

(Section 5) THE GLOOM LIFTED FOR A MOMENT!

Section 4 was rather a long pause, but the benefits will now be seen as we come back to Joel for the vision will start to fit -- and that's exciting!

In Joel 2:23, after the "Northern Army" has been destroyed in v.20, everything quickly changes.

The gloom is lifted!

- ***JOEL 2:23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.***
- ***JOEL 2:24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil.***

Jesus in v.23 is dwelling in Jerusalem upon David's throne and God's word goes out to the nations as rain that waters dry ground, that it might bring forth fruit to God. This rain will have especially wonderful results in Israel and no wonder for the "Holy One of Israel" is in her "midst".

The Holy One of Israel in her midst!

JOEL 2:27 And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

- *PSA 46:5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. 6 The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.*

The "heathen" (nations) will have difficulty accepting the new ruler in Jerusalem, but Israel will "not be moved" or be made "ashamed" -- and the reason, (Joel 2:27) they shall know who is in their midst. In fact they will mourn for him, (Zech. 12:10) which shows both recognition and emotion, a rending of heart and once this happens...

- *ZEC 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

JOEL 2:24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil.

God's physical blessings of wheat, wine and oil are POURED out! But there is much more than physical blessings, for God's spiritual blessing come including the pouring out of the holy spirit gifts, Joel 2:28.

The 1st century but a taste!

JOEL 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

- *HEB 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,*

The gifts experienced in the first century were but a taste of what is to come, a partial fulfillment. This taste of the holy spirit gifts can be seen in the great joy and excitement of Martha and Mary when their brother Lazareth came forth from the tomb. Here Jesus was emotionally involved with both the sorrow and joy of this miracle, but have we ever thought of being the one, who will have the power to lay hands on a loved one and see them healed. To be actively involved, NOT needing to be healed, but being able to heal, to cause great joy in the land. To remove the gloom and see God's glory unfold, as men and women come to know and reflect that glory.

These powers of the world to come need to be made as real as possible in our mind's eye, and even though today they are seen, as through a "glass, darkly" (1Co. 13:12), just having the vision helps in obtaining the prize. We can see how important this vision is through the example of our Lord Jesus. His vision was a major force that helped him come through the crucifixion, (Heb. 12:2; Isa.50:7).

HAVING THE VISION helped Jesus:

- *Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
- *Isaiah 50:7 For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.*

That joy which Jesus saw helped him to set his face like "flint" and endure the cross and the same can help us to see and endure for a new world is coming!

A NEW WORLD is coming!

- *1CO 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*
- *ISA 64:4 For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.*
- *ISA 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

We now look through a darken glass and need to be careful, but this isn't speculation with itching ears, nor is it wrong to make the Kingdom Age as real as possible. Yes, the "heavens are higher than the earth" however the Bible does detail this heavenly vision and the more real we make it, the greater our desire will be to be part of it when God's will, "will be done on earth as it is in heaven". Like Jesus, we too need to have this vision to be able to counter our fleshly nature.

Can you imagine having an incorruptible body, plus being immortal not ever growing tired or being

sick. A body that is naturally enthusiastic, of where great ideas spring forth. A body full of energy to carry out the great ideas. Proverbs 25;11 says “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver”. Can you imagine being able to say the right word, at the right time then having it perfectly understood? This is like being on the same wavelength, which is both exhilarating and rewarding. Communication is able through the internet using a computer program to take our English words and translate them into French, Spanish, Hebrew, etc, if we wish to try to communicate with someone who speaks another language. Yet the translation is usually so poor that much is misunderstood and lost in the translation. In the Kingdom Age, we will be able to communicate in such a way that there will be no misunderstandings for the apostle Paul says: “we will know even as we are known”. Just think how enjoyable it will be to share ideas with immortal saints, who too have great ideas, enthusiasm, boundless energy, plus have the means and ability to carry these ideas out. Not like today's tools, which disappear with a power glitch, or more often with human failure? In God's kingdom, there will be communication systems so superior that we will wonder how we ever endured with today's primitive systems.

