

ADVANCE!

VICTORY THEOLOGY FROM B.C. 4004 TO A.D. 2002f

1) From all eternity, the Three Persons of the Triune God covenantally resolved first to create and later to save from sin – the human race which would image Them. The Father gloriously counselled with His Son in Their Spirit “**before the foundation of the World.**” For “from Him and through Him and unto Him are all things” -- including also the salvation of the Israelites after “**the fullness of the Gentiles**” has come into His Church. It is written that men or mankind, indeed **all the Nations, would seek the Lord.** For “**known to God Triune are all His works from the beginning of the World.**” Acts 15:18 *cf.* Revelation 15:4.

The Triune God Jehovah Elohim “**formed the Earth...to be inhabited**” -- so that “**all the ends of the Earth**” should be saved, and so that to Him “**every knee shall bow.**” The Redeemer would enlighten “the Gentiles” and be “**salvation unto the end of the Earth,**” so that even “**kings shall be...nursing fathers and...queens...nursing mothers**” of His Church and God’s praise would “spring forth before **all the nations**” until “**from one sabbath to another...all flesh come to worship before Me,**” says the Lord.”

For: “**God so loved the World** that He gave His only-begotten Son...so that the World through Him might be **saved.**” Consequently, it shall yet be that “**all nations shall come and worship**” before Him.¹

– **THE TRIUNE GOD,** before the foundation of the World.

2) “The God Triune 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 birds of the air, and over the cattle, and **over all the Earth,** and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the Earth!’

“So God created man in His Own image. In the image of God, He created him. He created them male and female. And **God blessed them.** And God said to them: ‘Be fruitful and multiply and **fill the Earth** and **subdue it!** And **have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and **over every living thing** that moves on the Earth!’”²

– **JEHOVAH ELOHIM** the Triune God, 6th day, *anno Mundi.*

3) “And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden **to dress it and to**

keep it... And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air; and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And **whatsoever** Adam called every living creature, that was its name. And Adam gave names to **all** cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to **every** beast of the field.”³

“To Adam...the Lord God made coats of skins. And...the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, **to till the ground** [or **to subdue the Earth**] whence he was taken.”⁴

– **ADAM**, the first man (4004 B.C.)⁵

4) “And Adam called his wife’s name ‘Eve.’ Because she was the mother of all living... And Adam knew Eve, his wife. And she conceived, and bare...., and said: ‘I have gotten a male [child]: the Lord!’”⁶

– **EVE**, the first woman (4000+ B.C.)

5) “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain. Thereby he [Abel] obtained witness that he was righteous [or had been justified and thenceforth became law-abiding] – **testifying about his gifts.**”⁷

– **ABEL**, the first martyr (4000- B.C.)

6) “Enoch **walked with God**...three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters.... And Enoch kept on walking with God.”⁸

“By faith Enoch was translated [or promoted]... God had translated [or promoted] him. For before his translation [or promotion], he received this testimony – that he pleased God.”⁹

– **ENOCH**, the man who walked with God (3380+ B.C.)

7) “And Lamech [the grandson of Enoch] begot a son. And he called his name ‘Noah’ – saying: ‘This same one shall comfort [or strengthen] us, concerning our work and toil of our hands.’”¹⁰

– **LAMECH**, the confident father of Noah (3245+ B.C.)

8) “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.... Noah was a justified and a perfect man, in his generations.... And God said to Noah...: ‘With you I will reestablish My covenant. And you shall come into the ark – you, and your sons, and your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. And of every living things of all flesh, two of every sort you shall bring into the ark...to keep them alive!’”¹¹

“And the Lord...said in His heart: ‘I will not again curse the ground any more.... While the Earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night – shall not cease.’”¹²

“And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: ‘Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the Earth! And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the Earth, and upon every bird of the air, and upon all that moves upon the Earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered.’”¹³

“I place My [rain]bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between Me and the Earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the Earth, that the [rain]bow shall be seen in the cloud. And I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature, of all flesh. And the waters shall no more become a flood, to destroy all flesh. And the [rain]bow shall be in the cloud. And I will look upon it, so that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the Earth.’”¹⁴

– **NOAH**, the Preacher of righteousness (2745+ B.C.)

9) “Blessed be the Lord God of **Shem!** But Canaan shall be his servant.”¹⁵

– **SHEM**, the faithful Ancestor of Jesus (2740+ B.C.)

10) “God shall **enlarge** Japheth, and he shall **dwell** in the tents of Shem.”¹⁶

– **JAPHETH**, the Father of the Western Nations (2740+ B.C.)

11) “There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job. And that man was perfect and upright.... And there were born to him seven sons and three daughters.... His substance also was seven thousand sheep and three thousand camels and five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred she-asses and a very great household [or husbandry]; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the East.”¹⁷

“You shall know also that your seed shall be great, and your offspring like the grass of the Earth. You shall come to your grave in a full age -- like a shock of corn comes in, at its season. Look at this! We have searched it. So it is. Hear it -- and know it, for your good!”¹⁸

“Though your beginning was small, yet your latter end should greatly increase.”¹⁹

“The righteous shall also hold onto his way, and he who has clean hands shall be[come] stronger and stronger.”²⁰

“And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends. Also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.”²¹

– **JOB**, the greatest man in the ancient East (+/- 2200f B.C.)

12) “This Melchizedek, King of [Jeru]Salem, **[High] Priest of the Most-High God**..., met Abraham...and blessed him. [Melchizedek], to whom even Abraham gave a tenth part of everything, first being (by interpretation) ‘**King of righteousness**’ -- [and] after that also ‘King of [Jeru]Salem,’ which is ‘**King of peace**.... [Melchizedek was] without...end of life, but...keeps on remaining a priest continually. Now consider how great this man was!”²²

– **MELCHIZEDEK**, the [Prophet-]Priest-King of the Most-High God (+/- 2000 B.C.)

13) “Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘Get yourself out of your country, and away from your kindred and from your father’s house – to a land that I shall show you! And I will make a great nation out of you, and I will bless you and make your name great. And you shall become a blessing. And I shall bless them who bless you, and curse him who curses you. And in you, all the families of the Earth shall be blessed.’ So Abram departed – as the Lord had spoken to him.”²³

“As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you! And you shall be a father of many nations. Neither shall your name anymore be called ‘Abram’; but your name shall be ‘Abraham.’ For a father of many nations I have made you. And I will make you exceedingly fruitful. And I will make nations out of you, and kings shall come forth from you. And I shall establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you in their

generations as an everlasting covenant, to be a God to you and to your seed after you. And I shall give to you, and to your seed after you, the land in which you are.”²⁴

“Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and **all the nations of the Earth** shall be **blessed** in him. For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment so that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He has spoken about him.”²⁵

“And the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham out of Heaven the second time and said: ‘I have sworn by Myself,’ says the Lord, ‘because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only one..., in blessing I will bless you [thoroughly] and in multiplying I will multiply your seed [thoroughly] like the stars of the sky and like the sand which is at the sea-shore. And your seed shall take possession of the [city-]gate of his enemies. And in your seed, **all the nations of the Earth shall be blessed** – because you have obeyed My voice.’”²⁶

– **ABRAHAM**, the Father of all believers (+/- 2000 B.C.)

14) “Isaac went to Abimelech King of the Philistines.... But the Lord appeared to him [Isaac] and said: ‘Do not go down to Egypt! Keep on dwelling in the land which I shall tell you about! Keep on sojourning in this land – and I will be with you and will keep on blessing you!’

“For to you and to your seed I will give all these countries, and I will execute the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. And I shall make your seed to multiply like the stars of the sky, and I shall give to your seed all these countries. And in your seed, all the nations of the Earth shall be blessed -- because Abraham obeyed My voice and...kept My Commandments, My statutes, and My laws!”²⁷

– **ISAAC**, the Child of the Promise (+/- 1930 B.C.)

15) “‘I am the Lord God of Abraham your [grand]father, and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, I will give to you and to your seed. And your seed shall be like the dust of the ground. And you shall spread abroad to the West, and to the East, and to the North, and to the South. And in you and in your seed, all the families of the Earth shall be blessed.”²⁸

“And Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him till daybreak.... Then He [the Man] said: ‘Let Me go, for it is daybreak!’ But he [Jacob] said: ‘I will not let You go, unless You bless me!’.... Then He [the (God-)Man] said: ‘Your name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel [“the prince of God Triune”]! For it is as a prince that you have power with God and with men, and have prevailed.’”²⁹

– **JACOB**, the Prince of God (+/- 1880 B.C.)

16) “And Joseph [the Viceroy of Egypt] said to his brothers: ‘Approach me, please!’ So they approached him. Then he said: ‘I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.... Do not be grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that you sold me here! For God sent me ahead of you – to preserve **life**.... God sent me ahead of you, to preserve you a **posterity** on the Earth -- and to **save** your lives, by a **great deliverance**.’”³⁰

“But when Joseph’s brothers saw that their father had died, they said: ‘Joseph shall perhaps hate us and will certainly pay back to us the evil we did to him’.... Yet Joseph said to them: ‘Do not be afraid! For am I in the place of God? Yet as for you, you did think evil against me. But God intended it for good -- to bring to pass, as it is today, to save **many** people alive. Now, therefore, do not be afraid! I shall **nourish** you, and your little ones.”³¹

– **JOSEPH**, the Viceroy of Egypt (+/- 1420 B.C.)

17) “Now, therefore, if you will obey My voice indeed and keep My covenant – then you shall be a peculiar treasure to Me above **all** people. For **all** the **Earth** is Mine.”³²

“I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God – visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of them who hate Me; and showing mercy to **thousands [of generations]** of them that love Me and **keep My Commandments.**”³³

“And Moses said: ‘Would to God that **all** the Lord’s people were Prophets, and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!’”³⁴

“And the Lord said...: ‘As truly as I live, **all** the **Earth** shall be **filled** with the glory of the Lord!’”³⁵

“I shall see Him, but not now. I shall behold Him, but not nearby. A Star shall come forth from Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel and shall smite the corners of Moab and destroy all the children of Sheth. Seir **also** shall be a **possession** for his enemies. And Israel shall act **valiantly**. Out of Jacob shall come He Who shall have **dominion**.”³⁶

– **MOSES**, the Friend of God (+/- 1420 B.C.)

18) “And the Lord...: ‘See, I have given Jericho and its king and the mighty men of valour into your hand’.... The Lord was with Joshua; and his fame was heard through **all** the land.”³⁷

“And Joshua said to all the people: ‘Thus says the Lord God of Israel...’I have given you a land for which you did not labour, and cities which you did not build – and you are dwelling in them. You are eating of the vineyards and oliveyards which you did not plant.” Now, therefore, fear the Lord – and serve Him in sincerity and in truth!... As for me and my household – we will serve the Lord!”³⁸

– **JOSHUA**, the Conqueror of Canaan (+/- 1400 B.C.)

19) “The He [God] made him who remains [to] have dominion over the nobles among the people. The Lord made me to have dominion over the mighty... So let all Your enemies perish, O Lord! But let them that love Him, be like the sun when it goes forth in its might!”³⁹

– **DEBORAH**, the Judge and Prophetess (+/- 1300 B.C.)

20) “And the Angel of the Lord appeared to the woman, and said to her: ‘Behold now, you...shall conceive and bear a son...and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines’... And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson. And the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him.”⁴⁰

“Behold, a young lion roared against him. But the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent it as he would have rent a kid-goat.”⁴¹

“And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he...slew thirty men.”⁴²

“And when he came to Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him. But the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became like flax that was burned with fire; and his bonds loosened from off of his hands. And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and stretched out his hand and picked it up and slew a thousand men with it.”⁴³

– **SAMSON**, the Hero of Zorah (+/- 1130 B.C.)

21) “The Lord...raises up the poor out of the dust, and lifts up the beggar from the dunghill – to place them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory. For the pillars of the Earth are the Lord’s, and He has established the World upon them. He will guard the feet of His saints, but the wicked shall be silent in darkness. For by [his own] strength, nobody shall prevail. The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken into pieces. From out of Heaven, He shall thunder upon the ends of the Earth. And He shall give strength to His king, and exalt

the horn of his Anointed.”⁴⁴

– **SAMUEL**, the greatest Judge (+/- 1120 B.C.)

22) “The meek [or the obedient keepers of God’s Commandments] shall eat and be satisfied. They that seek Him shall praise the Lord, who seek Him.... **All the ends of the World shall remember, and turn to the Lord.** And **all the kindreds [or families] of the nations shall worship before You.** For the Kingdom is the Lord’s. And **He is the Governor among the nations.** **All** they that be fat upon the Earth, shall eat and worship. **All they that go down to the dust, shall bow before Him.** And none can keep alive his own soul. A seed shall serve Him. That shall be accounted to the Lord, as a generation. They shall come and shall declare His righteousness to a people that shall be born, that He has done this.”⁴⁵

– **DAVID**, the King of Israel (+/- 1000 B.C.)

23) “A psalm for Solomon.... Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king’s Son.... He shall judge the poor of the people. He shall save the children of the needy, and shall break the oppressor into pieces. Thet shall fear You as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations. He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass – like showers that water the Earth. In His days, the righteous shall flourish; and abundance of peace, as long as the moon endures. He shall have dominion, also from sea to sea and from the [Euphrates] River to the ends of the Earth. They that dwell in the desert, shall bow before Him; and His enemies shall lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles, shall bring presents. The kings of Sheba and Seba, shall offer gifts. Yes, **all kings shall fall down before Him.** **All nations shall called Him blessed.** Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who alone does wondrous things! And blessed be His glorious Name for ever! And let the whole Earth be filled with His glory!”⁴⁶

– **SOLOMON**, the wisest of men (+/- 970 B.C.)

24) “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; and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids, I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the Heavens and on the Earth – blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. And it shall come to pass that **whosoever shall call on the Name of the Lord, shall be delivered.**”⁴⁷

– **JOEL**, the Prophet of Pentecost (+/- 800 B.C.)

25) “In that day, I will **raise up** the tabernacle of David that has fallen, and close up its breaches. And I will [re-]build it, as in the days of old, so that they may **take possession of the remnant of Edom and of all the Gentiles that are called by My Name**’ – says the Lord Who does this. ‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes [shall overtake] him who sows seed. And the mountains shall drip sweet wine; and all the hills shall melt. And I will bring back the captivity of My people Israel. And they shall [re-]build the wasted cities, and inhabit them. And they shall plant vineyards, and drink their wine. They shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them into their land.’”⁴⁸

– **AMOS**, the Herdsman of Tekoa (+/- 780 B.C.)

26) “The children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim. **Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God** and ‘David’ [viz. the Davidic Jesus] their King. And [they] shall fear the Lord and His goodness, in the **latter days**.”⁴⁹

“Come, and let us return to the Lord! For He has torn; but He will **heal** us. He has smitten; but He will bind us up. After two days, He will **revive** us. In the third day, He will **raise us up**. Then we shall live in His sight. Then we shall know, if we keep following on to get to know the Lord. His going forth is prepared like the morning. And He shall come to us like the rain, like the latter and the former rain to the Earth.... Also, O Judah, He has set a **harvest for you** – when I return the captivity of My people.”⁵⁰

“I will **heal** their backsliding! I will love them freely! For My anger is turned away from him. I will be like the dew to Israel. He shall **grow** like the lily, and cast forth his roots like Lebanon. His branches shall **spread**, and his beauty shall be like the olive tree and his smell like Lebanon. They that dwell under his shadow, shall return. They shall **revive!**”⁵¹

– **HOSEA**, the Prophet of God’s undying love (+/- 760 B.C.)

27) “It shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and **all nations** shall

flow to it.... For out of Zion [alias the Christian Church], the Law shall go forth, and the Word of the Lord.... In that day, a man shall cast to the moles and to the bats, his idols of silver and his idols of gold which they made for himself to worship..., out of fear for the Lord and for the glory of His Majesty when He arises to shake the Earth terribly.”⁵²

“For unto us a Child is born. Unto us a Son is given. And the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace, there shall be no end – upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth, even **for ever.** The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this!”⁵³

“The Earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day, there shall be a Root of Jesse Who shall stand as an Ensign of the people. To Him shall the Gentiles seek. And His rest shall be glorious!”⁵⁴

“Thus says the Lord: ‘The labour of Egypt and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabaeans, men of stature, shall come over to you – and they shall become yours. They [those nations themselves] shall follow you’.... For thus says the Lord Who created the Heavens – God Himself Who formed the Earth and made it. He has established it; He created it not in vain; He formed it to be inhabited.”⁵⁵

“Thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I will lift up My hand to the Gentiles, and set up My standard to the people! And they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. And kings shall be your nursing-fathers, and their queens your nursing-mothers. They shall bow down to You with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of your feet.”⁵⁶

“For behold, the darkness shall cover the Earth, and gross darkness [shall cover] the people! But the Lord shall arise upon you, and His glory shall be seen upon you.... And the Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings – to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about, and see! All they gather themselves together. They are coming to you! Your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see, and flow together; and your heart shall fear, and be enlarged. Because the abundance of the sea shall be converted to you. The forces of the Gentiles shall come to you.”⁵⁷

“For thus says the Lord: ‘I will extend to her peace like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream.... I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory. And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those of them that escape to the nations – to Tarshish, Pul and Lud (who draw the bow), to Tubal and Javan, to the isles afar off that have not heard of My fame and who have not seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles.... For as the new Heavens and the new Earth which I will make shall remain before Me,’ says the Lord, ‘so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one new moon to another and from one sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,’ says the Lord.”⁵⁸

– **ISAIAH**, the Prince of Prophets (+/- 740 B.C.)

28) “In the last days it shall come to pass that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains. And it shall be exalted above the hills. And people shall flow unto it. And **many nations shall come** and say: ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob! And He will teach us about His ways, and we will walk in His paths!’

“For **the Law** shall go forth [out] of Zion, and the **Word of the Lord** from Jerusalem. And He **shall judge among [or rule] many people** and rebuke strong nations afar off. And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks.

“Nation shall not lift up a sword against [another] nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his [own] vine and under his [own] fig tree. And none shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it. For **all people will walk every one in the Name of his God**, and we will keep on walking in the Name of the Lord our God for ever and ever!”⁵⁹

“You, Bethlehem Ephratah, though you be little among the thousands [of villages] of Judah – yet out of you shall He come forth to Me Who is to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings-forth have been from of old, from everlasting.... And He shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the Name of the Lord His God. And they shall abide. For now He shall be great unto the ends of the Earth.”⁶⁰

– **MICAH**, the Morasthite Prophet of Judah (+/- 720 B.C.)

29) “The Lord...will famish **all the gods of the Earth**. And **men shall worship Him – every one** from his place, even all the isles of the Gentiles. ‘You **Ethiopians** also, you shall be slain by My sword!’”⁶¹

“For then I will turn to the people [of] a pure language, so that they may **all call upon the name of the Lord** to serve Him with one consent. >From **beyond the rivers of Ethiopia**, My suppliants, even the daughter of My dispersed, shall bring My offering.”⁶²

– **ZEPHANIAH**, the Predictor of the Christianization of Africa (+/- 640 B.C.)

30) “The **Earth** shall be **filled** with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the **sea**.... The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the Earth keep silence before

Him!”⁶³

“O Lord, **revive Your work** in the midst of the years; in the midst of the years, make known! In wrath, remember mercy! God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the Heavens, and the Earth was full of His praise.... I will rejoice in the Lord; I will joy in the God of My salvation. The Lord God is My strength, and He will make My feet like hinds’ feet. And He will make Me to walk upon my high places.”⁶⁴

– **HABAKKUK**, the Prophet of revival (+/- 630 B.C.)

