even if others have not noticed, the return of Jesus Christ is near: He must destroy Jerusalem. He must dislocate God's plans. So down comes Satan like a mighty star to muster all his forces. He opens the bottomless pit, mustering every reserve soldier, in a final desperate stand to hold the world against the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Out of the bottom-less pit, . . . "smoke as the smoke of a great furnace", . . . arises and . . . "the sun and air are darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit". In this last stand he brings the world to where we left it in the previous chapter, covered by smoke, dust and pollution.

### **Satan - Aeronautical Scientist.**

. . . "And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth, and unto them was given power as the scorpions of the earth have power". John, in describing the locusts, had to use the language of the day. He obviously could not use words which would only come into use in the twentieth century. For example; not knowing medical terms one might describe the germ, seen under the microscope, as having feet like an elephant and ears like a donkey.

. . . "The Prince of the powers of the air" (Eph.2) is the name given to Satan. He becomes the chief scientist who masterminds the modern development of aeroplanes and missiles as weapons of destruction. The locusts are aeroplanes! . . . "And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared to battle". . . . "Strapped with metal, a mask to cover the face and steel plates for the body". The solid armour of an aeroplane. . . . "And on their heads were as it were crowns like gold and their faces were as the faces of man". . . . Modern fighter planes have radar antennae spiking like crowns from their cockpits, while the nose protrudes with windows of the cockpit looking like eyes. "Hair like woman", . . . refers to the vapour trails or condensation trails of the jet engines. The guns jutting from under the nose of the plane looked to John like . . . "the teeth of a lion", . . . and a flypast is described: . . . "the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle". The rest of John's description is left to the imagination. The devil came down to this earth for his "last stand" at about the end of the first world war. It was about that time that technology spawned the most deadly war machine of all time, the modern aeroplane.

### **Satan's officials - Ephesians 6 verse 12**

Satan's kingdom is an organization where he has rulers who are specialists in their sphere, just as God has angels and arch angels. We can read of some of Satan's officials in Ephesians chapter 6 verse 12. One reads of "principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, spiritual wickedness". Principalities are those fallen angels which specialize in Politics while powers are those who carry rank in the armed forces, such as Generals, etc. Rulers of darkness are the real leaders of organizations like the Mafia. Spiritual wickedness; for the deception of man there are specialists in the field of cults and sects. The devil has a neatly arranged organization with which to oppose the plan of God.

### **German Warfare verses 4 to 6**

... "And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth neither any green thing".

In chapter 8 we see the vegetation of the earth destroyed by bombing, etc., whereas in these verses we read that the "locusts" do not drop bombs to destroy the trees. Only those who . . . "have not the seal of God on their foreheads", are hurt. Those having the seal are the one-hundred-and-forty-four-thousand believing Jews in the land of Palestine.

How do the locusts cause pain if they do not destroy grass or trees? Germ warfare! It is said that germ warfare will never become reality, that the doomsday bug will never leave the confines of the Scientists' laboratory.

Today a spy could cross into any country, carrying a virtually undetectable germ and releasing it in any pastoral field, and cause a foot and mouth to ravage the country. Germ warfare will be used and so fulfill Christ's warning of last day pestilences. This attack, however, is confined to Israel . . . "and to them it was given that they should not kill them but that they should be tormented five months". The 144,000 are super-naturally protected but the rest of Israel is tormented for five months. The armies of Israel lie paralysed . . . "And in those days men shall seek death and shall not find it and shall desire to die and death shall flee from them". . . . So paralysed are they that they cannot even commit suicide.

Before the Arab invasion of Israel, locusts come dropping the strings of germ warfare, and the whole land lies paralysed. This is how the Arabs are going to conquer the Jews. If the mindless slaughter of Jewish athletes in Munich is an example of Arab conscience then the attempted genocide of Israel by germ warfare must surely be an irresistible "solution" to the Arabs' "problem".

The chapter begins with a picture of aerial warfare and ends with tank warfare. The middle of the chapter shows us the locality of these wars.

... "And the sixth angel sounded and I heard a voice saying; . . . Loosen the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the angels were loosened which were prepared for an hour and a day and a month and a year, for to slay a third part of men". Four angels are freed. The devil wants all the reinforcements he can get so he issues orders to have the 4 bound angels in the Middle East, to be released. How did these angels come about? In the book of Daniel we were told that Satan tries to influence and guide the political world by means of his "specialist" angels. Their job is to influence the cabinets of the world so that any decision made would fit into his plans. These specialist political angels have been responsible for all the anti-Israel attitudes of the Babylonian and Persian governments. In their political maneuvering they found Daniel a great hindrance and in Daniel chapter 10 it tells us how they gathered in force to stop Gabriel. God's Arch Angel had come to aid Daniel in his lone struggle, but the struggle to get through to Daniel took Gabriel 21 days, (verse 21) and even then, he only got through when Michael came to his aid.

Michael is the Arch angel appointed by God to care for Israel, (Daniel 12 verse 1) . . . "The great prince which standeth for the children of thy people". And in chapter 10 verse 21 . . . "Michael your prince".

In Persia Satan seemed to have things tied up politically for he had not one, but many angels in key positions of influence. They are called "Kings of Persia" (verse 13). Although they, and not the earthly princes, were the rulers of Persia, they could not be seen with the naked eye. Many times Satan has almost succeeded in destroying Israel, (one well remembered incident was an eye to the future, he was already influencing Greece. Verse 20 . . . "Lo, the Prince of Greece will come".

### **The world's greatest battle - verse 16 - 21**

So Michael and Gabriel went to fight these spiritual powers - (verses 20 and 21). Says Gabriel, . . . "and now I will return to fight with the Prince of Persia and when I am gone forth, lo the Prince of Greece shall come" . . . After years of battle the four great political angels were defeated and tied up. With the fall of their "generals", other spirits fled and the Middle East became dormant.

Now it is Satan's last stand, he sends out a rescue mission to set free these four specialist angels. The Jews are returning to the land and that calls for the awakening of the long retired Generals. Immediately the start to design a trap to destroy Israel and with it, God's purpose. . . . "Which were prepared for an hour and a day and a month and a year". . . . When the devil awoke the Middle East, he had a day of wear in mind. The Middle East has been woken for a special day, for a day on Satan's calendar, an hour when the great war is to start.

. . . "The number of the horsemen of the army were two hundred million". . . . The Middle East crisis is destined to gather the greatest armies ever seen; two hundred million. China alone could mobilize an army this size, her population being near eight hundred million while that of Russia is almost three hundred million. What a gathering; since these powers will be there along with those of Europe and America.

. . . "and I saw the horses in the vision and the heads were as the heads of lions". Look at a tank, does it not look like a lion with its head resting on its paws? . . . "out of their mouths issued smoke and fire and brimstone". . . . The front of a tank sending forth shells. . . . "by these were a third part of the men killed". This reference could be the total killed in the Middle East fighting, the word "THESE" meaning by both air and tank battles. WITH THE TANK IN MIND, we certainly agree when John says, . . . "their power is in their mouth". He adds, . . . "And in their tails are like unto serpents, and had heads, with them they do hurt". . . . Is this not a typical picture of tank warfare? Tanks pushing ahead, followed by their tail; the infantry running and snaking along behind.

By this time we have had more than enough of the war to come and one feels that to carry on in this vein, would plunge us into despair. God, however, desires us to keep the ultimate end in view and so closes this pre-history by taking us to that glorious moment, the return of Jesus Christ as King.

History will not end with tanks, planes, Germ warfare and missiles, but with Jesus on the throne. Let us, therefore, turn to chapter 10.

## **PART FIVE**

### **Only one world flag**

#### **Chapter 10, verse 1-6**

After two chapters of horror, we now have one of glory, that is, the Coming of Jesus. In chapter 9 we recognized the descending angel as being Satan and wonder if the person who appears in the beginning of this chapter will not also turn out to be someone else.

As it is, this angel is none other than Jesus Christ himself, not an angel at all. . . . "And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud and a rainbow was upon his head and his face was as it were the sun and his feet as pillars of fire". . . . The cloud, rainbow, sunlike face and feet as pillars of fire are the characteristics of Jesus Christ. In chapter 1 verse 7, . . . "He comes with clouds". . . while verse 16 tells us . . . "His face shines like the sun in all his strength" . . . and verse 15, that his feet looked, . . . "Like fine brass as if they burned in a furnace" . . . His throne in chapter 4 tells us, is surrounded by a rainbow and chapter 5 tells us that He, the Lord Jesus, holds a book in his hand, as does this person in chapter 10. . . . "And he had in His hand a little book open and He set his right foot upon the sea and His left foot on the earth". . . . This book being the Title Deed of the World. Jesus, having taken this book out of the hand of God, brings it with him as He comes to claim the earth.

#### **Jesus Christ claims the earth.**

Standing, . . . "one foot on the sea and one on the land" . . . Jesus lifts His hands to God and claims the throne of the world. Many hundreds of years before, David had a glimpse of this when writing the second Psalm. Here in the second psalm is a prophecy and a promise concerning the coronation of Jesus Christ. . . . "The heathen rage and imagine vain things the kings of the earth set themselves, the rulers take council together against the Lord". . . . David sees a world in revolt against God, saying, . . . "Let us break their bonds asunder and cast away their cords from us!" . . . Let's get rid of God and His laws and have a new morality casting away what the Bible says. However, man's rebellion has little or no effect on God, . . . "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh". This must surely be one of the most terrible sounds ever heard, God laughing in derision. Mankind can do as it likes, but God has made up His mind who is to be King. Turning to Jesus, God makes Him King saying, . . . "Thou art my son, this day have I begotten thee". . . . and goes on to promise Jesus the throne of the world stating, . . . "Ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron". . . . So Jesus Christ will one day be King. Though the

nations rumble and rebel, God will have it so. When that day comes God promises, as a coronation gift, the heathen and the uttermost parts of the world. Jesus comes with the Title Deed putting his feet on land and sea and claims it all. It is His. Once he trod its valleys, climbed its hills and strode across its seas. Over the tiniest sea-washed palm-island, His flag alone, will fly. Jesus shall reign wherever . . . "the sun its successive journeys run". The impatience of Jesus to take up His Kingdom is borne out in these words of chapter 10 verse 6. "Let time (delay) be no longer".

### **Jesus impatient to rule his Kingdom Chapter 10 verse 6**

One day, from the sky, the call will ring out- "Let there be delay no longer". . . . He is not waiting for man's vote but is coming regardless of the world's opinion and when He does, it will be time to put away our toys of war.

### **The rapture of the Church**

But you may ask, what mention is made of the church for surely we are not crushed beneath his conquering feet? True, but the purpose is to show that the madness of man as we have read it in the last two chapters is ended by the firmness of Jesus' stand across land and sea. The church does not meet Jesus at this point but at a time prior to His dramatic entry into the world. We are reminded of this in verse 7.

"When the seventh angel begins to sound, the mystery of God is finished". What is the mystery of God? Surely it is the church. There is a mystery that is Satan's, for he has made a counterfeit but this mystery is emphatically stated as being God's mystery.

### **The church a mystery Ephesians 5, verse 31 to 32**

In what way the church is a mystery is told by Paul the apostle. Ephesians 5 verse 31 to 32, . . . "for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife and they two shall be one flesh - this is a great mystery but I speak concerning Christ and the Church". The mystery was not how husband and wife became one, but that the sinner who enters the church becomes part of the bride of Christ. We read more mysteries in Ephesians 3 verse 4 to 9, . . . "understand the mystery of Christ which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men. That the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs and of the same body. . . . And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God". The church is a mystery in that the Jew and Gentile who hated one another, now sit side by side around the Table of the Lord. A mystery of fellowship. Even in its ending, the church is to be a mystery. 1 Corinthians 15 verse 50, . . . "Now this I say brethren, that the flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. Behold I show you a mystery, we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump". The Christian's going is mysterious. Jesus said, "Two will be together in a bed, the one is taken and the other left". Mysterious! Night or day, we do not know when. We hope it will be before death so that we cross

into heaven without the grave. Christians in every age have lived for this mysterious day when like iron filings, we shall leap to meet the magnet.

### **Revelation Chapter 8 verse 2**

When does this mysterious moment arrive? Paul says, . . . "at the last trump!" In Revelation 8 verse 2 we read that . . . "Seven angels stood with seven trumpets". In Revelation 10 verse 7, . . . "but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God shall be finished". . . . When the last trumpet begins to sound it ends the church age. Jesus Christ does not come to earth then, but we arrive in the heavens to meet Him.

It is too much of a mystery for man to accept. Can every Christian be taken out of the world without bringing to the world a mass conversion through sheer fright alone?

### **A Universal catastrophe**

It is believed that there will be timed exactly at the moment of the Christians' departure. When God took Israel out of Egypt, the Bible says that the Egyptians were burying their dead. So great was the fear in the land that not a dog barked as nearly a million people moved out, wagons and all. The barking of dogs is mentioned, for it must have been normal for the Israelites to be chased by dogs every time they came to town. But not this time, the strange happenings left the whimpering dogs hiding, while God took His people out. Did Jesus not give us an idea when he said that His coming would be as a lightning flash across the sky? A huge meteor hitting into the ocean somewhere causing world wide panic and confusion? The Word of God tells us that Jesus Christ will take us away like a thief stealing gems at night from a home. In the night of this terror, every Christian will be taken to be with Christ.

### **7 Thunders - Chapter 10 verse 4**

We read of 7 thunders pealing across the skies as Jesus Christ arrives. . . . "and when 7 thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write and I heard a voice say; . . . "Seal up those things which the thunders uttered and write them not". They were to remain a mystery; perhaps part of the mystery of the Christian departure. Tidal waves and earthquakes throwing the world in to panic and confusion while in the midst of it all, Jesus Christ collects His church. Paul tells us in 2 Thes. 2 verse 9 to 12 that the world will very easily pas off the disappearance of millions of Christians.

Headlines of the Newspapers will cover disaster areas and relief schemes. The fact that the people have disappeared all the world over, will be considered normal for a state of panic. In times of earthquake, people are possessed by such fear that many disappear not to return for a few days. Doctors will calm people claiming to have seen relatives disappear before their eyes, as being the common symptoms of shock. When life returns to normal after many weeks or months, the gaps in the population will be accepted as disaster casualties. Man is always ready to believe what he wants to and will find plenty of reasons for people missing rather than believe that the

rapture of the church has taken place. Gone with the church will be the Holy Spirit as well, making sane thinking on earth impossible.

When God spoke to Jesus on earth, the people jumped back shouting, . . . "It thundered", . . . but John says; "God spoke". The ears of the men were not in tune with God, they had come to criticize, therefore, they heard only thunder. Our hearts wait for His return, the world will hear the storm, . . . "the sea and waves roaring" . . . as Jesus said, but we will hear the Shepherd's voice and every sheep will go.

