

The Basics of God's Plan to Be Understood

GOD AND HIS GREATNESS MUST BE CENTRAL

We are to live our lives under God's Greatness

by

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Revelation 4:8 - And the four living creatures, 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."

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**Scriptures are taken from
the New American Standard Bible**

The information in this summary was taken mainly from my longer and more detailed reports on God's Plan and Prophecy that develop the teachings from Scripture. They are available. We are to live always under God's direction so that He works all things in our lives for good. He alone is qualified to do this. You are especially encouraged to read my prophecy paper: *The Pattern View of Prophecy; The Rapture Doctrines of Prophecy Show Clearly the Rapture Will Come Post-Tribulational* next. See how over 40 doctrines and Revelation's seven-sealed scroll, taken together, teach clearly a Post-Tribulation Rapture. The view is based on studying God's Plan for history and placing prophecy in as the end phase of His Plan.

DISCLAIMER: This report presents our view of the Bible and what God intends for us. You are invited to study on your own to reach your own conclusions and pray for what God would have you do. We cannot be responsible for what you do or do not do. We have attempted to point the pathway to have God's intended best and, in our view, share for how the endtimes will come. This report is meant to come along side and bring added value. None of us have complete information.

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2 Chronicles 16:9;
Matthew 6:33; 1 John 2:6

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NOTE: This report is a summary of the major Bible teachings that show the Triune God and His Greatness must be central to all parts of our lives. **When this happens we are majoring in the only major.** This paper shows how the Bible's teachings are aligned and integrated in God's Plan for history for why we are here. It presents the big picture of what God plans for us. This paper puts things in perspective including the spiritual warfare, the Cross, maturity in Christ, and the endtimes. Thus, it can be very helpful to readers whether or not they may know many of the individual teachings. ***Thus, this summary, presenting God's overall plan, integrated together, based on His Greatness is a very important document to be read and understood.***

GOD'S BASIC PLAN - God wants for us as believers in Christ and His Cross to know and relate to Him toward His depth in eternity. This is so we can know and experience His Perfection and Greatness and live by His ways. It is so we can fellowship with Him and each other in His perfection forever. His Perfection is all there is. He wants all people to become believers in Christ's Cross for justification of our sin. The Bible teaches that as believers we know God now. But the inference is that we will know much - much more about Him in eternity even though we might not be told now in precise terms. More of God's Glory will be revealed in heaven. (Romans 8:18; 1 Corinthians 13:12; Ephesians 1:18; 3:16-19; Philippians 3:8-11; Colossians 1:10; 1 Peter 5:1)

In order for us to know and relate to God toward His fullest, we need a mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living by faith and love. This lifetime is meant that we gain this spiritual ability. We are told to pursue this maturity. (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 3:19; 4:11-13; Colossians 1:28; Hebrews 6:1; 11:35; James 1:2-4)

THE GREATNESS OF GOD - God's Greatness is beyond our comprehension. He is perfect, most holy, and complete in all possible attributes and character qualities. There is no sin or darkness or sin in Him of any kind or any amount. He has always existed and has eternal self existence in Himself. He lives in a different domain than we do. He has always known the past, present, and future as in concept that we know them now. In Him, there is nothing new to learn. He has always known everything. He interfaces with billions of humans and angels all at the same time. He is everywhere and has infinite power. (See our study on the Attributes of God.)

He is holy, righteous, and truth. Holy, holy, holy is our Lord God almighty. He has mercy, everlasting kindness, grace, and infinite love. He works with us on an impartial basis. He has infinite Greatness.

God is a triunity or trinity consisting of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They have always existed. None were created. All things come from the Father, through the Son, and to us by the Holy Spirit. Together, they brought all creation. There is no evolution.

But as will be discussed, no one (human or angel) has ever seen or will ever see God the Father at any time (John 1:18; 6:46; 3 John 1:11). This is true now and will also be in eternity. God the Father lives in some infinite domain. We have to live by faith that He exists and gain revelation from Him.

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We will physically see the Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 3:2). We will be in a form to see Him as He is.

THE WAY WE ARE TO LIVE - God intends for us to live such that our every thought and action will come from Him as a source as His direction for our lives. This is how as our Lord Jesus lives (1 John 2:6; John 5:19-20). He is the source of all truth. This is what makes Him our God. We will respond from our love of Him without taking any independent action or initiative for direction and what we say (John 5:19-20, 40; 14:6-10; 1 John 2:6). From our love of Him, we are to keep His commandments (John 14:15; 15:10) This is why it is so important to learn to live by great love for Him and each other. God is love. We will use our intellects fully in response to God and to learn of His Word as He directs us. God may give us latitude on how we do His direction and will. We use our intellects to help determine and carry out His direction, but not to establish direction.