31) “When you be multiplied and increased in the land, ...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 any longer keep on walking after the imagination of their evil heart.”⁶⁵

“**Who would not fear You, o King of nations?** For to You it appertains. Forasmuch as among **all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms** – there is none like You.... But the Lord is the true God. He is the living God, and an everlasting King. At His wrath, **the Earth shall tremble.** And the nations shall not be able to abide His indignation.”⁶⁶

“‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘that I will raise up a righteous Branch unto David. And a King shall reign and prosper and shall execute judgment and justice in the Earth. In His days, Judah shall be **saved.**’”⁶⁷

“Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘that I will make a New Covenant.... I will put My Law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts.... And they shall no more every man teach his neighbour and every man his brother, saying:”Know the Lord!” For they shall all know Me – from the least of them, to the greatest of them’ – says the Lord.”⁶⁸

“‘Yet I will **convert** the captivity of **Moab, in the latter days**’ – says the Lord.”⁶⁹

“‘And **afterward, I will reverse** the captivity of the children of **Ammon**’ And it shall come to pass in the latter days, that I will reverse the captivity of **Elam**’ – says the Lord.”⁷⁰

– **JEREMIAH**, the Prophet of Anathoth (+/- 620 B.C.)

32) “For the day of the Lord is near, upon all the Heathen.... But upon Mount Zion [alias the Christian Church] shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness. And the house of Jacob shall [re-]possess their possessions [and/or gain political control over the possessions of the Edomites who had expropriated the house of Jacob]. And they [of the house of Jacob] shall

[re-]possess the fields of Ephraim and the fields of Samaria. And Benjamin shall [re-]possess Gilead. And the captive flock of the children of Israel shall [re-]possess that [expropriated by] the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath. And the captives of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad, shall [re-]possess the cities of the south. And saviours [or liberators] shall come up on Mount Zion, to judge the Mount of Esau. And the kingdom shall be the Lord's!"⁷¹

– **OBADIAH**, the Prophet against Edom (+/- 600 B.C.)

33) "When I shall **reverse** their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters – then will I reverse the captivity of your captives in the midst of them."⁷²

"I will also take [a part] of the highest branch of the high cedar, and I will plant it. I will crop off a tender one from the top of its young twigs – and will plant it upon a high and eminent mountain. On the mountain of the height of Israel, I will plant it. And it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit; and become a goodly cedar. And under it, all birds of every kind shall dwell. And all the trees of the field shall know that I the Lord have brought down the high tree [and] have exalted the low tree."⁷³

"And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the East. And His voice was like a noise of many waters. And the [whole] Earth shone with His glory."⁷⁴

"These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea – which, being brought forth to the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that everything that lives, which moves – wherever the rivers shall come – shall live. And there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come there. For they shall be healed; and everything shall live, wherever the river comes.... And by the river upon its bank, on this side and on that side -- there shall grow, for food, all trees whose leaf shall not fade nor whose fruit shall be consumed. It shall bring forth new fruit according to its months, because of the waters that issued forth from the sanctuary. And its fruit shall be for food, and its leaf for medicine."⁷⁵

"And they that serve the city shall serve it from out of all the tribes of Israel.... And the name of the city from that day, shall be: 'The Lord is there!'"⁷⁶

– **EZEKIEL**, the Captive at the Chebar (+/- 590 B.C.)

34) "You kept on looking until a Stone was cut out, without hands – which smote the image upon its feet that were of iron and clay, and broke them into pieces. Then the iron, the clay, and brass; the silver, and the gold – were broken into pieces together and became like the chaff of the

summer threshing-floors. And the wind carried them away, so that no place was found for them. And the Stone that smote the image, became a great mountain and filled the whole Earth... And in the days of these kings, the God of Heaven shall set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed. And the Kingdom shall not be left to other people. And It shall break into pieces and consume all these kingdoms; but It shall keep on standing for ever."⁷⁷

"I kept on looking in the night visions. And behold, Someone like the Son of man came with the clouds of Heaven and came to the Ancient of days. And they brought Him close before Him. And there was given to Him dominion and glory and a Kingdom – so that all people, nations and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away. And His Kingdom [is a kingdom] which shall not be destroyed... And the Kingdom and dominion and the greatness of the Kingdom under the whole Heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High Whose Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom. And all dominions shall serve and obey Him."⁷⁸

The B.C. 270 Septuagint is a translation of the Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek by Jewish Scholars in Alexandria. Interestingly, it translates "ships of *Chittim* shall come" at Daniel 11:30 -- with "the **Romans** shall come" *etc.*

Indeed, the intertestamental Aramaic translation of Habakkuk 3:17 in the *Targum Pseudo-Jonathan* states that thereafter --"the **Romans** shall be **destroyed.**" And Rabbi Johanan ben Zakkai wrote in the 1st century A.D. that Daniel 7:23's imperialistic Fourth Kingdom "is guilt-laden **Rome.**"⁷⁹

– **DANIEL**, the Chief Governor of Babylon (+/- 550 B.C.)

35) "For thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Yet once [more], in a little while, I will shake the Heavens and the Earth and the sea and the dry land. And I will fill this house with glory' – says the Lord of hosts. 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine!' – says the Lord of hosts. 'The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former!' – says the Lord of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace' – says the Lord of hosts.... 'I will shake the Heavens and the Earth. And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms. And I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the Heathen."⁸⁰

– **HAGGAI**, the Prophet of the rebuilt temple (+/- 520 B.C.).

36) "'Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls, for the multitude of men and cattle therein. For I,' says the Lord, 'will be to her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.... And many nations shall be joined to the Lord in that day, and shall be My people. And I will dwell in the midst of you. And you shall know that the Lord of

hosts has sent Me to you.”⁸¹

“‘Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit!’ – says the Lord of hosts. ‘Who are you, O great **mountain**? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain!’⁸²

“Yes, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem and to pray before the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘In those days, it shall come to pass that ten men [out of all languages of the nations] shall take hold of him that is a Jew [cf. Romans 2:28f], saying, “We will go with you! For we have heard that God is with you.”’⁸³

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you! He is just, and has salvation! He is humble, and rides on an ass and upon a colt the foal of an ass. And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem. And the battle-bow shall be cut off. And He shall speak peace to the Gentiles. And His dominion shall be also from sea to sea – and from the River [Euphrates] even to the ends of the Earth.”⁸⁴

“And the Lord shall be King over all the Earth. In that day, there shall be one Lord, and His Name [shall be] one [over all the Earth]... And the wealth of all the Heathen round about, shall be gathered together – gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance.... And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left, of all the nations which came against Jerusalem, shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts.”⁸⁵

– **ZECHARIAH**, the Son of the Prophet Iddo (+/- 510 B.C.)

37) “The hand of our God for good is upon all them that seek Him; but His power and His wrath is against all them that forsake Him.... Now for a little space, grace has been shown from the Lord our God to leave us a remnant to escape and to give us a nail in His holy place so that our God may lighten our eyes and give us a little reviving.”⁸⁶

-- **EZRA BEN SERAIAH**, the Scribe (458f B.C.)

38) “O Lord God of Heaven, the great and terrible God Who keeps covenant and mercy for them that love Him and observe His Commandments! Let Your ear now be attentive, and...I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants.... Remember, I beseech You, the word which you did command Your servant Moses...: ‘If you turn to Me and keep My Commandments and do them – though there were [those] of you [who were] cast out to the uttermost part..., yet I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place that I have chosen to set My Name there’....

“Don’t be afraid of them [your enemies]! Remember the Lord Who is great and terrible –

and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes!... The builders, every one, had his sword girded by his said – and so built.... This work is great and large.... Our God shall fight for us. So we laboured in the work.”⁸⁷

– **NEHEMIAH**, Governor of Jerusalem (444f B.C.)

39) “From sunrise even till sunset, My Name shall be **great** among the **Gentiles**. And in **every** place, [prayers like] incense shall be offered to My Name.... For My Name shall be great among the **Gentiles**’ – says the Lord of hosts.”⁸⁸

“Behold, I will send My messenger [John the baptizer], and he shall prepare the way before Me [Jehovah-Jesus]. Then the Lord, Whom you are seeking, shall suddenly come to His temple – even **the** Angel of the Covenant Whom you delight in. Behold, He shall come,’ says the Lord of hosts.... ‘And **all nations** shall call you blessed. For you shall be a delightful land.”⁸⁹

“To you that fear My Name, the Sun of righteousness shall arise with **healing** in His wings. And **you shall go forth, and **grow up**** like calves of the stall.... Behold, I will send you [John the baptizer like a second] Elijah the Prophet...and he shall **convert** the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers – before **I** come!”⁹⁰

– **MALACHI**, the last Old Testament Prophet (+/- 420 B.C.)

40) During the next 400 years, no inspired Biblical Scriptures were written. Yet many uninspired and non-biblical writings – variously know as the *Apocrypha* and the *Pseudepigrapha* – were produced in this period. As the *Westminster Confession* rightly insists, the apocryphal books are not canonically authoritative – so that they are no more to be “approved or made use of than **other human** writings.”⁹¹ Yet the apocryphal books do have the evidential value of all “other human writings” – and can hence shed some light on man’s understanding of the intertestamental period and even of the sacred books of Holy Scripture.

Hence, as the great Belgian Reformer Guido de Brés confessed, although “we distinguish those sacred books from the apocryphal,” nevertheless there is a **place in religious learning** for the apocryphal books, “all of which the Church may read and take **instruction** from – **so far as they agree with the **canonical books****.”⁹² Accordingly, we next consider relevant excerpts from the *Apocrypha* and the *Pseudepigrapha*.

In these apocryphal and/or pseudepigraphical writings, it is to be noted that the concept of “the Kingdom of God” implies the following situations. First, a **transformed Earth** and (either simultaneously or later) a transformed Heaven.⁹³ Second, a temporal **earthly** Kingdom

of undefined **duration**,⁹⁴ lasting either “400” or “1000” years.⁹⁵ Third, after that “1000”-years-long ‘earthly’ stage, an everlasting ‘heavenly’ stage of that **same** Kingdom.⁹⁶ And last, **simultaneously** with and in that ‘heavenly’ Kingdom, an everlasting Kingdom right here in **this World** (as the re-**new**-ed **Earth**).⁹⁷

“Put off, O Jerusalem, the garment of your mourning and affliction, and put on the comeliness of the glory that comes from God for ever! Cast about yourself the double garment of the righteousness which comes from God! Set on your head the turban of the glory of the Eternal One! For God will show your brightness to **every country** under Heaven....

“For God has appointed that **every high mountain and the everlasting hills shall be abased**, and valleys filled up, to level out the ground [*cf.* Isaiah 40] – so that Israel may go safely in the glory of God.... The earth will bring forth fruit, one producing ten thousand [*cf.* Amos 9:13f]. In the vine, there will be a thousand branches; in every branch, a thousand clusters; in every cluster, a thousand berries; and every berry will yield a *cor* [or about 88 gallons] of wine.”⁹⁸

– **FIRST BARUCH** the oldest extant apocryphal writing (+/- 220f B.C.)

41) “Have mercy upon us, O Lord of **all**, and behold us and send Your fear upon **all the nations**! Lift up Your hand against the strange nations, and let them see Your power! As You were sanctified in us before them, so be **magnified in them** before you [*cf.* Jeremiah 10:7 *etc.*].

“And let them **know** You, as we too have known You, that there is not God but You, O Lord!... O Lord, hear the prayer of Your suppliants, according to the blessing of Aaron over Your people, so that **all who are upon the Earth** may know that You are the Lord, the eternal God!”⁹⁹

– **ECCLESIASTICUS**, or the Wisdom of Jesus Sirach (+/- 190 B.C.)

42) “When **Rome** shall rule over Egypt as well – as she still hesitates to do – then the mightiest Kingdom of the immortal King **over mankind** shall appear, and a holy Prince shall come to wield the Sceptre over **all the World** until **all ages** [*cf.* Daniel 11 & 12].... From the East the Lord shall send a King, to hush the voice of war throughout the **World**.”¹⁰⁰

– **SYBILLINE ORACLES**, Pagan-Judeo-PreChristian writings (+/- 170f B.C.)

43) “Wisdom [alias the pre-incarnate God the Son] preserved the first formed father of the World [*viz.* Adam] who was created alone. And [Wisdom] brought him out of his fall, and gave him

power to rule **all things** [*cf.* Psalm 8 & Proverbs 8].”¹⁰¹

“Well did the Egyptians deserve to be deprived of light and imprisoned in darkness – [the Egyptians] who had shut up Your sons by whom the incorruptible light of the Law was to be given to the World... “They shall [rule or] judge nations and have dominion over peoples, and their King shall be Lord for ever” [*cf.* Isaiah 2 & 19] ¹⁰²

“Hear, therefore, O you **kings**, and understand! **Learn**, you who are the **judges** [alias the civil magistrates] of the **ends of the Earth!** Give ear, you who **rule a host** and glory in a **multitude of nations!** For the rulership is given to you from the Lord, and the sovereignty from the Highest Who shall test your works and search out your counsels.... But a **multitude of wise men is the salvation of the World.** And a discreet king is the weal[th] of the people.”¹⁰³

“You have mercy upon all! For You can do all things, and you overlook the sons of men, so that they may repent.... You spare all, because they are Yours, O Lord, You Lover of souls!”¹⁰⁴

– **WISDOM**, often attributed to Solomon (+/- 140 B.C.)

44) “At that hour, the Son of man was named in the presence of the Lord of spirits, and His Name before the Head of days. Yes, before the sun and the signs were created, before the stars of Heaven were made, His Name was named before the Lord of spirits. He shall be a staff to the righteous on which to support themselves so as not to fall. And He shall be the Light to the Gentiles, and the Hope of those who are troubled in heart [*cf.* Isaiah 42].

“All who dwell on Earth, shall fall down and worship before Him [*cf.* Psalm 72], and shall praise and bless and celebrate the Lord of spirits with sons.... The plant of righteousness and of rectitude shall appear.... All the saints shall give thanks and live until they have begotten a thousand descendants, while the whole period of their youth and their sabbaths shall be complete in peace. In those days, all the Earth shall be cultivated in righteousness; it shall wholly be planted with trees [*cf.* Psalm 67]”¹⁰⁵

The “son of man” stood “at the throne of God” in Heaven “before the sun and the stars were created.... All the children of men shall become righteous, and all nations shall offer adoration and shall praise Me and worship Me [*cf.* Psalm 72:8-17].... In those days, the whole Earth shall be filled with righteousness...and vines shall be planted on it.... It shall yield fruit to satisfy [*cf.* Micah 4:3-4].... The vine which is planted thereon, will yield wine in abundance; and of all seed which is sown thereon, each measure shall bear ten thousand....

“All who dwell on Earth, shall fall down and worship before Him; shall bless and glorify Him; and sing praises to the Name of the Lord of spirits [*cf.* Psalm 22:27].... His will shall be their life. In those days the kings of the Earth shall...become humble.... In those days the mountains shall skip like rams, and the hills shall leap like young sheep satisfied with milk [*cf.* Psalm 114:1].... The Messiah may command and be powerful upon the Earth.... Everything

wicked shall disappear, and depart from before His face; and the Word of the Son of man shall become powerful (*cf.* Isaiah 33:24).”¹⁰⁶

– **FIRST ENOCH**, the Ethiopic Parables (130f B.C.)

45) “Behold, the Assyrians are multiplied in their power! They are exalted with horse and rider; they glory in the strength of footmen; they hope in shield and spear and bow and sling – but do not know that You are the Lord Who decides battles. Lord is Your Name. Throw down their strength in Your power, and bring low their force, in Your wrath!...

“O God of my father and God of the inheritance of Israel, Lord of the Heavens and the Earth, Creator of the waters, King of all Your creatures – hear my prayer!... **Make every tribe fully recognize and know that You are the God of all power and might!**”¹⁰⁷

– **JUDITH**, the daughter of Merari (125f B.C.)

46) “You, indeed, O persecutor [Antiochus Epiphanes, *cf.* Daniel 11:31-35], take us out of the present life. But **the King of the World will raise us up** [*cf.* Isaiah 26:19 & 28:18-21] – we who have died for His Laws – unto an everlasting reawakening of life [Daniel 12]....

“These [my hands] I got from Heaven; and for His Laws I give them up.... It is desirable, being put to death by men, to look for hope from God – to be raised up again by Him.... **The Creator of the World, Who originated and formed man, and disclosed the origin of all things, will in mercy give back both breath and life again – as you now give up yourselves for the sake of His Laws.**”¹⁰⁸

“Then [Judas] the Maccabee called his men together, six thousand in number, and exhorted them not to be stricken with terror of the enemy, nor to fear the great multitude of the Heathen who wrongfully came against them.... ‘For they,’ he said, ‘trust in weapons and boldness. **But we trust in the Almighty God Who at a beck can cast down both them that come against us and all the World.**’”¹⁰⁹

“[Judas] the Maccabee saw the coming of the masses of the soldiers and the manifold equipment of weapons and the fierceness of the elephants. He stretched out his hands toward Heaven and called upon the Lord Who works wonders, knowing that the victory does not come by arms but that **He gives the victory to the worthy** even as it seems good to Him. And in prayer, he spoke after this manner:

“O Lord, You did send Your Angel in the time of Hezekiah the King of Judah, and did slay 185000 out of the camp of Sennacherib [Isaiah 37]. And now, O Lord of Heaven, send a good

Angel ahead of us – for a fear and a dread! Through the might of Your arm, let those that come with blasphemy against Your holy people, be stricken with terror!’ And he ended thus.”¹¹⁰

“Nicanor [the enemy] and they that were with him, came forward with trumpets and songs. Judas and his men, on the contrary, encountered the enemy with invocation and prayers. And, while fighting with their hands and praying to God with their hearts, they slew not less than thirty-five thousand men, greatly rejoicing at the interposition of God.”¹¹¹

– **SECOND MACCABEES**, History of the Judeans (+/- 110 B.C.)

47) “The light of knowledge shall then light up, in Jacob.... And there shall be given to you a blessing, and to all your seed, until the Lord shall visit all the Gentiles in His tender mercies for ever. A King shall arise in Judah, and shall establish a Priesthood to all the Gentiles!”¹¹²

“Then shall the Lord raise up a new Priest, and to Him all the words of the Lord shall be revealed. And He shall execute a righteous judgment upon the Earth for a multitude of days.... And there shall be peace in all the Earth.... And in His Priesthood, the Gentiles shall be multiplied in knowledge upon the Earth and enlightened through the grace of the Lord.... And Satan shall be bound by Him [*cf.* Revelation 20:2f].”¹¹³

“And among men of another race My Kingdom shall be brought to an end, until the salvation of Israel shall come – until the appearing of the God of righteousness, that Jacob and all the Gentiles may rest in peace [*cf.* Romans 11:25-32].”¹¹⁴

“And after these things shall arise a Star of Peace [*cf.* Numbers 24:17f], and He shall walk with men in meekness and righteousness. And the Heavens shall be opened upon Him, and the blessing of the Holy Father shall be poured down upon Him [*cf.* John 1:25-34]. And He will pour down upon us the Spirit of grace [*cf.* Acts 2]. And you shall be His children by adoption, and you shall walk in His Commandments, first and last [*cf.* Hebrews 8:10 & First John 5:1-2]. Then a Branch shall go forth from Me. And the sceptre of My Kingdom shall shine forth. And from your Root, shall arise a Branch, and from it shall grow up the Rod of Righteousness to the Gentiles – to judge and to save all who call upon the Lord.”¹¹⁴

“And after these things there shall arise unto you the Lord Himself, the Light of the righteous. And healing and compassion shall be in His wings [*cf.* Malachi 4:2]. He shall redeem all the captivity of the sons of men from Beliar [alias Satan]; and every spirit of deceit shall be trodden down. And He shall bring back all the Gentiles into zeal of Him.”¹¹⁵

“He shall save Israel and all the Gentiles.”¹¹⁶

“You must therefore, my children, observe the Commandments of the Lord and honour Levi and Judah! For from them there shall arise unto you the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the World [*cf.* John 1:29] – One Who saves all the Gentiles and Israel. For His Kingdom is

an everlasting Kingdom which shall not pass away [cf. Isaiah 9:5f].”¹¹⁷

“And I saw that from Judah was born a virgin, wearing a linen garment. And from her was born a Lamb [cf. Isaiah 7:14] – the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the World, Who saves all the Gentiles and Israel... And His star shall arise in Heaven, as a King... And there shall be peace in all the Earth... For the Lord shall raise up a Priest from Judah – as it were a King – God and man [cf. Luke 20:41f]. He shall save all the Gentiles and the race of Israel...