A young man, late in answering an advertisement for a vacancy in a telegraph company, stood near the back of the queue of applicants. Suddenly he shot past them all, opened the Manager's office and entered. A few minutes later he came out to tell the furious mob that they could go as he had been give the appointment. He then explained that he had heard the manager tapping out in morse code on his desk for someone to come in. They had not heard for their thoughts had been somewhere else. Are your ears in tune for the coming of Jesus Christ?

Chapter 10 verse 6 tells us how Jesus will claim the world while verse 7 tells us how Christians are to be claimed by Jesus. The seventh trumpet, is the last trumpet and finishes the mystery. The seventh angel will sound for a long time but it is as he begins to sound, that every Christian goes and the mystery of God is finished. The church age has come to an end. No more converts, the choir will have sung its last anthem, the preacher preached his last sermon. The telephone ringing in the minister's study will be unanswered. Every child of God will be caught up in the twinkling of an eye. No more mystery of sinner man becoming one with Christ. No more mystery of all races finding harmony beneath the cross of Jesus. No more chance of resurrection before the Judgment Day, the first resurrection will have passed.

The mystery of conversion will be history, every Christian will have left the world.

In reading the book of Revelation, remember that not everything before chapter 10 takes place before the rapture, neither does all that come after happen after the church has gone. The chapters are not a sequence of events.

Many things do happen as that trumpet sounds on after the church has gone, but that must wait for later chapters. From the church, Jesus then elects His cabinet while down below, armies march, great rulers arise, until the trumpet stops and we return with Jesus as He stands across land and sea.

### **Our attitude towards the world**

#### **Chapter 10, verse 8 - 11**

John had to eat the book which tasted like honey though once swallowed turned bitter in his belly. The book was of course the Title Deed of the earth.

The mere contemplation of the Title Deed in the hands of Jesus and that He is to rule is indeed a wonderful thought as sweet as honey in our mouths, but John had to

digest it. It is when we consider all that this world must pass through before Jesus rules; the atomic war, air and tank battles, germ warfare and of days when the sun and moon struggle to shine through thick clouds of smoke and pollution, that this is a bitter thought. Jesus is going to reign, but what must still happen to this planet earth before that day, is a bitter thought. Only when John had experienced these two feelings, the sweet and the bitter, did the angel say he was qualified to preach.

We are not worthy if we have our heads in the clouds, for God wants us to have compassion for the world. We are to look at buildings and picture them destroyed, to see mothers holding burnt children in their arms, to see a world floundering in atomic war, radiation and pollution and we must have compassion.

## **PART SIX**

### **The battle of Jerusalem - Chapter 11**

We come to what must certainly be the fastest moving chapter in Revelation.

In order for us to follow the rapid events, we must deal with this chapter under three headings:

#### **THE TEMPLE**

Verse 1 - . . . "And there was given me a reed like a rod, and the angel stood saying, arise and measure the temple of God and the altar and them that worship therein".

#### **THE WAR AND OCCUPATION**

Verse 2 - . . . "But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not, for it is given unto the Gentiles and the Holy City shall they tread underfoot 42 months".

#### **THE PREACHERS**

Verse 3 - . . . "And I will give power unto my two witnesses and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and three score days ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  years) clothed in sackcloth."

#### **The Preachers verse 3 and 4**

Starting with the last heading and working back: . . . "These are the two olive trees and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth". . . (verse 4). To show that they will bring light and hope to Israel, they are called olive trees and candlesticks.

Zechariah talks of these two witnesses in chapter 4 of this book. He sees these two olive trees giving oil to the candlestick, which are the symbol of the Nation Israel, kept burning by the message of these preachers. Zechariah sees these two as bringers of light and comfort to Israel in a time of universal darkness and says of them, . . . "These are the two anointed ones that stand by the Lord of the whole earth". Malachi goes further and names one of them saying . . . "Behold I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the dreadful day of the Lord". . . (Mal. 4 verse 5).

It is to the New Testament that we must turn to find the name of the other preacher, . . . "And Enoch also the seventh from Adam prophesied of these saying, behold the Lord cometh with ten thousand of His Saints". Neither of these two prophets died, for they were taken to heaven in preparation for that Great and Terrible day of Judgment.

In Genesis chapter 5 and Hebrew chapter 11 verse 5 we notice Enoch as a great preacher of Judgment. He named his son Methuselah, which means, "When he dies it will come", that is, The Flood.

One day Enoch was caught up to heaven not only leaving behind his thundering sermons on coming Judgment, but a living witness of that message in his son. We can well imagine that every time Methuselah contracted some illness, the whole town would tremble for they knew that as long as he was alive, judgment would not come. Then as Noah was preparing to enter the Ark, Methuselah died. A few days later, the world drowned. Enoch is a type of Jesus Christ who upon returning to heaven left a living witness behind; the church. As long as the Christian is here, his bible tucked under his arm on his way to church, the world may sleep peacefully. As certainly as Methuselah saw his days growing few, so does the church. When we go, Judgment will come.

Enoch is not only in last day typeology but also involved in preaching. He will be returning one day to preach those sermons heard thousands of years ago when the world was ripening for the judgment of the flood. Throughout Israel's history different writers and prophets have foretold of his return to the pulpit. Early church writings mention Jesus Christ as having stated that Enoch with Elijah would return to preach to Israel bore the "final curtain is rung down"

The other preacher Elijah, through his dynamic sermons called Israel back to God in the days of King Ahab. Those sermons heard on Mount Carmel before the flaming altar will ring out again, calling the nation to repentance. It is interesting to see that Malachi indicates that the times in which Elijah preaches will be marked by "The Generation Gap" and that under his message old and young will be united.

### **Enoch and Elijah's converts**

In Matthew 25 Jesus tells us three parables: The first is about five wise and five foolish virgins. (verse 1-13). The second is about servants who are rewarded for service. (verse 14-30). The third is of Jesus as Judge separating the nations as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. (verse 31-46). These three parables speak of three judgments: The virgins; the judgment of Israel. The servants; the judgment of the church and the Sheep and Goats; the judgment of the Jewish nation.

### **Parable of the Jewish nation Matthew 25, verse 1-13**

Matthew 25 verse 1 to 13. This is a parable of the Jewish nation, an interpretation which comfortably fits the parable's framework.

"The virgins took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom". The picture is not of a wedding but the wedding feast. The church will be married to Jesus Christ in the heavens before returning with him to the city of Jerusalem. To be there when the Bride and Bridegroom arrive is the reason why the Jews have returned. Both wise and unwise virgins had oil in their lamps, so to each Jew returning to his land a little oil is given.

Once back in his land, he is stirred by a spiritual awareness. But more oil will be needed for the dark hours ahead. The five foolish Virgins who had no extra oil found their lamps going out on the midnight hour. Where will the extra oil be obtained, oil that will burn through the midnight hour until the bridegroom comes? It is not determination or spiritual awareness that will keep faith burning in Jewish hearts when Jerusalem is recaptured and Russian and Chinese armies wait at the walls of Jerusalem to snatch Palestine from European domination. On the contrary, it is real faith which is required for the midnight hour and at this point we may well ask where it will be obtained.

Let us return for the moment to the two preachers. Were they not called "anointed ones"? Did not Zechariah tell us that they kept the lamps burning by pouring oil out of themselves into pipes that took the oil to the heart of the lamps? Is it not to them that the five wise virgins refer when replying to the whimpering foolish virgins whose lamps had gone out in the midnight hour? . . . "Go to them that sell and buy for yourselves". . . . Those who sell are the two preachers, the five wise virgins their converts. The five wise virgins are the 144,000 of Revelation 7 who are sealed because of their faith. This seal, we remember, supernaturally protected them until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

They are there to meet the bridegroom, as in the parable. The preachers' converts are referred to in Revelation 14 verse 1 . . . "And lo, a lamb stood on Mount Zion and with him a 144,000". They are standing on the Mount of Olives to welcome Jesus Christ and His bride. Can we be sure they represent the five wise virgins? Yes, chapter 14 continues and says in verse 4, . . . "These are virgins". How beautifully that chapter goes on to show converted Israel like ladies-in-waiting escorting Jesus Christ and the church into Jerusalem.

Revelation 14 verse 4 . . . "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth".

The reference in chapter 14 to the 144,000 virgins being undefiled with women is not disparaging of women, but refers to false religions of the world which are spoken of in surrounding chapters as being "whores and harlots". The Jews have sampled many false religions but the 144,000 or five virgins are uncontaminated converts obtaining pure oil from Elijah and Enoch because as we shall see later, religion of any type or form will disappear from the world in the dark days to come.

### **War and Occupation**

## Verse 2

... "For it is given unto the *Gentiles*, and the *Holy City* shall they tread under foot forty and two months" (3½ years). These are the conditions under which the two witnesses preach, a city under occupation. Many things cause the eventual war that conquers the Jew and captures Jerusalem, but we deal only with the one mentioned here.

## The Temple Chapter 11, verse 1

Mark 13 verse 14 says: ... "But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, standing where it ought not, then let them that be in Judea flee to the mountains".

Jesus, telling of the signs of the end, gives this as one of the ominous road marks. The sign is one of warning of the nearness of the terrible war. We are told that an "abomination" will stand on a forbidden place and that when this fact is stated, men must look for cover, a place to hide, because the abomination will make DESOLATE. Desolate being the atomic war.

The Jews today do not offer sacrifices even at such important occasions as the Passover feast, because they can only sacrifice at the God-appointed place. This is the place where Solomon built the temple and sacrifices continued century after century until the death of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the spotless lamb, the perfect sacrifice and God now requires no more sacrifices, therefore; the Temple was destroyed by the Romans in approximately 70 A.D. Later the Moslems built a Mosque on the site. God made sure that no more sacrifices would be made for sin.

The day has now arrived when the Jew, being back in Israel, desires to build a temple and restore the ancient way of worship. It is said that they are so determined to build the temple that they have already shipped the marble from America. (This is unsubstantiated). The problem lies right here, the temple may only be built on the site now occupied by two Moslem mosques. The Jews have lost no time digging beneath the mosque to unearth the foundation of Solomon's temple. So today we have a situation which was foretold by Jesus as being a marker of the desolation to come ... "It (the Arab mosque) is standing where it ought not to be". ... "Get ready to run" ... said Jesus. How is this abomination to trigger off the war? In Thes. 2 verse 3 to 7 we read the story of the Antichrist. A dreaded dictator who will rise out of Germany and lead Europe in the last days. (We will study this in Chapter 12 and 13).

... "the man of sin, the son of perdition". ... This is his name as he is to lead the world into perdition, the fearful Judgment. He will lead the world in rebellion against God and Israel: ... "Who opposeth and exalteth himself, so that he as God sitteth in the Temple of God". Thus we have a picture of the Anti-christ sitting in the Temple as liberator, conqueror and hero of the Arabs to whom he returns the Temple. It may be assumed that the Jews remove the mosque from their temple site by using a few sticks of dynamite and so bring upon themselves the wrath of the Arab world. In a desire to secure oil supplies, the Anti-christ aids the Arabs in an invasion that

captures Jerusalem and returns the temple to the Moslems. For this the Arabs deify him. He accepts this honour and struts around the temple like a God. His forces stay in Jerusalem playing guardian to the Arabs for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years (Rev 11 verse 2). Verse 6 and 7 seem to strengthen the belief that the Anti-christ awaits the going of the church and with it the restraining hand of the Holy Ghost before he mounts his campaign for leadership of Europe . . . "And ye know what withholds, for the mystery of iniquity doth already work, only he who now letteth (restrains) will let (restrain) until he be taken out of the way" . . . The church will be taken out of the way. We will not always be . . . "in the way of the good time".

When the Church is caught up to heaven . . . "then shall the wicked be revealed" . . . to the world. (verse 8). Somewhere alive today, he listens to the news for his hour of entry in to the political arena which cannot be far off. The world, deceived by his wisdom in political matters, will pay heed to him as master statesman. It could be at his suggestion that the super powers, America and Russia get out of the Middle East and let him play peace keeper. How this is to be done, must wait until chapter 13.

We come to the conquest of Jerusalem.

## **PART SEVEN**

### **Only half of Jerusalem to be conquered Zechariah 14 verse 2**

. . . "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle", and half of the city shall go into captivity. Today is that day, for the nations are gathered around Jerusalem.

Jerusalem so recently retaken by the Jews after being exiled for nearly 2,000 years, is to be lost again. Not for long,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years that will be. Together, tramping their way across Israel, will come the combined armies of the Arabs and Europe under the German ruler - the Anti-christ, and the Arab leader from Iraq, the False Prophet. From chapter 8 we remember that the Jews are decimated by germ warfare. So into Jerusalem march armies that retake the temple.

Zechariah tells us that half of the city will be taken, but it will be that part most dear to every Jewish heart - the temple site, the ancient city. One can imagine the conquered and despondent Jews in the streets of modern Jerusalem gazing at the glorious temple now behind a barbed wire barricade that divides the city like the wall of shame in Berlin. Could a nation be more depressed or a situation more hopeless? Fighting the Arabs is one thing, but to face the armies of untied Europe, led by the world's foremost statesman is out of the question. Meeting, in battle, their old enemies of the gas chambers of the second world war, adds to their despondency. The proud self-sufficient spirit is gone, a despondent nation sits in the streets and gazes in hopelessness at what they feel must surely be, the last look at their fond Jerusalem. It is then that Enoch and Elijah arrive and preach their life giving sermons. That they preach in the last  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years before Jesus returns, is shown in the parable of the virgins when the 5 wise virgins say at the midnight hour, . . . "go

to those that sell, and buy for yourself". . . . They sell oil right up to the midnight hour.

### **The measurement of the temple**

. . . "Rise, measure the temple of God and the altar, and them that worship therein".

Is this the message of the two witnesses?

We come to some very exciting and well known chapters when we read Ezekiel chapters 37 to 39. Chapter 37 describes the hopeless position of Israel in times gone by. Scattered like so many dry disjointed bones across the world, could they ever be united in a national body again? We read the prophecy and feel the excitement of the national revival of the Jew. Then follows chapter 38, telling of the Jew back in their land and of the world's refusal to give Israel any recognized boundaries, . . . "Dwelling without gates or bars". The ominous rise of the communist interest in the Middle East and the march of their armies against Israel. In chapter 39 the armies of Russia and Eastern Europe rumble towards the battle grounds of the Middle East. Then is followed by a graphic description of their destruction upon the mountains of Israel leaving but a sixth part to struggle home in humiliation, much like Napoleon's rout from Russia centuries before. In detail we are told of the problem of burying all the dead and cleaning the battle fields.

