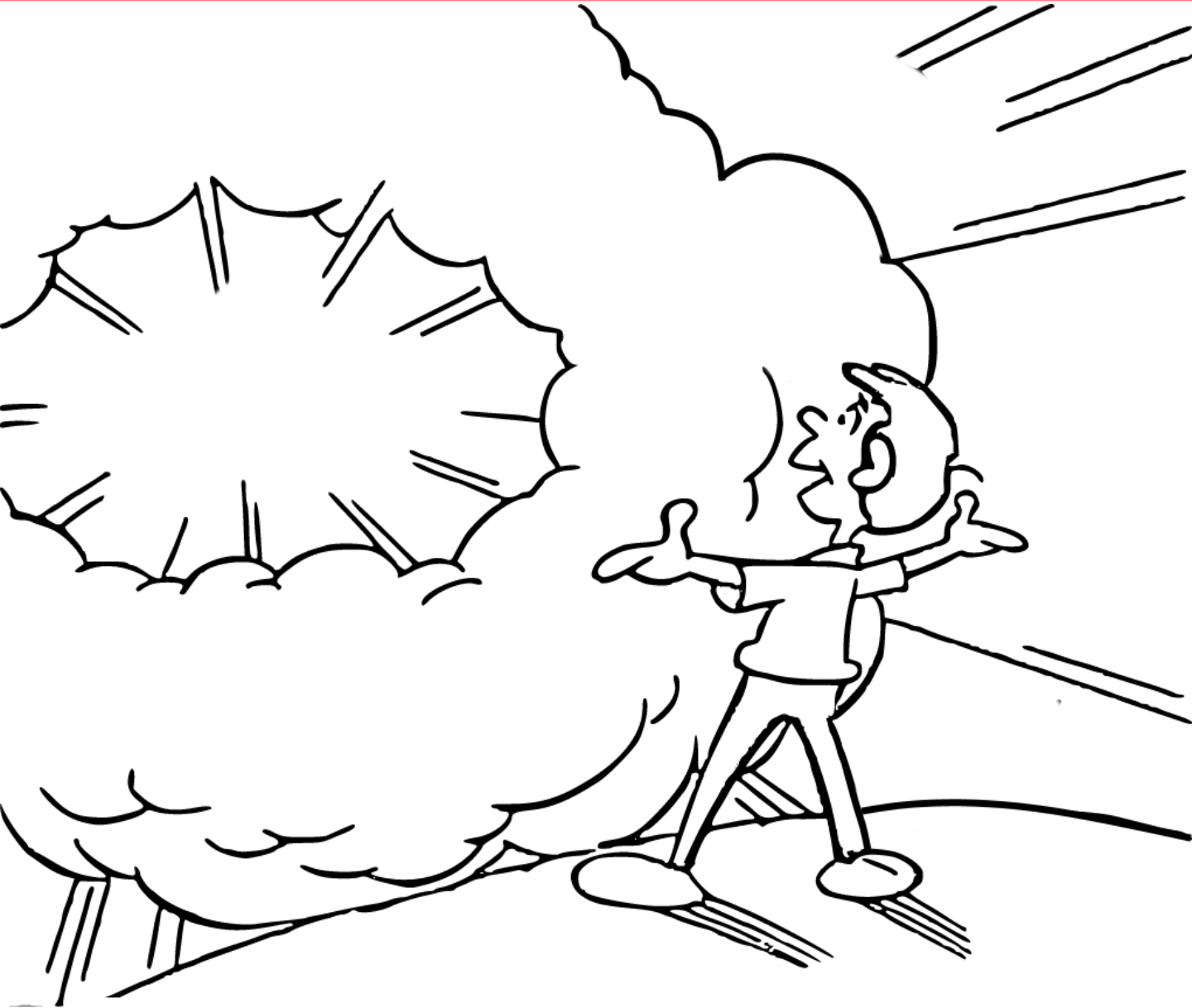


Bible Prophecy

The Future Foretold



Class Section 1: Daniel 2

Daniel Chapter 2 is the briefest and most concise overall picture of the history and future of the world in the entire Bible. This dream was originally given to Nebuchadnezzar and was interpreted for him by Daniel during his reign.