“A King shall arise in Judea and shall establish a new Priesthood after the fashion of the Gentiles. And in His Priesthood, the Gentiles shall be multiplied in knowledge upon the Earth through the grace of the Lord...

“The Most High shall send forth His salvation in the visitation of an only-begotten Prophet... And His Priesthood shall be perfect with the Lord, and He shall arise for the salvation of the World... And the veil of the temple shall be rent, and the Spirit of God shall pass on to the Gentiles.... Until the consummation of the age, He shall be in the synagogues of the Gentiles. And among their rulers, [He shall be] like a strain of music in the mouths of all.”¹¹⁸

– TESTAMENT OF THE TWELVE PATRIARCHS (+/- 108 B.C.)

48) “And in those days the children shall begin to study the Laws, and to seek the Commandments, and to return to the path of righteousness. And the days shall begin to grow many and increase among those children of men [cf. Daniel 12], till their days draw night to one thousand years [cf. Revelation 20].... And there shall be no Satan nor any evil destroyer. For all their days shall be days of blessing and healing.”¹¹⁹

– THE BOOK OF JUBILEES, late second century document (+/- 107 B.C.)

49) “He raised up for them a ‘Teacher of Righteousness’ to lead them in the way of His heart [cf. Jeremiah 23:6]. All who do not lift a hand against His righteous judgments and His true testimonies..., who give ear to the voice of the ‘Teacher of Righteousness’ – they shall rejoice...and they shall prevail over all the sons of the World.”¹²⁰

“Through Me, You have illuminated the faces of full many. And countless be the times You have shown Your power through Me! For You have made known to Me Your deep mysterious things; You have shared Your secret with Me; and so shown forth Your power. And before the eyes of full many, this wonder stands revealed – Your glory shown forth, and all living known of Your power.”¹²¹

“May the Lord bless You from His holy dwelling-place, and make You a crown of glory in the midst of the holy ones!... He will give You as an inheritance the first-fruits of all choice

portions, and the counsel of **all mankind** will He bless by Your hand.”¹²²

“Arise, O Mighty One! Take Your captivity **captive**, O man of glory [cf. Psalm 68:19 & Ephesians 4:8]! And take Your spoils, O valiant One! Sit Your hand on the neck of Your enemies, and Your foot on the heap of the slain! Strike the **nations** that are My adversaries!... And their **kings** will **serve** You [Revelation 2:26f & 3:9 & 15:4].”¹²³

“For all who walk by the counsels of the Spirit, the visitation consists of **healing** and abundant peace **throughout** their days.”¹²⁴

– **DEAD SEA SCROLLS**, description of the promised Prophet (+/- 65 B.C.)

50) “**All** those who **have conquered**, shall be written in His book [cf. Revelation 3:5].”¹²⁵

“Behold, O Lord, and raise up to them their King the Son of David – at the time in which You see, O God – so that He may reign over Israel Your servant! And gird Him with strength, so that He may shatter unrighteous rulers, and so that He may purge Jerusalem from nations that trample her down to destruction! Wisely, rightly, He shall thrust out sinners from the inheritance. He shall destroy the pride of the sinner like a potter’s vessel; with a rod of iron He shall break all their substance into pieces [cf. Revelation 2:27].

“He shall destroy the godless **nations** with the Word of His mouth [cf. Revelation 19:15f]. At His rebuke, **nations** shall flee before Him... And He shall have the **heathen nations** to serve Him under His yoke. And He shall glorify the Lord in a place to be seen by **all the Earth**. And He shall purge Jerusalem, making it holy – as of old. So that **nations** may come from the **ends of the Earth** to see His glory [cf. Matthew 8:11] – bringing as gifts her sons who had fainted, and to see the glory of the Lord with which God has glorified her. And He shall be a righteous King, taught by God, over them. And there shall be no unrighteousness in His days, in their midst. For **all** shall be holy, and their King the Anointed of the Lord.”¹²⁶

“May God cleanse Israel against the day of mercy and blessing, against the day of choice, when He brings back His Anointed! Blessed shall they be, who shall be in those days!... They shall see the goodness of the Lord which He shall perform for the generation that is to come, under the rod of chastening of the Lord’s Anointed in the fear of His God, in the Spirit of wisdom and righteousness and strength – so that He may direct **every** man in the works of righteousness by the fear of God, so that He may establish them **all** before the Lord.”¹²⁷

– **PSALMS OF SOLOMON**, perhaps describing Pompey in Palestine (+/- 55 B.C.)

51) “Because I shall love Him Who is the Son, I shall become a son. For he that is joined to

Him Who is immortal, will also himself become immortal.... This is the Spirit of the Lord, Who does not lie, Who teaches the sons of men to know His ways.... Distil Your dew upon us, and open Your rich fountains that pour forth to us like milk and honey!...

“The Lord has multiplied the knowledge of Himself, and is zealous that these things should be known, which by His grace have been given to us.... Our spirits praise His Holy Spirit. For there went forth a stream, which became a river great and broad.... It spread over the face of the whole Earth, and filled everything [cf. Ezekiel 47]; and all the thirsty upon Earth were given to drink of it [cf. Isaiah 55].... Blessed, then, are the Ministers of that draught, who are entrusted with that water of His!....

“The Lord has directed My mouth by His Word, and He has opened My heart by His light; and He has caused to dwell in Me His deathless life...to **convert** the souls of them who are willing to come to Him and to lead a good captivity captive for freedom.... The Gentiles were gathered together who were scattered abroad.... The traces of the light were set upon their heart. And they walked in My life, and were saved, and became My people for ever and ever....

“I believed in the Lord’s Messiah, and it appeared to me that He is the Lord. And He showed Him His sign. And He led me by His light, and gave me the rod of His power so that I might subdue the imaginations of the peoples and bring low the power of the men of might. And the Lord overthrew my enemy by His Word -- and he became like the stubble which the wind carries away.”¹²⁸

– **ODES OF SOLOMON**, songs later used also in Christian Worship (+/- 45 B.C.)

52) “Now Adam was five-and-a-half hours in paradise. Then I blessed the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, on which he [Adam] rested from all his works [cf. Genesis 2:1-3]. Then I appointed the eighth day also, and the eighth day should be the first-created after My work [cf. Malachi 3:2 & 3:17 & 4:1f & 4:5f with John 20:1f & 20:26].... Then, at the beginning of the eighth thousand [cf. Revelation 20:1-7 with 21:1f], there should be a time of not-counting [cf. Revelation 21:25] – endless, with neither years nor months nor weeks nor days nor hours [cf. Revelation 22:1-5].”¹²⁹

– **SECOND ENOCH**, the postmillennial Slavonic Secrets (+/- A.D. 1-40)

53) “The World will not be destroyed, but transformed. Ruined cities shall be rebuilt. Unfruitful lands will become fertile [cf. Isaiah 35]. **Past prosperity will be as nothing when compared with the coming abundance**. And **all former adversaries will be put to utter confusion**.”¹³⁰

– **PHILO**, hellenized Israelitic Philosopher (A.D. 45-68)

54) The famous Jewish Historian Josephus wrote in the first century A.D. about Daniel: “It is fitting to give an account of what this man did.... He was happy to have strange revelations made to him...as to one of the greatest of the Prophets.... We believe that Daniel conversed with God. For he not only prophesied about future events, as did the other Prophets. But he also determined the time of their accomplishment.... He also wrote and left behind him what made manifest the accuracy and undeniable veracity of his predictions....

“He said that the ram [in Daniel 8:3-21] signified the kingdoms of the Medes and Persians, and that the he-goat signified that someone should come and reign from the Greeks...and that from among them there should arise a certain king that would overcome our nation...and take away our political government and would despoil the temple.... And indeed it so came to pass that our nation suffered these things under Antiochus Epiphanes, according to the vision of Daniel [11:31f] and what he wrote many years before they came to pass. In the very same manner Daniel [9:26f & 11:30 & 12:1f] also wrote concerning the Roman government, and that our country [Judea] would be made desolate by it.” [So too the Jewish *Talmud*.]¹³¹

“Pilate, the Governor of Judea, removed the [Roman] Army from Caesarea to Jerusalem...in order to abolish the Jewish laws. So he introduced Caesar’s effigies, which were upon the ensigns.... Pilate was the first who brought these images to Jerusalem, and set them up there....

“Now there was about this time, Jesus – a wise man.... He was a doer of wonderful works – a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us [Jews], had condemned him to the cross [A.D. 33], those that loved him at the first, did not forsake him. For he appeared to them alive again, the third day, as the divine Prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him.... The tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day [93 A.D.].... About the same time [A.D. 33-70], also another sad calamity put the Jews into disorder.... Thus were these Jews banished out of the city by wickedness.”¹³²

“God takes care of mankind, and by all ways possible foreshows to our race what is for their preservation.... For the Jews...found in their sacred writings how about that time [A.D. 33-70], One from their country would become Governor of the habitable Earth.

“The Jews [or rather Judaists] took this prediction to belong to themselves in particular.... These men [mis]interpreted some of these signals according to their own pleasure. And some of them they utterly despised, until their madness was demonstrated both by the [Romans’] taking of their city and their own destruction.”¹³³

– **JOSEPHUS**, famous Jewish Historian (circa A.D. 75)

55) “On the basis of Ezekiel 38:1 to 39:40, the **pre**-messianic wars are presented as the Lord’s fight against God and Magog, symbols of the powers of evil in the World. The leader of these evil forces bears such names as Satan, Belial (or Beliar), Maste Din (or Mastema), and (in the Greek versions) the Antichrist.

“Preliminary events...would precede the establishment of God’s universal reign over all mankind on ‘the Day of the Lord.’ Chief among these preliminary events, would be the reign of the Messiah. *First Enoch* 45:3; 105:2; 28:29; 13:32-35; 14:9. Not only from the intertestamental writings, but also from Josephus (*Wars* 2:6,12 & *Antiquities* 13:9)...it is clear that in the last two centuries before the destruction of the Second Temple [in A.D. 70]...belief in the imminent coming of the Messiah was widespread in Judaism....

Various periods are mentioned between “the days of the Messiah” and “the World to come” -- such as 365 “as the days of the solar year” (*Sanh.* 99a; *Sif. Deut.* 310; *IV Ezra*). The “son of man” will bring salvation at the end of the ages, when he will be enthroned as king of the World (*IV Ezra* 13:26) at the resurrection of the dead (7:29-33).

-- **MODERN JUDAISM**¹³⁴ on Post-Maleachic Pre-Christian Documents (B.C. 130 to A.D. 85f)

56) “My Son Jesus shall be revealed with those that are with Him.... And it shall come to pass after these years, that My Son Messiah shall die -- and all men that have breath. Then the World shall be turned into old silence, seven days, as in the first beginnings.... Then it shall come to pass after seven days, the World...shall be raised up.... And the Earth shall restore those that are asleep in her... And the Most High shall be revealed upon the seat of judgment.... And the lake of torment shall appear, and over against it shall be the place of rest [*cf.* Revelation 20 to 22].... Do not further be curious how the ungodly shall be punished, and when! But enquire how the righteous shall be saved – whose is the World, and for whom the World is!”¹³⁵

– **SECOND ESDRAS**, or Fourth Pseudo-Ezra (+/- A.D. 85)

57) The quotations immediately above from *Second Esdras* are from one of the last of the uninspired ancient apocryphal and pseudepigraphical documents. But also within the above time frame, God revealed the last inspired and infallible writings (*viz.* those of the New Testament). There, the following excerpts from those canonical Scriptures are relevant to our subject:

“Don’t be afraid, Zacharias! For your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elisabeth shall bear you a son. And you shall call his name John.... And many of the children of Israel, shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before Him [Christ the Messiah] in the spirit and power of Elijah, to convert the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to [Christ alias] the Wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”¹³⁶

“And you, child, shall be called ‘the Prophet of the Highest.’ For you shall go before the face of the Lord [Jesus Christ] to prepare His ways – to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God whereby the Dawn from on high has visited us to give light to [the Gentiles alias] those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”¹³⁷

“The Word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he came into all the country around Jordan, preaching.... ‘Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the Salvation of God.’”¹³⁸

– JOHN THE BAPTIZER, the greatest till then ever born of a woman (+/- A.D. 30)

58) “For God so loved the World, that He gave His only begotten Son – so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the World to condemn the World; but so that the World through Him might be saved.”¹³⁹

“If Satan also gets divided against himself – how shall his kingdom keep on standing? Because, by who do your [the Pharisees’] sons cast them [viz. Satan’s demons] out? Therefore, they [the sons of you Pharisees] shall be your judges. But if I cast out demons through the finger of God – no doubt the Kingdom of God has come upon you!”

“Whenever an armed strong man guards his palace, his goods are at peace. But whenever One Stronger than he shall come upon him and overcome him – He [the Stronger One] takes from him all his armour in which he [the strong man] trusted. And He [the Stronger One then] distributes His spoils.”¹⁴⁰

“Now is the judgment of this World! Now, [Satan alias] the prince of this World shall be cast out! And I, when I am lifted up from the Earth, will draw all men to Me.”¹⁴¹

“Then Jesus came and spoke to them [His Ministers of the Word and Sacraments], saying: ‘All power in Heaven and Earth has been given to Me. Therefore, keep on going and keep on teaching all nations, baptizing them into the Name, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, continuing to instruct them to keep on observing all things whatsoever I have commanded you! And look, I am with you always – even till the end of the World!’”¹⁴²

– JESUS CHRIST, the Saviour of the World (+/- A.D. 33)

59) “Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, into the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins! And you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off – even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”¹⁴³

“You have tasted that the Lord is gracious. Keep on coming to Him, as unto a Living Stone – disallowed indeed by men; but chosen by God, and precious! You too, like living stones, are being built up [into] a spiritual house; a holy priesthood – to keep on offering up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.... You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people – so that you should keep on showing forth the praises of Him Who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.”¹⁴⁴

“But, beloved, don’t be ignorant about this one thing – that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day! The Lord is not slack, concerning His promise – the way some men count slackness. But He is patient toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”¹⁴⁵

– THE APOSTLE PETER, the Missionary to the Jews (+/- A.D. 61)

60) “For as in Adam all die – even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ, the firstfruits; afterward, those that are Christ’s, at His coming. Then comes the end, when He shall have finished handing over the Kingdom to God, even the Father – when He [Christ] shall have finished putting down all rule and all authority and power. For He must keep on reigning – until He has finished putting all enemies under His feet [viz. God’s]...

“And when all things shall have been subdued to Him [the Triune God] – then also the Son Himself shall be subject to Him Who put all things under Him – so that God may be all things in all people... Therefore, my beloved brethren, your must keep on being steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord – inasmuch as you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain!”¹⁴⁶

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ! So that, in the administration of the fullness of times He might gather together into one all things in Christ – both which are in Heaven and which are on Earth....

“Therefore I too...do not cease to give thanks for you, ...so that you may know what is the hope of His calling and what is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His Own

right hand in the heavenly places – far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named not only in this World but also in that which is to come – and has put all things under His feet and given Him to be the Head over all things to the Church which is His body, the fullness of Him Who keeps on filling all things in all people.”¹⁴⁷

“And you He has **brought back to life**...and has raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus – so that in the ages to come He might keep on showing the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.... For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God has fore-ordained so that we should walk in them.”¹⁴⁸

“And He [Christ] is before all things, and by Him **all things** keep on holding together. And He is the Head of the body [alias] the Church – [He] Who is the Beginning, the Firstborn from the dead – so that in all things He might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father, that in Him all fullness should keep on dwelling; and, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things to Himself. By Him, I say – whether they be things on Earth, or things in Heaven!”¹⁴⁹

– THE APOSTLE PAUL, the Missionary to the Gentiles (+/- A.D. 62)

61) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him nothing was made, that was made. In Him was Life; and the Life was the Light of men. And the Light keeps on shining in darkness; and the darkness did not snuff it out....

“John [the Baptizer]...came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light – so that all men might believe through Him [the Light].... As many as received Him, to them He gave authority to become the sons of God – even to those who keep on trusting in His Name.... And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. And we beheld His glory, the glory of the only-begotten [Son] of the Father – full of grace and truth.”¹⁵⁰

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, so that He might destroy the works of the devil.... Many false-prophets have gone out into the World.... You are from God, little children, and have overcome them. Because greater is He Who is in you, that he that is in the World....

“And we have seen and keep on testifying that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the World.... For whosoever has been born of God, overcomes the World. And this is the victory which overcomes the World – even our faith.”¹⁵¹

“The kingdoms of this World have become that of our Lord and of His Christ. And He shall keep on reigning for ever and ever.”¹⁵²

“Now salvation and strength and the Kingdom of our God and the power of His Christ have

come. For the accuser of our brethren has been cast down, who accused them day and night before our God. But they overcame him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony; and unto death they didn't love their lives.... Here is the patience of the saints. Here are they who keep on observing the Commandments of God and the faith in Jesus."¹⁵³

"Great and marvellous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, You King of saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You. For Your judgments are made manifest."¹⁵⁴

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it. For the glory of God kept illuminating it, and the Lamb is its Light. And the nations of them which are saved, shall keep on walking in its light. And the kings of the Earth keep on bringing their glory and honour into it... And they'll keep on bringing the glory and the honour of the nations into it."¹⁵⁵

"And there shall be no night there. And they need no candle, neither light of the sun. For the Lord God keeps on giving them light. And they shall keep on reigning for ever and ever....

"He who is righteous [or Law-abiding] – let him become yet more righteous [or let him keep on observing the Decalogue more and more!]... Blessed are they that keep on doing His Commandments, so that they may keep on having the right [or the **legal title**] to the tree of life, and may keep on entering in through the gates into the city [of God]!"¹⁵⁶

– **THE APOSTLE JOHN**, the Seer of Patmos (+/- A.D. 65-96)

62) All of the following writings are Post-Scriptural and therefore uninspired.¹⁵⁷ Yet – like the ancient apocryphal and/or pseudepigraphical writings mentioned just a few pages previously¹⁵⁸ – they are nevertheless valuable. For they are accounts of the way in which their writers understood the teaching of the normative **Holy Scriptures**.¹⁵⁹

Below, we shall give relevant excerpts from the Early Church Fathers of the first four Christian centuries. Then we will trace the opinion of subsequent authorities right down through to the views of contemporary Theologians. For a refutation of the erroneous allegation that the Early Church Fathers were Pretribulationists, one may consult our paper *Always Victorious!* -- subtitled *The Earliest Church not Pre- but Postmillennial*.¹⁶⁰

Having already dealt with the first-century Apostles, we next proceed to deal with the earliest post-canonical writings attributed to those about whom the Apostles wrote. These are the writings attributed to the Apostles themselves,¹⁶¹ to Barnabas,¹⁶² to Clement of Rome,¹⁶³ and to Hermas.¹⁶⁴

So, in light of the previously-considered canonical Scriptures (ending with the Book of

Revelation in A.D. 64-96), we next consider the non-canonical and immediately-subsequent first-century ecclesiastical writings. These include: *The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* (+/- A.D. 97), the *Epistle of Barnabas* (+/- 98), the [*First*] *Epistle of Clement of Rome* (+/- 99), and the *Visions of Hermas* (+/- 100). Only then shall we go on to consider subsequent representative Christian documents of the Early Church -- from the second century through to the appearance of the Papacy and Islam around 600 A.D. While so doing, we shall point to those Scriptural elements of post-tribulationistic victory to be found ever in the writings of that minority of (ancient) Christians who chiliastically obscured the Biblical doctrine of the simultaneous resurrection of all of the dead.