We know this because this is how our Lord Jesus lives. We are told to live His way. Thus, we are to live that every thought and action must come from God. (John 5:19-20, 40; 14:6-11; 1 John 2:6)

We are also to walk by faith in order to please God (Hebrews 11:6). We walk by faith for God to act the fullest in our lives. If we do not live by faith in what God does or has done, we will sin (Romans 14:23b). We are to trust God to fulfill His promises (1 Peter 1:5-9; 2 Peter 1:1-11). We activate our faith by obeying the instructions associated with the promise. Then we live without sin and gain more revelation from God.

In these ways, we can live by His perfect ways in holiness and righteousness without sin. In practice then, He will be our God. He will be God all in all. We are without inherent ability to live a perfect life. All direction, by necessity, must come from our perfect and one and only God. He must work all things together for our good. (Romans 1:18; 8:28; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 1 Peter 2:3-4)

DISCUSSION REGARDING HOW WE ARE TO LIVE - As stated, we cannot direct our lives because we are without inherent holiness and righteousness. We do not have complete knowledge of our circumstances. We will obey God from our love of Him. We will do this respecting and loving Who and What He is in His perfection. ***This is why it is so important to develop a great love for Him now as we keep His commandments.*** Without sacrificial love we are nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3) We do not live holy because we live selfishly from our depraved natures. We are to love Him with our total beings and others as we love ourselves. We are to consider others as more important than ourselves (Philippians 2:2-4). When we obey Christ, keeping His commandments, we abide in His love just as our Lord keep the Father's commandments and abided in His . (John 14:15; 15:9-10) (We will not obey as robots.)

We, as stated, are told in the Bible to live as Christ lives. He took no independent action or initiative of any kind or of any amount. He only did what came from the Father as a Source. Thus, He could say that he who has seen Me, has seen the Father. He could say this for He, from Himself as a source, was doing nothing. Our Lord is the visible image of the invisible God.

John 14:8-11 - Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father'? "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. "Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; otherwise believe on account of the works themselves.

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Colossians 1:15 And He is the (visible) image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.
(Comment: Mine.)

We as individuals and the Church are to live this way. Then the world will see God the Father acting in us as we live out our lives at His direction. We can say he who has seen us, has seen the Father, because we, from ourselves, are doing nothing. Thus, to make God known, we need a life testimony of the Lord before the people, not just an academic knowledge. Then they can know that God lives.

As we live this way, we live holy and righteously without sin, according to His perfection. We learn of His heart - what is important to Him. Thus, we should learn of His perfect ways so He can lead us in them.

Knowing and relating to God, and fellowshiping with Him and each other according to His perfect ways, is His purpose for us. This is all there is. But we need to search out His ways and carry them out with great commitment, as He leads us in them. We will do this if we have some appreciation of His infinite Greatness. We were created for this purpose according to His will and pleasure. What a great privilege we have. ***We should be very thankful that we exist and can know and relate to our perfect God.***

LIFE IN ETERNITY - In eternity, God will direct all our thoughts and actions (as believers in Christ's Cross). He will do this commensurate with our maturities, personalities, callings, knowledge, fellowships, and gifting. He must do this to be our God (Otherwise we act as being god.) He must do this from love for us to live holy and righteously and have close and intimate fellowship with Him and with each other. This is the only way we can live perfect, productive, and satisfactory lives and have great fellowship with each other. We must live by faith to continuously gain more revelation from God of His Greatness. We must live by faith to avoid sinning.

GROWING IN MATURITY IN CHRIST-LIKENESS - As stated, in order for us to relate to and to know God toward His fulness (His objective), we need to develop a mature high-skill spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living. This life is patterned after the relationship of the Father with the Son (His method). The Bible commands us to pursue this maturity (Hebrews 6:1).

Our spiritual maturity is and can be measured only by God. The measure of our spiritual maturity is how we respond to God's leading in every aspect of life in comparison to how Christ, being perfect, would respond, if He were to act in our place.

(We require an ability to do all things and increased capability things require more ability. Such a comparison would be flying a single engine Cessna 172 airplane versus flying a military single or four engine jet. It would be like playing the scale on the piano versus playing a concerto.)

There apparently are a continuum of spiritual abilities in Christ-likeness. We respond with our spiritual abilities automatically. It is like playing the piano. One does not think were his fingers go. They just go.

To become mature in Christ, we need to at least:

1. Live according to the relationship principles that our Lord has with His Father in head-subordinate

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relationships. These principles carry over into marriage and families. Living this way, people will see the Father in us.

2. Live by sacrificial love serving God and others keeping God's commandments. We do this to live holy and righteously and respond to His moment by moment leading of His Holy Spirit. When we do we accomplish His will and work. (John 14:15; 15:10)

As an example for how we are to live by love, if we have great love, we will lay down our lives for the brethren. (John 15:13)

3. Live by faith in God to implement His promises. Our faith is activated by carrying out the instructions associated with the promise. As we do, we live without sin, and we gain more revelation of and from God. We believe that God exists. Then God carries out the provisions of His promise. (2 Peter 1:1-11)

An example for how to live by faith is in the battle of Jericho (Joshua 6; Hebrews 11:30). God promised the Israelites that He would give Jericho into their hands. But they had to circumferene the city with their people as He required. Doing this they activated their faith. Then God brought the walls down and allowed them to defeat Jericho's people.