Further what about being able to use the other 90% of our brain; the parts which, we haven't been able to tap today? We see isolated incidences of this, people like Beethoven who could write some the world's best music, without being able to hear, except with the ear of the mind. What will it be like to have access to a mind that can so hear and compose the best music? Or, can you imagine being able to change the genetic code of the lion so that a little child can lead it and ride it. What joy this will cause!

In the KINGDOM AGE:

- *ISA 11:6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.*

But more than this, God's saints will be like the angels who were involved in our creation. We know this by comparing the following scriptures: Gen 1:26; Psa. 8:5; Heb.2:7. God's angels are included in the word "us" in Gen. 1:26 for it is interpreted by the Psalmist and further interpreted in Hebrews.

- *GEN 1:26 And God <430> said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*
- *Psalm 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels <430>, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.*
- *Hebrews 2:7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*
 - 430 "elohiyim" {eloheem'} plural, n m p. AV - God 2346, god 244, judge 5, GOD 1, goddess 2, great 2, mighty 2 angels 1, exceeding 1, God-ward + 4136 1, godly 1; 2606.

So the "us" in Genesis 1:26 include the angels as interpreted by the Psalmist and verified by Paul in Hebrews 2:7.

There is amazing variety in God's creation. For example, from a cocoon to a butterfly that both flies and has a coat of many colors. Imagine having the power to bring this about, and this is only seeing what already has been done. What about what is in store for those who "wait for him", Isaiah 64:4? What about Job's comment, (Job 38:22) of the uses of hail?

"even the wind and sea obey him"

- *JOB 38:22 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, 23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?*
- *ZEC 14:17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.*

Yes, the microscope has brought some of these treasures to light, but in the kingdom age, to have control over the world's weather systems will be a huge responsibility. For example, in Zech. 14:17, rain is withheld, if the feast of tabernacles isn't kept, but having this control as Elijah found out, effects the innocent, like a Gentile widow away up in Zarephath. Yes, we will need the other 90% of our brain to effectively and with equity, use the world's weather systems to glorify God. As to changing and helping the mortal population, this will be a real challenge, but we will have an advantage over the angels today, for we will be able to take from our experiences, "things old" (Matt. 13:52). That is, when we are made householders in God's kingdom, we will be able to use the experiences of this life to better impart justice and mercy to a mortal household.

The 8th mystery – The "KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" is like:

- *MAT 13:52 Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.*
- *LUK 12:42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?*
- *PRO 18:4 The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.*

As to "things new", imagine having a new, non-tiring, immortal body from which to impart knowledge to the earth's mortal population. We wouldn't become impatient in transferring it. We would be better able to see where the problems were. We would have no difficulty expressing ourselves clearly but as to complete success, we only have to read Revelation chapter 20 to know we too will have problems as the angels do now. But we will be able to take of "things old"-- our experiences now, for we will well remember what it was like to battle flesh.

What may seem surprising is that towards the end of the millennium, humans will be allowed to once again take political control and there will be opposition to Jesus and the saints.

KING SIN again reigns during the millennial age!

- *REV 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*
- *Romans 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

To allow King Sin (Rom. 5:21) to again "**reign**" towards the end of the millennium seems astounding. To allow Gog to again manifest political power and to deceive the nations doesn't at first compute. God's ultimate plan however is designed to give mankind a choice. Our creation began in Eden and will end 7,000 years later at the end of the millennium. God's will, "*will be done*" but by humans who of their own will, put their trust in Him. To have no choice would not accomplish God's will. The tragedy is all the hurt and suffering along the way which again is graphically illustrated as Joel now details the final day of the LORD before the millennium.

TRAGEDY when KING SIN reigns!

JOEL 2: 30 And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.