-- **THEN-CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITY**¹⁶⁵ on the Early Church (A.D. 85f)

63) “First, you shall love God Who made you; second, you shall love your neighbour as yourself!... You shall not commit **murder**; you shall not commit **adultery**!.... You shall not **steal**!... You shall not **covet** the things of your neighbour; You shall not **forswear** yourself; you shall not bear **false witness**!.... Be not an observer of omens, since it leads the way to **idolatry**!... Baptize into the Name, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit! Every **Lord’s day**, gather yourselves together!”¹⁶⁶

“In the last days, false-prophets and corrupters shall be multiplied [*cf.* Second Peter 2:1f], and the sheep shall be turned into wolves.... And **then** shall appear the ‘Deceiver of the World’ [Second Thessalonians 2:3-8 & Revelation 12:9 & 13:11f] as ‘Son of God’ -- and shall do signs and wonders, and the Earth shall be delivered into his hands.... But [post-tribulationistically] they that endure in their faith, shall be saved.... Then the World shall see the Lord....

“Let Your Church be gathered together from the **ends** of the **Earth** into Your Kingdom.... Remember, Lord, Your Church..., and assemble it from the **four winds**!... For this is that which was spoken by the Lord: ‘In every place and time, offer to Me a pure sacrifice! For...My Name shall be wonderful among the **nations**.’”¹⁶⁷ *Cf.* Malachi 1:11-14.

– **THE DIDACHÉ**, or *The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* (+/- A.D. 97)

64) “The Prophet [Daniel 7:24]...speaks thus: ‘Then kingdoms **shall** reign upon the Earth, and a little king **shall** rise up **after them**. He **shall** subdue three of the kings under one’.... Daniel [7:7f] says...: ‘I beheld the Fourth Beast, **wicked** and powerful and more savage than all the Beasts of the Earth, and how from it sprang up ten horns, and out of them a little **budding horn**, and how it subdues three of the great horns under one’.... Let **us** utterly hate the works of...wickedness!.... Take heed, lest...**the Wicked Prince**,...should thrust us away from the Kingdom of the Lord!....

“The Scripture says concerning **us** [Genesis 1:28]...: ‘Multiply and **fill** the Earth!... Have

dominion over it!’ ... ‘You must enter into the land flowing with milk and honey, and **have dominion** over it! (Exodus 33:3).... **We, then, are they whom He has led into the good land....** **We, having been quickened and being kept alive by the faith of the promise and by the Word, shall live, ruling over the Earth....** To govern implies authority... **One should command and rule....**

“Christ was the Son of David.... He says [Psalm 110], ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “You must keep on sitting at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool!”’ And again, this is what Isaiah [45:1f] says: ‘The Lord said to Christ, “My Lord Whose right hand I have held so that **the nations shall yield obedience before Him!**”’

“This is what I have made when, giving **rest** to **all** things, I shall make a beginning of the eighth day -- that is, a beginning of another World. Thus also **we keep the eighth day with joyfulness**, the day when Jesus rose again from the dead [John 20:1 & 20:19 & 20:26].”¹⁶⁸

“You shall not forsake the Commandments of the Lord!.... You shall not commit adultery!.... You shall not take the Name of the Lord in vain!.... Your shall not covet what is your neighbour’s!.... The day is at hand..... Be good **Lawgivers** to one another!”¹⁶⁹

– **BARNABAS**, Cypriot Apostle of the Near East (+/- A.D. 98)

65) “Let us hasten with all energy...to perform **every** good work! For the Creator...formed man...and said: ‘**Increase and multiply!**’ We see, then, how all **righteous** men have been adorned with **good works**.... Let us without delay accede to His will, and let us work the work of righteousness with our **whole** strength!”¹⁷⁰

“Concerning His Son, the Lord spoke thus...: ‘I will give You **the nations** for Your inheritance, and the **uttermost** parts of the **Earth** for Your possession.... You must keep on sitting at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool!’ [Psalms 2 & 110].... Let **us** then, **men** and brethren, with all energy -- act the part of **soldiers**, in accordance with **His Holy Commandments!**”¹⁷¹

-- **CLEMENT**, Earlier co-worker in Rome of the Apostle Paul (+/- A.D. 99)

66) “**Increase and build up and rule over the whole creation!**.... The building...will be finished.... **When** the tower is **finished** and built -- **then** comes the **end**.”¹⁷²

“I was met by a Beast of such a size that it could destroy peoples [Revelation 13:3f]. But through the power of the Lord and His great mercy, I escaped from it.... It will be possible for **you** to escape it, if your heart be pure...and you spend the rest of the days of your life in serving

the Lord.... Cast your cares upon the Lord, and He will direct them! Trust the Lord..., for He is all-powerful!"¹⁷³

– **HERMAS**, the friend of the Apostle Paul and later a Pastor in Rome (+/- A.D. 100f)

67) "Let every friend of Christ keep the Lord's Day as a festival, the resurrection day, the queen and chief of all the days! Looking forward to this, the Prophet declared: 'to the end, for the eighth day' – on which our life both sprang up again, and victory over death was obtained in Christ."¹⁷⁴

"**Stand firm**, like an anvil which is beaten! It is the part of a noble athlete to be wounded -- and yet to conquer!... Run your race with increasing energy! Weigh the times carefully! While you are here, be a **conqueror!**"¹⁷⁵

– **IGNATIUS**,¹⁷⁶ Palestinian Church Overseer of Antioch (A.D. 107)

68) "The Christians...marry, as do all [other men]. They beget children, and they do not cast away their foetuses.... The Christians, though subjected day by day to punishment, increase the more in number... Do you not see them exposed to the wild beasts so that they may be persuaded to deny the Lord? And yet, **they are not overcome!** Do you not see that the more of them who are punished, the greater becomes the number of the rest? This does not seem to be the work of man. This is the power of God!"¹⁷⁷

– **MATHIAS**: *Epistle to Diognetus* (A.D. 130)

69) "In that he said, 'Rejoice, you barren one that does not bear!' – he [Paul in Galatians 4] referred to us! For our Church was barren, before children were given to her.... He means that our people [the Gentiles] seemed to be outcasts from God.. But now, through believing, have become more numerous than those [Non-Christian Jews] who are 'reckoned' to possess God.... Thus also did Christ desire to save those who were perishing, and has saved many – by coming and calling us, when [we were] hastening to destruction."¹⁷⁸

– **PSEUDO-CLEMENT** of Rome,¹⁷⁹ the *Second Epistle* (A.D. 135).

70) "May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ Himself, Who is the Son

of God and our everlasting High Priest, keep on building you up in faith and truth, and in all meekness [or lawabidingness], gentleness, patience, longsuffering, forbearance, and **purity!** And may He bestow on you a lot and portion among His saints, and on us with you, and on all that are under Heaven who shall believe in our Lord Jesus Christ and in His Father Who 'raised Him from the dead'!

"Pray for all the saints! Pray also for kings and potentates and princes, and for those that persecute and hate you, and for the enemies of the cross, so that your fruit may be manifest to all, and so that you may be perfect in Him!"¹⁸⁰

– **POLYCARP**, Asian Overseer of Smyrna (A.D. 140)

71) "I [Papias]¹⁸¹ did...take pleasure...in those who rehearsed the **Commandments** given by the Lord.... The days will come in which vines shall grow, having each ten thousand branches, and in each branch ten thousand twigs, and in each true twig ten thousand shoots, and in every one of the shoots ten thousand clusters, and on every one of the clusters ten thousand grapes, and every grape when pressed will give twenty-five metretes of wine....

"In like manner...a grain of wheat would produce ten thousand ears, and that every ear would have ten thousand grains, and every grain would yield ten pounds of clear, pure fine-flour; and that apples and seeds and grass would produce in similar proportions; and that all animals, feeding then only on the products of the Earth, would become peaceable and harmonious, and be in perfect subjection to man [cf. Genesis 1:28].... These, then, are the times mentioned by the Prophet Isaiah [11:6ff]: 'And the wolf shall lie down with the lamb' etc....

"In due time the Son will yield up His work to the Father, even as it is said by the Apostle: 'For He must keep on reigning **till** He has put down all enemies under His feet.... And when all things shall be subdued to Him, then shall the Son Himself also be subject to Him Who put all things under Him, so that God may be all things in all people' [First Corinthians 15:25-28]."¹⁸²

– **PAPIAS**, Church Overseer of Hierapolis (+/- A.D. 145)

72) "Christ is King...and He shall have **dominion** from sea to sea and from the rivers **unto the ends of the Earth.** Ethiopians shall fall down before Him, and His enemies shall lick the dust.... God speaks in the creation of man...in the following words: 'Let Us make man after Our image and likeness! And let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over **all the Earth** and over all the creeping things that creep on the Earth! And God created man: after the image of God did He create him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them, and said: "**Increase and multiply and fill the Earth, and have power over it!**"¹⁸³

“Having learned the true worship of God from the Law and the Word which went forth from Jerusalem by means of the Apostles of Jesus...we cultivate piety, righteousness, philanthropy, faith and **hope**.... The prophetic Word says, ‘And his wife **shall** be like a **fruitful** vine’ [Psalm 128:3]... It is **evident** that no one can terrify or subdue us who have believed in Jesus....

“The **Gentiles would repent**.... The prophecy of Micah [4:1f]...is as follows: ‘In the last days, the mountain of the Lord shall be manifest, established on the top of the mountains. It shall be exalted above the hills, and people shall flow unto it. And **many nations** shall go and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord and to the House of the God of Jacob!”.... For it is plain that -- though beheaded and crucified and thrown to wild beasts and chains and fire and all other kinds of torture, **we do not give up** our confession! But the more such things happen -- the **more** others and in **larger** numbers become faithful, and worshippers of God through the Name of Jesus” Christ the Lord.¹⁸⁴

– **JUSTIN MARTYR**, Samaritan Christian Apologist of Palestine (A.D. 150)

73) “**We** believe that there will be a resurrection of bodies after the consummation of all things.... A resurrection **once and for all**, when our periods of existence are completed -- and in consequence solely of the constitution of things under which men alone live, **for the purpose of passing judgment** upon them.”¹⁸⁵

– **TATIAN**, Assyrian Christian of Nisibitis (A.D. 165)

74) “When He had made and blessed him [man], so that he might increase and replenish the Earth, He put **all things under his dominion** and at his service.... And unto men He made all cattle subject, making man the God-formed image, ruler over all, and putting in subjection to his sway -- things many and incomprehensible.”¹⁸⁶

– **THEOPHILUS**, Syrian Overseer of Antioch (A.D. 170)

75) “God made man for Himself, and in pursuance of the goodness and wisdom which are conspicuous throughout the creation.... He made him for the sake of the life of those created beings [such as angels and other men] which is not kindled for a little while and then extinguished.... To creeping things...and birds and fishes or...all irrational creatures – God has assigned such life as that. But to those who bear upon them the image of the Creator Himself, and are endowed with understanding and blessed with a rational judgment, the Creator has

assigned perpetual duration – in order that, recognizing their own Maker and His power and skill, and **obeying Law** and justice, they may pass their **whole** existence free from suffering in the possession of those qualities with which they have bravely borne their preceding life, although they lived in corruptible and earthly bodies....

“It will be well to prove our proposition by...the reward **or** punishment due to each man, in accordance with righteous judgment.... Man must also bear the recompense [due] for the sins committed...such as adultery, murder, theft, rapine, dishonour to parents, and every desire in general that tends to the injury and loss of our neighbours.... There must by all means be a resurrection of the bodies which are dead.... The **reward** or **punishment** of lives ill or well spent, is proportioned to the merit of each.”¹⁸⁷

“We have a Law which makes the measure of rectitude to consist in dealing with our neighbour as ourselves.... Having the hope of eternal life, we...each of us reckon her his wife whom he has married according to the laws laid down by us.... We say that those women who use drugs to bring on abortion, commit murder.... Who, then, that believes in a resurrection, would make himself [or herself] into a tomb for bodies that will rise again?... It is not our belief alone that bodies will rise again.... Many Philosophers also hold the same view.... Nothing hinders according to Pythagoras and Plato, that when the dissolution of bodies takes place -- they should from the very same elements of which they were constructed at first, be reconstructed.... All human beings who die, rise again.... All are to rise again -- those who have died in infancy, as well as others.”¹⁸⁸

– **ATHENAGORAS**, Greek Christian Philosopher of Athens (A.D. 183)

76) “How do the Scriptures testify of Him?.... By one and the same God, through the Word – He at one time conferring with His creature; and at another, **propounding His Law**.... And, at the proper time, bestowing an incorruptible inheritance – for the purpose of bringing man to perfection. For He formed him for **growth** and **increase**. As the Scripture says: ‘Increase and multiply!’”¹⁸⁹

“Speaking...of Antichrist, he [Paul] says clearly in the Second to the Thessalonians [2:11]: ‘And for this cause, God **shall** [viz. **after** Irenaeus’s own A.D. 185] send them the working of error so that they would believe a lie; so that they all who did not believe the truth but consented to iniquity might be judged’.... Also in the present time [viz. **during** Irenaeus’s own A.D. 185], God (knowing the number of those who will not believe)...has given them over to unbelief and turned away His face from men of this stamp, leaving them in the darkness which they have themselves chosen for themselves.”¹⁹⁰

“Not only by the particulars already mentioned, but also by means of the events which **shall** occur in the [**future** alias **Post-185** A.D.] **time** of Antichrist -- it is shown that he, being an apostate and a robber, is anxious to be adored as a god.... He [Antichrist] being endued with all the power of the devil, **shall** come...as an **apostate**....

“The Apostle thus speaks in the Second Epistle to the Thessalonians [2:3-4].... The enemy shall sit, endeavouring to show himself as [representing] Christ.... Also Daniel [7:8 *etc.*], looking forward to the end of the last kingdom -- *i.e.* to the ten last kings among whom the kingdom of those men shall be partitioned and upon whom the son of perdition shall come -- declares that ten horns shall arise in their midst.... Daniel [8:23 *etc.*] says again: ‘And he shall desolate the holy place...and he shall be lifted up in his heart’....

“In a still clearer light, John, in the Apocalypse [Revelation 17:12 *etc.*], indicated to the Lord’s Disciples what shall happen...concerning the ten kings who shall then arise, among whom the [**Roman**] **Empire** which now rules, shall be partitioned. He teaches us what the ten horns shall be which were seen by Daniel -- telling us that thus it had been said to him: ‘And the ten horns which you saw, are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet. But they shall receive power, as if kings, one hour with the beast’.... ‘God shall also send them the operation of error, so that they may believe a lie’ [Second Thessalonians 2:10-12]....

“When he, [the] Antichrist **has** come, and of his own accord concentrates the apostasy in his own person and accomplishes whatever he shall do according to his own will and choice -- he shall also sit in the temple of God.... His coming John...described in the Apocalypse [Revelation 13:2*f*].... The name of the Beast or the number of his name...is 666.... Lateinos has the number **666**; and it is...very probable...this was the name of the last kingdom [of the four seen by Daniel]. For the Latins are they who at present [*viz.* in A.D. 185] bear rule.... This Antichrist shall...devastate all things.... But then [*viz.* thereafter], the Lord will come from Heaven on the clouds...for the righteous.”¹⁹¹

“The **resurrection** of the **just**...takes place **after** the coming of Antichrist...in [the times of] which [resurrection] the **righteous** shall reign on the Earth...[with respect to] those whom the Lord shall find in the flesh awaiting Him from Heaven.”¹⁹²

– **IRENÆUS**, Celtic Overseer of Lyons in France (A.D. 185)

77) “**Daniel** indicates from the desolation of Jerusalem.... **Daniel** [8:13*f*]...said that there were 2300 days -- from the time that the abomination of [the A.D. 54-68] Nero stood in the holy city [of Jerusalem], till its destruction [in A.D. 70].... **Daniel** [12:11-12] says, ‘Blessed is he that comes to the 1335 days’.... ‘From the time of the change of continuation and of the giving of the abomination of desolation -- there shall be 1290 days. **Blessed** is he who waits and comes to the 1335 days’.... Josephus the Jew, who composed the history of the Jews -- computing the periods says that...from Moses...there are in all 2133 years.”¹⁹³

“The word of our Teacher [Jesus Christ] did not remain in Judea **alone**.... But it was diffused over **the whole World**, over **every** nation and village and town -- already bringing whole houses over to the truth.... Our doctrine at its very first proclamation was prohibited by kings and tyrants.... But it flourishes the more.... The Father of our Lord, by the resurrection of Jesus

Christ...according to your faith, **rises again in us!**"¹⁹⁴

– **CLEMENT**, Christian Theology Professor of Alexandria in Egypt (A.D. 190)

78) “Cerinthus [the Gnostic **heretic**], through ‘revelations’ he would have us believe were written by a great Apostle, brings before us ‘marvellous things’ which he pretends were shown him by Angels; alleging that **after** the resurrection...the flesh dwells in Jerusalem.... And, being an enemy to the Scripture of God -- wishing to deceive men, he says there is to be a space of a thousand years for marriage festivals.”¹⁹⁵

– **CAIUS**, Anti-chilastic Italian Presbyter of Rome (A.D. 210)

79) “Paul’s ‘man of sin’ [and] ‘son of perdition’...must first **be revealed before** the Lord comes.... He [that ‘man of sin’] is to sit in the temple of God, and boast himself as being god’ [Second Thessalonians 2:3-4]. In our view, he is **Antichrist** -- as taught us...especially by the Apostle John, who says [First Epistle 4:1-3] that ‘already many false-prophets are gone out into the World’ as the **fore-runners of Antichrist.**”¹⁹⁶

“That powerful **State** which presides over the seven mountains and very many waters, has merited from the Lord the appellation of a prostitute.... Babylon, in our own John [at Revelation 17:5-9f], is a figure of the city **Rome.**”¹⁹⁷

“We know that a **mighty shock** impending over the whole Earth...threatening **dreadful woes**, is retarded only by the continued existence of the Roman Empire [cf. Second Thessalonians 2:6f]. We have no desire, then, to be overtaken by these dire events. And in praying that their coming may be delayed, we are lending our aid to Rome’s duration.”¹⁹⁸

“**No one** has as yet escaped from **Antichrist** [First John 4:3]. **No one** has -- as yet -- had to bewail the downfall of ‘**Babylon**’ [cf. Revelation 18:2].... In the Second Epistle [II Thessalonians 2:1-7], he [Paul] addresses them with even greater earnestness. ‘Now I beseech you...that you be not soon...troubled...as if...the day of the Lord is at hand.... For that day shall not come **unless** indeed there **first** come a falling away...and that man of sin be revealed’ -- that is to say, **Antichrist**.... What **obstacle** is there [to his being revealed], but the Roman State -- the **falling away** of which, by being scattered into ten kingdoms, shall **introduce** Antichrist (upon its own ruins) [cf. Daniel 7:7-25 & Revelation 17:8f]?”....