The point however, to be noted, is this: After all this rapid unfolding of drama, the book of Ezekiel seems to reach an anticlimax and from chapter 40 onwards we are subjected to a seemingly endless and boring list of the most detailed measurements. Measurements follow measurements until we have the completely dimensioned plan of a temple not yet built. What may we ask ourselves, is its place amongst these chapters? The descriptions of this temple are of such accurate detail that builders could work from them. But why is it there? Has God chapters to waste? Does God put non-essentials into His Word?

### **The Revelation that will shock Israel Chapter 43 verse 10**

In chapter 43 verse 10 we read that the purpose for these measurements given in such detail is to: . . . "Show the house of Israel". What will their reaction be upon seeing these measurements? . . . "That they may be ashamed of their iniquities".

All hope is gone. The oil in their lamps is burnt out as, dejected, they sit in their smashed city and watch their land shrink in war. It is at this critical time that the two preachers begin to show the Jews that the temple of Ezekiel prophesied, the Prince, Jesus Christ would enter, is the temple that they have built and just lost. Let the architects examine the plans, . . . "and let them measure the pattern".

What a revelation when they discover that by seeming coincidence, they have built Ezekiel's temple to the very last inch. With this revelation comes the thrill, that the temple on the other side of the barbed wire will be theirs again and the Messiah's coming must be imminent.

But the preachers have another point to make:-

### **The measurements of the altar**

#### **Chapter 11 verse 1**

They who had been so blind to the temple measurements, had also been blind to the altar raised on Golgotha's Hill 2,000 years ago. The Preachers talk of Calvary's altar and Jesus' blood to cleanse their sins. The Jewish pride is smashed and the realization comes home that they will never keep Jerusalem unless they accept the King of that city whom they crucified - Jesus.

#### **"Measure them that worship therein"**

Chapter 11 verse 1 speaks of the "measurements", or the number converted. These are none other than the 144,000 of Revelation chapter 7. A great revival comes to the conquered city. The midnight hour is at hand. The cry . . . "The bridegroom cometh" . . . is just about to pierce the night and the five virgins stand ready with their lamps burning brightly.

#### **The two preachers become world figures**

Chapter 11 verse 5 to 7.

After what may be many years of spiritual darkness in the world, these two preachers arrive upon the scene for the last sermon preached before the Church leaves. It is obvious that the world has no time for "kill-joys" especially when their presence is regarded as a political menace by the Arabs and others concerned in the Middle East crisis. So it seems that many attempts are made to assassinate them . . . "If any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth and devoureth them". The assassins appear to be killed in the cross fire of the torn city, are gunned down by the zealous Jews who cling to the two Preachers as a lifeline of hope in the sad plight of Israel. Elijah's sermons on the famine and Israel's sin, last heard in the days of King Ahab, come out of cold storage and pound the world with God's message. . . . "That is it rain not in the days of their prophecy - waters turn to blood - smite the earth with plagues". Preaching sermons that point out that the sad state of the world is due to man's sin. This kind of preaching and the great spiritual revival does not please the Anti-christ, who at the time is occupying Jerusalem with his forces and he decides to press ahead with the complete conquest of the city. Driving into the Jewish strong-hold, he arrests the two Preachers.

. . . "The Beast shall make war against them and kill them". . .

#### **The Preachers publicly executed**

Their arrest causes world wide interest for they are blamed for the war. The Jews foolish tampering with the Moslem's shrine when completing the temple was brought about by their fanatical sermons which inflamed the people. So after trial, they are publicly executed.

"Their bodies shall lie in the street of the great city". The city of Jerusalem is here called by the name given to it by the two preachers in their sermons . . . "Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified". This could only be a reference to the power of the preaching against sin. Indeed so glad is the world about the arrest and trial of these "kill-joys" that their execution is actually televised the world over, . . . "And people and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies. And they that dwell on the earth shall rejoice, because these two prophets tormented them". It is made an occasion of universal rejoicing. Imagine the torment these preachers bring to a world living in unrestricted sin. A preacher's voice has not disturbed their conscience for many years. Although salvation was only to come to the 144,000 in Jerusalem yet the two witnesses had a message for the whole world. Beamed by radio from Israel their voices are heard as God's last warning before atomic war arrives to bury the nations.

### **Atomic war to last 3½ days**

Notice that the bodies of the executed witnesses lie unburied for 3½ days. Is this not because of the sudden upheaval in which the world finds itself at that moment? Examine this statement: the bodies, lying in the street for 3½ days . . . "stood upon their feet and ascended to heaven in a cloud". Their ascension is accompanied by great events: . . . "And the same hour there was a great earthquake" . . . "which shook and destroyed much of Jerusalem". Above the rumbling of this earthquake, a shout goes up: . . . "The Kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdoms of our Lord and He shall reign for ever," . . . and so saying, the "red carpet" is spread for Jesus Christ's entry. Looking over these verses we see 2 witnesses, after 3½ days, caught up to heaven as an earthquake shakes the land, while from the skies Jesus Christ descends as King . . . "And his feet shall stand upon the Mount of Olives and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst". (Zechariah 14 verse 4 and 5). We come across this earthquake many times in Revelation (e.g. end of Part six) and in Zechariah 14 it describes how this earthquake causes the Mediterranean Sea to flow past Jerusalem, down the Jordan Valley and out into the Persian Gulf, thus making a great canal. Ezekiel tells us that the ships of the world will sail up and down this water way putting into port at Jerusalem, capital and chief port of the world during the reign of Jesus Christ. The earthquake that changes the face of the Middle East in this way occurs at the end of the Atomic War. Islands and mountains disappear, while hail falls from Heaven. This war described in Revelation chapter 6, is brought to an end by the arrival of Jesus Christ. The same pattern occurs in chapter 11 when after the earthquake an announcement rings out that Jesus Christ is coming to reign.

The relief of Heaven in arriving at this hour is expressed in verse 17, . . . "We give thanks because thou hast taken to thee thy great power and has reigned". The relief is because His coming puts an end to the horrible agony of the world, for, said Heaven, . . . "the nations were angry". (verse 18). Vicious fighting amongst the nations cause the angels to declare: . . . "time that they be judged". Time also for the Church's reward: to rule with Jesus . . . "And should give reward to thy servants". It is now obvious, that unless a New Rule comes, the world is doomed. With a dramatic view from Heaven of Jesus descending to earth, chapter 11 is concluded.

The repeated reference to the earthquake, makes us realize that here is a description, not of Heaven but a viewing from Heaven, of the descent of Jesus Christ, into the world in the throes of Atomic War . . . "There were lightnings and voices and thunderings and an earthquake and great hail". The Atomic War ends with an earthquake. Zechariah makes this observation as he looks across the now still battlefield; **(Severe radiation sickness. Zechariah 14 verse 2)** (Zechariah 14 verse 12) . . . "And this shall be the plague where with the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem". . . . "Their flesh shall consume away in holes and their tongues shall consume away in their mouths". A very good description of severe radiation sickness. The timing of the earthquake is dramatic. Like a gigantic furrow ploughed across the earth it opens in front of the advancing tanks of Russia and China and fills with the flooding fury of the Mediterranean Sea. For this we turn to Ezekiel 38 verse 14 to 20 which describes the united communist onslaught on Palestine and the ganger of God at their intentions . . . "My fury shall come upon my face". . . Like a primed dynamite charge, the geographical fault across the Middle East awaits the finger of God to press the plunger. . . . "Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel". (verse 20). By telling us that the sea is affected by the earthquake, relates to the earthquake we read of in Zechariah 14. The mighty power of the united communist forces is broken. . . . "I will leave but a sixth part of thee". **(The mighty power of the united communist force broken. Chapter 39 verse 2)**

The rest of the chapter goes into such detail as how Israel will deal with the problem of burying the dead. The bones are not to be touched, but left to a special burial squad. This is to protect the people from contamination by radiation. It takes seven months to clear the battle fields.

### **The start and end of the Atomic War**

The Atomic War starts at the execution of the two preachers, for up until this point the world maintains some sort of orderly contact between nations, chapter 11 showing the interest and comments on their trial. The execution is the moment when Russia destroys Europe by atomic missiles. This action is taken because of the European Leader's refusal to remove his influence and presence from Jerusalem. The Anti-christ now looks over the walls of Jerusalem to the surrounding armies of Russia and China. Russia, however, will not set foot in Jerusalem for the earthquake hurls her back at the walls as Jesus Christ descends and walks into Jerusalem to face the Anti-christ.

At this dramatic moment, most probably across the Temple floor, Satan's Christ, and God's Christ, face each other. Thus comes to an end the fury of 3½ days of the world atomic war.

### **The dramatic meeting**

Upon death of their two leaders, the 144,000 stand around the bodies much like the devout men who carried Stephen to his burial. When Enoch and Elijah are taken up to heaven, it is with a "shout" (verse 12). This is the shout that awakes the sleeping

virgins waiting for the bridegroom. The word passed to the converts as the preachers ascend is; . . . "the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him". Scrambling over the blasted city they reach out for the Mount of Olives, getting there just in time to meet Jesus Christ and His Bride, the Church (Revelation 14 verse 1 - 4). What a moment when the 144,000 meet their Messiah. Right at the "midnight hour", he comes to save not only Israel, but the world. "Joseph", once more makes himself known to his "brothers". The 144,000 now as the five wise virgins, escort Jesus Christ and His bride the Church, into Jerusalem.

**(Sleeping virgins waiting for the bridegroom - Matthew 25 verse 1-12)**

**(Jesus Christ and his bride, the Church - Revelation 14, verse 1-4)**

**(The 144,000 meet their Messiah)**

## **PART EIGHT**

### **The political chapters**

With chapter 12 and 13 we come to what we could call the political chapters. In chapter 12 we have the politics of Satan through the centuries and in chapter 13 the politics of Satan in the last days. Chapter 12 must be divided into three parts so as to get a clear view of what passes before us. Firstly, we deal with a fact that is stranger than any science fiction story.

We deal with this first as it is the backstage movement and cause of all the hate and conflict which passes before our eyes.

### **The battle of the "Gods"**

#### **Verse 7 - 12**

The fall of Satan is a study in itself and would fill a book. Therefore, I deal with it briefly without going into all the scriptures that build this strange and macabre tale. Verse 7 is startling enough, . . . "and there was war in heaven". The Bible teaches us that Satan was the greatest being God ever made. He was God's Prime Minister over the universe. Beneath him were many other powerful beings, called "sons of God", who ruled and supervised different areas of the universe. In the book of Job we see that something like a Prime Minister's commonwealth conference was held at the Court of Heaven at which all these rulers had to present themselves. Man with his pageantry tries to ape the pomp of Heaven for he has the image of God and was made, as Genesis tells us, to have "Dominion", that is, to be a ruler. It is at one of these great conferences in heaven, the war starts. Satan presents a plan of Government which is rejected. Satan immediately accuses God of mismanagement of the universe, an accusation which he upholds to this day.

It has been asked time and again: "Why did God not destroy the Devil"? That He will destroy Satan is certain, but God would not do it then for Satan's charge against Him was so subtle that a third of the angels endorsed his argument . . . "His tail drew a third part of the stars (Angels)". To have destroyed Satan then would have left a question mark over God's name. God chose to let time reveal that Satan's principles and wickedness could not successfully govern a world. Time would show

Satan as the one incapable of management and reveal to the whole universe the destructive force of Satan's proposed laws.

... "Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels". Satan could not maintain his place in Heaven and was driven back by a battle that raged across the universe, from stat to star ... "Neither was there place found any more in Heaven". Driven from the place where he had proposed his ideas to be accepted above those of God's, ... "sought to ascend above the throne of God" ... he looks for somewhere to establish and prove his principles. Let us not be mistaken, Satan is a powerful being, for although created by God, he considered himself capable of defeating God as did a third of the angels. Animals or beings or whatever live on other planets, were useless to Satan. To prove his theory he needed people, souls of free will. ... "He was cast out into the earth and his angels with him". Our race and planet provided an opportunity. Here he will try to sell his theory and prove his principles. Planet earth has in this way become involved in a space drama. ... "For the accuser of our brethren is cast down". Heaven rejoiced when he was removed. A war, a quarrel, a fight in heaven had been a source of horror. Peace returned as Satan was driven out.

### **Men side with God - verse 11**

Satan's views, however, bring no peace to earth. All does not go as Satan has planned and not all mankind will accept this world as a domain on which he can prove his laws and government. God knew that Satan failed to see that his laws could only lead to destruction. So again and again God has moved to save man. Men begin to side with God (verse 11) ... "overcame him by the blood of the Lamb", (returning righteousness by sins being forgiven). ... "By the word of their testimony", (confessing that Satan's laws fail) "and they loved not their lives unto death", (rather choosing death than to cross to Satan's side).

... "Woe to the earth for the devil is come down unto you having great wrath". ... We have become involved in a battle between "two gods", ... with this world as Satan's chess board as he moves to prove his methods and discredit God's. Every move of Satan is a move against God's interference. God has always been rescuing the world from falling hopelessly under the will of a god gone mad. This is the background against which the history of the world has run. We can now turn to the beginning of the chapter understanding the centuries of hate and war.

## **PART NINE**

### **Satan's counter-espionage**

#### **Verse 1 to 6 . . . The two opposing forces**

... A woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet and crowned with 12 stars".

What is she doing? ... "She being with child cried travailing in birth and pained to be delivered".

**Nations are ruled with a rod of iron**  
**Chapter 2, verse 27 and 28**

What was the cause of the struggle? . . . "A great red dragon stood before the woman ready to devour the child as soon as it was born". . . Here are the opposing forces, the woman confronted with the dragon. It is plain to see that the dragon's hate for the woman is because of the tremendous fear he has for the man-child the woman is bringing into the world. Although Satan intends to hold the throne of the world the promised man-child is to "rule all nations with a rod of iron". The promise Jesus Christ made to the over-comers in the church was . . . "him will I give power over the nations and he shall rule them with a rod of iron". Other scriptures talk of Jesus Christ ruling with a rod of iron when upon the throne of the world. The child is Christ, and the church is his body of which He is the head. If the man-child is Christ, could the woman not be the nation of Israel? Israel is repeatedly called the wife of God in the Old Testament.

Every time she turned to idols and other religions, she was accused of committing adultery. She was to be different, . . . "clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet". She stood in the darkness of the idol-worshipping centuries, for the light of God was hers. The stars sparkling like twelve diamonds to form her crown come to us straight out of Joseph's dream where the twelve stars bowed before his feet. Joseph, typifying Jesus Christ, with the twelve tribes paying homage to him as King. Of her struggle to bring into the world the child; we know well.