One night, Nebuchadnezzar had such disturbing dreams that he couldn't sleep. He called in his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers, and he demanded that they tell him what he had dreamed.

The men replied, "The king's demand is impossible. No one except the gods can tell you your dream, and they do not live here among people." The king was furious when he heard this, and he ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be executed.

Then Daniel went home and told his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego what had happened. He urged them to ask God to show them his mercy by telling them the dream and its meaning, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon. That night God revealed the dream and its interpretation to Daniel in a vision. Daniel told the king,

Daniel 2:31-39 - "King, in your dream you saw a large statue in front of you that was very large and shiny. It was very impressive. The head of the statue

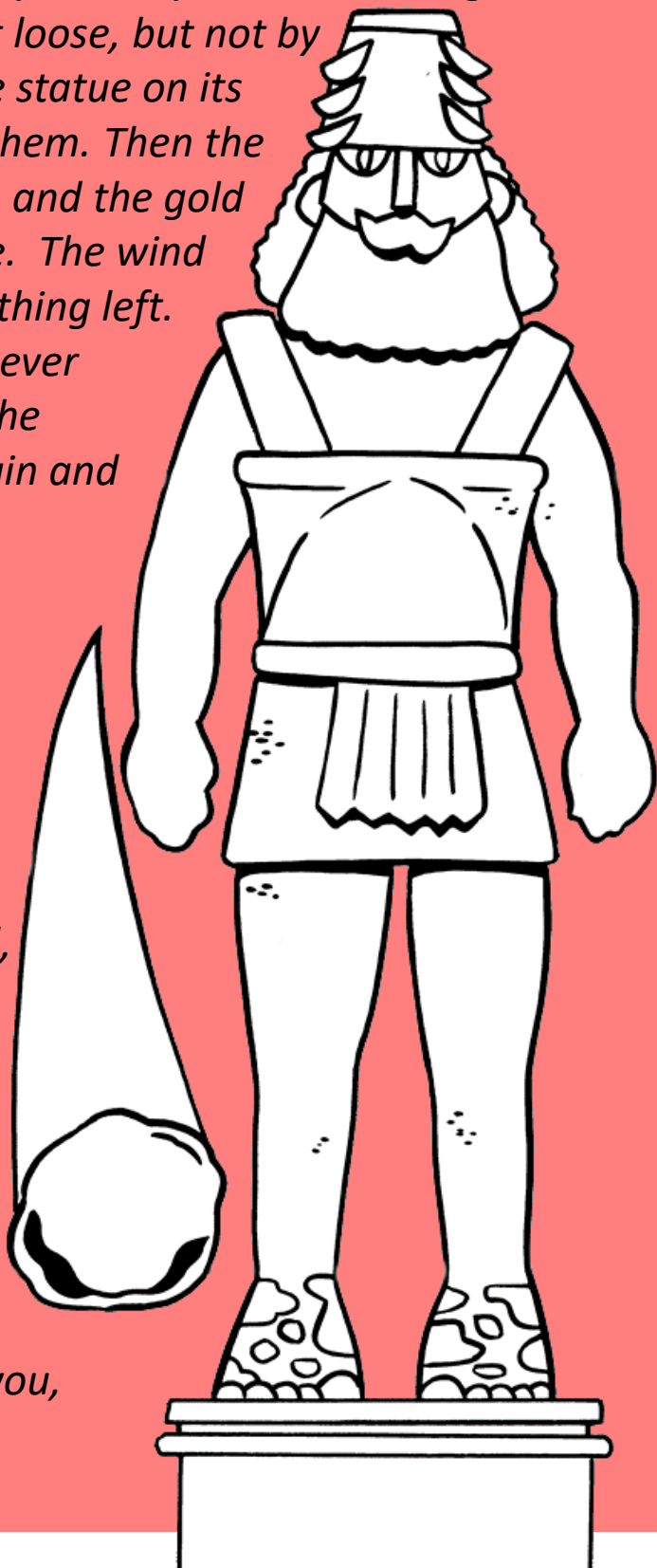


was made from pure gold. Its chest and the arms were made from silver. The belly and upper part of the legs were made from bronze. The lower part of the legs was made from iron. Its feet were made partly of iron and partly of clay. While you were looking at the statue, you saw a rock that was cut loose, but not by human hands. Then the rock hit the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold broke to pieces all at the same time. The wind blew them away, and there was nothing left. No one could tell that a statue had ever been there. Then the rock that hit the statue became a very large mountain and filled up the whole earth.