“It is...competent for us...to maintain a spiritual resurrection at the **commencement** of a life of faith -- we who acknowledge the full completion thereof at the end of the World [Revelation 22:2-6].... **After** the casting of the Devil into the bottomless pit for a while [Revelation 20:2]” -- explains Tertullian --“the blessed prerogative of the **first** resurrection may be ordained from the thrones [Revelation 20:4-6].... Then again, **after** the consignment of him to the fire [Revelation

20:10]..., the judgment of the **final** and **universal resurrection** may be determined out of the books [Revelation 20:12-14]....

“The very maintenance of this **spiritual** resurrection, amounts to a presumption in favour of the other **bodily** resurrection. For if none were announced for that time -- there would be fair ground for asserting **only** this ‘purely **spiritual** resurrection.’ Inasmuch, however, as (a resurrection) **is** proclaimed for the **last** time -- it is proved to be a **bodily** one, because there is **no spiritual** one also **then** announced. For why make a **second** announcement of a resurrection of only one character -- that is, the **spiritual** one -- since this ought to be undergoing accomplishment either **now**, without any regard to different times, or else **then** at the very conclusion of all the periods? It is therefore more competent for us even to maintain a **spiritual** resurrection at the **commencement** of a **life of faith** -- we who acknowledge the **full completion** thereof at the **end** of the World.”¹⁹⁹

“‘**All** kings shall fall down before Him.... **All nations** shall serve Him.’ To Whom shall **all** thus do homage, but Christ? ... In Solomon was **no** nation blessed; in Christ, **every** nation!”²⁰⁰

“The Lord sent the Paraclete...so that...**discipline** should, **little by little**, be...carried on to **perfection**.... What then is the Paraclete’s administrative office but this: the **direction** of discipline; the **revelation** of the Scriptures; the **reformation** of the intellect; the **advancement** toward the ‘**better** things’?”²⁰¹

– **TERTULLIAN**, African Church Overseer of Carthage (A.D. 210)

80) “‘The **Fourth Beast** [in Daniel seven was] dreadful and terrible: it had iron teeth, and claws of brass.’ Who, then, are meant by this but **the Romans** -- whose kingdom, that **still** stands, is expressed by the **iron**? For, says he, ‘its **legs** are of iron’....

“By the [**ten**] **toes** of the feet he meant, mystically, the **ten kings** that rise out of that kingdom [*cf.* Daniel 2:42f & 7:7 & 7:20f]. As Daniel says: ‘I considered the beast; and look, [there were] ten horns behind -- among which shall come up another little horn, springing from them.’

“By this, none other is meant than the **Antichrist** which **is** to rise [*viz.* after the time of Hippolytus, who died around 236]. These things, then, **are destined to come to pass**.... The toes of the image turn out to be democracies. And the ten horns of the Beast -- are **distributed** among ten kings or kingdoms.”²⁰²

“Should **we** then not mark the things prophesied of old in Babylon by Daniel, and **now yet** in the **course** of **fulfilment** in the World? For the image shown at that time to Nebuchadnezzar, furnished a type of the whole World.”²⁰³

“In those times, the Babylonians were sovereign over all; and these were the golden head of the image. And then, after them, the Persians held the supremacy for 345 years; and they were

represented by the silver. Then the Greeks had the supremacy, beginning with Alexander of Macedon, for 300 years -- so that they were the brass. After them came **the Romans**, who were the iron legs of the image. For they were strong as iron. Then (we have) the [**ten**] **toes** of clay and iron, to signify the democracies that were subsequently to rise -- partitioned among the **ten toes** of the image, in which iron shall be mixed with clay [future tense]....

“After the first kingdom of the Assyrians [and/or Babylonians], which was denoted by the gold -- there will be the second kingdom of the [Medes and/or] Persians, expressed by the silver. And then the third kingdoms of the [Greeks and/or] Macedonians, signified by the brass. And after it, the fourth kingdom of **the Romans** will succeed -- more powerful than those that went before it.... The **ten horns** [*cf.* the above-mentioned ten toes] are things that are yet to be....

“‘Behold, a Fourth Beast!’ [Daniel 7:7f].... That there has arisen no other kingdom after that of the Greeks save that [**Roman Empire**] which stands sovereign at present [!], is manifest to all.... >From it, will spring **ten horns**.... We ought to look for the ten horns which are to spring from it -- when the time of the Beast shall be fulfilled and **the little horn** which is Antichrist suddenly shall appear [future tense] in their midst, and righteousness shall be banished from the Earth.... We ought not to anticipate...such times. We should not, however, refuse to believe that these things will come to pass.... These things also shall certainly be fulfilled....

“The Fourth Kingdom...from which the ten horns are to spring...[are] to be apportioned among ten crowns. And amid these, another little horn shall rise -- which is that of **Antichrist**. It shall pluck up by the roots the three others before it...with a view to acquiring [as ‘**Sole Pope** alias ‘**Universal Father**’] for itself **universal dominion**. And, after conquering the remaining seven horns, he will at last begin, inflated by a strange and wicked spirit -- to stir up war against the saints and to persecute all everywhere, with the aim of being glorified by all and being worshipped as a god....

“‘The abomination of desolation shall be given [or “set up”].’ Daniel [8:23f & 11:31 *cf.* 12:11 & 9:27 & 7:20f] speaks therefore of two abominations. The one of destruction, which Antiochus set up in its appointed time and which bears a relation to that of desolation; and the other universal, when Antichrist shall come.

“‘A Fourth Beast, dreadful and terrible..., had iron teeth and claws of brass’ [*cf.* Daniel 7:19f]. And who are these, but **the Romans**?... After this -- what remains, beloved, but the [**ten**] **toes** of the feet of the image, in which part is iron and part clay, mixed together? And mystically, by the [**ten**] **toes** of the feet, he meant the [**ten**] **kings** who are to arise from among them. As Daniel also says (in the words) ‘I considered the Beast, and look! There were **ten horns** behind it -- among which shall rise another (horn), an **offshoot**, and shall pluck up by the roots the three (that were) before it.’ And under this, was signified none other than Antichrist....

“The golden head of the image [Daniel 2] and the lioness [Daniel 7] denoted the Babylonians. The shoulders and arms of silver, and the bear, represented the Persians and Medes. The belly and thighs of brass, and the leopard, meant the Greeks -- who held the sovereignty from Alexander’s time. The legs of iron, and the Beast dreadful and terrible, expressed the Romans

-- who hold the sovereignty **at present**. The [**ten**] **toes** of the feet which were part clay and part iron, and the **ten horns**, were emblems of the kingdoms that are **yet** to arise. The other **little horn** that **grows** up among them, means **the Antichrist** in their midst....

“John says...‘The Beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit, shall make war against them and shall overcome them and kill them’ [Revelation 11:4-6] -- because they will not give glory to **Antichrist**. For this is meant by the little horn that grows up.... Daniel [7:8f] says, ‘I considered **the horn**.... In the horn were eyes, like the eyes of man; and a mouth speaking great things. And he opened his mouth to **blaspheme** God. And that horn made war against the saints and prevailed against them **until** the Beast was slain and perished and his body was given to be burned’....

“John then speaks thus [in Revelation 13:11f]: ‘And I beheld another Beast coming up out of the Earth. And he had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon’.... The words ‘he exercised all the power of the First Beast before him’...signify that, after the manner of the law of Augustus by whom **the Empire of Rome** was established, he too will rule and govern -- sanctioning everything by it, and taking **greater** glory to himself. For this [**Empire of Rome**] is the Fourth Beast whose head was wounded and healed again....

“Then he (**Antichrist**) shall [**future** tense] with knavish skill heal...and restore it [**the Empire of Rome**]. For this is what is meant by the Prophet [John in Revelation 13:15f], when he says: ‘He will give life to the image; and the image of the Beast will speak.’ For he will act with vigour again, and prove strong by reason of the laws established by him; and he will cause all those who will not worship the image of the Beast, to be put to death.

“Here the faith and the patience of the saints will appear. For he [John] says: ‘And he will cause all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their forehead; so that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, the name of the Beast, or the number of his name.... His number [that of **the Antichrist**] is 666.’ With respect to his name..., John understood it.... It is manifest to all, that those who **at present** still hold the power -- are **Latins**. If then we take the name as the name of a single man, it becomes **Latinus**.”

Yet the Church shall survive even **the Latin Antichrist**. For “‘upon her head a crown of twelve stars’ [cf. Revelation 12:1-6]...mean[s] that the Church will not cease to bear from her heart the Word that is persecuted.... **The Church** always bring forth Christ the perfect man-child of God Who is declared to be God and man, [and] becomes the **Instructrix** of **all** the **nations**....

“‘To the woman were given two wings of the great eagle, so that she might fly into the wilderness where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time away from the face of the serpent’ [Revelation 11:3 & 12:14f] That refers to the **1260 days...during which the tyrant is to reign and persecute the Church**.”²⁰⁴

After then citing Second Thessalonians 2:1-11 on the later emergence of the Antichrist, Hippolytus concluded: “Isaiah [26:10] says, ‘Let the wicked be cut off, so that he not behold the

glory of the Lord!’... ‘For the wrath of God is revealed...against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth of God in unrighteousness’ [Romans 1:17].” Consequently, even the days of the future Antichrist were all numbered -- and his demise certain.

Daniel chapter seven “tells us of the ‘Fourth Beast dreadful and terrible. Its teeth were of iron, and its claws of brass.’ And what is meant by these, but the kingdom of **the Romans** -- which also is meant by the iron by which it will crush all the seats of empire that were before it, and will lord it over the whole Earth?

“**After** this, then -- what is left for us to interpret of...the ‘**[ten] toes** of the image’?... For by the ten toes of the image, he meant figuratively **the ten kings** who sprang out of it, as Daniel also interpreted the matter.... ‘**Another horn...will** pluck up by the root three of those before it.’ And by this offshoot horn, none other is signified than **the Antichrist**....

“In every respect, that **deceiver** seeks to make himself appear like the Son of God. Christ is a lion; and **Antichrist** is a lion. The Christ is King of things celestial and things terrestrial; and **Antichrist will** [and thus in the then-future] be a king, upon Earth.

“The Saviour was manifested as a lamb; and **he [Antichrist]**, likewise, shall appear as a lamb -- being within, a **wolf** [Revelation 13:11]. As Christ sent out Apostles to all nations, so will he [**Antichrist**] similarly send out false-apostles.

“The advent of **Antichrist...will** work signs and wonders, with the object of making men ashamed. They [the signs and wonders] will fulfil their testimony -- as Daniel also says. For he foresaw that **the Beast** that came up out of the abyss, would make war with them.... That is **the little horn** that sprang up....

“Blessed shall they be, who **overcome the tyrant** [Antichrist] **then!** For they **shall** be set forth as more illustrious.... These **overthrow and conquer** the accuser himself, the son of perdition.... The kingdom of the deceiver and **Antichrist shall be removed speedily!**”²⁰⁵

“When the thousand years have expired, Satan shall be loosened out of his prison and shall go...into the lake of fire and brimstone...and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever’ [Revelation 20:7-10].... This unbinding of Satan does **not** mean that he will then enjoy a time of renewed activity – **but** that he and his followers will then be thrown into the fire!”²⁰⁶

– **HIPPOLYTUS**, Martyred Church Overseer near Rome (A.D. 220)

81) “Paul, in the Second Epistle to the Thessalonians [2:3f], shows in what manner there will **one day** be revealed ‘the man of son...who opposes and exalts himself...so that he sits in the temple of God’.... Any one, moreover, who likes -- may find the prophecy in Daniel [at 7:26], respecting **Antichrist**....

“[The Pagan Philosopher] Celsus rejects the statements concerning ‘**Antichrist**’ (as it is termed), having neither read what is said about **him** in the Book of Daniel [8:23] nor in the writings of Paul [**First Thessalonians** 2:3f].... God, comprehending all things by means of His foreknowledge and foreseeing what consequences would result from both of these -- wished to make these known to mankind, by His Prophets. Thus, those who understand their words might be familiarized with the good and be on their guard against its opposite....

“The prophecy...regarding **Antichrist** is stated in the Book of Daniel [*cf.* 8:23f].... ‘There is craft in his hand, and he shall magnify himself in his heart; and by craft shall destroy many’.... What is stated by Paul in the words quoted from him, where he says ‘so that he sits in the temple of God showing himself to be divine’ [Second Thessalonians 2:4] -- is in Daniel [9:27 & 11:36f & 12:11 *etc.*] referred to in the following fashion: ‘And **in the temple** -- shall be the abomination of desolations’.... Holy Scripture...gives us information concerning the Devil and **Antichrist**.”²⁰⁷

“Give heed to that which is said by the Apostle [in Second Thessalonians 2:9f] on the man of sin, the son of perdition! Thus, ‘with all power and signs and lying-wonders, he shall be manifested to them that are perishing -- imitating all kinds of wonders.’”²⁰⁸

“The end of the World, then, and the final consummation – will take place when every one shall be subjected.... Thus says Holy Scripture: ‘The Lord said to My Lord, “Keep on sitting at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool!”’ [Psalm 110:1].... ‘For Christ must keep on reigning, until He has put all enemies under His feet’ [First Corinthians 15:25].... ‘For all things must be put under Him’ [First Corinthians 15:27f].... It is this very subjection by which we also wish to be subject to Him – by which the Apostles too were subject, and all the saints who have been followers of Christ....

“The highest good...is also called the end of all blessings.... God said: ‘Let Us make man in Our Own image, and after Our likeness!’ And then He adds the words: ‘So God created man in His Own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female; and He blessed them.’ Now the expression ‘He created him in the image of God...conveys no other meaning than this – that man received the dignity of God’s image at his first creation, but that the **perfection** has been reserved for the **consummation....** He might acquire it for himself by the exercise of his own diligence in the imitation of God – the possibility of attaining to perfection being granted him at the beginning through the dignity of the divine image, and the perfect realization of the divine likeness being reached in the end by the fulfilment of the works....

“The Lord Himself in the Gospel...declares that these same results are **future....** They are to be brought about by His Own **intercession**. He Himself deigns to obtain them from the Father of His disciples, saying: ‘Father, I will that where I am going, they also may be with Me [John 17:21f].... In this, the divine likeness itself already appears to **advance**.”²⁰⁹

“It is evident that even **the Barbarians**, when they yield obedience to the Word of God, **will become most obedient to the Law....** Every form of worship will be destroyed except the Christian Religion, which alone will prevail. And indeed it will one day triumph -- as its principles take possession of the minds of men **more and more** every day!”²¹⁰

– **ORIGEN**, Egyptian Christian Professor of Alexandria (A.D. 230)

82) “**Antichrist...shall begin** to come.... “**Antichrist...is now approaching.**”²¹¹ “You ought to know and to believe and hold it for certain, that the day of affliction has begun...; the time of **Antichrist** to draw near -- so that we must all stand prepared for the battle.... Let not any one of you, beloved brethren, be so terrified by the fear of future persecution or the coming of the threatening Antichrist -- as not to be found armed for all things by the evangelical exhortations and precepts, and by the heavenly warning. **Antichrist is coming**; but above [and beyond] him, Christ too is coming.”²¹²

“The Lord Himself strengthens us, saying: ‘There is no man that has left house or land or parents or brothers or sisters or wife or children for the sake of the Kingdom of God, who shall not receive sevenfold more in this present time – and in the World to come, everlasting life!’ [Luke 18:20-30]... Let us imitate the three children Ananias, Asarias and Misael who, neither frightened by their youthful age nor broken down by captivity, Judea having been conquered and Jerusalem having been captured – overcame the king by the power of faith [Daniel 3:16-18].... The uncorrupted and unconquered might of the Holy Spirit broke forth by their mouth....

“Let us be armed, beloved brethren, with our whole strength! And let us be prepared for the struggle with an uncorrupted mind; with a sound faith; with a devoted courage! Let the camp of God go forth to the battlefield which has been appointed to us! Let the **sound** ones be **armed** -- lest he who **is** sound, should **lose** the **advantage** of having stood lately! Let the lapsed also be armed -- so that even the lapsed may regain what he has lost...; taking the shield of faith, with which you shall be **able to quench** all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”²¹³

“The Church, which before had been barren, will have more children from among the Gentiles.... Christ our **God**...[is] the **Enlightener** and Saviour of the **human race.**”²¹⁴

-- **CYPRIAN**, African Church Overseer of Carthage (A.D. 250)

83) “The first seal being opened, he [the Apostle John in Revelation 6:1-2] says he saw a white horse, and a crowned Horseman having a bow.... After the Lord [Jesus] ascended into Heaven and opened all things, He sent the Holy Spirit Whose words the Preachers sent forth like arrows, reaching to the human heart -- so that they might overcome unbelief... For [in Matthew 24:14] the Lord says: ‘This Gospel shall be preached **throughout the whole World** for a testimony to **all nations**’....

“The word is specially extended to the times of **Antichrist** -- when there **shall** be a great famine, and when all shall be injured [Revelation 6:5].... By the corners of the Earth, or the four winds across the River Euphrates, are meant four nations [in Revelation 9:13f].... They do not

overpass their boundaries, because at the last they **shall** come with **Antichrist**.”

“**The Beast** which ascends from the abyss’ [in Revelation 11:7]...is proved by many testimonies [as]...a numerous people...in the kingdom of kingdoms -- that is, of **the Romans**.... He [the Beast] was in the[ir] kingdom....**among the Caesars**.”

“Also the Apostle Paul bears witness. For he says to the Thessalonians [Second Epistle 2:7f], ‘Let him who now restrains, keep on restraining until he **be taken out** of the way’.... He **would** come.... ‘He already endeavours after the secret of mischief’ [Second Thessalonians 2:10].... His seven heads were seven kings of **the Romans** -- **from whom is Antichrist**, as we have said above; ‘and ten horns.’ He says that the ten kings **in the latest times** are the same [cf. Revelation 12:3 with 17:9f].

“This is **the beginning** of **Antichrist**.... All the apostate angels, as well as Antichrist, **must** [in the then-future] be roused up from hell. Paul the Apostle says: ‘A **falling away comes first**; and the man of sin **shall** appear’ [Second Thessalonians 2:3f].

“‘Then I saw a Beast rising up from the sea, like a leopard’ [Revelation 13:1-2] This signifies the kingdom of **that** time of **Antichrist**, and the people **mingled with the variety of nations**.... ‘His number is the name of a man, and his number is **666**’ [Revelation 13:18]....

“Daniel [11:45 & 9:27] had previously predicted [of Antichrist] his contempt and provocation of God.... ‘But when you **shall** see the contempt which is spoken of by Daniel the Prophet standing in the holy place -- let him who reads, understand!’ [Matthew 24:13]....

“‘The seven heads are the seven hills on which the woman sits.’ That is **the city of Rome**. ‘And there are seven kings.... And the Beast which you saw, is from the seven’ [Revelation 17:9f]. **Before** those kings, **Nero** reigned.... And Daniel [7:19-24] sets forth the ten horns and the ten diadems.... Three of the principal leaders, are killed by **Antichrist**.”

“Those years in which Satan is bound [in Revelation 20:1-6], are at the **first** advent of Christ even **to the end** of the **age** [in Revelation 20:7-15]. And they are called a **thousand**, according to that mode of speaking in which a part is signified by the whole -- just as is that passage ‘the Word which He commanded for a thousand generations’ (although they are not a thousand).... He says that **he** [Satan] is bound and shut up, so that he **may not keep on seducing the nations**. ‘The **nations**’ signifies the **Church** -- seeing that **it** is itself **being formed** from **them**.... The ‘**first resurrection**’ is **now**, of the **souls** that are by the Faith which does not permit men to pass over to ‘the second death.’ Of **this** resurrection, the Apostle says: ‘If you **have** risen with Christ -- **keep on seeking those things which are above!**’”²¹⁵

– **VICTORINUS**, Austrian Church Overseer of Pettau (A.D. 300)

84) “The sword will traverse the World, mowing down everything and laying low all things like a

crop. Now my mind dreads to relate it, but I will relate it because it will happen. The cause of this desolation and confusion will be thus, because **the Roman name** by which the World is now ruled will be 'taken away' from the Earth [cf. Second Thessalonians 2:7].... The Egyptians, and Persians, and Greeks and Assyrians **had** the government of the World. And after the destruction of them all, the chief power came also to **the Romans**. Now inasmuch as they excel all other kingdoms in magnitude -- with so much greater an overthrow, **shall they fall**. Because those buildings which are higher than others, have more weight for a downfall....

