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# ***The Final Deception***

Written in the hope that more people will seek the LORD  
and not be deceived in the end times.

by David P. LaSelle

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# Chapter 1

It was Five o'clock in the evening and the traffic was heavy as Jim crept down the freeway toward the airport. It had been seven long years since he had seen his son Michael and this slow pace was not helping with the anxiety and anticipation that Jim was feeling.

Twenty years ago, Jim had been young and impulsive. During spring break of his sophomore year at Stanford, he and some friends had gone up to Aspen Colorado on a ski trip. That's where he met Jessie. She had long brown hair and dark eyes, and Jim really had to work to keep up with her on the slopes.

Jim knew all the things he had been taught in church about Love and relationships. But it had been so easy to just let his guard down and let things happen. By the time the trip was over Jessie was already pregnant.

There was never any question about ending the pregnancy. Jessie had been raised in a family that believed in God and that life begins at conception. Although the implications were difficult and had a great impact on his life, Jim also agreed that abortion was not an option.

After Jim finished his finals for the year, he moved to Colorado and married Jessie. They spent the next two years trying to do the "right thing" but the situation seemed to go from bad to worse. Jim had to put his dream of being an Architect on hold and went to work as a carpenter's apprentice building houses. Jessie had been going to the University of Colorado and was planning on a medical career, but with the baby coming, she too had quit school.

After two years of tension over their living situation, and the loss of their dreams, there wasn't much there to keep them together. Jim had finally moved out and returned to California. Jessie and the baby, (Michael) had moved in with Jessie's parents in Denver.

Looking back on the situation, Jim knew that if he had really turned to the Lord things would have turned out differently. At that time in his life, he had still been trying to do what was right and to correct his own mistakes instead of letting the Lord work inside him to change his heart and create what God wanted. Now, twenty years later, was the Lord giving him another chance to be part of Michael's life?

Finally Jim reached the airport and made his way to the gate just as the passengers were starting to come up the jet way. Michael was easy to spot. He looked more like his grandfather on his mother's side with his blond hair and blue-green eyes. Jim and Jessie both had dark hair and brown eyes. He was six feet four inches tall, almost two inches taller than Jim. That, at least, came from Jim's side of the family. Everyone on Jessie's side was shorter than six feet tall.

What should I do now, thought Jim. A handshake, a hug, neither one seemed adequate. It was an uncomfortable moment for both men, but soon they were shuffling their way out to the baggage claim area.

The next step was to take Michael home and introduce him to Sara and Sam. When Jim had left Jessie and Michael, he came back to California and had tried to keep himself busy. Four years went by before he and Jessie officially got divorced. After that, Jim had dated a little but he hadn't felt very comfortable with anyone and kept to himself for the most part.

Jim had done some construction work during the summers while he was in high school and

had been able to get hired on as a carpenter building houses. After about five years, he had started going out on his own doing small remodel jobs for people he knew. After a few jobs working evenings and weekends, Jim realized that there was plenty of work to keep him employed full time as his own boss. Now after 12 years of being in business, Jim had seven full time employees and another three or four part time employees. They did everything from small remodel jobs to building small office complexes.

Jim had continued to attend church regularly and that is where he had finally ran into Sara. He had seen her several times before at the church and thought that she was awfully pretty. She was taller for a woman, about five foot six, with long blond hair and blue eyes. It had been the pastor's twentieth anniversary at the church and everyone stayed after the evening service for cake and ice cream. That's where he ran smack-dab into Sara while walking around a corner. She had been carrying two cups of punch and they both went straight up into the air and drenched Jim and Sara.

They had laughed and gotten dried off. Eventually Jim offered to give her a ride home and after that, they started seeing each other. Sara had been married before also. She had married a boy from the church she had grown up in near Spokane, Washington. It wasn't long before she started to hear the rumors about her husband seeing other women. Still, Sara had tried to make the best of things but when she had come home from work early one day because she was sick and found him in there bed with her best friend, it was all that she could take.

Sara packed up her clothes and a few special things into the car and headed south. She stayed with some friends in San Diego for a few months until she had been able to get a job and an apartment for herself.

Once Jim and Sara had met, they tried to give their relationship to the Lord and let Him make of it what He would. It was hard at times not to give in to their own desires, and at times they made mistakes. But the more they had kept Jesus in the center of their relationship the better it had become. After about a year and a half they got married and a year later Sam was born. Samantha, or Sam, was a beautiful little girl with blond hair and blue eyes. She was smart as a whip and kept both of them on their toes. And talk about independent, at two years old she had been ready to take on the world by herself, now that she was five she was definitely a handful.

After getting Michael's bags they went to Jim's truck and started for home. Jim asked about Michael's schooling, and they talked about what the Navy would be like and before long they were pulling into Jim's driveway. As they got out of the truck, Samantha's face was smashed up against the front window of the house as she attempted to see what her half-brother was like.

As the men came into the house, Sam suddenly became very shy and tried to hide behind Sara's skirt. After introductions were completed, Sara said that dinner would be ready in half an hour and disappeared into the kitchen. Jim and Michael sat down in the living room and Sam wrapped herself around Jim's legs while staring at her brother.

The conversation continued, and Michael mentioned that he had been seeing one girl for quite a while. Her name was Jamie and he hoped that at some point they would be married. He also talked about wanting to establish himself in a career of law enforcement and police science.

Jim wanted to jump in and explain just how important it was to have the Lord be the center

of his life. That no matter what he was doing or where he wanted to go, that if he would put Jesus first, his life would be far more fulfilled and complete. Jim also realized that this was something that had to be experienced to be understood and he didn't want to put a wall up between himself and Michael by coming off like some kind of religious fanatic. He knew that Michael had gone to church all of his life and had accepted the Lord when he was young but he also knew that most people don't allow themselves to go past that point and let God have control of their daily lives.

The conversation continued through dinner and on into the evening, with Sara joining in. They talked about politics, world events and many other topics. Jim resisted the urge to preach to Michael and explain that if Michael could just learn from Jim's experiences he would be so much further ahead.

Michael spent the night in the guest bedroom and then Jim took him to the Navy base in the morning to report for his first day at boot camp. Overall, Jim was happy with how things had gone. He still regretted not having spent more time with Michael while he was growing up. The cost of going back to Colorado had been part of the excuse as well as the time off work. It had also been difficult being around Jessie especially after she had gotten remarried, so he had only been back there a few times while Michael had been growing up.

## Chapter 2

Michael had been a little apprehensive about going into the Navy. After all, what if another war broke out in the Gulf? Or for that matter, things could heat up again in eastern Europe, Africa, South America, Korea, or just about any other place in this crazy mixed up world. In any case, Michael had decided to go ahead and go into the military. He picked the Navy in the hope that if things did break out, he would be on a ship somewhere instead of actually being in the middle of things.

The first thing Michael wanted was to establish himself. He needed to have some kind of dependable income if he was going to go ahead and marry Jamie. They had been going together since the tenth grade and planned to marry. They went to the same church, and had helped each other to follow the Lord, instead of getting mixed up in all the things a lot of their friends had gotten involved in.

In the Navy Michael could get training in security. This would give him the background to work for a police or sheriffs department. This is something he had wanted to do since he was very young. It would also give him access to funds to go on to college. Even if he decided that a law enforcement career was not for him, it would still help him to head into the future with some kind of plan.

Now having completed boot camp and being just about done with his specialized training in security, Michael was getting ready to head out to his first duty station. He didn't understand why the Navy needed security police at Edward's Air Force Base, but it would be a lot easier to see Jamie than being stationed on a ship. He sure didn't have to worry about getting stuck in some kind of uprising in some far part of the world.

Michael's father Jim was coming to see him and be at his graduation ceremony. It was kind of nice to get to know his real father after all of those years, even though Michael still blamed his dad for a lot of the problems that he had grown up with. He and his mom had been by themselves until Michael was nine years old. They had not been able to afford many of the things that other kids had. His mom had never come out and said that it was all his Dad's fault, but what father would leave his wife and baby like that?

Michael's mom Jesse had gotten remarried to Mark about a year after they met. Mark had been a pretty good step-father, playing ball with him and even coaching the little league team that Michael had been on in the sixth grade.

Now Michael was a little nervous as he waited for the end of the graduation ceremony. He still felt like a kid in a lot of ways, but in a few minutes he would be through with all the classes and be responsible to make sure that other people were behaving correctly. The U.S. Government was even entrusting him with a gun to enforce the rules and regulations. On the other hand, it made him feel like a real man to be up here, with his real Dad in the audience.

Michael was looking forward to what would come. Now as the last official finished his speech, the group was dismissed and allowed to go on leave. He would have two

weeks before he had to report to his new duty station. This would give him plenty of time to get back to Colorado and see Jamie. First he needed to find his Dad and have dinner. Then he could get on the airplane and go home for a while.

Jim was beaming with pride as he and Michael walked into the restaurant down by the bay. Michael looked very formidable in his uniform, and had turned out to be quite a good looking young man. As they sat down at the table Jim asked, “What do you plan to do next now that you are all through with the schooling?”

“Well, I want to go and spend some time with Jamie before I go on to Edwards.” answered Michael. “I really miss her, now that I’ve been spending time away from her.”

Jim asked, “Are you thinking about marrying her? From what you’ve told us about her she sounds like a pretty nice girl.”

Michael hesitated for just a minute, and then answered, “I really want to marry her, I’m just not sure when I should do it. I mean, I’m going to be living on E-three pay for a little while and I don’t know how well I can take care of her yet. While she’s at home with her parents she lives awfully well. Her dad’s an airline pilot, they have a big house in Boulder, plus a nice cabin up at Aspen. I don’t know if she would want to give all that up.”

“I think that if she is really in love with you, she’s not going to care where you live.” said Jim. “Does Jamie work?”

“She does volunteer work at the hospital.” answered Michael. “She gets an allowance from her dad, and he bought her a new car last year when she graduated.”

“Well she could stay with us down in San Diego,” said Jim. “I’m not trying to talk you into anything, but it might just make things work for you. We’re only a few hours away from Edward’s, and we have the room in the basement. There’s a bathroom, and even a separate entrance. It probably wouldn’t work to go back and forth every day, but you could come home on weekends.”

“What do you think Sara would say about this?” asked Michael. “

“I don’t think she would mind too much.” answered Jim. “In fact, she would probably enjoy the company. I’m gone from seven A.M. till about five thirty or six at least five days a week, sometimes on Saturdays. Sara loves spending her days with Sam, but she would appreciate more adult companionship at times. This might just work out well for everyone.”

At this point they had finished their meal and were enjoying a cup of coffee. Michael looked at his watch and decided it was time to get headed for the airport. On the way, Michael promised to consider the idea and talk to Jamie about what she wanted to do. Michael’s flight left for Denver about a half an hour later. Jim saw the plane off, then drove back home.

Michael was excited about the idea of getting married to Jamie. After all, this would give him the chance to have a full relationship with her. At the same time, he could live at the base during the week and do what he wanted to do.

As he came up the ramp from the airplane, Jamie and his mom were jumping up and down and waving at Michael. His step dad Mark was there too. He gave Jessie a quick hug, and then threw his arms around Jamie.

“I’ve got something to talk to you about.” whispered Michael as he lifted Jamie off of

her feet. "Let's get the baggage and get out of here. We can talk in the car on the way home."

It didn't take long to get the bags and be on their way. Mark drove with Jessie beside him in the front. Michael and Jamie sat in the back. Michael spent little time in getting to the news.

"What do you think about getting married right away?" asked Michael in a low tone so that Mark and Jessie couldn't hear. "I mean, I know we've talked about it being down the road away and I know it's kind of sudden. I just don't want to go that long without being with you again, and I think we could make it work."

"I don't know what to say," squeaked Jamie. She was really taken by surprise with this change in plans. The last time they had talked about this Michael didn't seem to want to rush into anything. He had made it sound like he would rather wait a couple of years before they get married. She had tried to tell him that the money didn't matter, and that she would live in a shack if that is what it took for them to be together.

Finally she looked at him and said, "I'll go anywhere you want me to. I told you last year that I would marry you. I've just been waiting for you to figure out what you really want."

"I still think it would be a problem for us to try and live off of my pay in California," said Michael. "But my dad, uh you know, Jim, my real dad said that we could live with them in San Diego. I could come there on weekends, and well, it's not perfect, but at least we could be together."

Jamie was not very happy about not having a place of their own. They talked about it back and forth for the next few days. Jamie tried to convince Michael that they could make it work at Edwards. This was an argument that she had made many times in the past. At last she conceded that this way Michael would agree to get married right away. Maybe later on she could convince him about the rest. Besides, Sara and Jim sounded like nice people and marrying Michael is what she had really wanted for a long time.



## Chapter 3

The plane was just touching down in San Diego. Michael and Jamie had been married less than twenty four hours. It had been kind of rushed, and Jamie's mom was a little put out that she didn't have time to arrange for a huge wedding. But all in all, things had gone fairly smoothly. Of course Jamie's parents were not happy about Jamie moving away, and her dad had come just short of promising to kill Michael if he didn't keep his little girl happy.

Now here Michael was, married, in the Navy, and going to live in his real dad's house. He had not spent more than two days with Jim since he was three years old. Michael hoped that he wasn't making some very large mistakes, but at this point he felt like it was worth it to try. There was no doubt in his mind about Jamie, but when it came to the Navy and living at Jim's, he'd just have to see how it worked out.

Jim, Sara, and Samantha met them at the airport. It didn't take long to get their bags together and be on their way. They had shipped most of their stuff to San Diego through the post office. Soon they were approaching the two story house. It was on a hill overlooking San Diego bay. The main floor was at street level on the backside of the house, with the main entrance and garage facing the street. The front of the house faced the bay.

The daylight basement was fully exposed as the hill sloped down away from the street. There was a large rec room, a laundry room, bathroom, and a bedroom on this floor. It would give Michael and Jamie privacy for the most part, except for the laundry room. The sliding glass doors off of the rec room gave them a private exit without having to bother Jim and Sara.

Jamie had opted to sell her Audi before they left Boulder. She had gotten a pretty good price for it and wanted to get something a little less expensive. Then she could use the extra cash to buy some of the other things they would need.

The plan for now was for Jamie to drive Michael up to Edwards the evening before his first day back to work each week. Then she would drive back and pick him up when he got off at the end of his week. They would have to wait until after Michael checked into the base before they would find out what days off he was going to have. He would not need a car on the base, and Jamie was hoping to find some kind of work to help them get along.

They got their baggage out and into their new quarters upon arriving. Sara had already fixed up the room with new curtains and bedspread on the queen-sized bed. Sara had also found a used dresser in the paper. She'd refinished and fixed it up, so that they would have a place to put their clothes.

After unpacking, Jim agreed to take Michael and Jamie out to find a car. Michael would have to report to Edwards on Monday morning and it was already Saturday afternoon. They went to four different lots and finally decided to buy a Toyota pickup with an extended cab. It was more money than they had wanted to spend, but it would give them a good reliable vehicle with plenty of room, and it only had 34,000 miles on it.

On Sunday, Michael and Jamie went with Jim, Sara, and Samantha to the church that Jim and Sara had been attending for years. It was a non-denominational Bible preaching church. The pastor allowed himself to be used by the Lord to communicate what God wanted to say in the services.

After coming home they ate dinner together. Then Michael and Jamie got things packed back up and in the truck to take Michael up to the base. He wanted to get checked in and assigned to a barracks Sunday evening so that he would be all settled when it was time to report for duty Monday morning.