**The first promise of a Saviour**  
**Genesis 3 verse 15**

Satan was there when our ancestral parents stood outside the Garden of Eden, dejected, beneath the rebuking tongue of God. Turning to Satan God said, . . . "I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed, it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel". God had not surrendered man to Satan but was one day to send His Champion to recover man and the world. It was then that Satan made up his mind to watch every suspected woman and see that no such champion came. Adam and Eve's son Abel sought to please God but before a saviour could arise in his line, Satan stirred up his brother to murder him. Then it was Abraham, whom Satan suspected and so saw to it that his wife Sarah was barren. That man of faith, however, was rewarded with a child as he and his wife neared the century mark. Satan then pounced on their son Isaac, seeing to it that his wife Rebecca was barren. Again it was only through much prayer that the twins were born.

**Operation Dragon - verse 3**

Satan then tried an old trick by trying to get Esau to murder his brother Jacob. Escaping from Esau, Jacob married two wives and was so blessed with children, that Satan instead of having a couple to watch, found himself confronted with the star of a nation. This called for new tactics and it is here that we come upon Satan's OPERATION DRAGON, for the first time . . . "And there appeared another wonder

in heaven and behold a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns upon his heads" . . . the crowns upon his heads speak to us of kingdoms or seven nations in number that would march one by one against the nation of Israel. Satan realized that he would have to destroy the whole of the Israeli nation to prevent God's champion from coming to his world . . . "And the dragon stood before the woman". The start was made on Jacob's children in Egypt. Pharaoh demanded that every baby boy be thrown to the crocodiles. God moved to get his people out by sending Moses to lead them through the Red Sea. The Red Sea closed on Pharaoh's army and the "Woman" lived on. Satan had "lost one head" but there were still six more attempts of genocide to come. No sooner had Israel gained the promised land than a menacing enemy arose on the horizon; Assyria. Attack after attack was mounted against Israel with Assyria eventually capturing ten out of the twelve tribes and carrying them away. Satan it seemed had played his cards well, having "lost two head", he had destroyed ten out of Israel's twelve tribes. Operation Dragon was working well. Now, against the stubborn resistance of the two remaining tribes, he brought the force of the powerful kingdom of Babylon and carried them away captive, destroying their city and temple.

"The woman" however, was determined to survive, and held to her identity, even amongst far off cities. Satan, therefore, resorted to mass murder attempts that have become a well known part of history. Carefully Satan moved to use his "fourth head"; that of the Medes and Persians and the Jews found the trap closing again with the plan of mass murder of Prime Minister Hyman. God in turn moved two of His agents into the palace, Esther as Queen and Mordecai as new Prime Minister and Israel was saved at the eleventh hour. The use of the "fifth head" came into operation.

The dragon came in the form of a new power from the West; the Greeks, led by Alexander. From the divided Greek Kingdom arose a general called Antiochus Epiphanes whose sacrilegious activities were the hardest and most difficult the Jews had, up to that time, had to bear. He put idols in the Temple and tried to force the sacrificing of pigs and it was the Maccabees revolution that rose to save the nation and regain the Temple. The woman had survived the "fifth head" but could she survive the "sixth", for now Satan brought in the mighty legions of Rome. This confrontation between the Jews and Satan's forces culminated in the epic siege of Jerusalem where the might of Rome was defied for years. Eventually Roman legions smashed the city and scattered the people. Ninety percent of the Jewish population hung, dripping blood, from thousand of crucifixes.

### **The bridgehead established**

Have we overlooked a vital fact? Yes: the Man Child had arrived in the world. Did Satan know that the Man Child was to be God's own Son? NO; Paul tells us this was "the mystery hidden from the foundation of the world, God manifest in the flesh". One remembers how the attackers penetrated the defences of Troy inside a wooden horse and opened the gates of the sleeping city to let the army in. Satan must have suspected something was afoot as he watched the Jewish crowds pouring into Bethlehem. What he never knew was that somewhere in the crowd, carried in by a pregnant woman, came the Son of God into His Kingdom. When the news broke

Satan's rage was manifested in getting Herod's soldiers into the street to murder every child under two years of age. But it was too late, the gates were opened and through the centuries God has been pouring in His armies.

### **"Operation Dragon". Fights on two fronts.**

"Operation Dragon" had now two enemies to destroy; the Church as well as the nation of Israel . . . "To devour her child as soon as it was born". So the "sixth head" of Rome lashed out at both Christians and Jews. How the sixth head failed, is now part of history. Instead of Roman Power destroying the man child, the church converted the pagan empire and Christianity became the state religion. What of the Jew? Well he is more alive today as a nation than any time since Solomon was upon the throne, and "Operation Dragon" has all but spent itself.

### **One more card to lose Revelation 17, verse 7 to 10**

Yes, there is but one head left in "Operation Dragon". One more card in Satan's hand, and we must turn to Revelation 17 verse 7 to 10 to meet the dragon and decipher Satan's last card.

. . . "I will tell thee of the beast which had seven heads and 10 horns". There is no doubt that this is the same Beast as in "Operation Dragon". . . . "And there are 7 Kings, five are fallen and one is, and the other is yet to come".

This is not difficult to decipher, seven kings are nations or powers and the five that have fallen are: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medes and Persians and Greece. These were the only spent cards when John received the vision so it was correct for him to say of Rome, . . . "and one is". The only clue as to the last card is that John says: "and it is yet to come", that is, after Rome. To follow up this vital clue, we must turn to Daniel chapter 2.

### **The last card revealed Daniel 2, verse 28 to 45**

What is a problem to us, is never so to God. History was always HIS STORY and every card in Satan's hand, is always clear to God. To reassure us at all times of His control, He says, . . . "I make known what shall be in the latter days". So with these words the prophet Daniel prepared to tell the frustrated King the dream which, although unable to be recalled, leaves him still anxious. To the amazement of the King, he hears the dream from the lips of Daniel. Now it comes back to him, clearly he sees the mighty image astride the plains of time. He is overawed by its magnificence. Again it stands before him as in the hour of darkness. Its head all of shining gold, neck and arms of shimmering silver, the round belly of burnished brass, legs like pillars of iron and all standing on feet of iron and clay. He sees again the mountain in the distance shudder and a great boulder thus loosened come bounding on its way, growing larger to the eye as it comes nearer until it covers the whole horizon until it leaps at the image like a lion at its prey. When the dust settles all that can be seen is the rock filling the whole world, while the image now powdered

has blown away with the wind. As Daniel spoke, he saw it so clearly, this boulder was none other than God's Kingdom to come to earth, ending forever the empires of men.

The image spoke of all the Kingdoms to dominate history and come into conflict with God's plan. Daniel pointed out that the head of gold spoke of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, for the prophet takes the story from where he stood, not going back to Egypt and Assyria which have already passed from the scene. The chest and arms of silver speak of the coming power of the Medes and Persians, while the belly of brass foretold the rise of Greece. Greek power was followed by Roman, here illustrated by the legs of iron. Before we move to the last power, it is important to observe two things:

- (1) Each metal represented a new power,
- (2) There was no mixing of metal.

So when we come to the feet of iron and clay, we know immediately that the power of Rome, although disintegrating, continued. The clay, however, also represented a power, a power which tried to hold together the collapsing power of Rome. The clay, history tells us, represents the invading German tribes, who in time to come put German rulers on the Roman throne.

It is a fact of history that the German people, like clay, have sought through the years to hold together a Roman Empire by German might. Be it the Holy Roman Empire or Hitler and Mussolini. The clay and iron cling to each other as German kings are crowned by Latin Popes. It will later be seen that the final stage of this clay/iron kingdom represented by its ten toes is the ten nationed European Common Market under the German leader, the anti-christ. However, that must wait until the next chapter.

The last head, Satan's last card, to play against the woman and child is, therefore, the German-Roman card. We can see how it has been played through history. First against the child, then the church. A slaughtering of Christians under the Holy Roman Empire. Burnt as heretics and tortured by Roman Catholic inquisitors.

### **Last day change in tactics in Operation Dragon Verse 5 and 6**

... "And her child was caught up unto God, and the woman fled to the wilderness".  
When the church age is finished it ends as here shown with the rapture.

The taking out of the earth of the church as described by Paul: ... "And the dead in Christ shall rise first and we who remain alive unto the coming of Jesus Christ, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord". (1 Thes 4 verse 17). At the conclusion of the church age, "Operation Dragon" moves against the woman again. Satan has seen in these last few years, that all hope of destroying the church is gone. He sees, even if we do not, that the time of her going home is so near that it would be a waste of time to exhaust his powers in vain bid to crush her. There is but one hope left. If Israel can be smashed, and quickly, he may yet keep Jesus Christ from retuning as King of Jerusalem. So there has taken place a gigantic

switch of attack which we have clearly witnessed. Raising high his German-Roman head, the Dragon under Hitler hurled itself once more upon the woman, Israel.

The passage in chapter 12, from verse 1 to verse 6 is a complete sketch of Satan's "Operation Dragon". The following verse, 7 to 12 we already saw as showing the backstage movement of the drama played before our eyes down the centuries. At the next passage verse 13 to 17, we are brought back to verse 6, that attack upon the woman when the man child is taken away.

### **The three pronged attack of "Operation Dragon"**

Verse 13 and 14 is a repeat of verse 6 showing us that the story is continued here to give in detail Satan's maneuvering of his last thrust at Israel.

### **Hitler's Gas Chambers**

... "And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth and swallowed up the flood, which the dragon cast out of his mouth". With great fury Satan turns his main attack from the church to Israel pouring out a flood of anti-semitic propaganda from the dragon's seventh head. The fleeing Jew is followed across Europe by the ever increasing flood. Israel, caught and hurled by the "dragon's claws" into hundreds of cattle trucks, goes rattling along the many railroads of Europe to the gas chambers of Germany. Six million quickly disappear down the throat of the dragon. How was Israel to survive?

... "The earth opened her mouth and swallowed the flood". God stirred a world to the rescue calling nations as far apart as America and New Zealand, India and England. The earth gathered together and swallowed the flood. The first thrust had been thwarted.

### **American Air Force evacuates Israelis**

"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness into her place where she is nourished for 3½ years". This verse is a repeat of the one which ended the sketch of "Operation Dragon". It was placed last for this is where many Jews feel Israel's star goes out. The 3½ years mentioned here is that period spoken of in the next chapter. The time when Jerusalem is under the military rule of the anti-christ, the German Prime Minister of Euromart. The Arabs will have turned from Russian aid to European assistance. Jerusalem is captured and the Jews driven from the holy sites. It is here where the "wings of the eagle" come to the rescue. It is America with her massive air-fleet that flies to the rescue.

It seems from other scriptures that two thirds of the Israeli population will be ready to leave. Many sad farewells are said and only the fanatics stay behind. One last look through tearful eyes at the beloved land before the airlift gets under way.

But the verse says, they flee into the "wilderness". The wilderness is not the lonely Dyan Mountain Pass on the way to the Dead Sea. The term wilderness used here is an expression God has used again and again in the Old Testament when threatening the nation with exile if it did not repent. Sometimes the wilderness was Babylon, sometimes it was Assyria. The wilderness was away from home, out of Palestine, back to America and other sympathetic nations. Jesus tells us in Matthew's Gospel that when He comes as King He will . . . "gather them from the four corners of the world". Not by power of sword but by accepting Jesus Christ will the Jew return to his land.

### **Death thrust at Jerusalem**

. . . "And the dragon was wrath with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ".

The anger of Satan at seeing two thirds of the Jewish nation escape in this way, is now turned into a vicious attack on the modern Jerusalem, still held by the Jews. Holding this city is the fanatical remnant. They have more than just the old Ten Commandments, they have . . . "the testimony of Jesus ". Yes, these fanatics are the 144,000. One may well ask why they have not left with the rest. It is the preaching of their two ministers which assures them that Jesus Christ, their Messiah, is about to return. The anti-christ arrests these preachers intending to return to the slaughter of the 144,000 after their execution, but is prevented from doing so by the sudden outbreak of the 3½ days of Atomic War and the appearance of Russia and China at the walls of Jerusalem. The last thrust of "Operation Dragon" collapses as Jesus Christ appears in the clouds, descending to the Mount of Olives where the 144,000 wait to welcome their king.

### **World Politics in the last hour Revelation 13**

Revelation 13 takes us into the dying days of "Operation Dragon". Whereas the last chapter dealt with the battle field, here we go into Headquarters to meet the staff, and to see their planning of Political and Military attack. That we now tread into the last days is borne out by the very first verse:

. . . "And I saw a beast rise up out of the sea having 7 heads and 10 horns and upon his horn 10 crowns".

Marching past us in the last chapter, come the 7 crowned heads of Satan's kingdoms but the horns however, remained uncrowned; The reason for their being uncrowned is given in Revelation 17 verse 12 to 14 . . . "The 10 horns are 10 Kings which have received no Kingdom as yet but received power one hour with the beast. These have one mind and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb".

The hour now before us belongs to the crowned 10 Kings who will be a united force until Jesus Christ comes.

**Europe's last stand?**  
**Revelation 13, verse 1 to 4**

These 10 horns remind us of the 10 toes of Daniel's image. So, therefore, we deal with the extremity of the clay/iron empire. *Germany* has dominated Europe many times but there is a last time. Europe's last resurrection from the destruction of war will be a satanicly miraculous recovery:

... "The dragon gave him his power".

**Was Germany destroyed?**

Did the world ever think that *Germany* would rise again to become the dominant power in Europe?

... "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death". ... Wounded: We have seen it. The clay and iron seventh head lay wounded to death in 1945. Wounded by the bombers pounding her 24 hours a day until her major cities were 90% destroyed. The gaunt silhouette of her factories hung against the sky, her buildings blasted, her people homeless and sleeping in ditches. Under the thunder of aircraft and the growl of tanks, *German Europe* was "Wounded to Death". Said Churchill: "We will divide her up into harmless states, she will never dominate Europe again".

**Germany rises to rule Europe again.**

... "And his deadly wound was healed and all the world wondered after the beast".

It was *General de Gaulle* who fought for an independent Europe, free of American and British domination. This he achieved, although not for France. France could not rule Europe for "Operation Dragon" had a planned revival of *German* leadership. Has the world not wondered at *Germany's* rise and the slow pushing aside of France?

The wound is so healed that it is England, still scarred by the war, which looks like the defeated nation.

**Germany does it for the last time.**

John, in chapter 17, talks again of this miraculous revival of destroyed *Germany* in verse 7 and 8.

... "The beast had 7 heads and 10 horns, the beast was and is not and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit and go into perdition". How clearly John points out that rising miraculously from the ashes of defeat, *Germany* walks right into perdition, the Judgment.

This message must be felt and grasped. The return of *German European Power* marks a short straight walk down the plank into fiery judgment of Atomic War and the return of Christ.