"Rome is doomed to perish. And that, indeed, by the judgment of God; because it held His Name in hatred.... Being the enemy of righteousness, it destroyed the people who kept the truth.... **The Roman Empire** and name, would be 'taken away' from the World.... I will show how it **shall** come to pass. First, the [Roman] kingdom **shall be enlarged** -- and the chief power, dispersed among many and divided, will be diminished. **Then**, civil discords will be sown perpetually. Nor will there be any rest from deadly wars, until ten kings arise at the same time. They **shall** [future tense] divide the World -- not to govern it, but to consume it.... [**Then**,] another king shall arise...from an evil spirit: the overthrower and destroyer of the human race....

"That king will not only be most disgraceful in himself, but he will also be a 'prophet of lies.' And he will constitute and call himself divine, and will order himself to be worshipped as [representing] the Son of God. And power will be given him to do signs and 'wonders' -- by the sight of which he may entice men to adore [or to venerate] him.... He will also enwrap righteous men with the books of the Prophets, and thus burn them. And power will be given him to desolate the whole Earth for 42 'months' [Revelation 13; Second Thessalonians 2; Daniel 7]....

"While the city of Rome remains, it appears that nothing of this kind is to be feared. But **when that capital of the World** shall have fallen -- who can doubt that its end has arrived?... It is **that city alone** which still props up all things."²¹⁶ Cf. Second Thessalonians 2:6f

– **LACTANTIUS**, Christian Apologist from North Africa (A.D. 310)

85) "At the time...of **the Roman Empire**...[**the Lord Jesus Christ** alias] the...Teacher of virtue, the Minister of the Father in all good things, the divine and heavenly Word of God -- in a human body...suffered the things which had been prophesied.... The Prophet Daniel [7:7-14], under the influence of the divine Spirit, saw His Kingdom at the end of [that] time...

"Thus he was inspired to describe the divine vision in language fitted to human comprehension: 'For I kept on looking,' he says, 'until thrones were placed and the Ancient of Days did sit Whose garment was white as snow'.... And again, 'I saw,' says he, 'and behold, One like the Son of man came with the clouds of Heaven [at the time of His Ascension] -- and He hastened unto the Ancient of Days, and was brought into His presence.

“Then there was given Him the dominion and the glory and the Kingdom. And all peoples, tribes and tongues serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His Kingdom [unlike that of Rome] shall not be destroyed’

“These words refer to no one else than to our Saviour, the God-Word. He was in the beginning with God, and He was called the Son of man because of His final appearance in the flesh. Yet that appearance of our Saviour at His incarnation, soon unleashed a series of persecutions of those who follow Him. Such a persecution was that experienced by the Apostle John. In this persecution, the Apostle and Evangelist John...was condemned to dwell on the island of Patmos....

“Irenaeus in the fifth book of his work *Against Heresies*...discusses the number of the name of **Antichrist** -- which is given in the so-called ‘Apocalypse of John’.... He speaks as follows concerning the Apocalypse of John [the Apostle]...: ‘The **Romans** has established their Empire.... [The A.D. 251-60 Pagan-Roman Emperor] Valerian, with his son Galienus, received the Empire.... It is wonderful that both of these things **occurred under Valerian**.’”²¹⁷

After the A.D. 313 victory of **Constantine** and his accession as the first Christian Emperor in Rome, the previously-persecuted Church was greatly advantaged. Exulted **Eusebius** around A.D. 321: “Especially we who placed our hopes in the Christ of God, had unspeakable gladness.... A certain inspired joy bloomed for all of us -- when we saw every place (which shortly before had been desolated by the impieties of the tyrants) **reviving** as if from a long and death-fraught pestilence, and **temples again rising from their foundations to an immense height and receiving a splendour far greater than the old ones** which had been destroyed.... ‘For the Lord remembered us in our low estate, and **delivered** us from our adversaries!’ (Psalm 136:23f).”²¹⁸

Thereafter followed the A.D. 325 Council of Nicea, and a further mighty advance of Christianity. That occurred in fulfilment of God’s predictions in His Book of Revelation chapters 12 & 13f. “The Emperor,” wrote Eusebius, “publically displayed a painted resemblance of the dragon beneath his own and his children’s feet, stricken through with a dart, and cast headlong into the depths of the sea.... Thus he expressed what the Prophets had foretold concerning this monster, saying that ‘God would bring His great and terrible sword against the dragon, the flying serpent, and would destroy the dragon in the sea’ [Isaiah 27:1 cf. Revelation 13:1f].... One might have thought that a picture of Christ’s Kingdom was thus shadowed forth.... It may be that this was that second and new Jerusalem spoken of in the predictions of the Prophets.”²¹⁹

-- **EUSEBIUS**, author of the oldest extant Christian Church History (A.D. 325)

86) After Nicea in A.D. 325, Christianity flourished. Until the advent of the Papacy and Islam at the start of the seventh century and especially till the rise of defeatistic Pretribulationism in the 1820s (after the catastrophe of the Anti-Christian French Revolution of 1789) -- for at least fifteen centuries, **particularly Post-Nicene Christianity** was oriented to world-wide **victory**.²²⁰

Thus, the famous fourth-century *Apostolic Constitutions* declare: “Daniel [7:13 cf. 2:34] describes...’the Son of man coming to the Father’ and receiving all judgment and honour from Him.... ‘The stone cut out of the mountain without hands, becomes a great mountain filling the whole Earth.’ It shatters the many governments of the smaller countries, and the polytheism of gods -- but it preaches the one God, and ordains the monarchy of **the Romans**....

“You have understanding, and are able to know the right hand from the left and to distinguish false-teachers from true teachers [Second Peter 2:1f].... False-prophets shall be multiplied and such as corrupt the Word.... The sheep shall be changed into wolves.... And then the ‘Deceiver of the World’ shall appear -- the enemy of truth; the prince of lies.”²²¹

Nevertheless:”We thank You, our Father, for that life which You have made know to us by Jesus Your Son, by Whom You made all things and take care of the whole World.... O Lord Almighty, everlasting God, so gather together Your Church from the ends of the Earth into Your Kingdom – like this corn was once scattered and has now become one loaf.... You, O God, Who are powerful...and without deceit in Your promises, Who sent upon Earth Jesus Your Christ to live with men as a man...to take away error by the roots – even now, through Him, be mindful of this holy Church of Yours which You have purchased with the precious blood of Your Christ, and deliver it from all evil, and perfect it in Your love and Your truth, and gather us all together into Your Kingdom which You have prepared!”²²²

– APOSTOLIC CONSTITUTIONS, famous document of the early Church (A.D. 330f)

87) “The Nicene Council...pronounced the Arian heresy to be the forerunner of **Antichrist**.”²²³ “Arius and his fellows...have gone forth...enemies of Christ -- teaching an **apostasy** which one may justly suspect and designate as a forerunner of **Antichrist**.”²²⁴ “The Arians...make ready...the way of deceit for Antichrist.”²²⁵

“Does not the vision of Daniel [7:25] thus describe **Antichrist** -- that he shall make war against the saints; and prevail against them; and exceed in bad deeds all who have been before him; and shall also humble three kings; and speak words against the Most High; and shall think to change times and laws? Now what other person besides Constantius [the 337-361 Eastern Emperor] has ever attempted to do these things? He is surely such a one as **Antichrist would** be. He speaks words against the Most High, by supporting this impious heresy [of Arianism]....

“Having put on the profession of Christianity and entering into the holy places and standing there, he lays waste the churches.... A persecution, indeed, such as never arose before; and such as no one perhaps will again stir up -- except ‘the son of lawlessness’ [Second Thessalonians 2:8]. This is what these enemies of Christ exhibit -- who already present a [foreshadowing] picture of him.... This be that ‘falling away’ [described in Second Thessalonians 2:3] -- after which he [viz. the Antichrist] shall be manifested, of whom Constantius is surely the forerunner.”²²⁶

“The Saviour works...and day by day is persuading invisibly so great a multitude from every side, both from them that dwell in Greece and in foreign lands, to come over to His Faith and all to obey His teaching..... Where Christ is named, and His Faith, there all idolatry is deposed....

“The Son of God is ‘living and active’ and works day by day, and brings about the salvation of all.... All Gentiles...from every region, abjuring their hereditary tradition and the impiety of idols, are now placing their hope in Christ.... The whole Earth is being filled with the knowledge of God....

“Why are they [the Jews] so irreligious and so perverse as to see what has happened [cf. Romans 11:11f & 11:25], and yet to deny Christ Who has brought it all to pass? Or why, when they see even Heathens deserting their idols and placing their hope through Christ on the God of Israel – do they deny Christ Who was born of the root of Jesus after the flesh and henceforth is King? Even the whole Earth is being filled with the knowledge of God. And Gentiles, leaving their godlessness, are now taking refuge with the God of Abraham -- through the Word....

“Even now those barbarians who have an innate savagery of manners, while they still sacrifice to the idols of their country, are mad against one another and cannot endure to be a single hour without weapons. But when they hear the teaching of Christ -- straightway, instead of fighting, they turn to husbandry....

“Since the Saviour’s advent in our midst, not only does idolatry no longer increase but is getting less and gradually ceasing to be.... Demons, so far from continuing to impose on people by their deceits and oracle-givings and sorceries, are routed...if they so much as try. On the other hand, while idolatry and everything else that opposes the Christian Faith is daily dividing and weakening and falling – see, the Saviour’s teaching is increasing everywhere!

“Worship, then, the Saviour ‘Who is above all’ and mighty, even God the Word! And condemn those who are being defeated and made to disappear by Him! When the sun has come, darkness prevails no longer. Any of it that may be left anywhere, is driven away. So also, now that the Divine Epiphany of the Word of God has taken place – the darkness of idols prevails no more, and all parts of the World in every direction are being enlightened by His teaching!”²²⁷

– ATHANASIUS, Egyptian Church’s Chief Overseer in Alexandria (A.D. 340)

88) “Mighty armies will come out of the north, including the Huns.... A king of the Romans shall arise...and no one will be able to resist him. When there shall be much wickedness upon the Earth and all creatures shall be polluted -- the man of iniquity, the deceiver of all men, shall come on Earth.”²²⁸

“Blessed you are, O Church! For look, in you is the sound of the great feast, the festival of the King!... Blessed your gates that are open, though not [yet] filled; and your halls that are

enlarged, yet do not suffice!

“Look, in the midst of you is the sound of the nations that cry out and have put the [Hebrew] People to silence!... Blessed are you, O Church in Micah, who cried out: ‘A Shepherd shall come forth from Ephrata!’ For He came to Bethlehem to take from thence the rod of Jesse and to rule the nations.”²²⁹

-- **EPHRAIM**, the Syrian Commentator of Edessa (A.D. 360)

89) “If the Ocean is good and worthy of praise before God – how much more beautiful is the assembly of a Church like this -- where the voices of men, of children, and of women arise in our prayers to God, mingling and resounding like the waves which beat upon the shore! This Church also enjoys a profound calm, and malicious spirits cannot trouble it with the breath of heresy.”²³⁰

– **BASIL THE GREAT**, Cappadocian Church Overseer of Caesarea (A.D. 365)

90) “Because of that [coming] **Antichrist** -- you do wrong to attach importance to the walls of temples, or to regard a building as the Church of God. Is it then doubtful -- but that **Antichrist** may establish his throne there?”²³¹

“The ungodly [in Psalm 1] have no possible hope of having the image of the happy tree applied to them.... They shall not be dissolved into nothing...but ground into particles imponderable.... Their punishment is recorded by the same Prophet in another place [Psalm 18:42]. There, he says: ‘I will beat them small – like the dust before the wind! Like the mire of the streets, I will destroy them.’”

– **HILARY**, Celtic Church Overseer of Potiers in France (A.D. 370)

91) “Hatred of the brethren [*cf.* ‘falling away’] makes room **next** for **Antichrist**.... God forbid that any of Christ’s servants here, or elsewhere, should run over to the enemy!... Thus wrote Paul [in Second Thessalonians 2:1-10]; and **now** [around 347f] is the ‘falling away’

“The Church now charges you before the Living God! She declares to you the things concerning **Antichrist** -- **before** they **arrive**.... The adversary...is a magician, and most expert in sorceries and enchantments of beguiling **craftiness** [*cf.* Daniel 8:25]. He **shall** seize for himself the power of **the Roman Empire**, and shall falsely style himself ‘christ’ [*viz.* His ‘Vicar’

(sic)].... Antichrist is the one Daniel spoke about as the horn which ‘made war against the saints.’”

“This aforesaid **Antichrist** is to come -- **when** the times of **the Roman Empire** shall have been fulfilled.... There shall rise up together **ten kings** of the **Romans** -- reigning **in different parts** perhaps, but all about the same time. And **after** these, an eleventh -- **the Antichrist**, who by his magical craft shall seize upon the Roman power. And of the kings...before him, ‘three he **shall** humble’; and the remaining seven he **shall** keep in subjection to himself [cf. Daniel 7:7-23].

“At first, indeed, he will put on **a show of** mildness (as though he were a learned and discreet person), and of soberness and **benevolence**.... These things we teach not of our own invention -- but having learned them out of the Divine Scriptures used in the Church, and chiefly from the prophecy of Daniel [7:23].... The Fourth Beast shall be a fourth kingdom upon Earth, which shall surpass all kingdoms. And that this kingdom is that of **the Romans**, has been the tradition of the Church’s interpreters.... The fourth kingdom, **now**, is that of **the Romans**....

“Who is this, and from what sort of working? Interpret to us, O Paul! ‘Whose coming,’ he says, ‘is after the working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders’ [Second Thessalonians 2:9].... For **the father of falsehood** will make a show of the works of falsehood -- so that the multitudes may think that they see...lame men walking and blind men seeing, when the cure has not been wrought....

“Again he says ‘who opposes and exalts himself against all that is called God, or that is worshipped (against every God).’ **Antichrist** forsooth...‘enthrones himself **in the temple of God**’.... He says [Daniel 7:21]: ‘I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints’....

“In another place, Daniel [12:7-12] says the same thing. ‘And He swore by Him Who keeps on living for ever, that it shall be for a time and [two] times and half-a-time.’ And some perhaps have referred what follows, also to this. Namely ‘1290 days’; and this: ‘Blessed is he that endures and comes to the 1335 days!’ For this reason, we must hide ourselves and flee....

“Who then is the blessed man, who shall at that time devoutly witness for Christ? For I say...in the time of **Antichrist**, they shall do battle with Satan.... Guard yourself, then, O man!

“You have the signs of **Antichrist**.... Remember them not only yourself, but impart them also freely to all! If you have a child according to the flesh -- admonish him of this now! If you have begotten one through catechizing -- put him too on his guard, lest he receive ‘the false one’ as the True! For the ‘mystery of iniquity’ is at work already [Second Thessalonians 2:7]. I fear these wars of the nations! I fear the schisms of the churches! I fear...much, concerning **Antichrist**.... It is **another** head of the dragon, **latently** sprung up....

“May the God of the whole World keep you all in safety, bearing in mind the signs...and remaining **unsubdued** by **Antichrist**! Thus you have received the signs about the Deceiver who is to come.... Guard ‘that which has been committed to you’ concerning Christ [Second Timothy 6:20] -- so that you may stand with a good confidence before the Judge, and inherit the Kingdom of Heaven!”²³²

“We believe in Him Who also ascended into the Heavens and sat down on the right hand of the Father and shall come in glory to judge the living and the dead -- Whose Kingdom shall have **no end**. Our Lord Jesus Christ, then, comes from Heaven. And He comes with glory at the end of this **World** on the **Last Day**.... And this created World is to be **re-made** anew.”²³³

-- CYRIL, Palestinian Church Overseer of Jerusalem (A.D. 375)

92) “Do we [like the Chiliasts] romance about ‘three resurrections’ (Revelation 20:5)? Do we promise the ‘gluttony’ of the[ir] Millennium? Do we declare that the Jewish animal-sacrifices shall be restored? Do we lower men’s hopes again -- to the Jerusalem **below** -- imagining its rebuilding, with stones of a more brilliant material? What charges like these – can be brought against us?”²³⁴

-- GREGORY OF NYSSA, Church Overseer of Cappadocia (A.D. 380)

93) “Respecting the things seen by St. John in the Apocalypse -- it seemed to some of the ancient Fathers that either all or at least the greater part pre-signified the coming of **Antichrist**.... The things contained in it, began to have fulfilment immediately after Christ’s passion; but are to go on fulfilling, up to the day of judgment.... But a small portion may seem to remain, for the times of Antichrist.... Wicked ones making up the body of the Devil [shall conquer those who yield] in the midst of the Church.”²³⁵

-- TICHONIUS, North African Donatist Christian (A.D. 380)

94) “This is the purpose of God for us. For us, God was made man. He became poor, to raise our flesh and recover His image and remodel man – so that we might **all** be made one in Christ. Christ was perfectly made in **all** of us, all that He Himself is – **so that** we might no longer be male and female (Barbarian, Scythian, bond or free), which are badges of the flesh, but might bear in ourselves only the stamp of God...Who asks for little and bestows **great** things both in the **present** and in the **future** upon those who truly love Him.”²³⁶

“This flock...is now...well-grown...but not yet in perfection.... It is advancing toward it, by constant increase.... I prophesy that it will advance. This is foretold by the Holy Spirit, if I have a prophetic instinct and insight into the future.”²³⁷

-- GREGORY NAZIANZEN, Church Overseer of Sasima (A.D. 385)

95) Ambrose of Milan, Augustine's mentor, stated "God has ordered all things to be produced [by man], so that there should be food.... For Moses wrote that God 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 birds of the air and over the cattle and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth!'

"And David said: 'You have put all things under his feet: all sheep and oxen, yes; and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fishes of the sea' Philosophers have learned from our writings that all things were made subject to man."²³⁸

"Daniel...by his counsels...foretold the future."²³⁹ The apostasy in Second Thessalonians two is "an apostasy" from "true religion" -- in which **the Antichrist** would seize the kingdom (apparently of the Romans).²⁴⁰ Yet Christ "shall punish **Antichrist**, of whom we read: 'The Lord Jesus shall slay him with the Spirit of His mouth.'"²⁴¹

"John, likewise, says that heretics are antichrists [First John 2:18f].... It is written of **the Antichrist** that 'he opens his mouth to blaspheme against God, to blaspheme His Name and to make war against His saints' [Revelation 13:6].... Perchance, **Antichrist will not have falsified the Holy Scriptures.**"²⁴² [Indeed, the Papacy never did!]

"He [Christ] through the obedience of all, will become Subjector in us. When the Gentile has believed and the Jew has acknowledged Him Whom he crucified [Romans 11:25-32]; when the Manichaeon has worshipped Him Whom he has not believed to have come in the flesh; when the Arian has confessed Him Whom he has denied, to be Almighty; when [lastly] the wisdom of God -- His justice, peace, love, resurrection -- is in all.

"Through His Own works and through the manifold forms of virtues, Christ will be in us.... When, with vice renounced and crime at an end, one Spirit in the heart of all peoples has begun to cleave to God in all things -- then will God be all things and in all people!"