They got underway about 3 that afternoon. It took about three and a half hours to get up to Edwards. Michael checked in, got stickers for the truck, and was assigned to a barracks. He was assigned to a private room about twelve feet by fifteen feet. There was a shared kitchen in between his room and the next with a sliding partition that he could shut and lock for privacy. In addition it had a small head with toilet and sink. Michael would have to go down the hall to use the community showers.

With Michael all settled, Jamie hugged him one last time and then headed back to San Diego. It was a quarter to twelve when she got back to the house. Jim was waiting up to make sure everything had gone all right.

Michael reported to the security office at eight A.M. on Monday morning. The chief petty officer went over his training records and then told him that he would be assigned to building K. Michael would have Sunday and Monday off each week. On Tuesday mornings he would check in at the main security office at seven thirty A.M. The first two hours of his shift he was supposed to go over any new orders that had been posted. Then at nine forty five A.M. he would go to a regular weekly briefing. At twelve noon Michael would then relieve his counterpart at building K.

To get to building K, you had to go through an Air Force security gate. You were required to have the proper I.D. as well as being on the list of approved names to pass through. After the gate you went down the road about 200 yards to building K.

Both sides of the road had ten foot high chain link fence. The one on the right had barbed wire across the top. The fence on the left side of the road was posted with warning's stating that it was electrified with ten thousand volts. Buildings H through M were all on the left side of the road. Each of the buildings were connected to each other with the electric fence. They were about fourteen feet wide and about thirty feet deep. There were some large hangers back a few hundred yards behind the buildings.

As you approached building K there was one door, a three foot by three foot window and a sign saying U.S. Navy. Once inside you were in a room twelve feet wide by twenty feet deep. the room was divided in half by a desk and a three foot high partition. There was a small gate with an electronic lock that was opened by a button on the desk. On the desk was a black phone with no dial and a chair behind the desk. In the back wall was a door just left of center. Above this door at the back of the room was a camera. In the very right hand side of that wall was another door. Behind this door was a toilet and sink. Aside from these features and the man sitting at the desk the room was bare.

This is where Michael would work from Tuesday at noon until four P.M. and then

again seven thirty A.M. till four P.M. Wednesday through Friday. There were six security persons assigned to this position in building K. Two E-three's to work the day shifts, Two E-four's that worked the eve shifts and two E-five's that worked the mid shifts.

The job required that you sit at the desk. When someone would come into the building from outside, Michael had to check their I.D., then pick up the phone. It would automatically ring through to the other end. A voice would answer the phone, Michael would then announce who was requesting entrance. The voice would approve the names and hang up. After that Michael would release the lock on the gate, the person or persons would pass through the gate and wait for the back door lock to buzz.

The persons would then pass through the door into a smaller room behind the one Michael was in. Once the back door was again closed and locked he could hear what sounded like a elevator. Michael was strongly warned not to ask what went on in the back room. He was to just do his job and not ask questions. Sometimes people would just be there for about a half an hour and sometimes they would come early in his shift and not come out again.

After his three and one half days at building K, his last shift was spent back at security headquarters. Sometimes he would go downstairs to the shooting range, at other times he would be assigned one task or another to fill up his time. Sometimes this meant making the lunch run, or going to the base exchange for one of the officers. At other times he would man the front desk and answer the phone.

## Chapter 4

Jamie woke up early on Monday morning. She had been restless all night and had not gotten much sleep. As of three days ago she had become Mrs. Michael Handford and now she was all alone again. Jamie started to question why she had agreed to marry Michael and travel half way across the United States, only to be left on her own. She was in a strange house in a strange town, living with people she didn't know. Only a few days ago she had been in the house she had grown up in with her parents and friends, doing the things that she enjoyed doing.

Slowly but surely she came to the same conclusion that she had every day for the last two weeks, ever since Michael had asked her to marry him. Jamie really did love Michael. If this was the only way she could get him to commit to this relationship, she would take it. After all, they had been going together for the last four years. She knew that Michael loved her.

She had no doubts that he would spend the rest of his life with her, but he was afraid of the commitment of marriage. Michael's father had left and moved away from Colorado when Michael was very young. Michael's mother had not condemned Jim, but she had not tried to explain what had happened either.

It didn't help that most of the people they had grown up around had gone through divorce as well. Even when extra effort had been given to protect the children, these breakups still hurt the entire family. Michael had been running scared of the odds. If all of those people could not make it work, how was he supposed to do it? Michael had said over and over again, "I don't want to leave my son in a miserable place like that."

Now finally Jamie could start working to prove to him that things would be different. With the Lord's help, Jamie was sure that they could have the kind of relationship that God had intended for a husband and a wife.

Jamie took a shower and then headed upstairs to see what the day would bring. Sara was in the kitchen getting Samantha ready to go to Kindergarten. Jim had just left for work. He had his own company as a general contractor and had three different projects going on.

"Good morning Jamie," greeted Sara, as Jamie came into the room. "We weren't sure how long you would sleep this morning after that long drive."

"Oh it wasn't so bad," remarked Jamie. "Besides, I wanted to get started right away looking for a job. If I can save enough money, maybe we could afford a small apartment so Michael can come home every night."

"If that's what you want to do, you should be looking for a job up closer to the base, shouldn't you?" asked Sara.

"If I was doing what I wanted to do," returned Jamie, "I would have borrowed the money from my mom and dad and rented an apartment up there already. Then I would worry about getting a job and how we were going to keep things going."

"I take it that Michael does not agree with that approach," said Sara.

Jamie answered, "Well somewhere along the line he got this hard headed idea

that he had to be the bread winner. It isn't such a problem that I can't work, but Michael is not about to accept a "hand out" from my parents. I tried to tell him that we could just borrow the money and pay them back, but he wouldn't have anything to do with it."

"Well he probably inherited some of that hard-headed stubbornness from his father." replied Sara. "Jim and I have had more than one debate over this kind of stuff since we got married."

"So who won?" asked Jamie.

"I'm still here aren't I" answered Sara, with a gleam in her eye. "The trick is to convince them that they are still wearing the pants in the family, while you get them to do what you want."

"Now that's a neat trick," laughed Jamie. "I'll take any pointers you want to share."

Jamie went through the want ads, and underlined several jobs that she wanted to investigate. Sara got Sam out the door and onto the bus that picked her up right in front of the house. As she came back into the kitchen, another one of those ads for one of the psychic phone lines came on the radio.

"Why do people waste their money on that kind of garbage?" asked Jamie.

"The Devil does a pretty good job of convincing people that they need him to guide their lives," answered Sara. "There is a lot more to that kind of thing than meets the eye. I don't care whether you're talking about psychics or astrology, or one of those board games. Demons or the Devil can use those things and even give some very accurate information to get people dependent on them. Then the Devil can use the different sources of information to ruin a person, or at the very least, stop people from following the Lord."

"I never thought about it in that way before", said Jamie. "But I see what you mean. It's kind of scary to think how hard the Devil works to stop us from being with God."

After this conversation Jamie used the phone to call the companies she had found in the want ads. She made several appointments, and by Wednesday she was hired to work as a receptionist in a doctor's office. It was a small operation with one doctor and a physician's assistant. Jamie would have to check in the patients and have new patients fill out information sheets. She would also answer phones and schedule appointments. They gave her considerable responsibility and Jamie handled the job well. Within a month they had already given her a raise.

## Chapter 5

Michael had been working at building K for about five months. He knew little more about what went on behind that door than he did the first day that he showed up. It was Saturday evening and he was waiting for Jamie to pick him up. Usually she was there waiting just outside the Air Force guard shack at least half an hour before he got off of work.

This week however, she had taken the truck into the shop that morning to have the it worked on. The person who had owned the truck before them must have ridden the clutch on a regular basis. It was way too early to need that kind of repairs with so few miles on it. Apparently the shop got kind of behind working on other cars. Then by the time they got the transmission out and realized that they didn't have the parts, it was too late to get the truck done.

Jamie finally called Jim and he came down and picked her up. They were now on the way up to the base. From the time Jamie last called he didn't expect them to arrive until about ten P.M. Around nine, Michael remembered that he had left the pictures he'd taken of the SR71 in the desk drawer in building K. He knew it was against the rules, but Michael had promised Jim he would bring the pictures down with him. Besides, what was the big deal about going in? He'd been working there for five months and hadn't seen anything unusual. What kind of problem would it really cause?

Michael went through the Air Force guard gate without any problem. When he went into building K it was a different story. Jeff was real surprised to see him. Michael had talked to Jeff several times. Jeff relieved him three nights a week on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

"What are you doing here?" asked Jeff. "You could get both of us in a lot of trouble being around here now."

"What kind of trouble could it cause?" asked Michael. "Anyway, I just left some pictures in the desk and I need to take them with me to San Diego."

Jeff opened the drawer and handed Michael the pictures. "Now hurry up and get out of here before anything happens," said Jeff. "I don't want my career ended over some silly pictures."

All right, I'm gone." responded Michael as he grabbed the pictures and headed out the door.

When Michael came out of the building he could see someone just coming through the Air Force gate. Michael went around the corner of the building and got as close to the fence as he could without getting shocked. It was a dark night and all the lights around the hangers further out onto the base were shut off. Whoever came through could probably walk right by Michael without seeing him.

As he was waiting in the darkness he suddenly noticed a large dark object, about three hundred yards away by one of the hangers. It wasn't making any noise. As he watched, the object slowly raised straight up into the air until it was about five hundred

feet above the hanger. Michael realized that the object was saucer shaped and must have been about 250 or 300 feet across. The object just hung there for what seemed like forever. Then, still without sound, it started moving away out toward the desert. It accelerated very rapidly and was completely out of sight in about 2 seconds.

Michael just stood there, almost like he was in a trance until he became aware that he was holding his breath. He gasped for air, his mind racing. He wasn't sure what he had just seen, but he had better get out of here before anyone found out that he'd seen it. He carefully looked around the corner of the building and surveyed the roadway. There didn't appear to be anyone in sight. Michael carefully bent low and passed under the window of building K. At this point he didn't even want Jeff to know that he was still here. Then he went quickly down the roadway to the guard shack. Michael was sweating profusely as the guard passed him through. The guard didn't act like he thought anything was unusual.

Once Michael got a little ways away from the guard shack he broke out into a run. He wanted to get as far away from here as he could. When he got to the barracks Jim's truck was in the parking lot. He ran up to the truck and found Jim inside. Jim told him that they had just arrived and that Jamie had gone up to his room to find him. Michael ran up to the barracks, up the stairs and almost ran over Jamie. She was just turning the corner to come back down.

Jamie asked where he had been, and then asked if something was wrong. Michael just shrugged and said he would tell her on the way home. He then ran into his room, grabbed his bag, grabbed Jamie's hand and headed for Jim's truck.

Michael and Jamie got into the truck. Jamie continued to try and find out what had been going on. Michael just insisted that they get away from there. Once they were off the base and onto the highway Michael finally started to relax a little bit.

"I saw a flying saucer," blurted out Michael. "A real flying saucer and they have to know all about it. It came out of the hanger right behind the building I work in. The people I check in and out of that place must be working with those things, whatever they are."

"Oh come on," said Jamie. "Are you sure it was a flying saucer?"

"I'm very sure," answered Michael. "I couldn't have been any farther from it than we are from that sign over there."

"What did it look like?" asked Jim.

"Well, it was saucer shaped," answered Michael. "It had to be 250 to 300 feet in diameter. And it was very dark, maybe black. I didn't see any kind of lights or anything like that, and, oh, it was silent. It didn't make any noise at all that I could hear."

"When did you see it?" asked Jamie. "Didn't you get off work a long time ago? That is, I know you did. I talked to you at the barracks about four thirty."

"I went back," answered Michael. "I know now it was a pretty stupid thing to do. At this time I didn't think it was a big deal. I left those pictures that I said I'd bring home in the desk drawer at work. Nothing ever happens there, or so I thought. So I didn't think anyone would mind if I went back over there and got the pictures."

"So what happened?" asked Jim.

"Well, when I first saw it, it was just setting there, outside of the hanger," answered

Michael. "Then it started going straight up. It got about five hundred feet up, and then it just hung there. There still wasn't any noise or anything, and then after a while it just took off out over the desert. I don't know how fast it was going, I guess it didn't break the sound barrier because I didn't hear anything, but I've never seen anything accelerate that fast."

"I've heard rumors about something like this," said Jim. "At least it sounds something like what you're describing."

"So what was it?" asked Michael.

"Well from what I've heard," responded Jim. "They've come up with some kind of anti-gravitational field. Somehow they are putting two conducting plates together, separated by some kind of insulator. Then when they run a positive field through one and a negative field through the other, it forms some kind of barrier or something that repels the gravitational field. If I understand it correctly they're putting this kind of thing all across the outside surfaces of the saucer. Then by controlling different sections of the fields, they can move up, down, or any other direction."

"Who's they?" asked Jamie.

"It sounds like the U.S. government to me," answered Jim. "There is a lot of speculation about where the technology came from. I've heard stuff mentioned about the possibility that we got it from a spaceship that crash landed here, or that we invented it. I have a little theory of my own that could explain it too."

"Ok, I'll bite," said Michael. "What's your theory?"

"Well," answered Jim. "I'm sure that both of you are familiar with the big bang theory. And with the garbage they teach in school, I have no doubt they told you all about the theory of evolution. A few years back, I ran across a new theory. Some of it was developed by scientists trying to prove that it wasn't possible. As they worked to disprove it, they found out that it made more sense than the other stuff. So far, from what I've heard, it's been right on when compared with each new scientific discovery, especially in our space exploration. On the other hand the big bang has been turning out to be a big bust."

I guess I should start by saying that it is looking more and more like there was another planet. Most probably it would have been the next planet out from ours. Mars, most likely, was just a moon of this planet. At some point, for some reason, that planet exploded.

There are measurable signs all through this solar system showing that this could have occurred, from extensive cratering on the back side of the moon, to the way that Mars is cratered. It probably had its atmosphere blown away in the explosion. There are signs of ash or debris everywhere we've been able to look. The chunks and pieces of the planet after the explosion could explain the asteroids, meteors and comets.

Here is where I go out a little on a limb. The first step is to make an assumption that Lucifer may have had his headquarters, or whatever you would like to call it, on that planet, before he was cast down. What might be considered more of a giant leap is that one of the things he may have done to bring about his destruction, could have been for Lucifer and his cohorts to experiment with genetics. To try to create their own life forms. This may have caused God's wrath to come down and destroy that planet,



casting Lucifer down to earth, and in the process, devastating the earth. This could easily have killed off the dinosaurs over night, possibly melting the ice caps and flooding the entire world.

This would have brought us to the history that we know about. Starting with Genesis 1:1, “and the Earth was without form or void, and darkness was on the face of the waters.” I don’t know if the Devil was able to bring some of these creatures he had created, or if he just brought the knowledge of how to do it down with him. He could easily have deceived people throughout history. He could also have gotten people, either through fear, or possession, or some other form of deception, to build pyramids, paintings, and all kinds of stuff. All of this designed to help him to deceive the world when the time was ripe.

In many ways it makes sense that he may have had to wait for our technology to progress to the point that he could recreate the abominations that got him into trouble in the first place. Even then, Satan may have had to cross breed those creatures in order to make them stronger, to be a truly viable life form. Experimentation of this nature could explain all kinds of things that have been being reported all over the planet.