That was your dream. Now we will tell the king what it means.

King, you are the most important king. The God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory. He has given you control, and you rule over people and the wild animals and the birds. Wherever they live, God has made you ruler over them all. King Nebuchadnezzar, you are that head of gold on the statue.

“Another kingdom will come after you, but it will not be as great as your kingdom.



According to world history, the kingdom of Medo-Persia followed Babylon, conquering it in 538 B.C.

Daniel 2:39 - Next, a third kingdom will rule over the earth—that is the bronze part.

We know from history that this third kingdom of bronze, the one to follow Persia, was the Grecian Empire.

Daniel 2:40 - Then there will be a fourth kingdom. That kingdom will be strong like iron. Just as iron breaks things and smashes them to pieces, that fourth kingdom will break all the other kingdoms and smash them to pieces.

Since we already have the fulfillment of actual history, we know that this fourth kingdom was Rome. Rome was the tough, iron-fisted kingdom, which clamped down with iron military rule over the entire known (Western) world in the days before Christ.

Rome is symbolized here by two legs of iron: Was Rome ever divided into two parts? Yes! It was often administered governmentally as two different halves, the Western and Eastern regions, and in its decline it was completely divided into an Eastern and Western Empire. The Western Empire had its capital at Rome, and the Eastern Empire, later called the Byzantine Empire, had its capital at Constantinople.

Daniel 2:41-43 -The feet and toes you saw were a combination of iron and baked clay, showing that this kingdom will be divided. Like iron mixed with clay, it will have some of the strength of iron. But while some parts of it will be as strong as iron, other parts will be as weak as clay. This mixture of iron and clay also shows that these kingdoms will try to strengthen themselves by forming alliances with each other. But they will not hold together, just as iron and clay do not mix.

The iron which continues from the legs down into the feet and toes of the image is sort of a continuation of the Roman Empire. After its fall, Rome was broken up into the "iron" and "clay" countries of the feet and toes. These represent the basic types of governments the world has known since the fall of Rome: Strong and weak governments; dictatorships and democracies.

Daniel 2:44 - During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever.

The stone that "struck the image" (Daniel 2:34) is Jesus, and this "great mountain" that "filled the whole earth" (Daniel 2:35) is none other than Christ's Kingdom on Earth! Jesus will take over the world and restore it to the beauty of the Garden of Eden again.

Micah 4:1-4 - ... The mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of all—the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths."

... The Lord will mediate between peoples and will settle disputes between strong nations far away. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore. Everyone will live in peace and prosperity, enjoying their own grapevines and fig trees, for there will be nothing to fear. The Lord of Heaven's Armies has made this promise!

Class Section 2: Matthew 24

In Matthew chapter 24 , Jesus Himself gives one of the most descriptive and specific of all rundowns of future Endtime events.

Matthew 24:1-2—Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

As Jesus prophesied, the temple was thrown down—actually torn apart stone by stone. In 70 A.D., the armies of Roman Emperor Vespasian marched into Judea under General Titus and crushed the rebellion of the Jews, destroyed Jerusalem, and burned the temple.

Matthew 24:3—Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"



The disciples didn't realize that the Temple was going to be destroyed only 40 years later by the Romans, and it would still be over two thousand years before the end of the age!