Churchill was not alone in thinking *Germany* would never rise again to European leadership but John, the writer of Revelation, thought so as well. . . . "When they beheld the beast that was and is not and yet is". . . . Still registering surprise at it all, John leaves verse 8 and comes back to this beast in verse 11 of chapter 17 with these words: . . . "And the beast that was and is not, even he is the 8th and is of the seven and goeth into perdition".

John at first thought that "Operation Dragon" had come up with an 8th kingdom. Another look, however, shows him his mistake, the 8th head is not in fact a new kingdom but the seventh, revived, recovered and healed.

## **PART TEN**

### **A German Europe greater than Hitler's Chapter 17, verse 12 and 13**

When *Germany* leads Europe it will grow before our eyes into a greater power than Hitler ever foresaw. Europe, not America or England, is to be the dominant power in tomorrow's world because, without war, ten nations will unite with *Germany*. . . . "Ten Kings which receive power as Kings one hour with the beast"

Euromart will come to the pinnacle of her greatness when these ten states are united. . . . "These have one mind". One Parliament for Europe. . . . "Shall give their power and strength unto the beast". One European army.

Before we start to count the nations of Euromart, let us understand that not just any ten will do. The ten must be of clay and iron as we were shown by the ten toes of Daniel's image. The nations who pool their power must have felt both the iron of Rome and the clay of *Germany*. If this is the case, England and/or Ireland cannot be in the final count. Nations not yet included to make up the ten are Spain, Greece, Rumania and Yugoslavia.

### **The world becomes a German Europe Chapter 13 verse 4**

. . . "And they worshipped the beast saying, who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

With America drawing more and more into her shell, the need is felt for a new power to stop the communist march. What an ideal buffer a united Europe would make. With a welcome and warm encouragement by the Western World, Europe will become a great dam-wall holding back Russia and China.

### **German Prime Minister of Europe. Verse 5**

Seeing as the clay has to "pull together" all of Europe, it will have to be very good.

A super Politician will stand across Europe. . . . "And there was given unto him a mouth". . . . A great voice will be needed to build such a Europe. A man of persuasion to hold them together and bring into the ranks, Rumania and Yugoslavia.

Such an orator the Political world has never heard. Other scriptures in the Bible tell us that he will be half devil, half man: being none other than Satan's Christ as Jesus was God's Christ.

"Blasphemies" we see are a part of his politics, for Europe will be led further into pornography and black magic until all vestige of religion disappears under his reign. The horrifying picture of Europe's religious decay is told in chapter 17. Down and down it slides into godlessness where every church door is closed . . . "and not a candle will shine in her ever again".

### **German Prime Minister "King of Jerusalem"**

. . . "And power was given unto him to continue 42 months". This is the three and a half year period we read of in chapters 11 and 12, that time when Jerusalem is taken from the Jew and placed under the military rule of both the Arabs and Europe. It is the high light of the Anti-christ's life when he is 'king' of Jerusalem. One can imagine how demoralized the Israeli nation will be when another, worse than Hitler, stands as King of Jerusalem. How this comes to pass forms the last part of this chapter.

### **The antichrist speaks to the world - verse 6.**

Just before he mounts the platform as supreme leader of Europe a startling event will shake the world. We are told in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 verse 2 to 11 that the antichrist does not launch his campaign for power until the . . . "restraining or letting" . . . power is removed. Even now, like a restless animal, a figure somewhere in the world stalks up and down, never failing to buy a newspaper, never missing a news bulletin. He was born, most probably, in the 1960's and although young, diligently prepares for his task. Being half devil his mind is fixed on one aim; leadership of Europe. And then help for the Arabs in destroying the Jews.

While Christians tuck their babies under their arms and the hum of earnest prayer rises to God, he does not move but stays in hiding. However, the church will be leaving.

One day a sudden catastrophe will shake the world on its axis. Whether it be a meteorite crashing into the sea to send tidal waves around the world or a ripple of earthquakes moving across our planet, cannot be said, but what is certain is . . . "while the world (Egyptians) buried their dead, we went out" . . . Into a world shaken to a state of panic will come a quiet assuring voice of authority and comfort. The antichrist will speak; . . . "And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, His name, His tabernacle and them that dwell in Heaven".

The voice will bring a "strange delusion" to the world. God will be conveniently explained away. The name of Jesus will be discounted as having nothing to do with

the disappearance of millions of people. The tabernacle (church) will be portrayed as an institute of weaklings who have fled in terror and disappeared in the storm. All thoughts of people having gone to heaven will be scoffed at. So good is the rationalization and explanation that the world soon returns to its own problems feeling that the church and the gospel are merely an anachronism belonging to a bygone age.

### **Europe to become caretaker of the Middle East - verse 7**

Such a man will be trusted to handle the Middle East problem.

... "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them".

How he eventually gets the Arabs onto his side, will be dealt with later in the chapter. A political pointer of the end is the world's eagerness for Europe to handle the Middle East crisis instead of the super powers, Russia and America. Once in this place of trust Europe, led by this demented ruler from Hell, will "Stab Israel in the back" by helping the Arabs to crush her. Israel is here referred to as "Saints" for the church is no longer in the world and the Jews have again become "God's People" which is what the word "Saint" means.

### **German Prime Minister main spokesman in U.N.O.**

#### **Verse 7 and 8**

... "And power was given him over all kindreds and tongues and nations . . . "Although he will never become a world ruler, his authority will reach far across the seas. At the United Nations Organisation his amazing statesmanship will be listened to and sought after time and again. Here he will return many times seeking the world's confidence and backing in solving the Middle East problem

... "All that dwell on the earth shall worship him. . . "

"All" means everyone, for the Christians are not there to raise a voice of objection. Nowhere in the world will there be a Christian, a man of God or a voice of righteousness. The two preachers will not appear in Israel for many years yet, their ministry covering the last three and a half years of the antichrist's rule as King of Jerusalem. This "Move" God will not leave unchallenged and He sends His two witnesses to speak from the centre of the agony and the rape of Jerusalem. Our planet in those days of darkness, without a church, will be totally given over to hell. Fear in every city. War clouds across every horizon. All mankind pinning their last hope on a madman whose mind has been forged and moulded on the anvils of Hell.

### **Is there hope? - verse 10**

... "Peace I give unto you, not as the world gives, my Peace give I unto you . . ." As the world goes careering to its doom these words of Jesus are as true today as ever. . . . "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity. He that killeth with the sword must be killed by the sword. Here is the patience of faith of the Saints" . . . Yes, there is no panic in the Christian heart as we see what is happening. God is still

on the throne and in control. Captivities and sword wielding will all follow the prescribed pattern. God has not overlooked anything. Sit back, be calm, the wave of the future runs not for the antichrist but Jesus Christ. Place your life in His hands now.

## **PART ELEVEN**

### **The noose tightens around Israel**

Written on most confidential documents of "Operation Dragon" is a plan so skillful that not even Israel's politicians will see its ultimate dangers. It is revealed in the last half of chapter 13.

### **Operation Dragon - final phase. . . "The twins from Hell" Chapter 13, verse 11 to 18**

The first ruler, seen in this chapter, held sway over Europe. The second dominates the Middle East. . . . "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth". It is the nations, Europe and the World which are spoken of as "out of the Sea". The "Earth" points to the prophetic scene of activity, the Middle East. This is confirmed by the language used to describe this beast; . . . "and he had two horns like a lamb". Turning to Daniel, we discover that all the Middle East powers were of the same description.

Before moving on, however, let us examine the end of the verse; . . . "like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon . . ." Operation Dragon has two Commanders working together. One is European and one comes from amongst the Arabs.

### **The leader of a United Arab world Daniel 8, verse 1 - 27**

Of all the amazing forecasts of world history given in the Bible, this must be one of the most extraordinary. Daniel, a member of palace staff in the reign of Belshazzar of Babylon, has a dream after going to sleep with the matters of state heavy upon his mind. A dream that was to unveil in detail the history of the next two world empires. Awaking he raises himself upon his elbows and stares into the darkness of his palace room. Within an hour the sun will be rising over the sleeping kingdom. Somewhere in the distance a cock starts crowing. Falling back upon his cushions he contemplates his strange vived dream.

In his dream he had seen a Ram with uneven horns, looking westward across the plains of Greece. While the ram was slowly walking westward a great goat appeared in the distance running at full speed towards it. Although the goat was flying across the ground at tremendous speed, one could not escape noticing the great horn between its eyes. With scarcely a hesitation the goat lowered its head and charged the Ram, caught by surprise, was bowled over, its horns broken, and trampled to death. Then lifting its shaggy head, the goat pointed its horn eastward.

While staring at the dead animal on the battlefield, centuries floated by Daniel. A new Kingdom came and went, the two western expansionist rulers of Persia becoming a part of history like the horns of the dead animal. Persian armies had met the Greeks in battles which raged back and forth across those burning plains. Then rising from Greece, came the horn of Alexander the Great to end forever the Western ambitions of Persian rulers. Turning away from the Persian dead, the Ram, Daniel follows Alexander's victorious march eastward. The further the goat marched, the bigger and stronger it grew.

Then tragedy befell the goat, its great horn was broken. But this was not to be the end of the animal for as the horn was broken, four others grew in its place.

Daniel had been shown events-to-come in Greek history.

Alexander the Great would die and his kingdom be divided amongst his four Generals. The General from the north, the land which today is called Iraq, would become the dominant leader, wresting Palestine from the others and persecuting the Jews. It would be centuries before Antiochus rose to this place of leadership, but God foretold it. Daniel was assured that this vicious ruler would only confiscate the temple from the Jews for 2,300 days. True as God, is His word, for not a day longer did Antiochus hold the temple. In telling Daniel the meaning of the dream God used the word "the latter days".

As we look back on the days of the northern leader Antiochus, it seems a great distance in time from the latter days. One could well ask what the connection is between the activities of a long dead Antiochus and our own or future times. However, if we examine the prophecies closely, we see that Antiochus fulfilled all but one thing of that which was prophesied of him. That was . . . "he also stand up against the PRINCE of princes but he shall be broken without hand . . ." Daniel had seen a passage of history that would repeat itself in the last days as Jesus, the Prince of Princes, returns. Antiochus was a type of the last day Arab leader.

### **Iraq, not Egypt to lead Arab world**

Out of the Northern General's country will come a ruler in the last days to do exactly what his forerunner did centuries before the birth of Christ. He will conquer the Jews and confiscate and desecrate their temple. While he is in possession of Jerusalem and the temple, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Princes, returns.

In order to follow this in greater detail, let us turn to Revelation 13.

### **False prophet out of Iraq to be leader of the Arabs Revelation 13 verse 12**

Just before Jesus returns the Arabs produce a leader whose ambition is to unite the Arab world with Europe. . . . "And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast whose deadly wound was healed".

At the same time as Europe grows together out of the ashes of World War 3, a champion of the Arab cause calls his brothers to Europe's side. Great speeches, ring across the desert sands as he stamps up and down the Arab world preaching a European alliance as opposed to the present policy of dependence on Russia.

... "And causeth the earth and them which worship therein to worship the beast ..."

His campaigning is successful and the Arab world turns from Russia to Europe.

### **Europe wins Arab favour. Verse 13**

The Arabs need a neutral country to arm them. Here the leader from Iraq solves a great Arab problem. As long as Russia arms them, America will send arms to Israel, however, if arms are obtained from another source, America could find it embarrassing to arm Israel. The leader of Europe, the German Anti-christ, and the False Prophet returns to the Middle East after a triumphant tour bringing with him a promise of an unlimited supply of European arms.

... "And he doeth great wonders so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men".

Such a demonstration of military weapons impresses the Arabs and it is now time for the False Prophet to press home his point.

### **America squeezed out of the Middle East - verse 14**

Somewhere in a Middle East city, Arab leaders sit in silence as their leader speaks. Talking with a Satanic persuavensness, he points out that if the Arabs had to make an alliance with Europe, America would be placed in an embarrassing position. Would she like to start an arms race with Europe as well? Does she want to add Europe to Russia and China, as her enemies?

His proposal therefore, is an association with Europe ... "and deceiveth them by those miracles (fire from heaven) saying to them that they should make an image to the beast".

### **Arabs and Europe in a political alliance - verse 15**

The Arab leader talks on.

In order to ensure that America moves right out of the Middle East, the association must be firm and binding, not a token alliance. Europe will back the Arabs as well as arm them if they propose her as guardian of Middle East peace. The great European leaders stir the world from the U.N.O. platform as he talks on European solutions to the Middle East problem. The trust between these two leaders is such that the Arabs agree to European Power replacing both Russia and America in Middle East involvement ... "And he had power to give LIFE unto the image of the beast that the image of the best should SPEAK".

### **All Arabs forced into unity - verse 15**

Operation Dragon to be successful must completely encircle Israel, therefore, the whole Arab world must be united as well as joined to Europe. This would require somewhat more than simple persuasion and Arab terrorist powers would have to escalate their "arm-twisting" activities. Could this be the end of King Hussein?

... "and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed?"

In the book of Isaiah we are told that Egypt, in the last days . . . "is given into the hand of a fierce land". Does Egypt still feel that Russia is her best friend? Her voice, however, is lost in the fanatical urge to unite all Arabs under their new champion.

### **Arabs become associate members of the European Common Market**

If ever there was a dream of power, certainly this must be it. One united power block from the Baltic to the Dead Sea. From the Atlantic to the Persian Gulf, from the shores of France all along the Mediterranean coast passing the Delta of the Nile to rejoin the Atlantic opposite Gibraltar. Hitler held such a dream for a few months but under the False Prophet and the Anti-christ it becomes reality when the Arabs join the states of Europe.

... "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond to receive a mark in their right hand or their foreheads". The mark on the forehead speaks of political agreement between Europe and the Arabs while the mark on the hand refers to trading agreements.

### **Arab oil belongs to Europe -verse 17**

In a new day for Europe and the Middle East, pipe lines will carry oil into the heart of Europe while arms and trade return down the Danube and across the Mediterranean into Arab cities and towns.

Europe gets what she wants - black gold and the Arabs get rid of America and enjoy the hope and expectation of conquering Israel. Faced with such a fortress or power, Russia will turn to China and content herself with the conquest of all Asia. Behind such a wall of power the fears of Russia and China will be forgotten. America and England will switch off the news bulletins and turn over to sleep. The Middle East will have become a closed shop to all but Europe . . . "And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark or the number of the beast or the number of his name".

### **Israel joins the fatal pact**

Israel now left to the guardianship of Europe has no other option but to rejoin this pact under whatsoever terms Europe may care to propose. Although there is anxiety in Israel about the honesty of the Arabs and the neutrality of Europe, there is no

choice. America and Russia have left the scene, making the Middle East problem a domestic matter for Europe.