Anyway, this brings me to the main point. If the Devil and his cohorts had been planning ahead, and setting up clues and deceptions all down through history, hinting at beings from other worlds. If he aided research and development of craft that could do amazing things, like your saucer. And if, in the near future he revealed these beings that he has created, passing them off as the beings from other worlds. Then Satan could push the deception that these or other such beings had seeded this world thousands of years ago.

Having successfully passed off this deception, the Devil could convince many people that religion was, at the very least an old fable. In fact he could win over most of the planet to follow his lead. It wouldn’t be long before he had convinced the world that any one who still believed in God was down right dangerous.

Is this beginning to sound familiar? Maybe like reading Revelation? If this deception is pushed the way I think it will be, many Christians, or at least a lot of the people that go to church regularly and call themselves Christians will be fooled. They will start considering anything about God, passe. They will start avoiding anything to do with God. No one will object when those who still try to follow the Lord start being persecuted.

One of the things that has been going on, is for people to start connecting events and claim that there must be some kind of conspiracy. After the idea gets a lot of news coverage, it is written off as some kind of extremist being paranoid. That’s the last you hear about the idea. The catch here is, that even though the events really are separate, and the individuals involved can be shown to be acting independently, without any connection to the other events, Satan can still be the driving factor behind the scenes.

If you tried to put an idea like this out in the press, you would be considered a lunatic at the very least. You would probably be considered dangerous. It wouldn’t take long before you were hushed up. So the bottom line is that Satan can pull off a major

deception, and those who oppose Satan are quickly disposed of.”

Jim continued to express some of his concepts of what was going on, and how they could effect each of us in the near future, as they drove back to San Diego. It was one forty A.M. when they got home. Everyone went straight to bed, still hoping to make it to the late service at church the next morning.

## Chapter 6

The Handford's got home from church about twelve thirty. Jim filled in Sara about what had happened to Michael when they'd gotten home the night before. Now, as they sat down to lunch, there was a new topic of conversation. The headlines in the news paper, the radio, and the T.V. were all buzzing with the news.

The World Court had been petitioned by the World Trade Organization to take steps to intervene in some major trade practices being exercised by different countries. Some of the problems included countries that would sell products to third world nations that had been outlawed in their own countries as being harmful to the environment or poisonous to individuals. Other problems included selling of inferior or outdated merchandise to those countries, while keeping the newer products to themselves.

The World Court had ruled that there needed to be an oversight group. An executive body that had the power to control and enforce fair trade practices world wide. In their ruling, the court stated that this body should include members from the G Seven and also the ten member nations of the European coalition. It was noted by the court that representatives from Russia, China, and third world countries should also be involved and have direct input. But that in order to have a viable ruling body, there had to be some limits on who would be on the executive board.

There had been obvious complaints by some of the countries left out of the executive body, especially from Russia and China. The over all feeling at this point was that this would not create any real threat, since all of the countries had become so economically dependent on each other.

Jim expressed his views that this was just another sign of the last days. Michael wasn't so sure about that, but did feel that in some ways this might be for the best. He felt that since the fall of the Soviet Union, the U.S. had run roughshod over many countries. He pointed out the arrogance of calling the Olympic games in Atlanta, "America's Games". Also the selling cigarettes and pesticides to third world nations that had been outlawed in the U.S., and other blatant, morally despicable acts.

Within a few days, diplomats from the member nations had gathered at The Hague. Within two weeks they had drawn up a constitution setting out guidelines for executive officers, including a president, vice president, and a secretary of security. The secretary of security would fall under the president's authority and could use the military forces of the U.N. to ensure compliance with the World President's directives anywhere in the world.

At first there were outcries that this would violate individual country's sovereignty from different groups all over the world. Over the next few months there was a concerted effort by liberal press organizations to praise the unity and peace that would result from the world government. In the United States this was used as an excuse to arrest and control right wing groups that had been calling out for more independence from governmental controls.

Within six months the World Government had been ratified by all the participating countries. Taxes were levied against each country's gross national product, and a quota was set based on population for conscripts for the U.N. military. The other nations that did not want to fall into line soon found that total isolation from the outside world could no longer be accomplished. The few nations that tried, found that all of their assets in foreign banks were confiscated, and that with this kind of authority, trade outside of their borders was impossible.

Libya was the noisiest of those that held out. It was decided to make an example of them, to keep other countries that were wavering from following their lead. They found out the hard way that with the latest electronics and weaponry, the war, if you want to call it that, lasted less than two hours. Afterward Libya was directly controlled by the World Government.

They did not interfere in every conflict. Border skirmishes still occurred in many areas as well as internal uprisings. When there were economic implications however, especially affecting oil, or food supplies, the troops were dispatched in short order.

## Chapter 7

Michael was nervous as he went up to the security office. This was the first time he'd been back to work since he'd seen the saucer last Saturday night. As he walked into the office everything appeared to be normal. Nobody gave him so much as a second glance. He went through his usual routine and showed up for the 9:45 briefing. Everyone was talking about the order that had come out of the World Court. They were guessing how the United States would react.

At five minutes to noon Michael passed through the Air Force guard gate and then on down to building K. He relieved Pete just like all the other times, still without anything unusual. Pete worked the other three and a half day shifts in building K opposite from Michael. That night he was relieved by Don, who worked the three eve shifts at the first of the week and the first half of Wednesday's eve shift. Michael didn't see Jeff again until Thursday evening, and again everything seemed normal. Jeff didn't even mention the incident.

Michael started going down to the club after work. He figured that if anything was going on at the base, that was where people might talk about it. At first he convinced himself that having a few beers and hanging out was okay, since he was really doing it to get information. It wasn't long before it just became a "good" way to pass the time.

Jamie got pretty upset the first time she called up and found Michael drunk. She even threatened to move back to Colorado and live with her parents if he was going to act like that. She argued that this was not the way that the Lord wanted us to behave. It was ruining Michael's ability to be a witness to the people that he worked with. Michael would fire back (when he was sober) that he was free in Christ, and didn't have to fall under the Law.

After a couple of months of this, Jamie was fed up. She arrived at the base by three thirty and was waiting for Michael as he came out of the Air Force guard gate. Michael could tell that she was upset when he got into the truck. They didn't say much while Jamie drove him over to the barracks to get his dirty cloths to take back to San Diego. Jamie would wash them and have them ready to go when it was time to come back Monday evening.

As they were leaving the base and getting onto the highway Jamie said, "I've had enough. This kind of thing has got to stop. What kind of example do you think you are going to be for our children if you're running down to the bar every night and coming home drunk."

"Well, I'm not running down to the bar every night," argued Michael. "And besides, I thought we had agreed not to have kids for now. At least until we can afford to get a house and be a little more secure."

"I hope you can do all that in seven months," Jamie blurted out, "Cause I don't think your son is going to wait any longer than that." Then Jamie started crying.

It took a couple of seconds for all of the ramifications of that statement to sink into Michael's mind. Finally he said, "I thought you were doing something to prevent, I

mean, weren't you taking the pill?"

"Yes," answered Jamie. "But it isn't a guarantee. I don't know, maybe I forgot sometime. Anyway I'm four weeks late, I get sick every morning, and the home test I took was positive. I made an appointment for next Tuesday, but I'm pretty sure what the Doctor's going to say, and Sara thinks so too."

"You told Sara before you told me?" questioned Michael.

"Yes," said Jamie with a little extra bite. "You were out getting drunk when I tried to talk to you."

They drove on in silence for a little while and then Jamie said, "I'm not going on this way, not with a baby. We're going to have to make some changes."

"What kind of changes do you have in mind?" asked Michael. At this point he was much more subdued.

"Well, for one thing, we need to live together," stated Jamie. "We've been married for almost six months and we haven't been together more than three days in a row the whole time."

"How do you expect me to pay for all of that?" asked Michael. "I barely make enough to get by the way we are."

"I've done some checking," answered Jamie. "The Navy will give you a quarters allowance in addition to your pay when you move off of the base. I can work for a few more months. From the money left over from my car when I sold it, and the money I've been able to put away, I have over ten thousand dollars in my bank account. All of the medical expenses will be taken care of by the Navy too. If you really want me, we can do this."

"Of course I want you Jamie," answered Michael. "I just wanted to make sure you were happy. I didn't want to drag you into poverty and have you get sick of me and go back to your mom and dad, or find someone who could take better care of you."

"I've told you before," said Jamie. "I don't care about the money. I love you, and want to spend my life with you. I like Jim and Sara a lot, but I want to live with you."

"How did you save all of that money?" asked Michael.

"Anywhere I could get it," answered Jamie. "I've been saving every thing I can. I've had nice clothes and that kind of stuff all of my life. We don't need those things to be happy. I want to be with you."

At this point Michael had to concede to Jamie. His own arguments didn't even hold up in his mind against what she had said, and he did love her. They agreed that Jamie would continue to work for a couple of months, if it wasn't causing a problem for her or the baby. In the meantime they would try to find an apartment fairly close to the base. Afterwards Jamie could look for work up in that area, or maybe look after other children in their place.

When they got home to San Diego they let Jim and Sara know what they had decided. They also let Jim know that he was going to become a grandfather. The way it turned out, he was the last to know, since Samantha had been present when Jamie had gone to Sara to ask for advice. Jamie had also called home to her mom when she hadn't been able to get hold of Michael.

The next day they had just finished lunch after having gone to church when the door

bell rang. Jim went to the door, and after a few moments came back into the living room.

“Who was it Jim?” asked Sara, as he came into the room.

“Oh it was just the Jehovah's witnesses again,” answered Jim. “Maybe I should just make a sign to hang out front telling them not to bother.”

“I've tried to talk to them before,” said Jamie. “They can be awfully confusing sometimes.”

“It scares me,” said Sara. “When they start talking about Jesus the way they do.”

“That view is spreading, too,” said Jim. “I think Satan is working real hard to get people just to accept that one lie. They keep talking about uniting together in peace. If Satan can convince people to just buy off on the idea that Jesus is not really The Son of God, but just a son of God. Then it is a pretty simple step to say that Buddha and Mohammed and all the other religions are on an equal footing. Besides, with that step Satan has totally undermined the basic message, “That if we confess with our mouth Jesus as Lord, and we believe in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead, we shall be saved.”

“The end has got to be getting close now,” said Jamie. “With this new World Government thing, and all the rest of the stuff that is going on. I'm kind of scared to bring a child into the world in a time like this.”

“I know what you mean,” said Sara. “Jim and I talked about the same thing before we had Sam. The place that we finally came to was that Jesus is the Lord of our lives. He doesn't allow anything to happen in our lives that He can't use for the good, for those who love him.”

“It isn't a promise as to how things will go,” said Jim. “But it does give us assurance that he will use the situation for our good. We do things all through our lives, sometimes we were following the Lord, and sometimes we weren't. God allows us to pay for the mistakes we make, but at the same time he uses those situations to change us and to build us into the person that He has planned for us to be. If we are willing to open ourselves to Him, and allow Him to change our hearts, we can grow and be a part of what He is doing regardless of what mistakes we have made.

“Jim isn't trying to say that your baby is a mistake,” said Sara.

“Oh, no, I'm sorry if it came out that way,” said Jim. “I was just trying to get the idea across, that no matter what our situation is, the Lord will use the situation for our good.”

That night as Jim and Sara were preparing for bed, Jim said, “I was a little disappointed that Michael didn't get more involved in our conversation this afternoon.”

“I know what you mean,” said Sara. “I've noticed his reluctance to talk about the Lord before too. I guess we need to keep praying for him and trust that the Lord will work in his life.”

“I've been doing just that for the last twenty one years,” said Jim. “I'm not about to stop now. I do believe that the Lord has control of his life. Sometimes it's just hard, as a parent, to watch your children go through things and have to learn for themselves. I want to just sit down and explain to Sam and Michael the things that I've gone through. Explain to them the lessons that I've learned and have them be able to bypass those problems and doubts.”

“In a way, that’s kind of why we’re here in the first place.” said Sara. “God could have just zapped all of us, and gotten us to follow him and to do his will. But then we would have been just some kind of a robot. That isn’t what the Lord wanted.”

“I agree,” said Jim. “The Lord wants us to come to Him of our own free will. I guess He must feel the same way about all of us as He watches us stumbling around down here. We just need to keep open to Him. There is no way we can ever be good enough, or earn our way into heaven. We each have to come to the place where we are willing to let the Lord have control of our lives. Then He can finally bring us to the place that He has designed for us.”

“That’s part of how the Lord refines us,” agreed Sara, “Having to watch the kids, and wait on the Lord. Just to trust Him with their lives.”

At this point they went to the Lord in prayer, like they did every evening. But this evening there was a little extra emphasis on Michael and Samantha.



## Chapter 8

Michael was ecstatic as Sara and Jim came into the room. They had come up to the base hospital as quickly as they could. By the time Michael had called them, Jamie had already been in labor four hours. Now after the long drive, the baby was already here. Jamie was laying in the bed with the baby along side. She looked happy, but very tired.

Michael picked up the baby and said proudly, "James Michael Handford, meet your grandparents, Jim and Sara, and that's your aunt Sam."

Sara held out her arms and said, "How much does he weigh?"

"Seven pounds and Twelve ounces," answered Michael, as he handed her the baby. "We'll call him Jimmy for now."

Sara held James for a minute and then handed him over to Jim saying, "Here, Grandpa, meet your grandson."

Jim held the baby and rubbed his finger across Jimmy's cheek. Samantha was pulling on his arm trying to see better. Finally Jim had her sit up in the chair. Then he laid Jimmy into her lap. After all, she was six and a half now, and would be starting the first grade in just a few more weeks.

It was two in the afternoon and Jim told Michael that he and Sara would get a hotel room and stay overnight so they could help out. Jamie's mom Karen was on her way and would arrive by plane in about 2 hours. Karen had intended to come out next week and be there for Jamie, but the baby came three weeks early and caught everyone off guard.

Karen was going to stay with Michael and Jamie in the small two bedroom apartment that they had found. She would stay in the baby's room for a while, and help Jamie until she got stronger. They planned to keep the baby in their room for the first several months anyway.

After a while it was decided that Jim would go to the airport to pick up Karen. Sara and Sam were going to stay with Jamie and Jimmy. Michael would take a break and go down to the cafeteria and get something to eat.

Jim picked Karen up and brought her back to the hospital. Jim and Sara then decided to go find a hotel room and give Jamie some time with her mom. After checking in at the office they took their luggage and went to the room.

Samantha went up to the T.V. set and turned it on. As it came on, the announcer was saying that this was a special announcement from the White House. Sam started turning the channels to find something more interesting, like cartoons. Jim interrupted her and told Sam to turn it back. He wanted to hear what the President had to say now.

As the channel came back on, the President was just beginning to speak. "My fellow Americans. This could truly be the most historic day in our lifetimes. Some time ago we announced that we had discovered evidence of life on Mars. Since then we have continued to explore and pass on to you anything else we have discovered. Now I must come to you and say that we have found actual life."

There was a pause and then the President continued. "I'm not talking about a fossil, or some other artifact. We have made contact with a life form. An alien being from another world." Again the President paused, allowing what he had just said to sink in.

"They arrived last week in an interstellar craft," the President continued. At this point the screen changed to a picture of a saucer. It was black, about two hundred and fifty to three hundred feet in diameter.

"We have had contact with the beings on board, and they come in peace." At this point the picture changed to a smallish gray creature with large eyes.

"We are continuing to communicate with them to better understand where they come from and what they are doing." The picture now returned to the podium in the White House. "What we do know is that they have come a long way. The system that operates their ship is damaged and does not generate the power necessary for them to return home. They have asked for our help in repairing their ship and in the mean time have also offered to share their technology with us.