4. Live by the character qualities of Church leadership to walk upright with integrity. (1 Timothy 3:1-10; Titus 1:5-9)

Living this way requires that we know relationship living, the commandments, promises, the principles of how we live by love, and character qualities. We should make an effort to know them. I have a report entitled: *Living by God's Righteousness* as an aid that helps us to do this.

IT IS KEY THAT CHURCH LEADERS TRAIN THEIR PEOPLE, INCLUDING THEIR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, TO WALK AS CHRIST WALKED WITH THE FATHER. THEY NEED TO CARRY OVER THE RELATIONSHIP PRINCIPLES INTO THE FAMILIES.

We receive more revelation of God as we live by faith. Thus, we should learn to live by strong faith with great commitment (Romans 1:16; 1 Peter 2:2-4). This is so we can know more of God in eternity as well as now. We will want to know more and more about His perfection. Because God will lead us in a manner that we respond to Him from love, we should learn to live by great love. (e.g. Live by the teachings of 1 Corinthians 13.) Then we can live more holy and righteously. (Becoming more mature in the above is part of our goal or objective to become mature in Christ-likeness.)

DISCUSSION OF PRINCIPLES AND TEACHINGS THAT HELP US BECOME MATURE IN CHRIST

- Living by love and faith in head-subordinate life living, we become mature in Christ by at least a four item approach learned from the Meat of God's Word. In this approach, we learn in depth and practice the teaching in the trials and temptations of life. This four item approach includes: (1) glorifying, pleasing, worshiping, honoring, and obeying God; (2) living in godly unity relationships patterned after the Son's walk with the Father by faith, sacrificial love, holiness, and hope; (3) helping to accomplish God's work of world-wide evangelism, discipling converts to maximum maturity, building godly families, planting churches, and reaching out to the needy; and (4) knowing and standing strong on basic Christian-Faith Doctrines including the Attributes of God. We should have and live by the

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required character qualities of Church leadership. This training should be application, life, and ministry oriented help us become mature in Christ. The training should bring exaltation to Christ and to the Father. All of this and much more are under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

When we respond to the above in obedience, we are filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). God will work all things together to bring us to maturity in Christ-likeness. For this to occur, we train with God's Whole Counsel (Acts 20:26-27) - all or much of God's Word with an application emphasis. Then as stated, we will concentrate on glorifying God, living a godly life, accomplishing God's work, and standing strong on basic doctrines. This is in contrast to learning mostly Bible content and knowledge, though both are needed.

A CURRICULUM IS NEEDED - We should develop a written or equivalent curriculum representing a version of God's Whole Counsel that is highly applications oriented for this to happen. The curriculum should contain all the elements and training that is needed, as far as we know, to bring us to maturity in Christ. Then we are outcome oriented. We are aiming at achieving a definite goal. Otherwise it probably will not happen. We will most likely do less than required. We can always make changes as God leads. Otherwise we can choose good, but random teachings for growth, being more procedurally oriented. Doing this we gain less maturity. Training can be four ways. We can have: (1) people do home work answering questions; (2) discussion of the questions in class; (3) a teacher present the teachings; and then (4) a text of some kind given to the people to read afterward. This is the procedure that Bible Study Fellowship uses. We should add some on-the-job training.

SUMMARY: GOALS AND METHODS - Becoming mature in Christ-likeness is God's method for us, so that His objective of knowing and relating to Him in His fulness can be realized. Becoming mature in Christ-likeness is our objective so we can fulfill His method (being mature) and objective (knowing and relating to Him in His depth). Our method to become mature is to: (1) glorify and worship God; (2) live a godly life in unity relationships by love and faith as Christ walked with the Father; (3) help accomplish God's work of evangelism, discipleship, planting churches, and helping the needy; and (4) standing strong on the basic doctrines of the Christian faith. This is all there is.

However, of course, none of us are as mature in Christ as we want to be, should be, can be, or ought to be. We all need work. I know that I do. But we can work toward becoming mature in Christ with great commitment and help each other reach the needed and desired results. We can and should especially work with the children and the youth. Whatever has been the past, let us work together to make the future under God the best we can have .

Philippians 3:13 - Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

OUR SPIRITUAL ABILITY AND MATURITY MAY BE FIXED AT DEATH FOREVER (We Should Pay Attention Because it Effects Our Lives in Eternity) - The Bible does not teach directly whether or not our spiritual ability in Christ-likeness is fixed at death or whether or not it can be increased in heaven after death. God has left it as a matter of faith. And God may use our spiritual ability in heaven in a different way than we can know now.