The Prime Minister of all Europe is ready to play "big daddy" to Israel and is ready with an agreement. The Spider asks the Fly to consider coming into the parlour for seven years. Daniel in chapter 9 verse 27 writes: . . . "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week and he shall make it desolate even until the consummation".

Daniel is talking of happenings before the consummation. Again and again we have read of the horror to befall Israel for three and a half years. This time period had something to do with the sacrifice being stopped in the . . . "middle of the week"

The leader of Europe, the Arabs and Israel will draw up a pact which Daniel said would have to be acceptable to "many people". The Antichrist and the False Prophet open their big hearts to Israel offering her a seven year non aggression pact. Europe promises that for seven years she will guarantee the safety of Israel. Israel in return must recognize boundaries agreeable to all. What can Israel do but accept? America has left the scene, she must trust Europe. So off to Europe flies the Israeli Prime Minister to sign the fateful pact. Is there a hint of the identity of this Prime Minister when Zechariah talking of the last days says, . . . "I will give unto Israel a foolish shepherd, his right eye shall be darkened and a sword on his arm". Moshe Dyan fresh from the army to leadership of Israel? It is believed to be the manner of those times to describe things as they were related to oneself. Therefore, another's left eye would be seen as his right eye. This is recorded merely for interest value, although the possibility of its occurrence is tempting to contemplate.

### **Northern invasion Daniel chapter 11**

However, it is not for any real importance. For what really matters is that after three and a half years the pact is put to the test when the Arabs invade Israel from the north. That it is a northern invasion is told us in Daniel 11 where he continues his prophecy on the four divisions of Alexander's empire; . . . "At the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him (king of the north) and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind". He shall enter into the glorious land". (verse 40 to 43). Egypt will be chaffing under the Arab rule from the north and at this time will argue for the return of Russia to the Middle East arena.

### **Return of Russia and China to the Middle East**

Making the Jews' Temple building the excuse, the northern king, False Prophet, ruler of the Arabs, invades Israel. Europe, in a desperate attempt to keep Russia out, marches with the Arabs. Using germ warfare as studied already in chapter 9 of Revelation they drive into Jerusalem. The Prime Minister of Europe, the Antichrist, place Jerusalem under military rule, while restoring the Temple to the Arabs. However, all does not run smoothly for the European politicians because of Egypt's rebellious attitude and moving of her old friend Russia. Russia's anxiety over Euro-

Arab unity years before causes her to solve her differences with China and it is a united Russo-Chinese unity that sets about the conquest of Asia. This will be studied in chapter 16.

The Antichrist and False Prophet receive the bad news as their victorious armies roll across Israel! . . . "But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him". (Daniel 11 verse 44). Russia and China have responded to Egypt's distress call and have moved once more into the Middle East.

The European leader presses forward in the race of Jerusalem . . . "Therefore, he shall go forth with great fury". He wins the race, erecting his army tents in Jerusalem (verse 45) which he holds for three and a half years or, until Jesus Christ returns. In the study of chapter 16, it is seen that it is at this point that Europe is destroyed by atomic War.

### **What is 666?**

Here the horrible twins, the Antichrist and the False Prophet come to their end. For when Russia returns to the Middle East she demands European withdrawal from the area. Europe refuses and Atomic War as studied in chapter 11 comes to the world for three and a half days, at the end of the three and a half years of Jewish suffering. Satan's dream has vanished, his last kingdom lies in ashes but its greatness was once the wonder of the world. Yet the building of the great power block of the ten kingdom's Europe plus the Middle East, was the work of one man.

"Count the number of the beast for it is the number of a man". (Revelation 13 verse 18). The great name of the Kingdom must be acknowledged as being the dream and work of a man - the Antichrist . . . "And the number is 666". Why this specific number? The whole wonder of this united Europe was that the beast wounded to death, had miraculously recovered. The death wound was the allied invasion on the beaches of Normandy which brought down the German-Europe dream, as was thought by all, for the last time. That invasion took place at the Sixth hour of the Sixth day of the Sixth month. The healing of the wound, the obliteration of the shame, the re-building of German-Europe was the work of one man, the Antichrist.

His number 666, the healer of the wound.

## **PART TWELVE**

### **A bad dream ends**

#### **Chapter 14, verses 1 to 5**

There is a verse in Isaiah which says . . . "As when a hungry man dreamed that he eateth and awakens and his soul is empty, so shall all the nations be that come against Zion". . . . The dreamer of course is Satan, and how many times has he felt sure that Zion, Jerusalem, has been his, only to receive the rude awakening. One can remember the time he gathered Sennach'erib's army around the walls of Jerusalem

and shouted to Hezekiah to surrender as there was no chance of survival. Hezekiah turned his heel on the blusterings of Sennach'erib and marched into the temple to tell God about the problem. While Satan enjoyed his dream that night, an angel of the Lord moved over the sleeping camp and killed 185,000 men. Broken and humiliated the boaster removed his army and Satan "awoke hungry". It had been a dream.

So too will Satan's dream of our time be frustrated. When the Arabs are brought into a pact with Europe and America withdraws from the Middle East, Israel will lie in isolation. Never will Satan seem nearer the realization of his dream as Europe deceives Israel and aids the Arab aggression of Palestine. Even when Russia with China rejoins the Middle East scene and challenges the Antichrist to take his forces out of Palestine or face the might of the united communist world, even then, Satan, although his plan has gone slightly awry, would be happy to see Jerusalem taken, by anyone, even Russia but not Christ. Even if the Russian tanks, about to enter Jerusalem, kill his Antichrist, as long as Jerusalem is kept from Jesus, Satan would be happy. Even the possible cost of the world being destroyed, would be a happy ending to his dream.

But it is not to be . . .

Warring stops instantly. On mount Zion stands the Lamb. Not that His approach was not seen, it must have been, for the 144,000 are there to meet Him. Does a great glow appear in the sky over the warring world? A dim glow at first, seen through the smog, pollution and atomic clouds shrouding the world? For when He comes we read . . . "every eye will see him". Is it the approach of a comet, a wandering planet? The worry will grow at the aspect of a collision with a heavenly body for the clouds upon which Jesus descends will not be like those which surround our earth. It will be the shekinah glory of the fiery pillar that led the Jews through the wilderness.

Slowly but surely the world observes this glow growing nearer each day. The panic at its greatness is shown at the end of chapter six when men hurl themselves from the tops of the mountains. The horror of the war diminishes before the dread new terror which hovers over the skies of the earth. The converted Jews, knowing what is happening, tear across the crumbling city even as the Russian tanks stand before the gates of Jerusalem. Climbing to the top of the mount of Olives they start to shout and sing as the great ship of salvation draws near to the earth.

After the glow has settled over Jerusalem a world wide message will ring out on every television set in the world. . . . "Jesus Christ will address the world at 5 p.m. on channel eight". It will be as real and as startling as that. *Are you ready?* To be there on that day when Joseph (Jesus) is reunited with his brothers. They then, are the wise virgins of the parable of Jesus who lead the way into the bridal feast, which is to be held in Jerusalem. It will be worth anything just to be there in that column, marching down the broken streets into the Holy City to address the world as its King.

When we read that the 144,000 are not defiled with women it refers to the apostate religions of the world, which are spoken of in Revelation as being harlots and whores. These Jewish converts will have a pure faith, they will be living in a

world where every vestige of religion has died out, their's being the only faith in a godless world.

We now come to a series of proclamations made as Jesus Christ prepares to rule the world. The first of these statements is:

### **Chapter 14, verse 6 and 7**

The Gospel has been preached to the whole world.

The everlasting Gospel here mentioned cannot be another Gospel for there is none other. Christ comes to judge the nations of the world, but reminds them that they have no excuse for He has kept His promise made in Matthew 24 . . . "and this Gospel of the kingdom must be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations then shall the end come". The angel reminds the world that his promise has been kept. When this statement of Christ is considered there can be no room left for Christian inferiority for this verse makes us part of destiny. What it says is this: Christ will not come until the Church has finished its work. When we have preached our last sermon, not before, Christ will come. In some wonderful way every Christian holds in his hands a small measure of destiny. Only when our job is done will the wheel of God's judgement start to turn.

Joshua in the Old Testament caught some of this glory when fighting against Israel's enemies. As he saw the chance of the enemy escaping in the coming dusk he turned to the sun and commanded it to stand still. In one moment of glory he saw the importance of the work he was doing for God. The sun could stop in its path but God's work must be done first. There is nothing as important as what we have to do for God, all else must wait. Joshua felt his importance in God and knew at that moment that the centre of the world was not the sun but what he was doing for God. There is nothing under the sun as important as the task to which God has called you. Joshua had a glimpse into eternity and knew that the child of God's life is not contained in a 24 hour day but is part of eternity. One day the sun will have stopped but God's work will still go on, we must be Master's of the day and do what we have to for God and not be rushed about by the time of the sun. For it is us, not the sun, who sets the time for Christ's return and judgement.

### **All false religions have passed away**

Chapter 14 verse 18, . . . "fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication". The announcement about Babylon having fallen is important and comes as the Bridegroom arrives with his bride. The wedding feast would not be enjoyed if people were not too clear as to who was actually the bride. Babylon in chapter 17 speaks of the false religion of the world. False religions have one thing in common and that is that they all claim to be the only true church. If the Church is to be the bride of Christ, which church is to be? At the rapture, every true Christian no matter what denomination he belongs to, will be caught up to meet the Lord Jesus Christ in the air. Down on earth the place of the Holy Ghost will be taken by Satan's spirit, the spirit of lawlessness. In these

desperate times every vestige of religion will disappear. Churches will be turned into Bingo halls, factories and food depots. Then when the time arrives for Jesus Christ to descend to the earth, He comes to an earth without religion in any shape or form. There will be only one bride, the church of born again believers. When talking of religion it is the professing Christian religions which are referred to, because Mohammedism will exist until the return of Christ.

**A summons to judgement for every M.P. in the world**  
**Verse 9 to 11**

So great is the anger of the Lord against the instigators of the dreadful war that He will not sit upon His throne, not even for one minute before these men are dealt with and banished, not into hell, the temporary prison, but beyond hell, straight to the final place of punishment; the lake of fire. Nations are to be judged by the stand they took in the war around Israel. God in the last days will test the nations, is in fact already doing so, by their reaction to the Middle East situation. In the book of Zechariah, God states that in the last days Israel will be made . . . "a burdensome stone to every nation". It is quite amazing how hypocritical politics are brought to the fore by the stand that nations take on the Middle East problems. It seems that the Arabs are allowed to get away with everything and anything, while the Jews are not given licence to make even one move. For this reason the spirit of nationalism has swept the world since Israel was given statehood. God now wants each nation to make up its own mind, without outside interference, on what they would do regarding the Jewish problem of the Middle East. Every move is watched by God and recorded. In the parable on Christ judging the nations, told in Matthew chapter 25 the nations are judged on the help or lack of help given to Israel in her time of need. What each cabinet decided will set them among the sheep or the goats before the judgement throne of the nations.

A great man of God was asked to address the gathering on the day of Swaziland's Independence. As he looked at the colourful crowds in the arena, representing all Africa, he said: "Look! My African people are a colourful people. God has blessed us with a love for colour and music". Around the speaker fluttered the many coloured flags of Africa and before him the many national costumes of the African nations. He continued: "Jacob in the Old Testament blessed his favourite son with a many coloured robe. This brought jealousy and hate, it divided the family. So we too are divided by our tribal war and many different cultures. It was only when Joseph's coat was torn from his back and plunged beneath the blood of a kid, to pretend to Jacob that a lion had killed his son, that the coat became one colour. From that time the differences were ended and the family became united. So, continued the evangelist, "only when the many colours of Africa are placed beneath the blood of Jesus Christ will we become one".

On that day before the throne of Jesus, the dividers of nations will be dealt with and sentenced to their awful punishment and the world will become one beneath the blood-stained banner of the cross.

**A warning to stay faithful at all costs**  
**Verse 12 - 13**

As the sentenced men are led off to eternal banishment the spirit, not the angel, turns to John to add in a word of warning; . . . "Here is the patience of the saints, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, they rest from their labours and their works follow them". After watching such a judgement the spirit urges this warning to people of all time. Never be tempted to side with the world, even if it seems as if evil is winning the day. Rather die than change sides. And if you die, God promises you, you will lose nothing. But side with Satan and . . ."what shall a man give in exchange for his soul". As Jesus said . . . "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul".

## **PART THIRTEEN**

### **Atomic War will be allowed by God as Judgement for the wickedness of the nations**

#### **Verse 14 to 20**

When the Lord appears over the warring world He sits upon the throne with a sickle to reap the harvest. The harvest is not of wine but blood. It is a great harvest, for the blood, if it did not drain away into the soil, would surround the walls of Jerusalem for . . . "a thousand and six furlongs as high as the bridles of the horses". Such a war people feel a God of love will never allow. Here is a picture of the direct judgement of God. When the nations send their armies to surround Jerusalem in masses of up to 200 million, it will be . . . "to plead with them there in mine anger . . ." as the Old Testament prophet puts it. The sin of the world is bringing it to a day of reckoning.

A little fellow at school was the only one in the class who managed to do as the teacher had asked; to write a poem. He came forward and read it to the other boys:

A Boy was walking on a railway track  
The train was coming fast  
The boy got off the railway track  
To let the train go past.

He was congratulated on his effort but told to improve it the next day by introducing an element of excitement in to the story. He returned the next day with the following:

A boy was walking on a railway track  
A train was coming fast  
The train got off the railway track  
To let the boy go past.

When told that it was "wrong" he replied that it rhymed. Many have a rhyme that goes something like this . . . "God is a God of love and will find some way to get around judging me or this world'. It may rhyme in your mind, but it is "wrong". Trains don't get off track to pass little boys. God warns us to repent and change our ways.

The judgement, hurtling towards us like an express through the night, will never swerve to miss us, we must turn aside beneath the cross of Calvary and let God meet us in forgiving love.

### **Such a terrible judgement is regarded by the watching angels as just and fair - Chapter 15**

While man complains that the destruction of the nations in an atomic war is grossly unfair of God, Heaven acclaims its justness. First, this is stated by the converted Jews, who have just come through the horror of Antichrist's reign, as around the throne of Jesus they acclaim; . . . "Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are thy ways". Man being so sold to sinning will always find a way to excuse his worst actions. Heaven, however, is absolutely honest and sees the terrible suffering that sin brings to all. In this chapter there is, as it were, a corridor opened from heaven to earth, for all heaven stands to watch as Jesus Christ comes to earth as King of Kings. All of heaven watches with joy the moment of triumph of the Christ once so cruelly rejected and crucified. Nevertheless there is much to be told of the events before that day, so smoke, like a curtain, falls across the scene, turning man back, in chapter 16, to the events that lead up to Armegeddon; the final war. Before we follow John back down the trail along which we have just come, let us close with one more look at heaven standing to acclaim the correctness of God's judgement. This is repeated again in chapter 19, when over a burning earth heaven stands to applaud the just judgement of God. Something happened a few years ago which gave me a glimpse of this glorious moment.