"We shall believe that Christ is going to come -- when the day of full justice will have begun to shine forth. For Christ will be revealed in the full light of His Majesty. And just as the lightning goes out from the East and pours its light over the whole World even to the West -- so also the Son of man, coming with His angels, will illuminate this World in order that every man might believe and all flesh be saved."²⁴³

– **AMBROSE**, Italian Church Overseer of Milan (A.D. 390)

96) "**Antichrist shall** appear -- [only] **after** whom, is the **end**.... Paul, speaking concerning **Antichrist**, said prophetically that 'God shall [first] send them strong delusion -- so that they who

believe not the truth but have pleasure in unrighteousness might be judged' (Second Thessalonians 2:11f)."²⁴⁴ "**Antichrist...will** not come on bended knees but 'exalting himself against all that is called God or that is worshipped; so that he sits in the temple of God, setting himself forth as God' (Second Thessalonians 2:4)....

"Certain persons went about, having forged an epistle as if from Paul; and [they]...said that the Day of the Lord is at hand.... So that they [the recipients of that forged epistle] might not be deceived, Paul gives certainty by the things he writes. And he says...'it will not be, except the falling away come **first**; and the man of sin be revealed...that opposes and exalts himself...**in the temple of God**'

"Here, he discourses concerning **the Antichrist**, and reveals great mysteries. What is 'the falling away'? He calls it **apostasy**.... He is a **man**.... He will be **seated** in the temple of God -- not that of Jerusalem alone, but also **in every church**....

"'And now you know that which restrains..... There is one that restrains now, until he be taken out of the way'.... What is that which restrains? ... Some indeed say, the grace of the Spirit -- but others, **the Roman Empire**; to which I most of all accede....

"Because he said this of **the Roman Empire**, he naturally glanced at it and speaks covertly and darkly.... For if he had said that **after** a little while **the Roman Empire** would be dissolved, they would immediately even have overwhelmed him.... **When** the Roman Empire is taken out of the way, **then** he [the man of sin and the son of perdition alias the Antichrist] **shall come**.... As long as the fear of this Empire lasts, no one will willingly exalt himself. But when that is dissolved, he shall attack the anarchy, and shall endeavour to seize upon the government both of man and of God.

"The kingdoms before this, were destroyed. For example, that of the Medes by the Babylonians; that of the Babylonians by the Persians; that of the Persians by the Macedonians; that of the Macedonians by **the Romans**. So **shall** this [Roman Empire] also be, by **the Antichrist** -- and **he**, by **Christ**.... These things **Daniel** delivered to us with great clearness."²⁴⁵

-- **CHRYSOSTOM**, Syrian Christian Patriarch of Constantinople (A.D. 400)

97) "The iron legs [in Daniel 2] point to...**the Roman Empire**, which was more powerful than all the kingdoms which were before it. But the fact that the feet were partly of iron and partly clay, indicates that the Roman Empire was to be divided.... This too **has been fulfilled** [and indeed just recently around 395f A.D.]. For the Roman State **is being ruled** not by one Emperor, but by **several**. And these are always quarreling among themselves -- either in actual warfare, or by factions.... By the clay and the iron being mixed together -- yet never in their substance thoroughly uniting -- are showed forth those **future** mixtures of the human race which disagree among themselves, though apparently combined. For it is obvious that the **Roman territory** is occupied by **foreign nations**....

“Luke made known the doings of the Apostles, up to the time when Paul was brought to Rome under the **Emperor Nero**. As to Nero, I shall **not** say that he was the **worst** of kings -- but that he was worthily held [then to be] the basest of all men.... It was he [*viz.* Nero] who first began a persecution.... He will be the last to carry it on -- **if** indeed we admit, as many are inclined to believe [on the strength of sources such as the *Pseudo-Sibylline Oracles*] that he shall yet appear immediately before the coming of **Antichrist** [who would thus be yet another entity]....

“After the departure of Nero, **Galba** seized the government. And ere long, on Galba being slain, **Otho** secured it. Then **Vitellius**.... After an interval, **Vespasian’s** son **Domitian** persecuted the Christians.... There then occurred the third persecution, under **Trajan**.... Then, under **Hadrian**, the Jews attempted to rebel. After Hadrian, the churches had peace under the rule of **Antoninus Pius**. Then the fifth persecution began under **Aurelius**.... The sixth persecution of the Christians took place under the emperor **Severus**.... Then, during an interval of 38 years, the Christians had peace....

“Ere long, under **Decius** as emperor, the seventh bloody persecution broke out.... Next, **Valerian** proved himself the eighth enemy of the saints. After him, with an interval of about 50 years, there arose under the emperors **Diocletian and Maximian** a most bitter persecution.... Never more than at that time, was the World exhausted by wars....

“The end of the persecutions was reached 88 years ago [*viz.* in 313] -- at which date the emperors began to be Christians. For **Constantine** then obtained the sovereignty -- and he was the first Christian of all the Roman rulers.... From that time we have continued to enjoy tranquillity. Nor do I believe there will be any further persecutions -- **except** that which **Antichrist shall** carry on.... The Arian heresy -- was condemned.... There follow the times of our own day -- both difficult, and dangerous.”²⁴⁶

“We may infer from this [Revelation 11:6 *cf.* Second Peter 2:1 to 3:5f], since false-prophets...have appeared, that the coming of Antichrist is at hand.”²⁴⁷ “When we questioned him [Sulpitius’s mentor the A.D. 335-400 Martin of Tours] concerning the end of the World, he said to us that ‘**Nero**’ [*‘redivivus’*] and Antichrist first have **to come**; that ‘Nero’ will rule in the **Western** portion of the World after having subdued ten kings; and that a persecution will be carried on by him with the view of compelling men to worship the idols of the Gentiles. He also said that **Antichrist** [*cf.* Islam?] on the other hand, would first seize upon the Empire of the **East**....

“He further said that ‘**Nero**’ was to be destroyed by Antichrist, and that the whole World and all nations were **to be reduced** under the power of Antichrist until that impious one should be **overthrown**.... He told us too that there was no doubt but that Antichrist, having been conceived by an evil spirit, was already born and had by this time [A.D. *circa* 400] reached the years of boyhood -- while he would assume power as soon as he reached the proper age.

“Now [*circa* 408 A.D.], this is the eighth year since we heard these words from his lips [*viz.* from Martin of Tours]. You may conjecture, then, how nearly about to **happen in the future** -- are those things which are feared.”²⁴⁸

– SULPICIOUS SEVERUS, Church Historian from Aquitania in France (A.D. 410)

98) “Joshua the son of Nun – a type of the Lord in name as well as in deed – crossed over Jordan. He **subdued hostile kingdoms; divided the land among the conquering people**; and in every city, village, mountain, river, hill-torrent and boundary which he dealt with – marked out the spiritual realms of the heavenly Jerusalem; that is, of the Church.”²⁴⁹

“In the end of all these kingdoms of gold, of silver, of brass and of iron [described in Daniel 2 and 7] – a Stone was cut out, the Lord and Saviour, without hands – that is, apart from cohabitation and human seed, from the womb of a virgin. And, after all kingdoms had been destroyed – It became a great Mountain and filled the whole Earth.”²⁵⁰

The Goths had been hammering the Roman Empire for at least twenty years. Indeed, the city of Rome itself would buckle in 410. No wonder Jerome of Bethlehem warned his friend Marcella in Rome as early as 386 -- to flee that doomed city. Wrote he:²⁵¹ “Mary the mother of the Lord left the lowlands -- and made her way to the hill country....

“Read the Apocalypse of John [17:4-9 & 18:1f]!... Consider what is sung there, about the woman arrayed in purple and the blasphemy written upon her brow; the seven mountains; the many waters; and the end of **Babylon!** ... It is true that **Rome** has a holy church.... **But** the display, power, and size of the city; the seeing and the being seen; the paying and the receiving of visits; the alternate **flattery and detraction**, talking...even when one is least in the mood to do so -- all these things are alike **foreign to principles**.”

Jerome wrote in 396: “I shudder when I think of the catastrophes of our time! For twenty years and more, the blood of **Romans** has been shed daily between Constantinople and the Julian Alps. Scythia, Thrace, Macedonia, Dardania, Dacia, Thessaly, Achaia, Epirus, Dalmatia, the Pannonias” -- note, ten kingdoms in all, exactly as predicted by the Prophet Daniel and also in the Book of Revelation -- “each and all of these have been sacked and pillaged and plundered by Goths and Sarmatians, Quades and Alans, Huns and Vandals and [also] Marchmen. How many of God’s matrons and virgins, virtuous and noble ladies, have been made the sport of these brutes! Bishops have been made captives.... Churches have been overthrown.... **The Roman World is falling!**”²⁵²

By 399, “news came that the hordes of the Huns had poured forth..., and the rude Massagetae [or Saxon Scyths?] where the gates of Alexander keep back the wild peoples behind the Caucasus.... They were filling all the World with panic and bloodshed. **The Roman Army was absent** at the time, being detained in Italy on account of the civil wars.... May Jesus avert from the Roman World the further assaults of these wild beasts!”²⁵³

“Let us therefore affirm, agreeably to the concurrent judgment of all ecclesiastical writers, that in the consummation of the World when the Roman Empire is to be destroyed, there **shall arise ten kings** who shall **divide the Roman World** among themselves.... An eleventh king [the ‘little

horn' in Daniel 7:8-25] **shall** arise, who shall subdue three of those ten kings. In that little tyrant, Satan **shall** dwell entirely and bodily [cf. Second Thessalonians 2:3-9].... Also **the Roman Empire** would finally be **destroyed** on account of the blasphemies of this **Antichrist**.”²⁵⁴

Jerome explained further that the ‘restraint’ in the way of the manifestation of Paul’s **Antichrist** in Second Thessalonians 2:3f, was the then-existing **Roman Empire**.²⁵⁵ Indeed, in 406 Jerome said **Antichrist** would not come **until** the **Roman Empire** is first destroyed and **that Antichrist** was truly judged to be **in the Church**. For Paul’s “**man of sin**” would “sit **in the temple**; that is, **in the Church**.... By assuming Christ’s Name...the simpler ones of the believers can be seduced to **go to Antichrist**. For then they will go to Antichrist -- while **thinking to find Christ**.”²⁵⁶

Around 407, Jerome remarked on Daniel 2:34-42 (cf. 7:7-24) about the image seen in a dream by Nebuchadnezzar -- that the breaking up of the iron legs in the image into ten toes, meant the weakness of **the Roman Empire** at the time he himself was living. He also said that the four Beasts in Daniel seven refer to the same four Empires as those depicted in the dream-image.²⁵⁷

“Antichrist is near, whom the Lord Jesus Christ ‘shall consume with His Mouth [alias Word]’.... The *apostasia* is a revolt of all the Nations subject to Rome. When this happens, then Antichrist will be revealed, and will sit in the temple which is...figuratively the Church....

“Paul did not openly say [yet clearly implied] that ‘what holds back’ was the Roman Empire which must be destroyed, so that Antichrist might come -- because the Romans believed it was eternal.... This will happen when the Roman Empire which contains all Nations, falls and disappears. Then the Antichrist will come and the Lord Jesus will kill him with ‘the Breath of His Mouth’ which means solely by the power of His Majesty....

He [Jerome] professes to be agreeing with “the traditional interpretation of all the commentators of the Christian Church -- that at the end of the World, the Fourth Empire, which is the Roman, will be destroyed and the eleventh king will be Antichrist.... He is not the Devil or some demon, but ‘one of the human race’ (Daniel 7:8).”²⁵⁸

After the Vandals irrupted even into Gaul, Jerome wrote in 409 that the whole Roman Empire was then being removed. Here, Jerome explained from the predictions of Paul in Second Thessalonians 2:7f: “‘He who restrains, is being taken out of the way; and yet we do not realize that **Antichrist is near**. Yes, **Antichrist is near** -- whom the Lord Jesus Christ ‘shall consume with the Spirit of His Mouth’....

“I shall now say a few words of our present miseries. A few of us have hitherto survived them.... Savage tribes in countless numbers have overrun all parts of Gaul. The whole country between the Alps and the Pyrenees, between the Rhine and the Ocean, has been laid waste -- by hordes of Quadi, Vandals, Sarmatians, Alans, Gepids, Herules, Saxons, Burgundians, Allemanni and...even Pannonians.... Even Spain is daily on the brink of ruin...(as they recall the invasion by the Cymry).... **Rome has to fight** within her own borders -- not for glory, but for bare life!”²⁵⁹

Rome was taken by Alaric in 410. Next, in 411, Jerome wrote: “The siege of the city of Rome has been announced to me. And thus -- he who has been strewn all over, has become paralyzed. For days and nights, I have been thinking about nothing else than the safety of all.... After this, the clearest light of all lands will be extinguished. Indeed, the head of the Roman Empire having been chopped off -- as I truly say, the whole World perishes in one city! I have suddenly become silent, and am humbled.”²⁶⁰

“Who would believe that **Rome**, built up by the conquest of the whole World, had collapsed; that the mother of nations had become also their tomb; that the shores of the whole East, of Egypt, of Africa (which once belonged to the Imperial City) were filled with the hosts of her male and female slaves; that we should every day be receiving in this holy Bethlehem men and women who once were noble and abounding in every kind of wealth but are now reduced to poverty?... Who could boast -- when the flight of the people of the West, and the holy places (crowded as they are with penniless fugitives naked and wounded), plainly reveal the ravages of the Barbarians?”²⁶¹

And now, Jerome knew that the stage was being set for the rise of the little horn **Antichrist**. From Daniel, Jerome knew that this horn would later uproot three of the ten other horns -- and then keep on growing into a stout horn, till it became a persecutor of the true saints. Jerome also knew that this **Antichrist** would corrupt **Christ’s earthly Temple**. For, as he wrote on Second Thessalonians two: “He shall change and try to increase the Sacraments of the Church.”²⁶²

Finally, in 412, and looking back, Jerome wrote: “**Rome** -- once praised by an Apostle [Paul in Romans 1:8] -- was now in danger.... Rome had been besieged and its citizens had been forced to buy their lives with gold.... The City which had taken the whole World, was itself taken [by Alaric the Visigoth who ransacked Rome in 410].... In their frenzy, the starving people had recourse to hideous food -- and tore each other limb from limb, so that they might have meat to eat. Even the mother did not spare the babe at her breast.”²⁶³

He concluded: “The World is sinking into ruin. Yes, but...our sins still live and flourish! The renowned city, the capital of the **Roman Empire**, is swallowed up in one tremendous fire [cf. Daniel 7:11f & Revelation 17:16].... Churches once held sacred, are now but heaps of dust and ashes.... We live as though we are going to die tomorrow.... Such are the times!”²⁶⁴

-- **JEROME**, Palestinian Christian Professor of Bethlehem (A.D. 415)

99) The greatest theologian of all time before Calvin was, of course, Augustine of Hippo-Regius in North Africa. On the continuing **dominion mandate** of Genesis 1:26-28 & 9:1-7 and Psalm 8 *etc.*, he rightly wrote: “We now contemplate the rich and countless blessings with which the goodness of God Who cares for all He has created, has filled this...human race.... The first blessing [was that] which He pronounced before the fall, when He said: ‘Increase and multiply and fill the Earth!’ He did not inhibit [that blessing] after man had sinned. But the

fecundity originally bestowed, remained.”²⁶⁵

Between 401 and 415, Augustine wrote his work *On the Psalms*. There, he stated: “We have the Lord Himself called a mountain by the Prophet [Daniel 2:34f]. As it is written, ‘The Stone that was cut out without hands -- grew to the size of a mountain.’

“But this cannot be taken of His Person.... It is more plain and unembarrassed, if we understand that God heard out of His justice.... For we read [Psalm 36:6] ‘Your justice is like the mountains of God’.... His ‘holy Hill’ [Psalm 43:3f] is His holy **Church**. It is that mountain which, according to the vision of Daniel [2:35], grows from a very small ‘stone’ -- till it crushes the kingdoms of the Earth and grows to such a size that it ‘fills the surface of the Earth.’”²⁶⁶

Significant too is Augustine’s comment on Psalm 9:19 -- ‘Arise, O Lord, let not man prevail!’ There, he argues that the appearance of man -- viz. ‘the man of sin’ -- was as then yet future. For he observes there that “the future judgment is being prayed for. But before it comes, ‘Let the heathen...be judged in Your sight!’”.... He seems to me to point out **Antichrist** -- of whom the Apostle says ‘when the man of sin shall be revealed’ [Second Thessalonians 2:3].... **Antichrist** will **seem** to man [to be] blessed – to that degree that he **shall** even be thought [to be a] god.”²⁶⁷ To the A.D. 401-415 Augustine, **Antichrist** was (“shall...be”) then-yet-future.

“There is that other Psalm [45:7], where God is spoken about as being anointed by God. The very word ‘anointed’ points to Christ -- showing that Christ is God. For God is represented as being anointed. In reading what is said in this Psalm about Christ and the Church, he [the reader] would find that what is there foretold is being fulfilled in the present condition of the World.

“He would see the idols of the nations [or heathen Gentiles] perishing from off of the Earth. And he would find that this is predicted by the Prophets, as in Jeremiah [10:11]: ‘O Lord my Strength and my Fortress and my Refuge in the day of affliction – the Gentiles shall come to You from the ends of the Earth!”²⁶⁸

Augustine further comments on Psalm 83:2f’s words: ‘Your enemies have sounded, and they who hate You have lifted up the head.’ He says that this “seems to me to signify the last days when these things that are now repressed by fear, are to break forth....

“They are to come even to the point that they shall have that head which ‘is lifted up above all that is called God and is worshipped’.... Then, He -- to Whom it is said ‘Keep not silence nor grow mild, O God!’ -- shall ‘slay him with the Breath of His Mouth, and shall destroy [him] with the brightness of His coming’ [Second Thessalonians 2:4-8].”²⁶⁹

Finally, on Psalm 69:28f, Augustine adds: “In the Apocalypse -- what says the Spirit of God, when...the Scripture was speaking of the oppressions that would be from **Antichrist**? ‘All they who have not been written in the book of life, shall give consent to him.’”²⁷⁰ Revelation 13:8.

Nevertheless: “The Mountain [alias the Church]...grew out of a small stone, according to the prophecy of Daniel [chapter 2], and **filled** the whole **Earth**.... Its communion -- that is, the

Church's – is being spread **throughout the whole Earth**.... Not yet had that stone increased and filled the whole Earth. **That**, He [later] showed in His **Kingdom** – which is the Church, with which He has filled [and continues to fill] the whole face of the **Earth**.²⁷¹

“The Jews were to be pardoned because they stumbled at a stone which had not yet increased. What sort of persons are those who stumble at the **Mountain** itself?! Already you know who I am speaking about. Those who deny that the Church is being diffused throughout the whole World – are not stumbling at the lowly stone, but at the Mountain itself! Because this is what the stone started to become, as it grew. The blind Jews did not [earlier] see the lowly stone. But how great [is the] blindness – not to see the Mountain!”²⁷²

“First of all, the Church spread herself abroad from Jerusalem.... When very many in Judea and Samaria had believed, she went also into other nations.... Finally, the Gospel of Christ was preached in the whole World...so that the people of the nations, believing in Him Who was crucified for their redemption, might venerate with Christian love the blood of the martyrs which they [the people of the nations alias the Gentiles] had poured forth with devilish fury -- and so that the very kings by whose laws the Church had been laid waste, might become profitably subject to that name they had cruelly striven to take away from the Earth.”²⁷³

“The Church even now is the Kingdom of Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven. Accordingly, even now His saints reign with Him, though otherwise than they shall reign hereafter. And yet, though the tares grow in the Church along with the wheat – they do not reign with Him. For they reign with Him who do what the Apostle says: ‘If you be **risen** with Christ, be mindful of the things which are above where Christ is sitting [enthroned] at the right hand of God! Seek those things which are above – not the things which are on the Earth!’ [Colossians 3:1-2]. Of such persons, he also says that their way of life is in Heaven. In fine, **they reign with Him who are so – in His Kingdom**.”²⁷⁴

It was about 416 when Augustine gave his *Homilies on the Gospel of John*. There, at 7:8, he quotes Christ's words -- ‘he who speaks from himself, seeks his own glory.’ Then Augustine next commented: “This will be he who is called **Antichrist** -- ‘exalting himself,’ as the Apostle says, ‘above all that is called God and that is worshipped’ [Second Thessalonians 2:4]....