- *JER 25:30 ... The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. 33 And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; ...".*
- *MAL 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:*

This "*Great and Terrible Day of the LORD*" is the same as the "*Great and Dreadful day of the LORD*", already referenced in Malachi 4:5 and more graphically described in Jeremiah 25:33. The "*slain of the LORD*" shall be from "*one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth,*" and no wonder! The world will have had the opportunity to taste and see "*marvelous things*" and still will reject Jesus. This may seem amazing but the Psalmist leaves no doubt that it will happen.

The kings saw what? - "they MARVELED"

- *PSA 48:2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. 4 For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed by together. 5 They saw it, and so they marveled; they were troubled, and hasted away. 12 Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof.*
- WHY were the kings troubled? WHY did they haste away? The Psalmist gives us a clue.
 - *PSA 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?*
 - *PSA 2:6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.*

Can you imagine the world leaders coming to Jerusalem and both seeing and hearing Jesus? It would be like the queen of Sheba seeing a greater than Solomon, with a greater temple to walk about and count the towers, Psalms 48:12. The Psalmist pens this vision magnificently in Psalm 48 and Psalm 2, but what would make these kings so troubled, and why will they haste away? Psalm 2 says these kings are in a rage and take counsel against both God and Christ. What possibly could cause this? In the partial fulfillment of Psalm 2 in Acts 4:25-27, insight is given which helps in interpreting Psalm 2.

The kings of the earth --- INFURIATED!

- ACT 4:25) *Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?*
- ACT 4:26 *The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.*
- ACT 4:27 *For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,*

What, so infuriated these leaders was to be told by Peter and John, that they were responsible for crucifying the Messiah, and then to be in the position, where there was little they could say against Peter and John. They were totally enraged and could say nothing against them! This fury is to have a future full fulfillment when today's kings of the earth will take council against God and Christ because of a "*strong delusion*" (2 Thes 2:11).

"A strong delusion" – ANTICHRIST!

- 2TH 2:11 *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*
- PSA 2:1 *Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,*

The doctrinal roots of this "*strong delusion*" go back centuries but it was after the Reformation that crystallized these lies into today's expectation of a future world leader, the incarnation of Satan called "Antichrist", and who will set himself in Jerusalem. The effect of this false belief is prophesied in 2Thes 2:11, for they "*believe a lie*", which causes them to oppose the *LORD'S ANOINTED* for they will believe Jesus, is the Antichrist! This, as the Psalmist prophecies will cause them to take "*counsel together*" against the LORD and Jesus His Anointed.

This may seem incredible, but Bible prophecy, history and today's popular interpretations of scripture all support that this will happen!

Let's go back to the time of the Reformation when the Protestant Church was being formed and the printing press being discovered. Europe, you will recall after the French Revolution, quickly changed, and the Catholic Church lost much of its power. Part of the reason was because of the invention of the printing press. This allowed the Bible to reach the hands of the people, and the prophecies in the Revelation started to be read and "*Babylon the Great*" became linked to Catholicism.

To counter this, the Church, using its Jesuit priests tried to show that Babylon the Great was not linked with the Catholic Church. At first this made little headway, but in the 1800's, a Jesuit priest named Lacunza using the pen name Ben Ezra was successful.

What Lacunza did was to write a four volume book entitled: “The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty” which gave a futurist interpreted to the Revelation. That is the Seals, Trumpets, Vials, Thunders and Revelation chapters 17-19 all take place in the future when the incarnation of Satan called Antichrist will take world control from Jerusalem for a period of 3.5 years. The result of this effort by Lacunza has turned the Protestant churches from linking Catholicism with “*Babylon the Great*”, to a future Antichrist. This idea has been so successful that if today, Thomas Nast’s famous cartoon (showing alligators cleverly dressed with cardinal hats invading North America) was published, it wouldn’t be understood. (See picture, Appendix #3)

So much has our world changed. Today more then ever and we need to have the prophetic oil within our lamps to see and appreciate what has happened, is happening and will happen, to cause the kings of the earth to take counsel against the “*LORD and his anointed*”.