(We may have different understandings here. But what if it is true that our maturity is fixed forever

at death? Can one prove it is not true from Scripture?)

Our belief is it is most likely that our spiritual ability we have at death, we will have forever without further opportunity for improvement. Although we give the potential that God will do something we cannot know now. But we are living life as if our maturity can be fixed forever at death.

Our belief is based upon: (1) God commands us now to pursue this maturity; (2) all of the Bible's major events from Genesis to Revelation lead us to becoming mature; (3) the developing environment of the world, flesh, and the devil is not allowed in heaven; (4) when we make mistakes in our development which is sin and there is no sin allowed in heaven; and (5) God chose not to create us with maturity, but chose that we develop this maturity. Because of these, it appears most strongly that our maturity we have at death can indeed be fixed forever. At least it is fixed by the methods that we know about. God has given this lifetime to become mature in Christ. Now is the time for salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2). We are appointed to die and then the judgement (Hebrews 9:27). In our view, it is most wise to pursue maturity as God commands. ***We should pursue this maturity with great commitment so that we will not miss what God plans for us and so we can have His best.***

(I realize we all have questions such about those who die young or do not know much of the Bible. But God is just. It is better to be created and exist and have little maturity, than not to exist. But we need to pursue maturity so we can know God toward His fullest. This is the main and only value that exists.)

COMMENTS ON DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN MATURITY - Without Christ's Cross, we may never be able to understand the depths of God's love, mercy, and grace - particularly His great love. From His great love for us, God gave up fellowship with His Son while Christ was satisfying God's Justice for sin. Christ became sin who knew no sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). This was a very high price, perhaps the highest price ever. And, as stated, God may use our maturity in heaven in a different way than we can know now. Thus, we should obey God and pursue this maturity as God commands for what ever reason He may have. ***We do not want to miss God's best for us. So how do we pursue maturity?***

(We do not want now to become or not become what would impede our knowing, relating to, and fellowshiping with God in His depth in any way. We do not want to preclude our having the most perfect and complete life in eternity we can have. We do not want to impede any plan that God has for us. True we do not have all the information we would like. But if we obey the Bible to God's fullest, we should have the best we can have in eternity even if we do not understand everything now. Thus, we should carefully search out God's will and do it with commitment.

We are talking about eternity here. There is no second chance after death that we know about. There is no purgatory. As stated, after death comes the judgment of what ever state we are in at the time. We should be very much aware that because God commands that we pursue maturity, it is sin if we do not. It can be sin if we work mainly for spiritual growth (being procedurally oriented) without the intent and commitment to gain maximum maturity, the best we can have and what God has planned (being outcome oriented.)

Of course, God uses our greater maturity now so more of His work can be accomplished. And our

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Lord said that He glorified His Father in heaven because He accomplished all the work that His Father gave Him to do (John 17:4). We glorify God when we have fruit in our lives as God leads us (John 15:8)

John 17:4 - "I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do.

So gaining more maturity such that we accomplish more of God's work, we will glorify God more. He does not need glorification. But we need to do so to be humble, have a right relationship with God, live godly, and to gain more maturity. We cannot become mature in Christ without from love living holy keeping God's commandments. We cannot become mature without faith, trusting God, not ourselves, to work all things together for our ultimate good (according to His promises). When we do all things in our lives, we should believe that all ideas came from God, not from ourselves (of course they must be biblical). Only then can we live holy without sin and help to proceed to maturity in Christ-likeness. We use our intellect in a responsive mode to God and learning of His ways, not in determining direction.

KEY SOURCE OF ALL OUR PROBLEMS (We Should Pay Attention Here) - In my view, if we understood God's Greatness and our spiritual poverty, Bible doctrine, and had great love for Him, we would do for direction with great commitment only that which is in the Bible. We would do it to its full scope and intent for direction. We would search out His will in the Bible and implement it with commitment.

In order to live completely by His ways and direction, we should be working to become highly mature in Christ-likeness with spiritual ability in relationship living at the highest skill levels. Our whole purpose for living then is Christ and have Him exalted by everything we think and do (Phillipines 1:20). Our goal is not just to enjoy the world in which we now live.

In our perception, not knowing or appreciating God's Greatness leads to the falling away of the Church and to the coming of the endtimes Tribulation. God uses it to bring history's termination.

The key source of all of our problems is when we, ourselves, not appreciating God's Greatness and not having a proper response to Him, attempt to go our own way. We attempt ourselves to work all things together for our good and benefit. We work to become, have, and do what we want for ourselves and for our churches. This is the source of all sin because we are without ability to do this without sinning. When we do, even not intending to, we act wrongly like the Most High God. We act as a god over our lives. This is idolatry and pride.