They have asked to visit places all over our planet in order to learn more about us. It is possible that you will see either their ship, or the beings in your communities. We do request that you do not crowd or frighten them as they feel like we are giants in many ways. They will be escorted by representatives of the World Executive Body, to help with translation and explanation of customs and the like. They are not used to the idea of money, or the need to purchase things, so again we ask for your understanding and patience. The representatives will work with you to straighten out any misunderstandings."

The President continued to explain that we needed to be calm. That there was no threat to us. That the U.S. government and the W.E.B. (World Executive Body) would continue to work with the aliens to better understand them and to take advantage of this new technology to make all of our lives easier.

Jim just stood there, hardly knowing what to say. He'd suspected for years that this was going to happen. Now here it was, and they even were trying to pass off the saucer and other things that he knew had been around and reported all over the place, as being new to the Earth. The alien creatures, whatever they were, fit the descriptions and drawings that people had been reporting for decades. The ship looked just like what Michael had described seeing almost a year ago. The Lord couldn't be far off now.

Jim, Sara, and Samantha went back to the hospital about six thirty that evening. Michael heard about the announcement already and had a newspaper with the pictures of the saucer and the aliens in the hospital room.

"It looks just like what I saw," Michael said, answering Jim's question even before he had a chance to ask it. "If it's not the one I saw, it's an exact duplicate."

"What do you think this all means?" asked Karen. "It kind of gives me the creeps."

"Jim has a theory about all this," said Sara. "I didn't know if I believed it until I saw those pictures. Everything really seems to fit now."

Jim went on to explain to Karen some of what he thought about the Devil setting all of this up in order to deceive us and try to turn us away from God.

"Maybe that's not it at all," said Michael. "Maybe the government has known about

these aliens since way back. Like in 1946 when that crash was supposed to occur. Maybe they just kept it a secret until they had a better understanding of what was going on. Now they are going to let us know about it, since they found out how to communicate and all of that stuff.”

“It’s possible,” answered Jim. “Anything is possible. I just think that as Christians we need to stay open to the Lord and not let ourselves be deceived by Satan. The Bible says that in the end times many will be deceived. I can’t think of a better way to do it, than to try to prove that we are just a innocent, naive race that developed a fairy tale to explain the universe.”

The next day, Jamie and Jimmy were released from the hospital in good condition. Once they were settled at home, Jim and Sara decided it was time to go home and let Jamie and the baby get rested. They checked out of the hotel and returned to San Diego that evening. All of the radio and T.V. channels were full of news about the aliens.

All of the other programing was being preempted while the world followed the creatures every move. They went to malls, grocery stores, amusement parks and factories. Everywhere they went, there were hundreds of camera men and reporters from around the world, following them around.

## Chapter 9

Michael left this Tuesday morning briefing with a feeling of importance. First of all they had informed him that he had been promoted to an E-four. They also informed him that the saucer would be kept in the hanger behind his building. Lots of new people as well as the aliens, which they called Graze, would be using the building K entrance to get into the underground complex. The actual name of the aliens was said to be too difficult for earth people to pronounce.

This was more information than he had been given in the entire year he had been there. Michael was not supposed to talk about things he saw that were not already public knowledge. He was still not allowed to ask questions of the people going through. At least now he felt like a part of what was going on, instead of an outsider that could get in trouble for seeing too much.

Michael was aware that they were not telling the public the whole truth. He was sure that they must have had a good reason for keeping things a secret. Those noises the Graze made, for one thing. It may have taken quite a while to establish communications with them.

Over the next few weeks Michael was able to pick up bits and pieces of additional information. The people passing through building K were not so tight lipped now that the “Big” secret was out. He had learned that the saucer worked just fine in our atmosphere and could even make trips to the moon, but the main drive that let them go from solar system to solar system required a special fuel.

Making the equipment to refine the fuel necessary for the Graze ship was taxing the best efforts of our technology. In addition, the Graze had gone to great lengths to warn the scientists working on the project that the process was extremely dangerous. It was even rumored that one of the planets that the Graze had colonized had literally blown up while they were trying to refine additional fuel.

Michael wasn’t sure what rumors to believe. He was sure that he was in the right place and at the right time. If he was able to play his cards right he might be able to move up, who knows where it could lead.

Of course there were the things that Jim had told Michael over the last year or so. But why should Michael pay attention to all of that? Jim would come up with some crazy new theory for every little thing. Michael felt that Jim was just blindly following the things that he believed, and was not being open minded about any of this stuff. If we all woke up tomorrow and the sun turned purple, Jim would come up with some story as to how this was related to God and the end times.

Michael had to be more realistic than all of that. It wasn’t turning his back on God to look at things with an open mind. To weigh the things belonging to religion on the one hand, and to look at the real world and what was going on in the other hand. God hadn’t been here for two thousand years. What made this time so special? For all Michael knew Christ might not come back for another 2,000 years.

With a new baby and a wife to take care of, Michael needed to worry about his future

and how he could best take care of his responsibilities. He didn't need to get caught up in a lot of other nonsense.

Jamie didn't like the position that Michael had taken. She tried to tell him that having an open mind included staying open to the Lord. Jamie had even won her mother over to her side. He felt like he was getting preached at from all sides when he went home at night.

Michael started stopping off at the club after work again. He wasn't doing it to get drunk, but he usually had a few beers. He really did it to unwind after work. That's where he had gotten a lot of the information about what was going on around here. Besides, he could only take so much of that preaching. Karen was supposed to go back to Denver soon, hopefully things would get better after that.

Jamie, on the other hand was coming to the end of her rope. Jimmy was only a few weeks old and his father was out drinking again. Why couldn't he see that he was being pulled away from everything that was important. Didn't he know how much this was hurting Jamie? On top of all of that, Michael had started doing this stuff while Jamie's mom was still here. How was Jamie to explain all of this to her? That evening when Michael didn't come straight home, Jamie couldn't hold it in any longer and just started crying.

"I want to come home with you, Mom," said Jamie. "I just don't know what else to do. I have a baby to take care of, and I can't do that and fight with Michael about his drinking at the same time. What type of an example does he think he's setting for his son?"

"Michael is under a lot of pressure, too," answered Karen. "He hasn't had to be responsible for anyone but himself before this. Even after you two first got married, he still didn't have to worry about you so much. You got a job right away, and took care of your own needs. Now all of that has changed. Michael could be just a little frightened by all of this. Don't forget, he also has a lot of things going on at work. That has to be causing quite a bit of pressure too."

"I know all of that," said Jamie, sounding somewhat irritated. "But what really bothers me is that he seems to be pushing further and further away from God. How am I supposed to live with a husband who isn't willing to follow the Lord? I have to worry about Jimmy, and make sure that he is brought up knowing Jesus."

"You need to trust the Lord, Jamie," answered Karen. "He knows what you are going through right now. He also knows Michael's heart, not just what he is saying or showing. This isn't just a matter of who is right and who is wrong, or who is following the Lord. God brought the two of you together, that's one thing I am sure of. Your father and I have prayed for you since you were a little girl. First, that you would find the Lord and then as you got older, that you would meet the right man. One that really loved God, and would follow His will.

When you met Michael, we couldn't have been happier. Your father and I had known his mom and step father for several years. Your dad even had Michael in his Sunday school class one year. I have no doubt that Michael loves the Lord, and has given his life to Him. That doesn't mean that there is a guarantee that Michael will never have problems, and he might even appear to be turning his back on God.

One thing I do know is that God is bigger than we are. No matter how bad we mess up, He is right there, ready to take us on. In some cases He has to let us get into some trouble, in order to expose a problem area in our lives. Then we can realize that we are imperfect and that we need to rely on the Lord.

Sometimes He has to show us that it doesn't matter who is right and who is wrong. God wants us to trust Him and not stand on the fact that 'I am right,' and so on and so on. Sometimes He wants us to drop all of that garbage and just trust Him. To turn to the other person and show them the same kind of love that Jesus showed us when He gave His life for us.

Look at the example laid out for us in the Bible. After man had sinned, God showed that He still loved us. He didn't require that we fix ourselves first and become perfect. All the Lord requires is that we trust and believe in Him. At that point, He takes on the job of changing us because we could never do it ourselves.

I'm not trying to tell you how you should handle the situation with Michael. The main thing you need to be sure of is, if Michael is truly seeking the Lord, then the Lord will finish the good work that He has started. It's not up to you or me, either for ourselves, or for the ones we love. We can't get ourselves to heaven, let alone someone else. But God, in His good time, and in His way, will bring Michael to Himself. You can trust God to do it."

After this conversation, Jamie felt a lot better. It hadn't changed what was going on, but it did get her focus back on the Lord where it needed to be. She needed to trust God and be in prayer constantly about all of this. Jamie also needed to keep asking the Lord to grow in her own life. She didn't want to be thrown here and there by every new wind that blew.

## Chapter 10

Jim was eating lunch at the kitchen and talking with Sara. He often would come home for lunch as he traveled between the different job sites he had going. The phone rang and Sara answered it.

“Well, what kind of problem is it?” asked Sara, as the phone conversation went on.

“Yes, we can be there in about fifteen minutes,” answered Sara. and then hung up the phone.

“What’s up?” asked Jim.

“I don’t know,” answered Sara. “That was Sam’s school, the principal said that there was some kind of problem, and they would like one of us to come over there to help straighten it out. He did say that Sam was fine, but he didn’t want to tell me what kind of problem it was over the phone.”

“Let’s go then,” said Jim. I’ll call my foreman on the way and let him know what they need to be doing while I’m gone.”

Jim and Sara hurried out of the house and headed for the school. Samantha was half way through the first grade, and was an excellent student. It came as quite a surprise to Jim and Sara that Samantha could have gotten into a serious enough of a problem to cause this kind of a call from the principal. As they walked up to the school building Jim noticed that there were armed security guards on the school property.

“Since when do we need armed guards at an elementary school?” asked Jim. “We had them at high school when I was growing up, but isn’t this a little bit of overkill?”

“I was surprised too, when I first saw them last year,” answered Sara. “The secretary told me it was to help discourage any drug activity.”

Samantha was sitting outside the principal’s office crying as they came into the building. Sara went over to comfort her. The principal came out and motioned Jim into his office before he got a chance to find out what had happened.

“I’m sorry to call you in like this,” stated the principal, as the door closed behind them. “But we’d like to nip this kind of thing in the bud, before it starts causing a real problem.”

“What kind of problem are you talking about?” asked Jim. “Sam’s always been a good student, and well behaved too.”

“Well, ah, today she was very confrontational with her teacher,” said the principal.

“And she would not follow the instructions that she was given.”

“I find that very hard to believe,” said Jim. “Samantha just doesn’t act that way”.

“That’s why we called you,” said the principal. “We wanted to get your help to get her back on the right track, before she starts to get into some real trouble.”

“Sam knows better than to be disobedient,” said Jim. “We’ll straighten this out right away. What was it that she didn’t want to do?”

“The teacher was having the class recite some poems,” said the principal. “Just some little phrases that the National Education Bureau came out with to help the kids become more familiar with the Graze. It’s an attempt to cut off some of the

discrimination and fear that gets started when something is new and, well, maybe a little strange to us. But Samantha got real angry, and started spouting that the Graze were evil, and that they had come from the Devil. Now obviously we can't have that kind of thing going on in the class room. I'm glad you came right over to help straighten her out."

"Now wait just a minute," said Jim. "Our religious beliefs are our business. And since when is it part of the school curriculum to preach a bunch of nonsense about aliens to our kids."

"I'm sorry you feel that way," said the principal. "But we are following the national directives, and you will need to get Samantha to drop all of this, and follow the program. Besides, the aliens as you call them, have shown that these myths you hang onto as religion, are just stories that your great great grandfathers made up to explain what they couldn't understand."

"I don't think so," answered Jim. "I'll just take my daughter and leave. We'll put her in a private school. You don't have to worry about her any more."

"It doesn't work that way Mr. Handford," said the principal. "The national directives, under the Village Concept issued by Washington, do not allow for that. The directives clearly state that parents unwilling or unable to comply, or who knowingly prevent their children from complying, shall have custody of that child removed and turned over to the State until such time as the parent can prove that they are fit and capable of following the laws of the land."

Jim suddenly felt like the room was closing in on him. He now realized that the security he saw was to help enforce government control of the children, and to control the parents. He had already made a stand. Was it too late to walk out of here with Sam, or could he agree to play along? Jim decided it wasn't worth the risk. He was not going to turn his daughter over to be brainwashed.

The principal was moving toward his phone. Jim decided it was now or never, and reached up across the desk and grabbed the principal's arm. Jim leaned over the desk and with his other hand spun the principal around and twisted his right arm up behind his back.

"Don't fight me or I'll break it," said Jim. "I don't want to hurt you, but I'm not about to let you, or any one else decide what is best for Samantha."

"Now just calm down, Mr. Handford," said the principal. "You won't get out of here like this. The guards will stop you."

"We'll see about that," answered Jim, as he maneuvered the principal over by the door. Jim pinned him up against the wall and told him to be quiet. Jim carefully opened the door and peaked out. Sara was sitting across the hall with Sam in her lap. The secretary was on the phone a few yards away.

"You and Sam head on home," Jim said to Sara. "I'm going to stay here and discuss things for a little while."

"YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO," said Jim very slowly, looking directly into Sara's eyes. "I love you." Then Jim allowed the door to close.

"You're in a lot of trouble already, Mr. Handford," said the principal. "You had better give up now, and let me go, before you get into real trouble."



“I will gladly do whatever I need to, to stop you from attempting to brainwash my daughter with that kind of garbage,” answered Jim.

In the mean time, out in the hallway, Sara sat stunned, staring at the door. She knew exactly what Jim wanted her to do. They had discussed many times what they needed to do in different types of emergencies. That had always been in the future, at some vague place and time that she had hoped down deep would never come. Now, here it was, it was time to act.

Sara got up from the chair, took Sara’s hand and started walking toward the exit. She felt like there were a thousand eyes watching her every move and someone would jump out and grab her at any second. Sara tried to keep from shaking as she pushed open the front door and walked past the guard.

Samantha was dragging behind, and asked when Daddy was going to come. Sara squeezed her hand a little harder and told Sam to just come along, that Daddy would come soon.

By the time Sara got into the truck, she felt like she was going to pass out . Her spine was tingling and her stomach was tied in a knot. Sara started the truck and drove on out of the parking lot. As she turned on to the street she ran over the curb, and was just sure that someone would stop her. She continued down the street and finally regained a little sense of control and started to think.

Sara knew not to go home. That was clear from what Jim had said. Wherever this was leading, he was afraid that they would be arrested or separated. Sara executed the plan by the numbers. First she went to their bank, and withdrew all that was in the savings account. The teller got the manager, but when Sara explained that she was headed to Big Bear to buy a cabin. That they didn’t have the name of the owner, and needed cash. The manager looked the form over and authorized the withdrawal. The bank didn’t usually allow seventy thousand dollars to be withdrawn all at once, but with the story, and the amount of money Jim’s business ran through the bank, they didn’t ask any more questions.

After leaving the bank, Sara went into a mall parking lot and got out of the truck. She then took Sam and went to a pay phone and called for a cab. Once in the cab she told the driver to take them to the waterfront down town. From there they walked several blocks, and then called another cab. Sara had the cabdriver take them to a self storage place and drop them off.