The African, who for a long time has served our church as a janitor, came tearing into my home one morning in a state of agitation. Outside, holding his arrested wife in their custody, were the Police, waiting for him. The story told was this: The African's wife, who worked near by, had told her madam that she was pregnant and would like to leave in a months time to return to her country home and have her child there. Her employer found that she could get an immediate replacement and threw the maid out. To make sure she went immediately her employer, in a rage, threw the maid's clothes into the street. Someone took pity on this servant who had been so badly rewarded after a year of faithful service and helped to call the servant's husband. When he arrived to find all his wife's belongings thrown on the ground, he asked his wife's employer why she had done it. At this moment a watch rolled out from the pocket of a dress he had just gathered from the ground. Pouncing upon it the employer said; "For being cheeky I will get you into trouble with this watch". Her home was often frequented by her many friends in the police force and so it was just a matter of minutes before they arrived and took the unhappy couple off to jail.

The commandant of the Police Station, on hearing that I believed the man's story that the watch was his wife's, a present he had bought for her when getting married 15 years before, released them in my care until the trial. A trip of three hundred miles brought a story of recognition from the watchmaker of both the man and the watch but of course no receipt had survived those many years. However, we ascertained that the watch had been taken for repair to a jeweler some three months before, by the husband. This of course showed the affidavit, given to the Police by the former employer, to be entirely incorrect. Unfortunately, she and the

police discovered this and the affidavit was changed. Eventually the day of the trial came.

I had come along armed with a few collected facts, determined to talk for the black couple. Again and again I was refused permission to speak. Family members one after another came and perjured themselves with stories about the watch. The prosecutor was unsympathetic to my story and I was shouted down by all. Although, by raising my voice I spoke as long as I could. The magistrate then dismissed the case until after lunch. With her police and detective friends around her she spent the lunch hour laughing and sneering at my wife and I. I thought how in this world the child of God feels that everything is going along smoothly for Satan. Filled with anger I turned to the door through which the magistrate had gone for his lunch. My wife had to turn me away from that door time and again. Just how many times have we heard the unsaved man demanding to know how God proposes to judge the heathen or Mohammedans or little children. Paul the apostle tells us it is none of our business as to how God will conduct the judgement. If He wants to damn one and not the other it is His business. That magistrate would have had me hurled out of his room. I was to trust his judgement. Did ever a Judge discuss with the newspapers the final outcome of the case before him. How then can we have the audacity to expect the eternal God to discuss with hairbrained creatures like us, the final ways that He will use to judging certain people. Are we wicked sinners actually insinuating that God may do something that would not be right? Paul gives us just one assurance . . . "the judgement day will be a revelation of the righteous judgement of God.

We sat down after lunch as the magistrate started his summing up. As he spoke of the State's case I grew into such a rage that my wife had to restrain me from causing a scene. Then suddenly the magistrate began to show the flaws in the case the State had brought before the court. I have never before in my life been swept from one emotional state to another. It was like going from a sauna bath into a cold shower. What emotional stirring there will be on the day Jesus sits as Judge over the world. Things we thought would never be rectified or exposed, will suddenly be brought to light. I felt a feeling of shame. How could I have doubted the integrity of the Judge. I had seen through the old lady with long dyed hair down to her waist, giving her testimony to the rattling of a ton of jewellery. Did I think the magistrate could not? Was not he more able than I to judge the character of the people before him? There will be much blushing on that day. Remember when we thought God didn't care, he didn't see. How many times we have felt God to be unfair, and thought he was blind to all that the wicked were getting away with. I turned to my wife and said, "If the black couple get away without being sentenced, that will be better than I expected". On the contrary, the magistrate was not going to gloss over anything. He began slowly to justify the native couple and demanded the watch returned to their possession. Did not Jesus tell us that on that day the wicked will not get away "with even a farthing". Jesus will be thorough, there will be no sloppiness on that day. All that has been wrong must be put right. The books of each life will balance right down to the last farthing. . . . "The first will be last and the last will be first". When the case was closed the schemers stood around their box with the police friends and had to be asked to move on by the next arriving case. They felt it could not end like that, surely something else was going to be said. Yes! Jesus said that many people will arrive at His judgement throne thinking that they are going to get off. Jesus said they will plead, to which He answers . . . "depart from me for I never knew you".

Most people living think that somehow they are going to get off. It would be better to wake up now, than on that day. Without Jesus Christ as your Saviour now you will have no chance then.

As long as I live I will never forget what happened next. It sounds in my heart today, moving my heart as it did then. There was present in court that day, the church friends of the native couple, come to offer their sympathy as they were led off to jail. When the magistrate came to the end of his summing up, they stood up as one and applauded. It was absolutely spontaneous. I thought of Revelation chapter 15 and chapter 19 when after the judgements of God heaven spontaneously rises and applauds God. So too, will it be on that great judgment day when the last soul has just departed the bar and the Angel closes the book on every immortal being. Angel and Seraphim will arise throughout the corridors of heaven and applaud the . . . "righteous judgement of God"

The way was now open for us to sue those who had wished us harm. "Sir", said the church janitor, "are we going to take them to court?" "No", I said, "we will leave it to the Big Judge upstairs. There will be no lawyers, and only the truth comes out of those large books".

"I think that's much better", was his reply, "I think so too, so let us cease moaning and complaining, God sees and understands and one day all will be put right. You too will stand to applaud".

## **PART FOURTEEN**

### **The path to Armageddon**

#### **Chapter 16**

When Pharoah was asked by Moses when it was he wanted God to take away the plague of frogs from his kingdom, his amazing answer was; "Tomorrow!" Pharoah wanted one more night with frogs in his palace, in his bed, keeping the children awake and getting into the baker's bread. When God could remove the plague instantly, he wanted one more night with the frogs.

When we live in these desperate days, it is amazing how people choose to have one more night with their guilt and sins, when God can cleanse and set them free instantly. One more night with "the frogs" could cause us to miss the coming rapture and put us well on the path to Armageddon with the day of grace and salvation left far behind.

Much of chapter 16 was covered when we studied chapter 8, so only those signs as yet undiscussed will be covered.

### **The destruction of Europe**

#### **Verse 2 and 10**

... "Sores upon those who had the mark of the beast and worshipped his enemies. . ." This verse refers once more to the coming extension of Europe; the Arab world. From this scripture it seems again certain that Atomic war comes to the Middle East. However, verse 10 definitely refers to Europe's destruction by Atomic weapons; . . . "And the kingdom of the beast was full of Darkness and they gnawed their tongues in pain . . ."

The timing of this destruction seems to coincide with Russia's recall to the Middle East trouble spot. However, with Russia isolating herself with her own problems, the Middle East becomes a domestic problem for Europe. Russia turns her attention to befriending China and together they set about conquering the whole of the east. Egypt recalls Russia to the Middle East when a disagreement with the rest of the Arabs, as to how the land of Israel should be portioned, arises. Russia appears on the scene, but with China at her side. She is now strong enough to face the power of a united Europe. The Antichrist, the German ruler of Euromart is told, quite plainly, to remove his influence and forces from the Middle East - or else? The Antichrist sees the danger of the situation for the whole of Europe, but he was formed in Hell for one purpose: To be King of Jerusalem in the place of Jesus Christ.

To give up Jerusalem, over which he has been king for three and a half years, would be to disobey the command of his leader, Satan. So his reply to the Russian ultimatum is NO. True to their word the Russians unleash the might of their atomic weaponry on Europe. Thus some of the most sinful countries and cities in the world; Copenhagen, Berlin are destroyed, burnt to the ground by atomic fire. Faced with such coming horrors, who would choose "One more night with the frogs" and face the risk of not having time to get right with God before Christ calls his children out of the world.

Many want to rise in the rapture to be with Christ, but are held back by sins that lie hidden in their hearts.

### **Upset climate Verses 8 and 9**

... "And power was given unto the sun to scorch men with fire . . ." We have been warned by scientists that pollution and our modern technology are changing the climate of the world. Great heat waves will move across the earth as effluent gases, discharged into the atmosphere, these intensify the rays of the sun and pollution like a blanket prevents the planet from cooling. Many scientists are adamant that there is only 35 more years before the situation becomes desperate. What we read of here in Revelation could be the situation, complicated by war on a large scale. Although many can see that mankind is heading to destruction and politicians and scientists warn us constantly, there is no great repentance and turning to God.

... "The great river Euphrates was dried up to make way for the Kings of the east..." Man has, since the dawn of exploration, divided his planet into; West, Middle East, and Far East. So far away is the Far East that no one really pays attention to its events and occurrences. Right across the Middle East stretches the buffer of the Mohommedan powers that have kept China a remote land. The road to Armageddon

grows short, however, when the Middle East ceases to be a buffer state between China and the Mediterranean. Who could possibly have predicted that foremost in Western Politics would be diplomatic contact with China and Japan.

### **Antichrist secures Jerusalem Daniel 11, verses 44 and 45**

The only way the Kings of the east will be united, as they are in this verse, will be under China. She will conquer the Malay peninsula, India and other lands of the East. She could possibly be helped by Russia during the years Russia is thrust out of the Middle East by the Arab move towards Europe and just before Armageddon the world will be presented with a China anxiously waiting to enter the Middle East arena, along with Russia. That she arrives together with Russia is suggested by the anxiety the Antichrist displays as, together with the King of the North, (In Daniel 11, the False Prophet from Iraq), he marches on Jerusalem. Spurred on by rumours . . ."out of the east and the north . . ." that other armies are on the march, the Antichrist takes Jerusalem and secures his position there for three and a half years. His anxiety and subsequent rush to capture the Holy City is caused by the Russia-Chinese alliance coming from the North and East.

### **The three divisions of the world before Armageddon Verses 13 and 14**

The frogs that the dragon sends across the world are spirits and ideologies. They each vie for control of the Kings of the world. These frogs represent the three political schools of thought of our time: Democracy, nationalism and Communism. America and Russia try to outbid each other in enticing the nations of Africa and the world to follow their schools of thought.

How neatly the world is divided into the three groups. America and England; Democracy. Africa to Europe; Nationalism. In South Africa; Afrikaner Nationalism. Across the Mediterranean; Arab and Israeli Nationalism. Further north; European Nationalism. The rest is going quickly into the communist block. Man, believing that his problems can be solved by these theories, will march behind his leaders right to Armageddon. People talk of Democracy as if it were the Gospel. It is not! God never taught it in the Old Testament. Democracy will not bring us popular rule, but mob rule and in the name of freedom we will march to anarchy. Jesus spoke of Nationalism when he said the Kingdom would rise against Kingdom and nation against nation before He returned. The word used for nation is the one which means: groups of people within a country. In a world torn between three ideologies man will be frog marched to the great Atomic war.

Seeing the times that are before us we should sit up and take notice of verse 15. John sees this sign as one of the clear warnings that the coming of Christ is near when He shouts to us, who see frogs moving across the world, . . . "Behold I come as a thief . . ." This must be one of the great indications of the imminence of our Saviour's return.

### **The war that angels didn't think would happen**

## Verses 16 - 21

What a frightful description this is of the horror war. The earth shaken, cities falling, islands disappearing and mountains wrenched from their roots. Over this scene the angels look with horror and one of the angelic beings cries out . . . "It is done . . ." If you do not think there will ever be an atomic war, then you are in good company, for neither did the angels think that man could be such a fool.

"The Planet of the Apes" was a popular though highly improbable film. The story is of several astronauts who are sent to the stars. In their absence man wages the dreaded Atomic war and when these astronauts return from their long space voyage, they land upon a world they do not recognize. The more they see of it the more they are sure that their computer has malfunctioned and that they have been cast away on some strange planet. This idea is strengthened when they find out that the planet is ruled by apes; with man as their servants! The atomic war is supposed to have reversed evolution and eventually when the lone survivor escapes the apes and gallops off down a beach, the climax of the film comes. With horror the rider reigns in his horse. Before him, half buried, stands . . . the statue of liberty washed by the sea. In a flash he realizes that in their absence the threatened war had come. Falling to the sand he shouts as he thumps his fist into the sand. "So they did it!"

That is the feeling expressed by the angel who shouts . . . "It is done!"

## PART FIFTEEN

### The final collapse of religion

#### Chapter 17

We have dealt with a large portion of this chapter already when discussing the Antichrist in chapter 13. This ground we will not cover again.

#### The pope cannot be the Antichrist

The apostate religious systems are here mentioned as; the Harlot of Babylon riding upon the beast. The beast had a political ruler who is the Antichrist, it is under his rule that the beast (united Europe) turns around and destroys the Harlot (the great religious system). . . . "And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore and make her desolate . . ." (verse 16). It is felt that this "Harlot" does not refer to just one religious system, but all backslidden church systems. It must also include all the religious sects for we read of the . . . "mother of Harlots and abominations of the earth . . ." (verse 5). When Europe rises as a ten nationed Kingdom under the Antichrist she will not have time for religion of any shape or form. The false churches were only used by Satan to mislead and blind people from the truth but after the church has been taken out of the world there is no need for their deceptive powers. The use of false religions and sects will be over, Europe now must be entirely dedicated to Satan's plan regarding the Middle East and destruction of Israel. In the dark days of lawlessness, religion will crumble and that

... "great city that ruled over the kingdom of the earth . . ." (verse 18), which can only be the Vatican, will become a ghost city.

Power and War, not Religion will be the religion of Europe. . . . "The ten kings receive power for one hour with the beast. These have one mind and shall give their power and strength unto the beast . . ." The thrill and excitement of rising to a number one world power will stir the whole of Europe. Pride will leave no place for God. Europe's leader is a god enough for them. Churches will be turned into communal halls and factories. There are signs already that the great traditional churches of Europe are crumbling.

### **Satan's religion and God's have the same name**

Satan calls his church . . . "a name of Mystery: Babylon . . ." (verse 5). The Church of God is called the MYSTERY as well. They both have their appeal. Satan's mystery however, is an outside feeling, the feeling created by, chanting, candles, lights, robes, incense and secluded building. The mystery and appeal that calls to the unsaved man's idea of religion. It is however, not lasting in effect for this artificial emotion, created by these "churchy" trappings, disappears with the first blast of a car horn once outside the building. Christ's mystery is one which penetrates deep into the soul, the mystery of fellowship with Jesus and one another. Which one have you got?