Such action results by our not loving Him sufficiently from our total being. We inadequately obey His commandments and will. This leads to the symptom (of the cause of not appreciating His Greatness) of our attempting to work all things together for good ourselves which we cannot do. Doing this is pride. Pride is acting from one's self like the Most High God as a god.

When we attempt to work all things together for good ourselves and for our churches (which we cannot do), we sin and act like the Most High God. We act like a god over our lives. We do this even if we do not intend or desire to do so,

We do this with the intention to have what we think is God's best for our lives and churches. We

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attempt to be in charge by design. We believe we have the ability, by default (have not learned to trust God), or by not having been trained not to sufficiently. In doing this, we sometimes believe we are doing God's complete will, when in reality we may not be. This can be partly sin. Satan and Adam and Eve did this (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 14; Genesis 3). Using our depraved natures, we do this (Romans 3:23).

Thus, because of God's Greatness and our spiritual poverty, God must by necessity work all things together for our ultimate good. Everything must come from Him as a source. This is the only way we can avoid sinning and live holy and righteously. This is what God intends. We must carry out His will to His intent and scope so that He accomplishes working all together for our good. He is the only one qualified to lead us. This is what makes Him God. Thus, He must direct all things in our lives.

Going our own way leads to our being procedurally instead of being outcome oriented. We do not have an eternal perspective to reach the largest mature spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living that we can have. This spiritual ability is needed so that we can know and relate to God toward His fullest. As a result, the Church can work to do some evangelism, but not to evangelize complete areas. She can work for some spiritual growth, but not to become mature in Christ at the highest skill levels that is needed in eternity. She does not train to know as much as one can about God and His perfection. The problem comes when we think we are, but in reality we are not.

Another major symptom is that we do not understand and appreciate the spiritual warfare between Christ and Satan. We do not know and avoid Satan's strategies. His strategies that we implement will be discussed later. They generally result in churches teaching less of God's Word such as mostly the Milk of God's Word without also teaching the Meat of God's Word (His Whole Counsel). They lead to doing little evangelism in the community away from the Church property. ***Saying it in another way, when we teach but little of God's Word and do but little evangelism, we are implementing satanic strategy.***

We also do not recognize the signs that show the Tribulation can come at any time. So we continue business as usual believing the current times will continue long term. They will not.

We can and should make plans to determine and implement God's direction to His full intent and scope. We should trust that He gave us the plans. We should not use our own ideas for direction. We should trust that He, not us, will bring the results. In doing so, we should work to accomplish the scope and intent of what God has directed. (Proverbs 16:9.)

As Christians, we take some things for direction from the Bible and wrongly add some things from our own minds. Thus, we have a degree of a lukewarm life. We work to having God work some things together for good. We also act in other ways, trusting ourselves to work all things together for good.

The problems increase when we use more of our own ideas, apart from the Bible. The endtimes Church is headed in this latter wrong direction. As stated, we do this by working for some evangelism, but not working to evangelize our entire local areas. We do this by working for some spiritual growth, but not attempting to mature our people in the highest skill levels of mature spiritual ability in Christ-likeness in relationship living that we understand. We do this by working for numbers bringing in the youth. We do this by using the world's loud rock beat music (whose source is voodooism, paganism, and immorality), instead of working with a higher priority to mature our own people and using good

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music such as the hymns. We do this by speaking in false tongues.

It is not our intention to do wrong or inadequately do God's will. None of us want this. But when we do less than or in opposition to what God intends in His Bible, it results in a degree of a cold response and disobedience. We sin of both commission and omission. Again, none of what this. We must do what God wants, not what we want. The above, in my view, are the Bible's principles.

The great sin of Satan, that being spiritually immature and not understanding God's Greatness, was to act like the Most High God. He was enamored with his abilities, not with God's perfection and Greatness. Thus, he acted to become, have, and do what he wanted. He was attempting himself to work all things together for his good or benefit. He wanted to be in charge and rule over his life and over that of the angels. Thus, not being able to do so, he sinned. As a result, he came under God's condemnation. God sentenced him and his angels to the Lake of Fire for eternity. This could be original sin or that patterned after it. (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10)

As stated, no angel or human has ever seen or will ever see God the Father at any time including in eternity. They can only see God the Father as they observe the life of Christ that He lived out that came from the Father. Satan physically only saw the Lord Jesus Christ. For Satan to obey God the Father, he would have to walk by faith and from love. (Thus, we will live by faith and from love in heaven.) Being immature, he did not do this. His pathway was to act like the Most High God, using his own thought process and not what Christ no doubt taught him. He wanted to be in charge like Christ was in charge. Christ was under the Father's authority. But Satan did not understand this.

The principle here is that when we are mature in Christ-likeness, we will trust God to work all things together for good. We will take every thought and action from God. We will not take any independent initiative for direction that is not in the Bible. Immature people will act to trust themselves to work all things together for good acting independent of the Bible. The lukewarm churches, perhaps most churches, do some of both. Are churches (and you and I) somewhat immature in Christ? We all need work. At least I do.