“In **Antichrist**, however, there is unrighteousness; and he is not true. Because he will seek his own glory, not His by Whom he is sent.... Therefore let all of us who belong to the body of Christ, not seek our own glory -- so that **we** not be led into the snares of **Antichrist!**”²⁷⁵

“We already see the graven and molten...idols of the false gods exterminated through the Gospel, and given up to oblivion.... We know that...prophecy is fulfilled in this very thing.... Even those nations which are not under the Roman authority, being suddenly terrified by the news of Your wonderful works, shall become a Christian people.... ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Yet a little while, then I will shake the Heaven and the Earth and the Sea and the Dry-land; and I will move all Nations, and the desired of all Nations shall come!”’ The fulfilment of this prophecy [Haggai 2:6] is in part seen already, and in part hoped for in the end.... So we see **all Nations moved to the Faith**.... The fulfilment of what follows -- ‘And the desired of all Nations shall come’ -- is looked for....

“The Church of Christ has everywhere **increased**. This House of God is **more** glorious than the first one...constructed of wood and stone...and other precious things. Therefore the prophecy of Haggai [2:9f] was not fulfilled in the rebuilding of **that** temple... **Before** His advent, He [Christ] had **not yet** been desired by **all Nations**.... The glory of **this** House is not so apparent now as it **shall** be -- when **everyone** who is, shall be there **always**....

“[In Mark 3:27,] the Lord Jesus Christ Himself says: ‘No man can enter into a strong man’s house and despoil his goods, except He first **binds** the strong man -- meaning by ‘the strong man’ the Devil.... It was for **the binding** of this strong one that the Apostle saw in the Apocalypse ‘an Angel coming down from Heaven -- having the key of the abyss, and a chain in His hand. And He laid hold,’ he says, ‘of the Dragon, that old Serpent which is called the Devil and Satan, and **bound him a thousand years**...so that he should **deceive the Nations no more**’

“Christ will **not** come to judge the living and the dead [until or] unless **Antichrist**, his adversary, **first comes** to seduce those who are dead in soul. Antichrist will be a king who conquers the fourth kingdom, i.e. the Roman....

“He [Christ] would by His grace collect, as now He does, a **people so numerous** that He thus fills up and repairs the blank made by the fallen Angels.... The beloved and heavenly city is **not defrauded of the full number** of its citizens, but perhaps may even rejoice in a **still more overflowing** population!”²⁷⁶

“Jesus Himself shall extinguish, by His presence [cf. Matthew 28:20], that last persecution which is to be made by **Antichrist**. For so it is written, that ‘He shall slay him, with the Breath of His Mouth, and empty him with the brightness of His presence’

“He shall kill **Antichrist** with the breath of His Mouth [Second Thessalonians 2:8]. Then, even this is not the Last Judgment of the wicked.”²⁷⁷

“I can on no account omit what the Apostle Paul says, in writing to the Thessalonians [II 2:1f]: ‘We beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Christ’ *etc.* No one can doubt that he wrote this of **Antichrist** and of the Day of Judgment...; nor that he declared that this day would not come, unless he first came who is called **the apostate** -- apostate, to wit, from the Lord God.... Some think that in this passage, **Antichrist** does not mean the prince himself alone, but his whole body -- that is, the mass of men who adhere to him along with him their prince....

“Some [preteristically] think that the Apostle Paul referred to **the Roman Empire**, and that...he alludes to **Nero** -- whose deeds already seemed to be **as** the deeds of **Antichrist**.... But I wonder that men can be so **audacious** in their **conjectures**! Yet it is **not** absurd to believe that these words of the Apostle -- ‘Only he who now withholds, let him keep on withholding until he be taken out of the way’ -- refer to **the Roman Empire**. As if it were said -- ‘Let him who now reigns, only keep on reigning until he be taken out of the way!’ And ‘**then** the wicked one shall be revealed.’ No one doubts that this means **Antichrist**.”²⁷⁸

“**Daniel** prophesies about the Last Judgment in such a way as to indicate that Antichrist shall **first** come.... In prophetic vision, he had seen four Beasts signifying four Kingdoms -- and the

fourth conquered by a certain king who is recognized as **Antichrist**....

“Some have interpreted these four Kingdoms as signifying those of the Assyrians, Persians, Macedonians, and **Romans**. They who desire to understand the fitness of this interpretation -- may read **Jerome’s** book on Daniel, which is written with a sufficiency of **care** and **erudition**....

“He who reads this passage even half asleep, cannot fail to see that the kingdom of [the Roman] **Antichrist** -- though for a short time -- shall fiercely assail **the Church**, before the Last Judgment of God.... As for the **ten kings**, whom, it seems, **Antichrist** is to find...when he **comes** -- I acknowledge...he may come unexpectedly, while there are not [yet] ten kings living in **the Roman World**.^{”279}

“The Apostle Paul says ‘that [the] **man of sin shall** be revealed’.... And a little after, he says ‘then shall that wicked one be manifested whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of His Mouth’.... Through that **Apostate**, through him who exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, it seems to me that the carnal people of Israel will suppose that prophecy to be fulfilled where it is said: ‘Deliver us, O Lord, and gather us from among the heathen!’^{”280}

Very significantly, Augustine also makes provision for the validity of triune baptism administered by heretics and even **apostates**. Such would then include even that given by the **later Papal Church of Rome**.

Thus he states: “The offspring of **Antichrist**...are all who oppose themselves to Christ.... If we discern this Name [of the Triune God] in it -- we do better to distinguish the words of the Gospel from heretical error; and approve what is sound in them, correcting what is faulty.... Saturninus of Abitini said: ‘If **the Antichrist** can give to anyone the grace of Christ -- then can heretics who are called **antichrists**, also baptize.’^{”281}

So then, Augustine -- who died in A.D. 430 -- clearly believed that **the Antichrist** would come in what was then still the future. Such, he seemed to sense, might even be a **mediating Bishop**. Thus, in his comment on First John 2:1, he observed: “If John had said, ‘If any man sin, **I** will pray for him’ (as Parmenian in one place makes **the Bishop** the mediator between the people and God) -- where is the faithful Christian that would tolerate it? Who would not view him rather as **Antichrist** than as an Apostle?^{”282}

Nevertheless, both before and after the destruction of the **Romish Antichrist**, the “militant spiritual Regime [of Christ’s present rule on Earth], is to grow **more prosperous with the passing of the years** – until we come to that most peaceful Kingdom in which we shall reign without an enemy. And it is of this first resurrection in the present life, that the Revelation [chapter 20] speaks.^{”283}

“There are also two resurrections.... The first and spiritual resurrection...takes place in **this** life, and preserves us from coming into the second death. The second does not occur now but at the end of the World and...is of the body, not of the soul.... The Last Judgment shall dismiss some into the second death; others into that life which has no death....

“Those who, on the strength of this passage, have suspected that ‘the first resurrection’ is **future** and **bodily**” -- explains Augustine -- “surpass the measure of credulity itself. Such assertions can be believed only by the carnal. They who do believe them, are called...by the name ‘[Pre-]Millenarians.’

“It were a tedious process to refute these opinions point by point. We prefer proceeding to show how that passage of [Holy] Scripture **should** be understood....

“By the ‘chain’...the Devil is...**restrained** from seducing those **Nations** which **belong to Christ**.... It is **not** said that he [the Devil] would not seduce **anybody**, but ‘that he would not seduce the **Nations**’ -- meaning, no doubt, those among which **the Church** exists -- ‘till the thousand years would be fulfilled’....

“The words ‘that he would not seduce the **Nations**’...are **not** to be understood as indicating that **afterwards** he **is** to **seduce**.... He is shut up till the thousand years be fulfilled, on **this** account -- that he may **no more** deceive **the Nations**.... **God forbid that such should be the case**” -- viz., that the Devil would ever be allowed again to seduce the nations **after** the 1000 years!

Augustine explained that the loosening of Satan **after** the thousand years -- would be “occurring **while** [viz. **when**] the **Final Judgment** is **imminent**.... These Nations which he [John] names ‘Gog’ and ‘Magog’ [cf. those **Pre-Christian** nations named at Ezekiel 38:2f], are **not** to be understood of some barbarous Nations in some part of the World [at the **end** of time].”

It is the now-long-dead ‘Gog’ and the ‘Magog’ of Ezekiel 38:2 to 29:29 cf. Acts 2:4-17 who are the same ‘Gog’ and ‘Magog’ in Revelation 20:5-8f. As Augustine explained: “They are therefore the [now deceased but then to-be-resurrected] Nations in which we **found** [past tense] that the Devil **was** shut up as in an **abyss**, and **the Devil himself** coming out **from them**....

“**The reign of the saints with Christ**, shall last **longer** than the bonds and **imprisonment of the Devil**.... The thousand years of the reign of the saints, **does not terminate!**”²⁸⁴

– **AUGUSTINE**, African Church Overseer of Hippo-Regius (A.D. 420)

100) “When the Apostles went forth by lot among the nations, Thomas received the Apostleship of the Parthians; Matthew was allotted Ethiopia; and Bartholomew the part of India contiguous to that country. But the **interior** of India, in which many barbarous nations using different languages lived, was not enlightened by Christian doctrine -- **before** the times of Constantine.”²⁸⁵

– **SOCRATES SCHOLASTICUS**, Greek Church Historian of Constantinople (A.D. 425)

101) “Some one will say perhaps: ‘Shall there then be **no progress** in Christ’s Church?’ Certainly; **all possible progress!**... Progress requires that the subject be **enlarged** in itself... The intelligence; then the knowledge; [and] the wisdom – as well of individuals as of all; as well of one man as of the whole Church – ought, in the course of ages and centuries, to **increase** and **make much** and **vigorous progress**.”²⁸⁶

– **VINCENT**, French Presbyter of Lerinum (A.D. 435)

102) Perhaps around A.D. 435, the Christian Scythian Scholar John Cassian, described the decline of the fifth-century Church. In his *Institutes* and in his *Conferences*, he describes her gluttony, her fornication, her covetousness, her vainglory, and her pride. And in his *Seven Books on the Incarnation of the Lord Against Nestorius*²⁸⁷ -- a work of great christological orthodoxy -- he infinitely elevates Christ above both His Own mother Mary and also His Own Apostle Peter.

In his *Conferences*, Cassian reminds his readers that the “idol of Jupiter...was placed in the temple in Jerusalem [by the Pagan Romans], and...is again to stand in the Church through the **coming** of **Antichrist**.”²⁸⁸ See Daniel 9:27 cf. 12:7-11. Indeed, Cassian notes that “letters are sent from the **Bishop**...through all the churches...by which the beginning of Lent and the day of Easter are pointed out... This was received...with such bitterness, owing to their simplicity..., that the aforesaid **Bishop** ought to be **abhorred** by the whole body of the brethren, as tainted with heresy of the worst kind -- because he seemed to **impugn the teaching of Holy Scripture**.”²⁸⁹

Cassian seems to warn against the rise of Metropolitan Archbishops and regional Popes. “It says in Deuteronomy [13:1-3]: ‘If there rise up in your midst a “prophet” or one who says that he has seen a dream and declare a sign and a wonder, and that which he has spoken does not come to pass, and he says to you “Let us go and follow after other gods whom you do not acknowledge, and let us serve them!” -- you shall not listen to the words of that “prophet” or of that dreamer!’... And in the Gospel [Matthew 24:24] it says, ‘There shall arise false-christs and false-prophets, and shall give great signs and wonders, so that if it were possible even the elect would be led astray!’”²⁹⁰

After citing First John 4:2f against the Antichrist, Cassian then challenges his readers: “Do you recognize that it is plainly and markedly spoken of **you**?” And: “Take care lest any one may even term you **Antichrist!** Do you think that I am reviling and cursing? What I am saying, is not my own idea. For lo, the Evangelist says: ‘Every one who lets go of Jesus, is not of God; and this is **Antichrist!**’”²⁹¹

– **JOHN CASSIAN**, Scythian Christian Scholar (A.D. 435)

103) “Under the government of Constantine, the churches flourished and **increased** in numbers **daily** -- since they were honoured by the good deeds of a benevolent and well-disposed emperor, and otherwise God preserved them from the persecutions and harassments which they had previously encountered. When the churches were suffering from persecution in other parts of the World, Constantius the father of Constantine alone accorded the Christians the right of worshipping without fear.... While Constantius was alive, it did not seem contrary to the laws for the inhabitants of the countries beyond Italy to profess Christianity -- that is to say, in **Gaul** [or France], in **Britain**, or in the [**Spanish and Portuguese**] region of the Pyrenean mountains as far as the Western Ocean [alias the Atlantic]. When Constantine succeeded to the same government, the affairs of the churches became **still more brilliant**.”²⁹²

– **SOZOMEN**, Palestinian Church Historian of Gaza (A.D. 450)

104) Theodoret explained the four kingdoms and the little horn in Daniel chapters two and seven historicistically -- just as had all the preceding Church Fathers. “Such is the end of the dream [in Daniel two].... The Stone...which at first seems small, soon **became very large, and governed the circle of the Earth**.... We are taught both by the Old and the New Testament -- that our Lord Jesus Christ has been designated the Stone. For He was cut out of the mountain without hands -- being born of a virgin.”²⁹³

In Second Thessalonians 2, Theodoret regards the apostasy as that of **Antichrist**, the greatest **apostasizer** from the truth; and the temple of God in which he would sit, as **Christian churches** where he would usurp the primacy as if the Lord Himself.

As to the period of **Antichrist's continuance**, Theodoret considered Daniel 9:24-27 & 12:7f and Revelation 11:3-9 & 12:14 & 13:5f to make that determination. He concluded (like the A.D. 380 Tichonius before and the 540 A.D. Primasius after him), that it may last for **1260** years.²⁹⁴

– **THEODORET**, Greek Church Overseer of Cyrus in Syria (A.D. 455)

105) During the next century and a half, the Church drifted more and more into idolatry and worldliness. As Samuel Taylor Coleridge once remarked:²⁹⁵ “The Pastors of the Church...had gradually changed the life and light of the Gospel -- into the very superstitions they were commissioned to disperse. They thus **paganized Christianity** -- in order to **christen Paganism**.”

As the rot progressed, around 590 one finds the Church Historian Evagrius of Syria writing:²⁹⁶ “**The Roman Emperors** are being driven from their kingdoms; wars rage; all is commotion;

Antichrist must be at hand!”

Gregory the Great became Church Overseer of Rome from 590-604. In his letter to Church Overseers Eulogius and Anastasius, he wrote:²⁹⁷ “Eight years ago in the time of my predecessor...Pelagius [Bishop of Rome], our brother and fellow-bishop John in the city of Constantinople...held a Synod in which he tried to call himself ‘**Universal Bishop**’....

“Not one of my predecessors has ever consented to use this so **profane** a title! Since, forsooth, if one Patriarch is called ‘Universal’ – the name of...the rest is derogated.

“But far be this! Far be it from the mind of a Christian -- that **anyone** should wish to seize for himself that whereby he might seem in the least degree to lessen the honour of his brethren! While, then, **we** are **unwilling** to receive this honour when offered to **us** – think how **disgraceful** it is for **anyone** to have wished to usurp it to himself **perforce!** Therefore, let no one **ever** be called ‘Universal [Pope]!’”

Nevertheless, Gregory himself was soon the first man in history -- (unsolicitedly yet) successfully -- to get called **Sole Pope** alias Universal Father. A godly man, he then immediately repudiated that title as indicative of **the Antichrist**.

Responded Gregory:²⁹⁸ “Whosoever...called himself or sought to be called ‘Universal Bishop’ or ‘Universal Priest’ -- that man was the likeness, the precursor, and the preparer for **Antichrist**.” Gregory regarded the very name ‘**Universal Bishop**’ as openly blasphemous. For he did not hesitate to connect it to **the ten-horned beast** in Revelation 12:3f & 13:1-5f & 17:3f.²⁹⁹

Asked Gregory: “What else is intimated, but that the days of **Antichrist** are already **near?**”³⁰⁰ Gregory then further observed: “None of my predecessors [as Bishops of Rome] **ever** desired to use this **profane** term [viz. ‘**Universal Bishop**’]!”³⁰¹ “To consent to that **impious** term -- is nothing else than to **lose the faith!**”³⁰²

“Everyone that calls himself or desires to be called ‘**Universal Priest,**’ insisted Gregory -- is...a forerunner of **Antichrist**.”³⁰³ “None ever wished to be called by such a name.”³⁰⁴ Indeed, to Bishop Eulogius of Alexandria, Gregory insisted:³⁰⁵ “**Though** I prohibited you -- **you** have taken care to write a word of proud signification by calling me ‘**Universal Pope**’!”

Ominously, Gregory held that **Antiochus Epiphanes** was a forerunner of **Antichrist** -- whom he identified with the **little horn** in Daniel 7:8f and with Paul’s **man of sin** in Second Thessalonians 2:3f.³⁰⁶ Gregory also said³⁰⁷ that in Revelation chapter 13, “John narrated that the First Beast is **Antichrist**.... After him, also the other Beast (from the Earth) is said to arise -- because after him, his multitude of preachers are glorified by power.” Indeed, he further added, “the times of **Antichrist** are **already near at hand!**”³⁰⁸

While himself commendably resisting the temptation to embrace the title of sole Pope, Gregory boldly upheld the victory eschatology of true Christianity. Said he: “We give thanks the more to that grain of mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-32).... From what appeared to be a small and despicable seed, it has been so spread abroad everywhere (by branches rising and extending

themselves from the same root), that **all** the birds of heaven may make their nests in them.

“And thanks be to that leaven which, in three measures of meal, has leavened in unity the mass of the **whole human race** (Matthew 13:33)! And thanks be to the little stone which, cut out of the mountain without hands, has occupied the **whole** face of the **Earth** (Daniel 2:35), and... **everywhere distends** itself, so that...the whole Church might be **perfected**; and so that this distinction between the several members might serve for the benefit of the compacted whole!”³⁰⁹

-- **GREGORY THE GREAT**, Italian Church Overseer of Rome (A.D. 600)

106) Soon after Gregory the Great died in 604 -- the various many successive Bishops of Rome started to demand that they be called ‘**Pope**’ alias ‘**[Universal] Father.**’ The evil new Emperor Phocas conceded to Pope Boniface III (the Bishop of Rome from A.D. 607-608), what Gregory by no means demanded -- viz., that **Rome** should be the **head** of **all** the **churches**.

Then, just two years after England herself succumbed to Romanism at the Synod of Whitby -- **by A.D. 666**, all of the many subsequent Bishops of Rome began to revel in their usurped title of ‘**Vicar of Christ.**’ Alas, **the Antichrist had now come** to our great planet Earth!

Yet was the Antichrist exclusively the long line of **Romish Popes** from that century onward? Or was the Antichrist instead the long line of **successors to Muhammad** from that century onward? Or is the Antichrist **both** the Papacy and Islam?

Calvin preached on Deuteronomy 18:9-15 against **sorcery** and **false-prophecy**: “They be high mysteries which **the Pope** devised above the Gospel, like **Mahomet** says his *Al Koran* is that sovereign wisdom.... They be the **two horns of Antichrist**” – the **Western papal horn over the Occidental** and the **Eastern Islamic over the Oriental** part of what had been **the Roman Empire!**