They went in and got Sara and Sam’s suitcases out. At this point she didn’t know whether they would need the camping stuff but decided to take it. She left Jim’s suitcase and backpack in the storage room. She then called for another cab and had it take them to a small motel in La Jolla. Once she had checked in, using an assumed name and paying in cash, she pulled the blinds and tried to calm herself. At this point, she did not know how long she would have to wait.

Back at the school, Jim had the principal remove his tie and used it to secure his hands. Jim then took the principal’s handkerchief and stuffed it in his mouth. Jim threatened to do severe bodily harm him if he didn’t keep quiet. Then locking the door, Jim sat back to wait. The phone rang several times, for long periods and there was knocking at the door. Jim just maintained his silence and glared at the principal

whenever he would move or start to make a sound.

After about two hours, one of the guards was called and pounded on the door. Soon they got the janitor to come and open the door. Jim just sat calmly in the chair and slowly raised his arms, as the security guard came into the room, assessed the situation, and pulled out his gun. It took another forty five minutes for the police to arrive.

The police questioned him and also tried to find out where Sara had gone. During the questioning they dispatched a car to check Jim and Sara's home. Jim would only say that he would not allow them to try and brainwash his daughter and turn her away from God.

Another hour passed and they took Jim down town and booked him for assault. There would be federal charges to follow once the National Education Bureau officers arrived. Jim asked to make a phone call, but was told he would have to wait until the Feds had questioned him.

They kept him in a small room and different people would come and go, mostly trying to find out where Sara and Sam had gone. Jim would occasionally cat nap between sessions, but had no sense of time in this room with artificial light and no windows. They fed him a few times and would let him use a small bathroom off of the room he was in when he really pressed.

Finally they let him go down the hall and use a phone. Jim could see a desk calendar through an opening in the door, and realized that he had been there for two days. He had no doubt that they would trace the call so he made no pretense as to what he was doing. Jim dialed his home phone, and when the voice mail picked up, he said, "I love you baby, You KNOW WHAT TO DO, good bye, and then hung up the phone.

They kept Jim there for about one more day, and then moved him in a closed van to a federal facility. They continued to question him, and were still trying to find out where Sara went. This gave him some hope that Sara and Sam had been able to execute the plan. After two weeks went by, W. E. B. officers showed up and took custody of Jim. They ignored his questions, and Jim wasn't even sure they spoke English.

The W. E. B. took Jim in another closed van to a hanger. They transferred him to a small jet inside of the hanger so he had no idea where they were. Inside the plane he was cuffed to the seat and all of the windows were covered. The plane was in the air about two hours, and then landed. He was then transferred by closed van to another prison. Jim had not been able to see outside the entire time.

Jim was placed inside a cell that was about eight feet deep, and about six feet wide. Three walls were concrete with no windows, and the fourth faced the hallway and was closed in with one inch steel bars with a small door, and a slot to pass food through. There were about ten other prisoners in this wing, or whatever it was. Any noise was immediately met by threats from the guards.

After several hours Jim could barely hear whispering coming from his left. He got as close to the corner as he could and strained to make it out.

"What are you in for," said the voice.

After about a minute, Jim answered, "The school was trying to take my daughter."

“They grabbed me cause I wouldn’t give them my guns,” said the voice.

Jim asked, “Where are we, do you know? Last time I was sure, I was in San Diego. But I don’t know if they took me east or north.

“Try south,” said the voice. “you’re in Mexico now, pal. My name’s Fred, what’s your’s?”

“I’m Jim,” answered Jim. “Mexico, how can they do that? What about extradition, or something?”

“This fancy new World Government doesn’t have to worry about that kind of stuff,” answered Fred. “World laws and regulations supersede national laws, and the constitution for that matter, or so they tell me.”

What about a trial?” asked Jim.

“That I don’t know about,” answered Fred. “All I know is that they keep ya’ here about two weeks. Then they take ya’ out the door at the other end, and you don’t come back.”

Just then a guard came down the hall, beating his billy club along the bars of the cells, and yelling for everyone to shut up. Jim crawled into his bunk, and tried to go to sleep. This was the first time he had been able to lay down since this all began back at the school. He didn’t know what time it was, or what would happen next. He would just have to trust the Lord.

Several hours later, loud music came blaring out of the speakers at either end of the hallway. After about fifteen minutes the guards came down the hall, got two prisoners out of their cells, and escorted them out the back door. Then a man came down the hall pushing a cart with bowls of what looked like oatmeal. Jim took the bowl that was handed to him, along with a glass of water, and ate it quickly. It tasted terrible, but he was hungry, and ate all that they gave him.

As he laid back onto his cot, Jim wondered what they were doing with the prisoners that were taken out. With all of the noise from the music, they could be doing almost anything to them and he wouldn’t be able to hear it. He went back to the Lord in prayer. Jim knew that the only way he would make it through this, was to stay on his knees before the Lord.

This scene replayed itself three times a day. The only difference was that at lunch and dinner time they would bring the prisoners a plate of beans, and a piece of bread. They took prisoners out in the morning, and brought new ones in in the afternoon, or, like in Jim’s case, in the late evening. Jim learned little else about this place, because the guards were constantly monitoring them and would beat the prisoners with clubs if they figured out who had been talking.

Jim had been there ten days when they came for him. Fred had been taken four days earlier. They escorted Jim out the back door and into a courtyard. It was the first time he had seen sunlight in 12 days and it felt very good just to soak it in. As Jim looked around he noticed a group of six men with rifles over at one side of the courtyard talking. Then, as he looked across to the other side of the courtyard he saw a post about six feet high stuck in the ground with a steel ring about five inches in diameter attached to the post about three feet above the ground.

As the guards moved Jim toward the post, he realized that he was about to meet the Lord and was filled with a sense of peace like he had never known. They fastened his

arms behind his back to the post with some handcuffs. Jim prayed that even though he didn't understand how, that the Lord would use this situation to help other people to come to a deeper understanding of God.

They offered Jim a blindfold, but he declined. The presence of the Lord was filling his very being and he could almost see where he was going. Jim felt like he was in another place looking down into someone else as the guards moved away, and the men lined up across the courtyard. He felt a sensation of the wind rushing past him as they raised the rifles to their shoulders and heard the voice say, "Ready-----, Aim-----, Fire."

# Chapter 11

Michael was sitting at the desk in building K as his boss came in the door. He told Michael that there were W.E.B. officers at the headquarters building that needed to talk to him. Then Michael's boss relieved him so that he could go and find out what was up.

As he walked past the Air Force guard shack, some of his old fears came back about the night Michael had first seen the saucer. He soon decided that this couldn't be what they were here to see him about. After all, the saucer wasn't a secret any more. Nobody would listen if he said he had seen it eight months before the saucer was supposed to have arrived anyway.

Coming into the building, Michael was told that the officers were waiting for him in the back office. He walked into the room and introduced himself. There were two men in the room. The larger one sat off to one side and observed Michael while the other one did the talking.

"I'm officer Bellman," he said. "And this is officer Hawkins. We're from the W.E.B. When was the last time you saw your father?"

This caught Michael completely off guard as he fumbled for something to say. "Do you mean my step dad, or my real father?"

"Jim Handford," answered officer Bellman. "Isn't he your real father?"

"Yes, ah yes he is," said Michael. "Let's see, they came up when Jimmy was born, and then again a few weeks later. I guess it's been about three months."

"How about his wife, Sara?" asked Bellman. "Have you talked to her in the last couple of weeks?"

"No, I don't think so," answered Michael. "Jamie, my wife might have talked to her, they're pretty good friends, but she hasn't mentioned it. What's going on any way, has something happened?"

"We'll get to that," said Bellman. "Do you know anything about a cabin, maybe something they were thinking about buying?"

"No, I don't," answered Michael. "Dad's mentioned getting a bigger boat. One that you can sleep on. But I don't remember them saying anything about a cabin."

"How about up at Big Bear?" asked Bellman. "Is there any place particular they stay up there, a friend's cabin, anything like that?"

"I don't think I've ever heard them talk about Big bear," answered Michael.

This type of questioning went on for some time. Michael told them about Jim's 24 foot Bayliner that he kept in Mission Bay. He also answered a lot of questions about Jim's friends and what kind of things Jim liked to do. Officer Bellman then brought up God and Jim's religious beliefs. Michael agreed that Jim had some pretty different ideas about that kind of stuff, but that Michael didn't go along with most of that kind of thing.

Finally Bellman said, "Your dad attacked a school official a couple of weeks ago. He was arrested and taken into custody by the Sheriff's department down in San Diego."

"Why would he do something like that?" asked Michael. "That doesn't sound like Jim

to me.”

“From what we can tell,” answered Bellman. “It was some kind of extremist, right-wing thing. He threatened the principal several times about what they were teaching before he finally went off of the deep end and attacked the principal.”

“How serious is it?” asked Michael. “Just how much trouble is he in?”

“He violated national directives,” answered Bellman. “Federal officers came and were in the process of transferring him to a Federal facility, when he and two other prisoners attacked the officers. They killed one officer and seriously injured the other one. They tried to take them back into custody, but there was a shootout. Mr. Hanford was shot and killed.”

There was a long silence as Michael absorbed what he had just heard. He could hardly believe what officer Bellman was saying. Why would he attack a principal, and even then, why would he try to escape?

After the pause Michael asked, “How is Sara? She must be devastated.”

“That’s what we hoped to find out from you,” answered Bellman. “She, and the girl disappeared right after this all started. There was some indication that she might have gone up to Big Bear. She hasn’t been home since your father attacked the principal.”

Michael was very shaken as he left the headquarters building. They let him take the rest of the day off. He went home and broke the news to Jamie. She insisted that there was no way that Jim would do what they had accused him of unless they had threatened Samantha somehow. After they had talked about it for a while Jamie talked Michael into praying with her and asking God to show them how to deal with this. At first Michael had resisted this, saying that it hadn’t done Jim any good, but he finally gave in and prayed with her.

Over the next two weeks, the W.E.B. officers came back and talked to Michael several times. They had no new information to give him, but continued to ask questions about where Sara and Sam may have gone.

It seemed very odd to Michael that it was W.E.B. officers that were doing all of this. He and Jamie talked about it, but Michael was afraid to ask the officers what brought this into the World jurisdiction, instead of being handled by the State or Federal authorities. The last time they came to see him they brought a silver colored urn with Jim’s ashes in it.

The following Sunday, Michael, Jamie, and Jimmie drove down to San Diego. They stopped by Jim’s house to get the keys for the boat. There was an unmarked car across the street from the house. Two men sat in the car. It appeared that they were taking notes as Michael went into the house.

Michael looked around a little bit while he was in the house. Everything looked normal except for some dirty dishes on the kitchen table that looked like they had been there for a while. Sara was very tidy, so the dishes looked out of place. It did look like someone had gone through papers in Jim’s study, but Michael couldn’t tell for sure.

From there they drove down to Mission Bay. Michael was pretty sure he spotted a car in the parking lot that looked like another surveillance unit. They went out on the docks and Michael got the Bayliner ready to go. Michael drove about three miles out into the bay and then shut off the engine.

Michael read from the Bible the part about those who are dead will be raised first, and then those who are left shall be caught up in the air to be with the Lord. After he finished reading, Jamie prayed. She thanked God for watching over them, and even though they didn't understand what was going on, that they knew that the Lord was using this situation. She claimed the promise that the Lord would use this for the best, for Michael and Jamie and even for Sara, Samantha, and for Jim. Jamie asked God to use this, to make Himself more real in their lives, and for them to grow closer to the Lord.

When she had finished, Michael opened the urn and dumped the ashes out onto the water. They knew that his physical body didn't matter any more. That Jim would have a new body when they were all caught up into the air. Michael then threw the urn as far as he could and they watched it sink into the bay.

As they drove the boat back to the docks, there were two men with binoculars standing out on the end of the breakwater watching. Michael tied up the boat and they walked back to the car. They walked right by the men who had been watching. There was no exchange of communication. After that, they drove back home.

Michael felt very torn by what was going on around him in the "real world" and what God was doing. He knew that the Lord was asking for something deeper in him. He was afraid of what this would mean. How could he take the stand that he felt God wanted him to make and still work where he did? The Navy had been prepping him to move down inside the underground complex and he would probably get another promotion. Michael hoped and prayed that God would not give up on him for not following the Lord in every aspect of his life.

## Chapter 12

From the time this had all started, Sara had hardly slept. It seemed like two months since she left Jim behind at the school, but it had only been two days. She was mad at Jim for making her take Samantha and go, instead of finding a way for all of them to leave together. Now here she was stuck in the motel, waiting to hear from Jim.

By talking to Samantha, she figured out that the school teacher had been talking about the aliens. They claimed to have been around for the last twenty three thousand years. The teacher also told the kids that there was no such thing as God. That the aliens could prove that what the Bible said was just an old fable that our forefathers had created to explain what they didn't understand.

That is what had set off the incident. Samantha had stood up and said that the teacher was lying. The teacher said that Sam was mistaken and had not been taught correctly. Samantha warned her that God would do to her just like He had done to the Pharaoh in Egypt if she didn't quit lying. That's when they took her to the office and called Sara and Jim.

Jim must have felt that they were going to do some real harm, or he wouldn't have sent her away like that. They had discussed the code words on many occasions. They tried to come up with plans to cover almost any situation. For Jim to tell her "YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO" in that kind of a tone made this about as serious as things could get.

They'd even gone so far as to pay a man five thousand dollars to take their driver's licenses and alter them to show a different name and social security number. Since Sara had not had to show I.D. at the motel she'd given them a different alias. The plan was to save the name on the driver's license as long as she could. There was also a fake birth certificate for Samantha, so they could establish I.D. for her as she got older.

In order to make it harder to find them, Jim had one of the men that worked for him, rent the self storage room. Then they put a suitcase for each of them, with clothes and I.D. in the storage. In addition there was camping equipment and freeze dried food in packs, along with a tent, sleeping bags, and a cook stove.

The other thing was the codes. Sara was to stay at the motel and not have any contact with people they knew. Once a day she would find a new pay phone and call the access number to the phone company voice mail. She could then dial their mail box number, give the password, and check for messages without calling their home number.

Once it got dark outside, Sara and Sam walked down the road about a mile and found a pay phone. She punched in the numbers and listened as the recording played Jim's voice, "I love you baby, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, goodbye". Sara started to cry as she realized what Jim was saying. Not only did it mean that she needed to get away as fast as she could, since this was the second time that Jim had used that phrase. But by adding goodbye to the end of the message, he was telling Sara that he did not expect to see her again.



At least Jim had not used the phrase, “YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO”. That would have meant that Sara was supposed to go someplace that even Jim didn’t know about. If Jim was able to get out of the situation he would come and join her as soon as he could.

On the way back to the motel she got a paper and started looking for a car. There was a Jeep Cherokee in the classified section that was about 4 years old and sounded fairly good. After calling and making arrangements to see it that night, Sara called a cab. It was far easier to stay busy than it was to stop and think about what was going on. About every two minutes she would stop and ask the Lord to help Jim and guide her in this situation.

The people were happy to accept cash for the Jeep. They were not bothered when Sara didn’t produce any I.D. either. After the paper work was filled out that had to be mailed in by the previous owner, Sara and Sam were on their way in the new car.

Sara drove to the self storage and got everything except Jim’s suitcase and backpack. She placed twenty thousand dollars in the suitcase so Jim would have some cash if he were able to get out. Then Sara stopped and got them some dinner at a drive through. As she sat in the parking lot, Sara decided to write a letter to Michael and Jamie, explaining what had happened.