As will be discussed, this was the great sin of Adam and Eve in their immaturity. They ate of the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They did so they could become wise and run their own lives - work all things together for their benefit. They did not know of God's Greatness for Him to do so. They thought they had to do it.

We are to activate our faith in God to work all things together for our good. We do this by from our love for Him keep His commandments, and from His purpose for us, accomplish His work. When we accomplish His work, we glorify Him. We have problems when we take independent direction and/or do not act to the intent and to the scope that is in the Bible. (See Romans 8:28.)

We grow more when we have dynamics in our lives. Examples would be that we train and work in the community to evangelize people including the children. We work in our families for Christian growth to maturity. We grow when we spiritually stretch ourselves.

We should believe in God's Greatness such that we know that God placed **everything** in His Bible that we need for direction. God may give us leading to carry out specifics in that direction. We do this by faith. We should believe that the whole Bible in the original manuscripts is without error which is the truth. (2 Timothy 3:16.)

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When we do not appreciate all that we read in the Bible, we should assume it is true, and study to discover why it is true. (For example, when we do not appreciate why God sends unbelievers to the Lake of Fire, we should believe it is correct and just and then study why it is.) Then we learn. Not to believe **the entire** Bible to be true is folly and one does not appreciate God's Greatness. He would not give us a Bible that contains error. In such a case, we cannot determine what is true and what is error, unless we set our selves up as the authority, which we are not. Doing so is extreme pride - arrogance.

GOD ESTABLISHED A SPIRITUAL WARFARE TO DEVELOP OUR MATURITY IN CHRIST-LIKENESS. - God established a spiritual warfare between Christ and Satan for all of human history. The purpose was to bring the testing and proving ground to bring believers to maturity in Christ-likeness. Christ leads us to do right. Satan deceives us to do wrong, even when it looks right. Christ works to have God's elect believe and accomplish God's work. (The elect are those who God knew, a-priori before humans were created, would choose Him.) He works to bring believers, as they respond, to maturity in Him. Satan, on the other hand, works to prevent the elect from believing and accomplishing God's work. He also works to bring world government over which he and his man will rule. (He brought six world governments that sequentially ruled over Old Testament Israel. He, allowed by God, will bring another world government in our endtimes.)

We do not have sufficient data for Satan's motivation. But it appears that if Satan can prevent any one of the elect from believing and/or any one of God's work from being accomplished, he can win the warfare.

God sentenced Satan and his evil angels to be cast into the Lake of Fire before humans were created. If Satan could win the warfare (and he can not), God would exonerate him and his angels from the sentence of going to the Lake of Fire. If Satan does not win the warfare, God will cast him and his angels into the Lake of Fire as God has sentenced. Satan has some motivation for accomplishment because he attacks people and our Lord throughout history. His sentence to the Lake of Fire is not carried out until after the end of human history.

What occurs is determined from the many books that in heaven are opened and compared, such as the Books of Life and of Works. This happens when the court sits at the time of the seventh trumpet after the Tribulation. The court determines that indeed all the elect did believe and did indeed accomplish all of God's chosen works. With this determination, the court determines that Christ has won the spiritual warfare over Satan. It awards Him (Christ) the Kingdom of the World that becomes the Kingdom of God and also the Title Deed of the Earth. With these awards, Christ is given complete legal authority to rapture the Church and to bring the consummation of history. (Compare Daniel 7:10, 13-14; Revelation 11:15-18; 20:11-15).

Thus, Christ, with direct biblical teachings, leads us to obey God as we trust Him to work all things together for good. Satan, on the other hand, works to deceive people to attempt to work all things together for good themselves, thus sinning. Working to prevent the elect from believing and accomplishing God's work, he works to keep the Church people immature so they will not become involved in God's work with any seriousness. They will not evangelize or mature their people. Thus, he encourages the churches to dumb down their training as she reaches out to the young people with mainly first level training - Milk of God's Word. With only or mainly first-level training, the Church maturity and knowledge of God's Word can plateau.

In order to keep from being deceived and do the will of God, we must check all we receive for

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direction against God's Word. This is the only way we can tell whether or not it is of God. It is very possible that much we are doing in our churches can be deception that Satan wants us to do. This can be true even when it looks very right, but is not or is not sufficient or adequate. This can happen if we fall short of all that God wants done. For example, we do less teaching and less evangelism than God wants done.

WHAT HAPPENED AND WHAT RESULTED IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN - God's plan was to create man and place him in a testing and proving environment to become mature in Christ. God knew that man would become sinful. But he also knew that he would be led out and trained to become mature in Christ, and when in eternity, would no longer sin. This required man to respond to God and be developed in spiritual maturity. But this development process begins with spiritual immaturity.