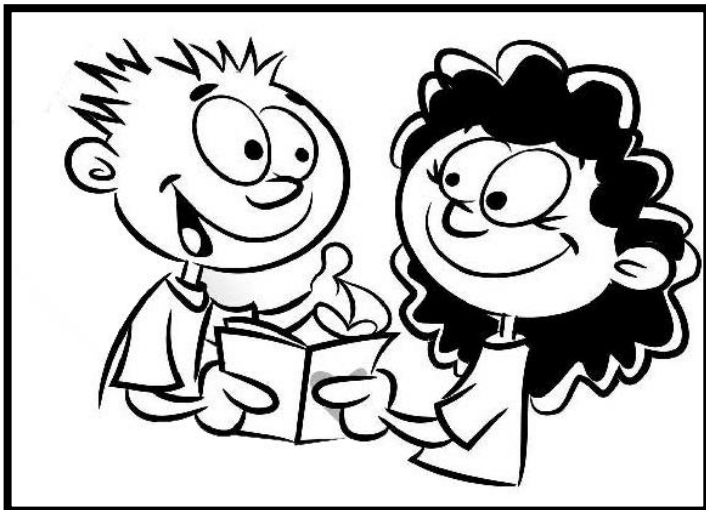
Matthew 24:4-12 —And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.



Jesus described what would happen before His return. Of course, we've experienced the things that Jesus described in these verses—the disasters, the sorrows, the persecutions—for the last 2000 years! But the scale and intensity with which these verses are being fulfilled has increased dramatically.



Matthew 24:14 —And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Unlike the rise in wars, famine, plagues, earthquakes, etc., Jesus said that this particular sign was not merely something to indicate "the beginning of sorrows," but was a specific sign that would indicate the actual End.

Christians now exist in every country of the world. The entire Bible or parts thereof are now available to about 98 percent of the world's population, having been translated partially or entirely into some 2,203 different languages.

Matthew 24:15 —The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place. (Reader, pay attention!)

Jesus is referring to the prophecies in the book of Daniel.

Daniel 11:31—Armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.

The Bible warns us that a powerful world government will arise in the final days of man's dominion on Earth, led by a demonic dictator—the Antichrist—who will be possessed by Satan.

2 Thessalonians 2:1, 3-4 - Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, ... Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of sin is revealed, the man who brings destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

The last three and a half years of the Antichrist's rule will be a time that the Bible calls the "Great Tribulation"

Matthew 24:21 - For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Revelation 13:5 - Then the beast [the Antichrist] was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he was given authority to do whatever he wanted for forty-two months.

God's Word says that during this time:

Daniel 11:32b—The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

The people who know Jesus are going to be strong! The worse things get, the more God's Spirit is going to be poured out from On High to help us! The Lord has promised to be with us.

Matthew 28:20b—Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Matthew 24:23-27—Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.

Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Jesus warns not to expect Him sooner than has been predicted, and that there will be many false Christs and false prophets who will try to deceive people into thinking either that they are Christ or that Christ is coming nearby somewhere, He is here or there. And He finally says, "Don't believe any of them, because when I come you'll know it!" The sky will light up like lightning from one end to the other, and there will be such a sign in the Heaven that you couldn't possibly mistake the fact that Jesus is coming!

*** Jesus returns!**

Matthew 24:29-31—Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The trumpets of God will sound and Jesus' mighty voice will thunder from the heavens, "Come up!" and all of His saved children will be caught up together with Him in the clouds, rising in immortal victory over the forces of the Antichrist.



When Jesus returns, a tremendous miracle takes place: the resurrection of believers. The bodies of all of the saved people who have ever died will be instantly resurrected and come bursting out of their graves, and all of us believers who are still alive will be raised with them to meet Jesus in the air.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 - We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.

Then we will all fly away with the Lord to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in Heaven. It will be the greatest party ever held—a wonderful reunion with the Lord and all of our loved ones, our victory celebration.

Revelation 19:6-9 - Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder: "Praise the LORD! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for



the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear." For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he added, "These are true words that come from God."

Class Section 3: What's Ahead

We've learned what will happen before Jesus returns. Now we'll take a little time to look at what will happen after His return.

- **The Judgment Seat of Christ**

Christians will be rewarded for their works.

Daniel 12:2-3 - Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will

rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever.

2 Corinthians 5:10 - we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

Revelation 22:12 - Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds.