Driving toward where they had lived for the last eight years, Sara stopped at a grocery store and got some paper and envelopes as well as some food for their trip. She went back out to the Jeep and wrote the letter. Then Sara went to the pay phone and called a close friend from the church. Without explaining anything she got Martha to come over to the store right away.

When Martha arrived, Sara explained a little about what was going on and asked her to hold on to the letter for a month and then to mail it for her. It was very possible that the police would be trying to get information from Michael and Jamie, and this would help them not to have to lie. Even if they did intercept the letter by that time, it didn’t contain anything that would lead to where Sara and Sam had gone.

Martha had only been there about ten minutes when Sara insisted that she had to go. They hugged and said goodbye then Sara and Sam were on their way. They made one last stop back at the motel to get the suitcases and headed up Interstate Five. Samantha fell asleep as they passed through Bakersfield. Sara knew she would have to rest sometime. She also knew that she would just toss and turn if she tried to sleep right now.

For a girl just about to turn seven, Samantha was handling things fairly well. She trusted God like a little child. Sara wished that she too had the confidence that the Lord would make every thing work out. Right now she just hurt inside, and missed Jim very much.

Sara believed God’s word, that everything would work out for the good for those who love Him, but she had grown very reliant on the partnership and love that had developed between Jim and herself and she didn’t want to let it go. This was a test from the Lord, she could recognize that. He wanted to grow deeper in her than He ever had before and Sara would have to trust Him.

It wasn’t a matter of having to forsake her love for Jim. It was okay for Sara to miss

him and feel the hurt. She recognized all of that, but she needed to let the Lord grow even more in her life and trust His judgments. Even if that meant not seeing Jim again on this earth.

As Sara went over all of this in her mind, she prayed, and laid her heart before the Lord. They passed Sacramento and were headed up into the mountains. It was getting pretty light out and Sara was finding it more difficult to concentrate on her driving. She found a motel, paid for the room, and then carried Sam inside. There was a cafe next to the lobby and Sara got some pre-made sandwiches to take to the room. That way when Samantha woke up, she could eat and watch T.V. while Sara tried to sleep.

About 4:30 that afternoon they checked out of the motel, got something to eat at the cafe, and headed up the road. They charged her for two nights since the checkout time was eleven A.M. but right now with all of this going on, it really didn't matter. Besides, this was putting them on the road at night again which meant less cars on the road.

About noon the next day they passed through Seattle. That afternoon they reached Bellingham. The first thing Sara wanted to do was to go to the ferry docks and get tickets. She should be able to catch the next boat out since the tourist traffic to Alaska was low this time of year.

At the ticket office, Sara found that the boat would not leave until the next day. She bought tickets for the Cherokee and a two person berth, all the way to Skagway. Then they left and found a motel to spend the night.

The trip up the inland passage was nice, and once they got past Ketchikan there was a lot to see. There had been a bear along the shoreline and deer in a couple of places. Eagles seemed to be everywhere, and the whales put on quite a show as they neared Juneau.

Once in Skagway, Sara drove directly to her sister's house. Pat moved to Skagway with her husband Dan five years ago. Dan had been in retail sales for years. After having been on vacation to Alaska, Dan and Pat decided to buy a small gift shop that they operated from May until September. The rest of the year Pat worked on paintings and Dan made small sculptures that they sold in the shop. They also had ads in a few magazines. It kept them busy and they were making a good income.

Pat was not completely shocked to see them when they arrived. Earlier there was a phone call from some kind of official looking for them. Dan talked to them and had promised to call should Sara or Sam show up. After explaining as much as Sara knew, they tried to get some rest. Sara had been on guard since this all started, and this was the first time she felt a little bit safe.

After a couple of days, Pat introduced Sara to a close friend from church. Abbey and her husband, Jed, were in their sixties. They ran a bed and breakfast that was up on the side of the hill to the south of town overlooking the town and the water. Jed also took clients out on hunting or fishing trips in his boat. He would sometimes be gone for two weeks at a time.

During the conversation, Pat mentioned that Sara was looking for a place to stay and some kind of work. Pat and Dan's house was real small and didn't have room for all of them for long periods of time. Abbey said that she had been overworked for the last

two or three years. It would be real nice to have help with all of the house work, making up rooms, doing the laundry, and cooking for the guests.

After talking it over with Jed, it was agreed that Sara and Samantha would move into Pat and Jed's place. Sara could work for room and board. They would also pay her a cash bonus, dependent on the number of guests.

This situation was perfect as far as Sara was concerned. It shouldn't be too difficult to establish Samantha's new identity. With the birth certificate they had made up for her she would be able to get her a social security number. It would be more difficult for Sara to apply for a new social security number and might raise too much suspicion. This way she wouldn't have to. What money she did get would be in cash. Abbey and Jed also agreed not to show her on tax records.

About six weeks after they had arrived, Pat flew down to California to see what she could find out. Stopping off at LAX, she rented a car and drove out by the base where Michael worked. It was Monday, so Michael was home when she called and asked him to meet her. Michael and Jamie told Pat all the things that had happened and what the officers had said about Jim's death.

From there Pat drove to San Diego and retrieved the suitcase and backpack from the self storage. She didn't go to the house in fear that it might still be under surveillance. After that, Pat flew back to Juneau and caught the ferry to Skagway.

Pat told Sara about what had happened to Jim. Sara had already suspected something like this had happened, but it didn't diminish the hurt. She then had to explain to Samantha that her father was in Heaven with Jesus and that they would just have to wait until they went there in order to see him again.

## Chapter 13

It had been six months since Michael learned about his father's death. Prior to that, he'd been moving up in the security speciality. But when it came time to move down into the complex and be responsible for more information, someone or something had blocked him from moving on. He'd suspected that it had to do with whatever happened to his father. They might suspect that since Jim had been a right wing extremist, Michael might be harboring those tendencies also.

Michael went to his boss and asked him about this. His boss answered that the Graze had gone over the list of people who would be working down there and had rejected him. They didn't give any reasons for not wanting him down there and had asked that he be reassigned to another location. Since the Graze passed through building K on occasion, the Navy had complied.

Jamie suggested that the Lord was involved with it. Maybe He had other plans for Michael and that he should be looking at what God was trying to do with him. They prayed together about it and asked the Lord for a clear direction for their lives.

Shortly after this is when Michael talked to his boss. They did give him a promotion to E-five. He now sat at the front desk of the headquarters building screening calls and the personnel that came in. The officers in the security division, including his boss, were in private offices in the back. Michael would forward the calls or notify them that someone was there to see them.

As far as Michael was concerned, they had turned him into a receptionist with no real responsibility. A few weeks later they moved him to the mid shift. Now he came to work at eleven P.M. and sat around until seven A.M. If somebody called in some kind of an emergency, he had a list of who to call to respond to different types of situations. Otherwise he just sat and daydreamed, or played games on the computer.

Tonight he was thinking over the recent events of his life while he snooped around in the files in the computer. The computer was on a local area network (LAN). He could go into the program manager and access files on other computers on the LAN. A lot of the files were not available from other computers, but some were. Occasionally he would run across something interesting.

Recently the Federal Government decided that there was no need for a military force as large as what the U.S. had been maintaining. The W.E.B. was taking over most of the international issues. They had U.N. forces to enforce and hold up the laws as well as respond to all the different conflicts that were going on around the world. The U.S. military was just taking care of the home front. Instead of taking national forces and, in effect, loaning them to the U.N. for a period of time, the U.N. now recruited their own soldiers from around the world. This also eliminated any conflict over whose country was commanding the U.N. troops in any given conflict.

The U.S. was offering an early out to anyone who had more than two years in their current tour of duty. Jamie wanted him to take it and run. They had talked many times about the way things were going in the world. She was convinced that they were in the

last days. It was hard to deny that something was happening with all of the earthquakes, floods, famines and wars, not to mention all of the stuff that had been going on in space.

The biggest concern Michael had was how he was supposed to take care of his family. Jamie tried to convince him that the Lord would take care of them. They just needed to trust and follow wherever God was leading. This agreed with everything Michael had been taught and believed, but he was afraid to take that step.

The last time they'd communicated with Sara, she had suggested that they go up to Alaska. She even said that she knew about a job that Michael might be able to get. He was nervous about the idea of cutting himself off from, well, all of this stuff. He couldn't really explain it, it was more of a feeling inside.

The Lord had been drawing him closer over the past several months. Michael came to understand that hanging out at the club was not what God wanted him to be doing. It wasn't a matter of being under the Law and not being able to do certain things. It was more about opening his heart to God and allowing the Lord to work inside of him.

Michael continued to browse through the files. He came across one titled "W.E.B. guidelines on troublemakers and extremists". This drew Michael's attention like a moth to a flame. He clicked on the file and it started loading. The file was not restricted as to who could access it. The hard drive he was in belonged to the base commander.

As the file opened, there was an explanation as to why it was important to deal with this kind of person. Not allowing them to create an issue that would get the general population whipped up into a frenzy. It went on to say how one dissenter could cause major problems, and harm to the public who would otherwise have been perfectly content.

Scanning down further, he came to the part that told how to deal with this type of person. To start with the guidelines stated, the local authorities should arrest the individual and turn them over to Federal officers. After the Federal government had confirmed the evidence, the individual would then be placed in the hands of the W.E.B. They would then dispose of the individual.

Michael froze right there. He read and reread the last sentence seven or eight times as he let the words sink into his mind. It said "dispose of the individual". Now Michael was really excited. He looked around the room to ensure that he was alone. Getting up, he even surveyed the street in front of the building to make sure no one was out side. The blood was pounding in his head as he sat back down and read more.

The guidelines went on to elaborate how they could explain to the relatives, and general public if needed, what had happened to the individual. They stated that some consideration should be given to what type of person it was. Also whether or not other incidents had happened in that area. Then the information that was passed out could be made to be believable.

Depending on the person, they could state that the prisoner had been in a fight with another prisoner and was killed. This would be preferred, because it would also allow them to claim that another person had been executed for murdering the first prisoner. Secondly, it suggested that if the person had any medical problems, they could claim that there had been a sudden flair up or that the prison officials had been caught off

guard, and that the person had died from the medical problem.

If either of these did not fit the particular case, they could claim that the prisoner was being transferred from one location to another. During the transfer the person tried to escape and killed a guard. The individual then had been killed in order to protect the other officers and the general public.

There it was, in black and white. Michael had no more doubts as to what had happened to his father. They had killed him. Not because he had done anything wrong. But because they were afraid what would happen if other people heard about what was going on with Jim and Samantha, and the stand she had taken in the classroom. This would have stirred up public opinion. It may have started a major uprising against what the government was doing to our children.

Now, all Michael wanted to do was run. Get as far away from the base and anything to do with the government as he could. He closed the file and got out of the LAN. Then Michael loaded up a solitaire game and half heartedly played the game while waiting for his shift to end. His mind was going a thousand miles an hour.

When he got home, Michael woke Jamie up and dragged her into the bathroom. At this point he was afraid of everything. He even worried that they might have listening devices in their apartment. Michael turned on the sink faucet and the shower. Then he whispered to Jamie and told her what he had discovered in the computer.

Jamie took the news almost like she had already heard it. She said this is the type of thing she'd suspected from the start. During the time Jamie spent with them in San Diego, she had gotten to know Jim and Sara and found it hard to believe the story they had been told.

Michael told her that he wanted to take the early out and move away from there as quickly as they could. When she asked where he wanted to go, Michael said that he guessed they would be moving to Alaska. Jamie agreed that this was the best course of action and started making plans.

After taking a shower and trying to eat some breakfast, Michael went down to the personnel office to fill out the paperwork for the release. He was far too excited and nervous to sleep, and wanted to get this over with. They told him it would take two weeks to process the paperwork. A couple of days later, his boss called and said that he was sorry to see him go but that he didn't expect any complications with Michael's request.

At this point Michael didn't want to raise any suspicions as to where they were going to go. He and Jamie told everyone they were going back to Colorado and that they would live with her folks and Michael could go to school. They took the additional precaution not to make any phone calls or send any mail to Alaska just in case people were watching or listening.

A week later, Jamie had a garage sale and got rid of the furniture they owned. Once the paper work was done and Michael was discharged, they jumped in the truck and drove to Boulder. This gave them a chance to tell their parents what was going on, and why they were moving to Alaska. They stayed in Boulder a week. During that time Michael sold the truck. With that money, and what they had left of the money Jamie had saved up in San Diego, they had just over \$8,000 in cash.

At the end of the week, they said their good-bye's and took a bus to Bellingham, Washington. It was at the end of the tourist season. Since they didn't have a vehicle, Michael was able to get tickets on the next ferry north. There were no berths available, so they would have to sleep on the covered deck or in the observation lounge. This also saved some money, and they had brought sleeping bags with them to sleep in.

When they reached Juneau, Michael went to the ferry terminal and finally called Sara to let her know that they were coming. She was glad to hear this and tried to ask all kinds of questions. Michael told her that they would explain everything when they got to Skagway the following morning.

## Chapter 14

The reunion was a very happy time for Sara as she and Samantha met Michael, Jamie and Jimmy at the ferry dock. It had been almost a year since she'd seen them. Jimmie's first birthday was just a few days off. Once everything was loaded into the Cherokee, they headed up the hill to Jed and Abbey's bed and breakfast. One of the smaller rooms was not occupied. Sara had arranged for them to use it until they had a chance to find out what was going on.

After they had gotten settled, Sara introduced them to Jed and Abbey. She explained that they were good friends in Christ, and that they knew all about what had happened in San Diego. From this introduction, Michael felt comfortable enough to share what had happened to them and what he had discovered in the computer at work. Sara cried as he explained about the excuses for disposal of right wing extremists, but she insisted that he go on and tell the whole story.

When he was done, Sara said that she was not surprised at what Michael had found. There had never been any doubt in her mind that the story the officers had originally given to Michael was not the real thing. Jim was willing to fight, and risk his life to protect his family. But he wouldn't have tried to break out or shoot somebody just to get away.

Jed then told Michael that the job being his assistant was still open if he wanted it. A large part of the work would be to go out with Jed on the boat on the fishing and hunting charters. Michael would have to learn to bait the hooks, clean and filet the fish and pack gear when they went ashore. He would also be responsible to clean, dress and pack the meat out, after the clients shot the game. Camp cooking was one of Jed's specialties and he wasn't quite ready to give that up yet.

It sounded great to Michael and a whole lot better than manning a desk. They also talked about whether or not Michael and Jamie's moving there would cause a problem for Sara and Samantha. After looking at all of the angles they could think of, it was decided that they were probably too small a fish for the W.E.B. to still be looking for them seriously. As long as they didn't do anything to raise attention, they thought it would be all right.

A few weeks later, Jamie was able to get a job working for a couple that ran a hotel downtown. During the off season they would close the hotel and go outside (to the lower forty eight). Jamie would be responsible to make sure any thing that came up got taken care of while the owners were out of town. Once the tourist season started she could work at the front desk, and help with the bookkeeping. Jamie and Michael would be able to live in the hotel year-round.

Things were running very smoothly, and within a few months Michael was even taking clients out in the boat by himself for some of the shorter trips. The small church group that Sara had taken them to was great also. The Lord really seemed to be working in their lives and showing them many new things.

As time progressed, Michael took over more and more of the responsibility for the



Charters. The amount he got paid was in direct relation to how much Jed had him do. This worked well for both of them. Jed was able to semi-retire but still stay in the place that he loved. Michael was able to provide for his family, and have a lot of fun in the outdoors at the same time.