Adam and Eve were created perfect, but without spiritual maturity. God placed them in the Garden of Eden. They did not, at this time, know of God's Greatness. They were in the Kingdom of God. In their immaturity, Satan deceived Adam and Eve to sin. Their major sin was wanting to be wise so they could work all things together for their good or benefit (their objective and Satan's goal so they would sin). This led to the sin of eating of the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil (their and Satan's method). (If their love of God had been mature, they would have obeyed Him and would not have eaten of the tree. They would not have allowed themselves to be deceived.) Their sin in wanting to be wise resulted in their living sinfully like the Most High God. They, in their immaturity, wanted to be in charge, perhaps by default, not knowing, realizing, or understanding that God would help and care for them. (Genesis 3.)

As a result of their sin, several things happened. Adam and Eve received depraved natures that do not seek after God, sin, and have no ability to become mature in Christ. They will die. They came under the Law of sin and death. By sinning they come under God's condemnation that requires God's Justice to be satisfied which they cannot do. They were legally transferred from the Kingdom of God under Christ's eternal control into the Dominion of Satan under Satan's eternal control. Satan usurped from Christ the Title Deed of the Earth and the Kingdom of God which became the Kingdom of the World. Satan became god over all people as they are born. He is now the god of this world. (We know that unbelievers are in the Dominion of Satan (darkness) because when they believe in the Cross they are transferred into the Kingdom of God (Christ and light) - (Acts 26:18; Ephesians 1:13).

OUR THREE PROBLEMS - Because of his fall in the Garden of Eden, man has three problems:

1. He is born in the Dominion of Satan under Satan's eternal control. He needs to be transferred into the Kingdom of God under Christ's eternal control in order to go to heaven. This happens when God's justice is satisfied by Christ dying on the Cross and is applied to him.
2. He is born with a depraved nature that sins. His sin (transgressions of God's Laws) causes him to fall under God's condemnation. Thus, God's justice needs to be satisfied which man cannot do. If God's Justice for sin is not satisfied in some manner in his lifetime, depraved man will be cast into the Lake of Fire. It is an alternative method for God to satisfy His Justice for sin.
3. He has no ability to become mature in Christ. He needs a divine nature that he now does not have that does not sin. It allows him to pursue maturity in Christ.

GOD'S SOLUTION TO MAN'S THREE PROBLEMS - AND HOW GOD PROVIDED FOR THEM

(WHAT IS THE CHURCH) - WHAT THE CROSS ACCOMPLISHED

Solution for Satisfied Justice - As written *only* in the Holy Bible, Christ's substitutionary death on the Cross satisfied God's Justice for man's sin. Christ died spiritually when His blood was purging all sin and establishing the New Covenant for salvation. He said *My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken Me*; (Matthew 27:36; Mark 15:34). When the New Covenant was established in His blood, He came back to spiritual life. He said *It is Finished* (John 19:30). He died physically to place the New Covenant into effect like a last will and testament (Hebrews 9:15-18). Taking His own life, He said *Father into Thy hands I commend My spirit* - (Luke 23:46; Hebrews 9:16-17). After His resurrection, He ascended into Heaven to be our mediator to God the Father (1 Timothy 2:5).

The New Covenant is a legal agreement and contract that God made with man (us). If we believe that Christ died on the Cross for sin according to only the Holy Bible, God will give us salvation (now no longer under God's condemnation). He will bring us into eternity at the resurrections and judgments. We are now under Grace and no longer under the law of sin and death. (Romans 1:16; 6:14; 8:2; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.)

Christ's Birth and Sinless Life - Christ was born of the virgin Mary with a divine nature by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). This allowed Him to be led of God the Father in a sinless life. (The sin nature is passed down by the husband or male.) Living a sinless life, He fulfilled the Law (Matthew 5:17). This fulfillment qualified Him to die and satisfy God's Justice for the sin of mankind. When we live by our divine natures granted at salvation, we live a sinless life. This is how we will live sinless in heaven.

Christ's New Power and the Church - After His Crucifixion and at His first Ascension, the heavenly court gave Christ all power in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18-20). This power gave Him the legal authority to bring justified believers held in custody under the Law into the Kingdom of God from the Dominion of Satan. Those transferred or translated became the Church of Christ. They are taken from Satan's eternal control and placed under Christ's eternal control.

When such transfers occur, Satan's head is being crushed (Genesis 3:15). He is losing control over the new believers. As such, Christ brought all the Pre-Pentecost believers into His Kingdom. This occurred when He took those believers captive who were being held captive under the Law in Satan's Dominion to heaven with Him. He transferred them into the Kingdom of God. They became part of His Church. Being now under Grace, they were free from the Law. (Ephesians 4:8-10.)

After the Day of Pentecost (soon after Christ's Crucifixion), Satan, sensing he was losing control over people, began to bring extreme persecution. But the believers in Christ spread the Gospel everywhere. The results were the opposite he wanted and intended.