Revelation chapters 17-19:

- *REV 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.*
- *REV 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to make war...*
- *REV 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

These chapters detail the last set of main players who will oppose Jesus during the “*great and terrible day of the Lord*” in Joel 2:30-32. The characters are:

- **The woman** (symbolic of a religious system) that sits upon a beast.
- **The beast** (symbolic of a political power) with the ten horns. The horns identify its roots in Daniel 7:7 but in Rev. 17:3 it is seen at a later date in history when it acquired seven heads.

This apostate woman, deceived by the “*false prophet*”, will guide the beast against Jesus. History, geography and the Bible all identify her. Also “*the strong delusion*” which her “*false prophet*” uses to deceive, is seen today in the outcome of her doctrines, i.e., Lacunza’s teaching of a future ruler in Jerusalem who will be the incarnation of Satan called Antichrist has roots back to the immortality of the soul. This outcome is best seen in the following sequence:

"PART-TRUTH" CREATES A STRONG DELUSION!

BIBLE TRUTH	ANTICHRIST THEORY
1. Jesus returns to the earth as a thief.	1. Jesus returns to atmosphere
2. Resurrection/Judgment	2. Rapture
3. Armageddon	3. Russia attacks Israel to take spoil.
4. Christ's capital, Jerusalem	4. Antichrist's capital, Jerusalem
5. Israel accepts Christ	5. Israel accepts Antichrist
6. Christ called Antichrist	6. Antichrist shows real colors.
7. Antichrist destroyed	7. Armageddon
8. Millennium	8. Millennium

At first glance there doesn't seem much of a difference between the two sequences but items 4 and 5 are major, being directly opposite. Also the placement of Armageddon in the sequence is important in showing this future Antichrist theory is incorrect.

Item (4) Christ's Capital, JERUSALEM:

- *Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:*
- *Matthew 5:35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great king..*
- *Jeremiah 3:17 At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.*

There are no Bible prophecies that come close to saying that Jerusalem will be the throne of a future Antichrist as the incarnation of Satan.

Item (5) ISRAEL will accept JESUS as CHRIST & be blessed with the TEMPLE in their midst:

- *Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*
- *Zechariah 13:6 And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.*
- *Ezekiel 37:26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.*

There are no Bible prophecies showing Israel will accept the Antichrist as their king.

Items (3) and (8) THE PLACEMENT OF ARMAGEDDON:

- Armageddon ends the 6th vial and not the 7th vial, Rev. 16:12-21.
- Armageddon is the grain harvest, not the grape harvest, Rev. 14:14-20.
- Armageddon burns (stubble) Mal. 4:1 but is not the "*great and terrible day*" in Mal.4:5.

The result of this part-truth lie is an utter disaster and will cause many to oppose Jesus Christ for this "*strong delusion*" will cause them to think he is the Antichrist. This opposition will become so strong that there is a further "*day of the Lord*" which the prophet Joel calls "*the great and terrible day of the LORD*". This Joel develops in Joel 3 when finally Jesus "*roars*" out of Jerusalem and God's judgments (wine harvest) are from one the one end of the earth to the other.

The GLOOM again!

- ***JOEL 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.***
 - *JOEL 3:13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.*
 - *JOEL 3:16 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake:*

Not only is there more gloom again in Joel's prophecy but this prophecy becomes directly important to our age just before Jesus' return. To see the Gentile world prophesied as paralleling the Jewish world in rejecting the Messiah is both sheer irony and fitting for the Gentile world has lorded itself over the Jew for 2000 years for rejecting their Messiah. There is the Bible principle that no flesh will glory in God's sight but more here is involved than Bible principles. This is a life and death issue for its critical for our age to rightly divide God's prophetic word. This is why so many Bible passages have been referenced so that we can be absolutely sure and our faith made strong.