One beautiful summer afternoon when Michael was not out on a charter, Sara fixed a barbecue out on the patio. Jamie was able to get away from the hotel, and Dan and Pat left an employee in charge of their shop. Samantha and Jimmie were playing with a ball on the grass. All of the adults, including Jed and Abbey were talking and enjoying the sunshine.

Suddenly the sky parted and the heavens opened up. The Lord was descending toward the Earth. They were lifted up to meet him in the air. Jim was there waiting for them.

After the things that had been foretold in the Revelation had taken place, every knee bowed and every tongue confessed that “Jesus Christ Is Lord.”

The New Beginning

# References

## Matthew 24-25

Matt. 24:1 And Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him.

Matt. 24:2 And He answered and said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here shall be left upon another, which will not be torn down."

Matt. 24:3 And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what {will be} the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Matt. 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you.

Matt. 24:5 "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.

Matt. 24:6 "And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for {those things} must take place, but {that} is not yet the end.

Matt. 24:7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.

Matt. 24:8 "But all these things are {merely} the beginning of birth pangs.

Matt. 24:9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name.

Matt. 24:10 "And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another.

Matt. 24:11 "And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many.

Matt. 24:12 "And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.

Matt. 24:13 "But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.

Matt. 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.

Matt. 24:15 "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

Matt. 24:16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains;

Matt. 24:17 let him who is on the housetop not go down to get the things out that are in his house;

Matt. 24:18 and let him who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak.

Matt. 24:19 "But woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days!

Matt. 24:20 "But pray that your flight may not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath;

Matt. 24:21 for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.

Matt. 24:22 "And unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days shall be cut short.

Matt. 24:23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There {He is,}' do not believe {him.}

Matt. 24:24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

Matt. 24:25 "Behold, I have told you in advance.

Matt. 24:26 "If therefore they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go forth, {or,} 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe {them.}

Matt. 24:27 "For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.

Matt. 24:28 "Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

Matt. 24:29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken,

Matt. 24:30 and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

Matt. 24:31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Matt. 24:32 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near;

Matt. 24:33 even so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, {right} at the door.

Matt. 24:34 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

Matt. 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.

Matt. 24:36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

Matt. 24:37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

Matt. 24:38 "For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

Matt. 24:39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.

Matt. 24:40 "Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left.

Matt. 24:41 "Two women {will be} grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left.

Matt. 24:42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

Matt. 24:43 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.

Matt. 24:44 "For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think {He will.}

Matt. 24:45 "Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?

Matt. 24:46 "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.

Matt. 24:47 "Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

Matt. 24:48 "But if that evil slave says in his heart, 'My master is not coming for a long time,'

Matt. 24:49 and shall begin to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards;

Matt. 24:50 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect {him} and at an hour which he does not know,

Matt. 24:51 and shall cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; weeping shall be there and the gnashing of teeth.

Matt. 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Matt. 25:2 "And five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.

Matt. 25:3 "For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,

Matt. 25:4 but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.

Matt. 25:5 "Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and {began} to sleep.

Matt. 25:6 "But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet {him.}'

Matt. 25:7 "Then all those virgins rose, and trimmed their lamps.

Matt. 25:8 "And the foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

Matt. 25:9 "But the prudent answered, saying, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you {too;} go instead to the dealers and buy {some} for yourselves.'

Matt. 25:10 "And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and

those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.

Matt. 25:11 "And later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.'

Matt. 25:12 "But he answered and said, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'

Matt. 25:13 "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

Matt. 25:14 "For {it is} just like a man {about} to go on a journey, who called his own slaves, and entrusted his possessions to them.

Matt. 25:15 "And to one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.

Matt. 25:16 "Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents.

Matt. 25:17 "In the same manner the one who {had received} the two {talents} gained two more.

Matt. 25:18 "But he who received the one {talent} went away and dug in the ground, and hid his master's money.

Matt. 25:19 "Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

Matt. 25:20 "And the one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me; see, I have gained five more talents.'

Matt. 25:21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.'

Matt. 25:22 "The one also who {had received} the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted to me two talents; see, I have gained two more talents.'

Matt. 25:23 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Matt. 25:24 "And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no {seed}.'

Matt. 25:25 'And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground; see, you have what is yours.'

Matt. 25:26 "But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I scattered no {seed}.'

Matt. 25:27 'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my {money} back with interest.'

Matt. 25:28 'Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'

Matt. 25:29 "For to everyone who has shall {more} be given, and he shall have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.

Matt. 25:30 "And cast out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matt. 25:31 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

Matt. 25:32 "And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

Matt. 25:33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

Matt. 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'

Matt. 25:35 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me {something} to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;

Matt. 25:36 naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'

Matt. 25:37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink?

Matt. 25:38 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?

Matt. 25:39 'And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

Matt. 25:40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did

it to one of these brothers of Mine, {even} the least {of them,} you did it to Me.'

Matt. 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

Matt. 25:42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me {nothing} to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink;

Matt. 25:43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'

Matt. 25:44 "Then they themselves also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'

Matt. 25:45 "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

Matt. 25:46 "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

## Revelation 1-3

Rev. 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place; and He sent and communicated {it} by His angel to His bond-servant John,

Rev. 1:2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, {even} to all that he saw.

Rev. 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Rev. 1:4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne;

Rev. 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood,

Rev. 1:6 and He has made us {to be} a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him {be} the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Rev. 1:7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen.

Rev. 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Rev. 1:9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance {which are} in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos, because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Rev. 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like {the sound} of a trumpet,

Rev. 1:11 saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send {it} to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

Rev. 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;

Rev. 1:13 and in the middle of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden girdle.

Rev. 1:14 And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire;

Rev. 1:15 and His feet {were} like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice {was} like the sound of many waters.

Rev. 1:16 And in His right hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp

two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

Rev. 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,

Rev. 1:18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

Rev. 1:19 "Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things.

Rev. 1:20 "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Rev. 2:1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

Rev. 2:2 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them {to be} false;

Rev. 2:3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

Rev. 2:4 'But I have {this} against you, that you have left your first love.

Rev. 2:5 'Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place —unless you repent.

Rev. 2:6 'Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Rev. 2:7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.'

Rev. 2:8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:

Rev. 2:9 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Rev. 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Rev. 2:11 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.'

Rev. 2:12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:

Rev. 2:13 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith, even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Rev. 2:14 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit {acts of} immorality.

Rev. 2:15 'Thus you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Rev. 2:16 'Repent therefore; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.

Rev. 2:17 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give {some} of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

Rev. 2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this:

Rev. 2:19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first.

Rev. 2:20 'But I have {this} against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray, so that they commit {acts of}

immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Rev. 2:21 'And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

Rev. 2:22 'Behold, I will cast her upon a bed {of sickness} , and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds.

Rev. 2:23 'And I will kill her children with pestilence; and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

Rev. 2:24 'But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them —I place no other burden on you.

Rev. 2:25 'Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come.

Rev. 2:26 'And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO him I will give authority over the NATIONS;

Rev. 2:27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received {authority} from My Father;

Rev. 2:28 and I will give him the morning star.

Rev. 2:29 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Rev. 3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

Rev. 3:2 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

Rev. 3:3 'Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep {it;} and repent. If therefore you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you.

Rev. 3:4 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy.

Rev. 3:5 'He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.

Rev. 3:6 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Rev. 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this:

Rev. 3:8 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

Rev. 3:9 'Behold, I will cause {those} of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews, and are not, but lie —behold, I will make them to come and bow down at your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

Rev. 3:10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that {hour} which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.

Rev. 3:11 'I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, in order that no one take your crown.

Rev. 3:12 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Rev. 3:13 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Rev. 3:14 "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

Rev. 3:15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot.

Rev. 3:16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

Rev. 3:17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,

Rev. 3:18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and {that} the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see.

Rev. 3:19 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent.  
Rev. 3:20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.  
Rev. 3:21 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.  
Rev. 3:22 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

## Revelation 4-6

Rev. 4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door {standing} open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like {the sound} of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."

Rev. 4:2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.

Rev. 4:3 And He who was sitting {was} like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and {there was} a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.

Rev. 4:4 And around the throne {were} twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones {I saw} twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.

Rev. 4:5 And from the throne proceed flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And {there were} seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

Rev. 4:6 and before the throne {there was,} as it were, a sea of glass like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.

Rev. 4:7 And the first creature {was} like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature {was} like a flying eagle.

Rev. 4:8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, {is} THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, who was and who is and who is to come."

Rev. 4:9 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,

Rev. 4:10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Rev. 4:11 "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."

Rev. 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.

Rev. 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?"

Rev. 5:3 And no one in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or to look into it.

Rev. 5:4 And I {began} to weep greatly, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look into it;

Rev. 5:5 and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."

Rev. 5:6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

Rev. 5:7 And He came, and He took {it} out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Rev. 5:8 And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the



prayers of the saints.

Rev. 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying, Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood {men} from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Rev. 5:10 "And Thou hast made them {to be} a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

Rev. 5:11 And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,

Rev. 5:12 saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

Rev. 5:13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, {be} blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

Rev. 5:14 And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Rev. 6:1 And I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come."

Rev. 6:2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer.

Rev. 6:3 And when He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come."

Rev. 6:4 And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that {men} should slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.

Rev. 6:5 And when He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." And I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

Rev. 6:6 And I heard as it were a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

Rev. 6:7 And when He broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come."

Rev. 6:8 And I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. And authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Rev. 6:9 And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;

Rev. 6:10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Rev. 6:11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until {the number of} their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.

Rev. 6:12 And I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth {made} of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;

Rev. 6:13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

Rev. 6:14 And the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Rev. 6:15 And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

Rev. 6:16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

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Rev. 6:10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

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Rev. 6:14 And the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Rev. 6:15 And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

Rev. 6:16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

Rev. 6:17 for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand?”

## Revelation 7-11

Rev. 7:1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind should blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

Rev. 7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living

God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,

Rev. 7:3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

Rev. 7:4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

Rev. 7:5 from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand {were} sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,

Rev. 7:6 from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,

Rev. 7:7 from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,

Rev. 7:8 from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand {were} sealed.

Rev. 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and {all} tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches {were} in their hands;

Rev. 7:10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Rev. 7:11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and {around} the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

Rev. 7:12 saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, {be} to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Rev. 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?"

Rev. 7:14 And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev. 7:15 "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them.

Rev. 7:16 "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;

Rev. 7:17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes."

Rev. 8:1 And when He broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Rev. 8:2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God; and seven trumpets were given to them.

Rev. 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Rev. 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.

Rev. 8:5 And the angel took the censer; and he filled it with the fire of the altar and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

Rev. 8:6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.

Rev. 8:7 And the first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

Rev. 8:8 And the second angel sounded, and {something} like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood;

Rev. 8:9 and a third of the creatures, which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Rev. 8:10 And the third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters;

Rev. 8:11 and the name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood; and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

Rev. 8:12 And the fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were smitten, so that a third of them might be darkened and the day might not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.

Rev. 8:13 And I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe, to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

Rev. 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him.

Rev. 9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.

Rev. 9:3 And out of the smoke came forth locusts upon the earth; and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Rev. 9:4 And they were told that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Rev. 9:5 And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man.

Rev. 9:6 And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; and they will long to die and death flees from them.

Rev. 9:7 And the appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads, as it were, crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.

Rev. 9:8 And they had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like {the teeth} of lions.

Rev. 9:9 And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle.

Rev. 9:10 And they have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months.

Rev. 9:11 They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

Rev. 9:12 The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.

Rev. 9:13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

Rev. 9:14 one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

Rev. 9:15 And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they might kill a third of mankind.

Rev. 9:16 And the number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

Rev. 9:17 And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: {the riders} had breastplates {the color} of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone.

Rev. 9:18 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone, which proceeded out of their mouths.

Rev. 9:19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads; and with them they do harm.

Rev. 9:20 And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk;

Rev. 9:21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

Rev. 10:1 And I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire;

Rev. 10:2 and he had in his hand a little book which was open. And he placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land;

Rev. 10:3 and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices.

Rev. 10:4 And when the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken, and do not write them."

Rev. 10:5 And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven,

Rev. 10:6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS IN IT, that there shall be delay no longer,

Rev. 10:7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.

Rev. 10:8 And the voice which I heard from heaven, {I heard} again speaking with me, and saying, "Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land."

Rev. 10:9 And I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he said to me, "Take it, and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey."

Rev. 10:10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was in my mouth sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.

Rev. 10:11 And they said to me, "You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings."

Rev. 11:1 And there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, "Rise and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and those who worship in it.

Rev. 11:2 "And leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.

Rev. 11:3 "And I will grant {authority} to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

Rev. 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

Rev. 11:5 And if anyone desires to harm them, fire proceeds out of their mouth and devours their enemies; and if anyone would desire to harm them, in this manner he must be killed.

Rev. 11:6 These have the power to shut up the sky, in order that rain may not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.

Rev. 11:7 And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.

Rev. 11:8 And their dead bodies {will lie} in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

Rev. 11:9 And those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations {will} look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb.

Rev. 11:10 And those who dwell on the earth {will} rejoice over them and make merry; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

Rev. 11:11 And after the three and a half days the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were beholding them.

Rev. 11:12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies beheld them.

Rev. 11:13 And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; and seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Rev. 11:14 The second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

Rev. 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become {the kingdom} of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

Rev. 11:16 And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God,

Rev. 11:17 saying, "We give Thee thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who art and who wast, because Thou hast taken Thy great power and hast begun to reign.

Rev. 11:18 "And the nations were enraged, and Thy wrath came, and the time {came} for the dead to be judged, and {the time} to give their reward to Thy bond-servants the prophets and to the saints and to those who fear Thy name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth."

Rev. 11:19 And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

## Revelation 12-14

Rev. 12:1 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars;

Rev. 12:2 and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.

Rev. 12:3 And another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads {were} seven diadems.

Rev. 12:4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child.

Rev. 12:5 And she gave birth to a son, a male {child} , who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

Rev. 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she might be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Rev. 12:7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war,

Rev. 12:8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

Rev. 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

Rev. 12:11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.

Rev. 12:12 "For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has {only} a short time."

Rev. 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male {child.}

Rev. 12:14 And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time,

from the presence of the serpent.

Rev. 12:15 And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.

Rev. 12:16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.

Rev. 12:17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Rev. 13:1 And he stood on the sand of the seashore. And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns {were} ten diadems, and on his heads {were} blasphemous names.

Rev. 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like {those} of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

Rev. 13:3 And {I saw} one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed {and followed} after the beast;

Rev. 13:4 and they worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"

Rev. 13:5 And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.

Rev. 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, {that is} , those who dwell in heaven.

Rev. 13:7 And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

Rev. 13:8 And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, {everyone} whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

Rev. 13:9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

Rev. 13:10 If anyone {is destined} for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.

Rev. 13:11 And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke as a dragon.

Rev. 13:12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.

Rev. 13:13 And he performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.

Rev. 13:14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

Rev. 13:15 And there was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast might even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

Rev. 13:16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead,

Rev. 13:17 and {he provides} that no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, {either} the name of the beast or the number of his name.

Rev. 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

Rev. 14:1 And I looked, and behold, the Lamb {was} standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

Rev. 14:2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard {was} like {the sound} of harpists playing on their harps.

Rev. 14:3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the



elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.

Rev. 14:4 These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These {are} the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

Rev. 14:5 And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.