*** The Battle of Armageddon**

The wicked will gather together at Armageddon (the plains of Meggido) in Israel to try to fight the nations who are resisting the Antichrist's regime. When it looks like the antichrist is close to victory, Jesus Himself, along with His resurrected, glorified, Heavenly forces, will return to Earth again out of Heaven on majestic white horses to utterly defeat and destroy the Antichrist and his forces in the supernatural, catastrophic Battle of Armageddon.

Revelation 16:16, 19:11,14, 18-21 - Then the evil spirits gathered the rulers together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. ... Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True. ... The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. ... Then I saw the beast [the Antichrist] and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army. And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet [and] thrown alive into the Lake of Fire.

* The Millennium

Our King Jesus Christ, will take over the world and set up the Kingdom of God on earth and restore it to the beauty of the Garden of Eden again. This amazing period will last for one thousand years, and therefore is known as the Millennium!

Daniel 7:27 - Then the sovereignty, power, and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be given to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will last forever, and all rulers will serve and obey him.

Revelation 20:6 - Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years.

Isaiah 11:4-10 - He [Jesus] will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited. The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked. ... In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all. The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm. Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the Lord.

The Devil will be bound and cast as a prisoner into the Bottomless Pit for this thousand-year period.

Revelation 20:1-3 - Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. He

seized the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for a thousand years. The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished.

*** The Battle of Gog and Magog**

At the end of the Millennium Satan is going to be released from his prison in the heart of the earth for "a little season."

Revelation 20:7-10 - When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore. And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God's people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.

Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet.

*** The Final Judgment**

After this climactic Battle of Gog and Magog, all the unsaved of all ages will be raised to stand before God Himself in the final Judgment in which "the books are opened" and they will all be given their final sentences according to their works and will be assigned to their places in the hereafter.

Revelation 20:11-14 - And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as

recorded in the books. The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire.

*** New Heaven and New Earth**

God's great Heavenly City will then descend from above to the beautiful, recreated, Garden-of-Eden-like New Earth, and God Himself will dwell with us right here on Earth.

Revelation 21:1-4, 22-26 - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven.

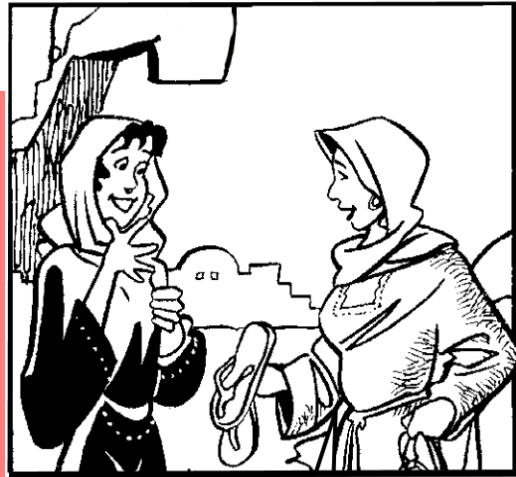
I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.

I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city.

Micah 4:1-2 - the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of all— the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths."

Good Servants and Bad Servants

Matthew 24:45 - 51 - Who is the wise and trusted servant? The master trusts one servant to give the other servants their food at the right time. Who is the one the master trusts to do that work? When the master comes and finds that servant doing the work he gave him, it will be a day of blessing for that servant. I can tell you without a doubt, the master will choose that servant to take care of everything he owns.



But what will happen if that servant is evil and thinks his master will not come back soon? He will begin to beat the other servants. He will eat and drink with others who are drunk. Then the master will come when the servant is not ready, at a time when the servant is not expecting him. Then the master will punish that servant.

The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

“Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

“At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom

is coming! Come out and meet him!

“All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’

“But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’

“But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’

“But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’

“So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return. (Matthew 25:1-13)



Our time to live our faith, to follow Jesus, to love others, to live honorable lives, is now. May we all live in a manner which reflects the readiness of the wise bridesmaids, so that when we pass from this life to the next we will hear Jesus say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." (Matthew 25:21)