### **There are two Babylons**

Chapters in the Bible were man made and did not appear in the original scriptures. The division into Chapter 18 seems to come too soon for it is plain as one reads straight through both chapters that the first deals with a WOMAN CALLED BABYLON and the following a CITY CALLED BABYLON. The one deals with the collapse of religion whilst the other talks of the collapse of the monetary system of the world, especially of Europe.

### **A sudden collapse of the world's Stock Exchange Chapter 18, verse 10 to 24**

The call of warning that rings out again through this description of financial ruin are the words . . . "in one hour". Suddenly, in one hour of terrible shock the Deutze Mark and the American Dollar will not even be worth the paper they are printed on. When does this collapse take place? If one puts together the prophecies so far discussed it seems to suggest that the time of this depression is the point of worsening relationships between Europe and Russia. People of the world stand by in amazement as if unable to believe that the Master Statesman, the Antichrist, will not lead the world into the promised peace. His promises of handling the Middle East crisis are seen to look very remote as he suddenly incurs the wrath of the Communist world. The sudden deterioration, on the Eastern borders of Europe remind the world of the Second World War and the ghost comes stalking out of its closet. The scare runs world-wide and confidence in the market of Europe is shaken as fear of war reaches into every mind throughout the west.

In one hour it happens. The stock exchange crashes and financial chaos comes to Europe and the west. So great is the shock that the chapter, in dramatic words, draws a cruel picture of the nervous collapse of business men around the world; men crying in the streets, throwing dust into the air, ship yards quiet as cranes hang limp and gaunt against the sky over inactive waterways. Shops boarded up against riots as men make their way home without work or money. Long queues of the jobless stand outside employment agencies and, over everything, the rumble of approaching war. One cannot help exclaiming at the end of this chaotic chapter . . . "I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold". The prophet gives a final pronouncement as the chapter closes, that Europe will never again become a centre of religion and trade for as long as the world stands.

## **PART SIXTEEN**

### **Preparation for re-entry**

#### **Chapter 19, verse 1-9**

Above the burning of Europe, as we left it in chapter 18, we see great excitement and activity in Heaven. While the angels chorus their approval of the destruction of Europe, the midst of the heavenly throng sees the preparation of the bride for the "marriage supper". This is not the preparation for the wedding, for the wedding of the church took place at its meeting with Christ in the air. Here the bride is putting on her garments for the reception. The wedding banquet is to take place on earth, in Jerusalem. After that moment on earth, the converted Jews, the 144,000 or as Jesus called them: "The Five Wise Virgins", are to be the ladies-in-waiting to the church and will make their way towards the Mount of Olives. God's timing is perfect, for as the Jews, stumbling over the crumbling city, reach the Mount of Olives, Christ will descend with His bride, the church. Earth is all activity with the Russian tanks rolling up to the walls of Jerusalem, as described for us by Ezekiel in chapter 38 and 39 and requoted in this chapter 19 of John. The Jews, ignoring the advancing army, turns towards the Mount of Olives, for they have heard the cry . . . "the bridegroom cometh go ye out to meet him". Heaven too is all activity as the Bride prepares herself for her arrival on earth at the side of the Lord and Bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

### **Not all Christians participate in triumphant return and rule**

It is important to take note of the kind of dress the Bride is to wear for the marriage feast. . . . "the righteousness of the saints . . ." The wedding dress had been the righteousness of Christ and we get to the wedding through the righteousness of Christ. However, to the wedding reception, that is: rule on earth, we arrive through the righteousness of the saints. Works do not save us but once we have become Christians, works will need to be present to earn us a place of reward in ruling with Christ. As a bride to be will spend the months before the wedding making or choosing her going away outfit, so the church, since salvation, spends her time in good words and kind deeds which form her "going away outfit".

All Christians will make up the bride but not all will be given the privilege of returning and reigning with Christ. As heaven prepared for the moment of return to earth the angels announces . . . "Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper". It is a preparation only for those with an "invitation" to the wedding reception. Is it possible that many Christians will be left behind for the thousand year reign of Christ? This is what I believe, let me share this thought with you.

### **Something to lose**

#### **1 Corinthians 3, verses 10 - 15**

Paul said that at the judgement seat of Christ, Christians stand to "suffer loss". Now as we know the Christians are judged in the heavens straight after the rapture, which is the wedding.

At this judgement throne we are warned that we could suffer loss. Loss of what? One may ask. Not our salvation since the fact that we are caught up with the church and "married" to Christ is our salvation. Surely we will lose our rewards. We read of this judgement time in the parable of Matthew 25 verses 14 to 30. All were judged together and the unprofitable suffered loss. What was the reward to be? Jesus told us in a similar parable (Luke 19 verses 12 to 26) that the reward was the rulership over cities, or the loss of the privilege to rule with Him. One of the greatest hopes of the Christian is to share that moment of glory with Jesus (Revelation 20 verse 6) when we shall rule with Christ for a thousand years. To say that we want no reward is to hurt Christ, for the Bible says . . . "He comes with his reward to give to every man". When your child chooses a Christmas present for you, although it may be something quite useless, you respond with a happy "just what I needed, thank you". Later when you see the present you remember that your child probably went all by himself to specially choose that gift for you. After all the thought that went into it, you cannot hurt his feelings. Here on this judgement day will be a gift for you, especially chosen for you by Christ. Must He look at you with disappointment and do as He did in the parable? Call someone else back to take the gift He now cannot give to you because when the moment required your faithfulness you let him down. Who will be the most hurt, the one to whom . . . "you wicked and unfaithful servants . . ." is said; or the one who says it with eyes filled with disappointment?

### **Outer darkness for the Christian**

Ones first reaction is to think of the outer darkness as hell. This is incorrect and as one thinks back to our schooldays, perhaps we remember our degrees of comparison in English grammar. Thus we have out, outer and outermost and it is the latter which is hell, the place of eternal banishment from whence there is no return. The men in the parables of Jesus were left, not in the outermost darkness but in the outerdarkness.

This word outer is used of the temple. There was the Temple, the outer court and then the outside. The outside was the place of rejection from the Temple, for

surrounding the Temple was a court fenced by linen. It was higher than a man could see over and speaks of those rejected eternally from God's presence. Into the court could come the men with their offerings. They, however, could go no further than the altar. Here they could stand and watch the activity of the priests. Yet further than the altar they could not go since entrance for them to the Temple and its activities was forbidden. So there will be those who, having failed in Christian service, will be rejected for the activity of rulership. From the outer court or outer darkness they will watch the activity of those found faithful while they stand idly by with no task to perform because when asked . . . "to be faithful in few things . . ." they failed. Therefore, . . . "to them will not be committed the trust of greater things". The darkness and gnashing of teeth is self inflicted. In heaven we are told that all tears are wiped from our eyes. This does not mean that there will be no weeping. In heaven we will be perfect and could not be perfect if there were no remorse for our failures. When we understand then as we cannot understand now, the nature of the suffering Jesus endured for us; when we gaze upon His wounds and think how much He gave for us; when it is shown to us that when He required of us we let Him down; when He wanted zeal we replied with coldness; will we not weep at our failure. When we see the gift He had prepared for us taken and given to another, will there be no weeping? If we do not weep we will not be perfect.

### **Invitation to the wedding is not an invitation to the reception**

Jesus told this parable in Matthew 22 verses 1 to 14. The difference between saved and unsaved is shown by these who respond to the wedding invitation and those who rejected it. Yet we see a further division: amongst those who came to the wedding feast are some who will be rejected. Each man with an invitation to the wedding reception was provided with a gown, yet there in the feast was a man without a wedding garment. He was thrown out into the outer darkness. He got to the wedding but not to the feast. What was that wedding garment? The righteous deeds of the saint. The man had none since it was the grace of God that got him to the wedding. But for the wedding feast, the rule of Christ upon earth, was rejected.

### **Not the quantity but the quality of service counts**

Jesus told the parable of the man with a vineyard. (Matthew 20 verse 1 to 16). He went out to obtain servants for the vineyard. The first group He finds strike a bargain for a penny a day. After going out every three hours until the eleventh hour to obtain labourers he waits until the day is over. At sunset he calls all the workers to him to receive their pay and pays them each a penny whether they had worked through the heat of the sun or just an hour. Those who had spent the whole day beneath the sun grumbled because they had received no more than the others. To their accusation the master replied: . . . "did you not agree with me for a penny, take what is yours and go". Many have followed Jesus Christ merely bargaining on escaping hell. Standing at the cross they have bargained with Jesus Christ for eternal life. After accepting Christ there was no service of love. They had struck a bargain that would keep their souls from hell. With this they were satisfied and found no need to do anything for Jesus Christ in the way of Christian service. The penny of course speaks of eternal life, which we all get for responding to the call to come into his vineyard. It cannot be looked upon as wages and to the others the

Master turns and says: . . . "Many are called and few are chosen". Those who had served through a spirit of love and not of bargaining, whether they served for an hour or a day, made no difference. There was something more than just the penny of eternal life.

At the day of Christ's judgement many Christians will get only the eternal life they bargained for and nothing more, while others will be called to stay behind for something more. Indeed! All are called but not all the called will be chosen. Chosen, that is, for the joy of ruling with Christ upon earth. What Jesus was saying in this parable is this, it is not the length of service that counts, but the quality. We read in Revelation that when Jesus returns to reign, those who come with him . . . "are called the chosen and faithful".

You are amongst the called, but will you be amongst the faithful? You may be at the wedding but are you amongst those about whom the angels say; . . . "Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the lamb". Surely the ambition of every Christian is to share His fame as we have shared His glory. What a shame to see those who have sat next to you in church return to take up their positions of rulership in the kingdom while you, who is found unfaithful, is left behind. Is it not worth every effort now to bend your back a little more to the service of God?

### **Is this position difficult to obtain?**

Jesus is longing to reward us, so much so, that He said: . . . "If we give even a cup of cold water to a disciple in His name, we shall not lose our reward". Even a cup of cold water will get you there. Jesus said of Mary who broke the alabaster box of ointment over his feet. . . . "She hath done what she could". No one can do more than that and Jesus expects no more of us than to do what we are able. Jesus is satisfied that Billy Graham is doing all that he can? Only Billy Graham knows that. You with your Sunday School class faithfully teaching may be doing more according to your capabilities because you are doing what you can. He is the judge. He knows how many talents He has given to us all. Rather let us bend to the task now than weep then because we are found unfit to reign and participate in that great triumphant procession. Oh how much we all need to be there at that great moment when all the world bows before Jesus. I must be there; you must be there and any effort will be worth it.

## **PART SEVENTEEN**

### **The Descent**

#### **Revelation 19, verses 11-21**

The Bride now prepared starts the descent. When descending with Christ it is obvious that we have arrived just in time for below us the chapter of Ezekiel are being fulfilled. Russia and China now present themselves at the walls of Jerusalem and while Europe lies smouldering from the onslaught of atomic weapons, their tanks turn their turrets towards Jerusalem. The great slaughter of Gog and Magog as described in Ezekiel is about to take place. We cannot escape the fact that the day

of reckoning for Russia and all her allies comes only at Christ's return and not at some supposed battle before that. John, in verses 17 and 18 quotes directly from Ezekiel showing that at the descent of Christ to earth Russia and her allies are gathered on the borders of Israel.

Beneath our feet as we descend will be a full-scale atomic war. As Christ places his feet on the Mount of Olives there is a tremendous earthquake that rips open the earth's crust like a pie-crust and sends the Mediterranean surging between the tanks and Jerusalem. At this time Israel releases every missile she possesses and nuclear death rips through the armies of Russia. If we read Zechariah 14 and Ezekiel 39 we see that Russia is destroyed by atomic blast as well as by the earthquake. Before Russia can retaliate Jesus Christ, on His white horse stands before them. Vultures begin to blacken the skies over the battlefields of the Middle East as God calls the birds to a feast of kings and captains.

By this time Israel will be looking to the skies for salvation and not to her armies and from the skies comes salvation. Jesus rides in on a white horse and with Him those who have served Him as their Lord. Every service will be made worthwhile by that glorious moment of triumph.

### **Rescue operation.**

The miners filed past the luxurious home of the mine manager in Johannesburg on their way to the depths where the shafts ran into the bowels of the earth. As they went on their way they cast wondering glances at the home set amongst the lush lawns. Did he know anything of the heat and sweat thousands of feet below the surface? Maybe they even felt bitterness as they passed on their way to the sweltering slopes. Yet if only they stopped to consider, they would recall that the law of the mine says that no man can get anywhere but that he starts at the cutting face with the drilling and blasting and sweating. He who now lived in the mansion had had his turn deep down in the heart of the mine.

As the world goes on its way grumbling and sweating into the blackest depths of horror it has yet penetrated, it will cast a glance up to the heavens and as we read again and again in Revelation, blaspheme and curse God. "What does He know of the black depths, the heat and the terror?" Yet men forget that He who now sits in heaven at the right hand of the throne was once at the blackest part of the coal seam of sin. He went deeper than any soul who ever lived. So deep and dark was the mine that He penetrated that He cried "My God! Why hast thou forsaken me?" He who now sits at the highest place in heaven once walked lower than any man who ever lived with his back stooped beneath the weight of the cross.

In the depths of that mine in Johannesburg there was a rock fall that trapped hundreds of miners. In the darkness they sat cursing the mine manager and his wonderful home. On the surface, however, it was the mine manager who walked up and down urging on the rescue teams as time began to run out. It was the mine manager who stepped into the cage that lowered the rescue teams into the depths. It was the mine manager who urged the men on as time ran out. The rescue team drilled at the fallen rock but the mine manager, in his anxiety, rushed forward and

with his bare hands began to wrench aside the rocks split by the drills. He worked until his hands were bleeding. Falling rocks smashed his helmet and cut his face as his hands took hold of the last rock and wrenched it aside. The liberated miners rushed forward into the fresh air and saw before them the mine manager they had cursed for indifference, standing before them bloodied and disheveled. As one they fell to their knees and bowed in respect.

To this world sweating beneath atomic war will descend the Saviour, parting the mushroom clouds of horror with his hands. Stumbling mothers, holding burnt children will curse the indifference of God. Men under the "rock fall" of the atomic age will curse the eternal God. When it seems certain that the earth must perish under the hail of nuclear fury the Lord of heaven descends as a majestic figure from the skies on a white horse. The world rushes forward to catch a glimpse of its Saviour and sees a person whose . . . "robe is dipped in blood". The world will look on . . . "Him whom they have pierced".

So He did care. So He was here before, at the "coal seam" of our sin. The world, as one, will bow before its rescuer, and Jesus Christ of Nazareth will be seated on his throne.