Rev. 14:6 And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people;

Rev. 14:7 and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."

Rev. 14:8 And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality."

Rev. 14:9 And another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand,

Rev. 14:10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Rev. 14:11 "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

Rev. 14:12 Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

Rev. 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

Rev. 14:14 And I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud {was} one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head, and a sharp sickle in His hand.

Rev. 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying out with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle and reap, because the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe."

Rev. 14:16 And He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth; and the earth was reaped.

Rev. 14:17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle.

Rev. 14:18 And another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Put in your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe."

Rev. 14:19 And the angel swung his sickle to the earth, and gathered {the clusters from} the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God.

Rev. 14:20 And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.

## Revelation 15-18

Rev. 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, {which are} the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished.

Rev. 15:2 And I saw, as it were, a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had come off victorious from the beast and from his image and from the number of his name, standing on the sea

of glass, holding harps of God.

Rev. 15:3 And they sang the song of Moses the bond-servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the nations.

Rev. 15:4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou alone art holy; For ALL the nations will come and worship before Thee, For Thy righteous acts have been revealed."

Rev. 15:5 After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened,

Rev. 15:6 and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean {and} bright, and girded around their breasts with golden girdles.

Rev. 15:7 And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever.

Rev. 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

Rev. 16:1 And I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God into the earth."

Rev. 16:2 And the first {angel} went and poured out his bowl into the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore upon the men who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

Rev. 16:3 And the second {angel} poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like {that} of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died.

Rev. 16:4 And the third {angel} poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood.

Rev. 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous art Thou, who art and who wast, O Holy One, because Thou didst judge these things;

Rev. 16:6 for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and Thou hast given them blood to drink. They deserve it."

Rev. 16:7 And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Thy judgments."

Rev. 16:8 And the fourth {angel} poured out his bowl upon the sun; and it was given to it to scorch men with fire.

Rev. 16:9 And men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues; and they did not repent, so as to give Him glory.

Rev. 16:10 And the fifth {angel} poured out his bowl upon the throne of the beast; and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain,

Rev. 16:11 and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

Rev. 16:12 And the sixth {angel} poured out his bowl upon the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, that the way might be prepared for the kings from the east.

Rev. 16:13 And I saw {coming} out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs;

Rev. 16:14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.

Rev. 16:15 ("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his garments, lest he walk about naked and men see his shame.")

Rev. 16:16 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Harmagedon.

Rev. 16:17 And the seventh {angel} poured out his bowl upon the air; and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done."

Rev. 16:18 And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake {was it, and} so mighty.

Rev. 16:19 And the great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And

Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

Rev. 16:20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Rev. 16:21 And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.

Rev. 17:1 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I shall show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

Rev. 17:2 with whom the kings of the earth committed {acts of} immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality."

Rev. 17:3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

Rev. 17:4 And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality,

Rev. 17:5 and upon her forehead a name {was} written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

Rev. 17:6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered greatly.

Rev. 17:7 And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I shall tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

Rev. 17:8 "The beast that you saw was and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and to go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth will wonder, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

Rev. 17:9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits,

Rev. 17:10 and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.

Rev. 17:11 "And the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is {one} of the seven, and he goes to destruction.

Rev. 17:12 "And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.

Rev. 17:13 "These have one purpose and they give their power and authority to the beast.

Rev. 17:14 "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him {are the} called and chosen and faithful."

Rev. 17:15 And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.

Rev. 17:16 "And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.

Rev. 17:17 "For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be fulfilled.

Rev. 17:18 "And the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."

Rev. 18:1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory.

Rev. 18:2 And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.

Rev. 18:3 "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed {acts of} immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality."

Rev. 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues;

Rev. 18:5 for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

Rev. 18:6 "Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back {to her} double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her.

Rev. 18:7 "To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I SIT {as} A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning.'

Rev. 18:8 "For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.

Rev. 18:9 "And the kings of the earth, who committed {acts of} immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,

Rev. 18:10 standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'

Rev. 18:11 "And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more;

Rev. 18:12 cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every {kind of} citron wood and every article of ivory and every article {made} from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,

Rev. 18:13 and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and {cargoes} of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.

Rev. 18:14 "And the fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and {men} will no longer find them.

Rev. 18:15 "The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,

Rev. 18:16 saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls;

Rev. 18:17 for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!' And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance,

Rev. 18:18 and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What {city} is like the great city?'

Rev. 18:19 "And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!'

Rev. 18:20 "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her."

Rev. 18:21 And a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.

Rev. 18:22 "And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer; and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer;

Rev. 18:23 and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.

Rev. 18:24 "And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth."

## Revelation 19-22

Rev. 19:1 After these things I heard, as it were, a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God;

Rev. 19:2 BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE has AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER."

Rev. 19:3 And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER."

Rev. 19:4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!"

Rev. 19:5 And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great."

Rev. 19:6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Rev. 19:7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

Rev. 19:8 And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright {and} clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Rev. 19:9 And he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

Rev. 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Rev. 19:11 And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it {is} called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

Rev. 19:12 And His eyes {are} a flame of fire, and upon His head {are} many diadems; and He has a name written {upon Him} which no one knows except Himself.

Rev. 19:13 And {He is} clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God.

Rev. 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white {and} clean, were following Him on white horses.

Rev. 19:15 And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

Rev. 19:16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Rev. 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God;

Rev. 19:18 in order that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."

Rev. 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army.

Rev. 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

Rev. 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat upon the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Rev. 20:1 And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

Rev. 20:2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

Rev. 20:3 and threw him into the abyss, and shut {it} and sealed {it} over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

Rev. 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I {saw} the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev. 20:5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

Rev. 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Rev. 20:7 And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,

Rev. 20:8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

Rev. 20:9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

Rev. 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Rev. 20:11 And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

Rev. 20:12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is {the book} of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

Rev. 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one {of them} according to their deeds.

Rev. 20:14 And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

Rev. 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Rev. 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer {any} sea.

Rev. 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev. 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them,

Rev. 21:4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be {any} death; there shall no longer be {any} mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

Rev. 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

Rev. 21:6 And He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

Rev. 21:7 "He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

Rev. 21:8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral

persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part {will be} in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Rev. 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues, came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I shall show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

Rev. 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

Rev. 21:11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.

Rev. 21:12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names {were} written on them, which are {those} of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.

Rev. 21:13 {There were} three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.

Rev. 21:14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them {were} the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Rev. 21:15 And the one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall.

Rev. 21:16 And the city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal.

Rev. 21:17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, {according to} human measurements, which are {also} angelic {measurements.}

Rev. 21:18 And the material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

Rev. 21:19 The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald;

Rev. 21:20 the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

Rev. 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

Rev. 21:22 And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple.

Rev. 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp {is} the Lamb.

Rev. 21:24 And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it.

Rev. 21:25 And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed;

Rev. 21:26 and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it;

Rev. 21:27 and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Rev. 22:1 And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,

Rev. 22:2 in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve {kinds of} fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Rev. 22:3 And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him;

Rev. 22:4 and they shall see His face, and His name {shall be} on their foreheads.

Rev. 22:5 And there shall no longer be {any} night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.

Rev. 22:6 And he said to me, “These words are faithful and true”; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must shortly take place.

Rev. 22:7 “And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of

this book.”

Rev. 22:8 And I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

Rev. 22:9 And he said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book; worship God.”

Rev. 22:10 And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

Rev. 22:11 “Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and let the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and let the one who is holy, still keep himself holy.”

Rev. 22:12 “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward {is} with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

Rev. 22:13 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Rev. 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

Rev. 22:15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

Rev. 22:16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star.”

Rev. 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

Rev. 22:18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

Rev. 22:19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

Rev. 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Rev. 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

## 1 Peter

1Pet. 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen

1Pet. 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.

1Pet. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1Pet. 1:4 to {obtain} an inheritance {which is} imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

1Pet. 1:5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1Pet. 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

1Pet. 1:7 that the proof of your faith, {being} more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of



Jesus Christ;

1Pet. 1:8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

1Pet. 1:9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

1Pet. 1:10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that {would come} to you made careful search and inquiry,

1Pet. 1:11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

1Pet. 1:12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven Ñthings into which angels long to look.

1Pet. 1:13 Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober {in spirit,} fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1Pet. 1:14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts {which were yours} in your ignorance,

1Pet. 1:15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all {your} behavior;

1Pet. 1:16 because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

1Pet. 1:17 And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay {upon earth} ;

1Pet. 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

1Pet. 1:19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, {the blood} of Christ.

1Pet. 1:20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

1Pet. 1:21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

1Pet. 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

1Pet. 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, {that is,} through the living and abiding word of God.

1Pet. 1:24 For, ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,

1Pet. 1:25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ABIDES FOREVER." And this is the word which was preached to you.

1Pet. 2:1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

1Pet. 2:2 like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

1Pet. 2:3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

1Pet. 2:4 And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God,

1Pet. 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1Pet. 2:6 For {this} is contained in Scripture: BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER {stone} , AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

1Pet. 2:7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER {stone,} "

1Pet. 2:8 and, A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this {doom} they were also appointed.

1Pet. 2:9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR {God's} OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1Pet. 2:10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

1Pet. 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul.

1Pet. 2:12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe {them,} glorify God in the day of visitation.

1Pet. 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

1Pet. 2:14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

1Pet. 2:15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

1Pet. 2:16 {Act} as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but {use it} as bondslaves of God.

1Pet. 2:17 Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

1Pet. 2:18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

1Pet. 2:19 For this {finds} favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

1Pet. 2:20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer {for it} you patiently endure it, this {finds} favor with God.

1Pet. 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

1Pet. 2:22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

1Pet. 2:23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting {Himself} to Him who judges righteously;

1Pet. 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

1Pet. 2:25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

1Pet. 3:1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any {of them} are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

1Pet. 3:2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

1Pet. 3:3 And let not your adornment be {merely} external ~braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;

1Pet. 3:4 but {let it be} the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

1Pet. 3:5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands.

1Pet. 3:6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

1Pet. 3:7 You husbands likewise, live with {your wives} in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1Pet. 3:8 To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

1Pet. 3:9 not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

1Pet. 3:10 For, LET HIM WHO MEANS TO LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING GUILE.

1Pet. 3:11 "AND LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.

1Pet. 3:12 "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE UPON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

1Pet. 3:13 And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?

1Pet. 3:14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, {you are} blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,

1Pet. 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always {being} ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

1Pet. 3:16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

1Pet. 3:17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

1Pet. 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, {the} just for {the} unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

1Pet. 3:19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits {now} in prison,

1Pet. 3:20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through {the} water.

1Pet. 3:21 And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you Ñnot the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience Ñthrough the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

1Pet. 3:22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

1Pet. 4:1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

1Pet. 4:2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

1Pet. 4:3 For the time already past is sufficient {for} {you} to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

1Pet. 4:4 And in {all} this, they are surprised that you do not run with {them} into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign {you} ;

1Pet. 4:5 but they shall give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1Pet. 4:6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to {the} {will of} God.

1Pet. 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober {spirit} for the purpose of prayer.

1Pet. 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

1Pet. 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

1Pet. 4:10 As each one has received a {special} gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1Pet. 4:11 Whoever speaks, {let him speak,} as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, {let him do} {so} as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1Pet. 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

1Pet. 4:13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.

1Pet. 4:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

1Pet. 4:15 By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

1Pet. 4:16 but if {anyone suffers} as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.

1Pet. 4:17 For {it is} time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if {it} {begins} with us first, what {will be} the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

1Pet. 4:18 AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?

1Pet. 4:19 Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

1Pet. 5:1 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as {your} fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

1Pet. 5:2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to {the will of} God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

1Pet. 5:3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

1Pet. 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1Pet. 5:5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

1Pet. 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

1Pet. 5:7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

1Pet. 5:8 Be of sober {spirit,} be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1Pet. 5:9 But resist him, firm in {your} faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

1Pet. 5:10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen {and} establish you.

1Pet. 5:11 To Him {be} dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1Pet. 5:12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard {him} ), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!

1Pet. 5:13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and {so does} my son, Mark.

1Pet. 5:14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

## Matthew 5-6

Matt. 5:1 And when He saw the multitudes, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

Matt. 5:2 And opening His mouth He {began} to teach them, saying,

Matt. 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matt. 5:5 "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Matt. 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Matt. 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Matt. 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matt. 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Matt. 5:10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 5:11 "Blessed are you when {men} cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.

Matt. 5:12 "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matt. 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty {again} ? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

Matt. 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Matt. 5:15 "Nor do {men} light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Matt. 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Matt. 5:17 "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.

Matt. 5:18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.

Matt. 5:19 "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches {them,} he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 5:20 "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses {that} of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 5:21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER" and "Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court."

Matt. 5:22 "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, "Raca," shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, "You fool,"

Matt. 5:23 "If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

Matt. 5:24 leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

Matt. 5:25 "Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, in order that your opponent may not deliver you to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

Matt. 5:26 "Truly I say to you, you shall not come out of there, until you have paid up the last cent.

Matt. 5:27 "You have heard that it was said, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY";

Matt. 5:28 but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matt. 5:29 "And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Matt. 5:30 "And if your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to go into hell.

Matt. 5:31 "And it was said, "WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE";

Matt. 5:32 but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for {the} cause of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matt. 5:33 "Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, "YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD."

Matt. 5:34 "But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,

Matt. 5:35 or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING.

Matt. 5:36 "Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

Matt. 5:37 "But let your statement be, "Yes, yes" {or} "No, no"; and anything beyond these is of evil.

Matt. 5:38 "You have heard that it was said, "AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH."

Matt. 5:39 "But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Matt. 5:40 "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.

Matt. 5:41 "And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two.

Matt. 5:42 "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

Matt. 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR, and hate your enemy."

Matt. 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you

Matt. 5:45 in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on {the} evil and {the} good, and sends rain on {the} righteous and {the} unrighteous.

Matt. 5:46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same?

Matt. 5:47 "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more {than others} ? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

Matt. 5:48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matt. 6:1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

Matt. 6:2 "When therefore you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

Matt. 6:3 "But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing

Matt. 6:4 that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Matt. 6:5 "And when you pray, you are not to be as the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners, in order to be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

Matt. 6:6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Matt. 6:7 "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.

Matt. 6:8 "Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him.

Matt. 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.

Matt. 6:10 "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Matt. 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread.

Matt. 6:12 "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matt. 6:13 "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.]"

Matt. 6:14 "For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Matt. 6:15 "But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

Matt. 6:16 "And whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites {do,} for they neglect their appearance in order to be seen fasting by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

Matt. 6:17 "But you, when you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face

Matt. 6:18 so that you may not be seen fasting by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Matt. 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and

where thieves break in and steal.

Matt. 6:20 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

Matt. 6:21 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matt. 6:22 "The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.

Matt. 6:23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Matt. 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Matt. 6:25 "For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, {as to} what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, {as to} what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?

Matt. 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and {yet} your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

Matt. 6:27 "And which of you by being anxious can add a {single} cubit to his life's span?

Matt. 6:28 "And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,

Matt. 6:29 yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these.

Matt. 6:30 "But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is {alive} today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, {will He} not much more {do so for} you, O men of little faith?

Matt. 6:31 "Do not be anxious then, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "With what shall we clothe ourselves?"

Matt. 6:32 "For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Matt. 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

Matt. 6:34 "Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. {Each} day has enough trouble of its own.