Christ taught the Jews (and Gentiles) we were to seek God's Kingdom and righteousness first in life (Matthew 6:33). He did not teach them to seek the Kingdom of Israel. As believers, it is now Christ in us, the hope of Glory (Colossians 1:27). We are now one in Him. In our new divine natures, it is Christ in us. As such, God's condemnation is removed from us (Romans 8:1). Now we can go to be with God in heaven when we die. We can now fellowship with God and each other forever in His Glory without sin. We will have a most wonderful future.

With this new authority, Christ could send His workers world-wide with the Gospel. Now all who believe are translated immediately into His Kingdom and become part of His Church. All believers

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are in His Church, having been called out of the Dominion of Satan into the Kingdom of God. The Church is defined as consisting of believers, that having believed in Christ's Cross, apart from any human works, have been translated or called into the Kingdom of God from the Dominion of Satan. One cannot be a believer without being in Christ's Church. Thus, all believers from all of history, past, present, and future, are the Church. (Acts 26:18; Ephesians 1:13.)

Christ rules the Kingdom of God from heaven. As such, He rules over all nations as directed by God's Plan. As such He now sits on the throne of David and rules over the Jews.

Acts 2:29-31 - "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. "And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants upon his throne, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.

He is now the King of Israel. When on the earth, our Lord offered the Jews the Kingdom of God. He never offered the Jews a return of Israel's Kingdom. The New Testament is silent about any such return of Israel's Kingdom under God like it was not important or would not happen. The New Testament emphasizes all believers are under Christ's authority and are the Church. They are now in the Kingdom of God and a holy nation and holy race of God.

Man receives this New Covenant with salvation by activated faith. He can activate his faith by a prayer to God that he so believes only according to the Scriptures when God works in him. He can also activate his faith by being water baptized or confessing Christ before man - Mark 16:16; Romans 10:9, 13. However, he is not saved by these activities or activations. Salvation is without human works or actions of any kind. We are only saved by faith in what Christ has done, not of works that any person should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9). God rejects all of our works and actions for eternal salvation (Justification). He accepts only the work of His Son. The Cross is complete in itself, being efficacious. This is according only to the Bible, not by any church, not by any other person, not by any other book, and not by any religion (1 Corinthians 15:1-5). When he believes with activated faith, spiritually speaking, God places him in Christ. He is crucified with Christ, causing the depraved or sin nature to die to the jurisdiction of the Law. He now lives under Grace.

Solution to Pursue Maturity and Gain Eternal Security for Going to Heaven - Thus, as a person, Jew and/or Gentle, believes in the Cross, one is placed into Christ, is spiritually crucified with Christ, is buried with Christ, and is raised from the dead with Christ. When raised from the dead, one receives the new creation and divine nature. (Romans 6:1-13.) This process is called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. (The Baptism of the Holy Spirit has nothing to do with tongues or any power for how we live the Christian life.) It provides the ability by which we can live the Christian life by giving us a divine nature and freedom from the Law. This happens to all Christians as they believe the Gospel and are saved.

As the depraved nature dies with Christ, it no longer legally represents the new believer, though he still retains it. In his experience, he can sin using it. He is then resurrected from the dead with Christ. As this occurs, God imputes His righteousness to man. The new believer receives a new divine nature and new creation that now legally represents him. This new divine nature cannot sin. It cannot take any independent action from God. Because it does not sin, it does not incur any future condemnation from God. As such, it gives the new believer eternal security in Christ. It is the basis to pursue maturity in Christ-likeness. The believer can still use the depraved nature, thus, sinning and

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losing fellowship with God. But such sin does not effect the eternal security of the believer because the depraved nature no longer legally represents him. This fellowship is restored as the believer confesses his sin to God (! John 1:9). The new believer is also sealed and indwelt by the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; 2 Timothy 1:14). This sealing also gives one eternal security in Christ.

The work of Christ on His Cross satisfied God's Justice for all sin committed before one becomes a Christian. This is when the depraved nature legally represented him. After being a Christian, when one sins using the sin or depraved nature, the believer confesses his sin to God. He is no longer condemned before God because his divine nature now legally represents him. Then Christ's blood keeps on cleansing the sin and restores his fellowship with God. (Romans 3:25; 1 John 1:7-9.)

WHAT ELSE THE CROSS ACCOMPLISHED - The Cross broke down the barrier of the dividing wall between the Jew and the Gentile. There are now no ethnic divisions for those in Christ. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, male or female, or bond or free in Christ. All believers are one in Christ. All believers are now in and are the Church. The Church is now the holy nation unto God. After the Cross, Israel is no longer a holy nation under God. Both believing Gentiles and Jews are part of this new holy nation. (Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:13-20; 1 Peter 2:9.)

The Cross set aside all animal sacrifices and physical temples forever. They were in the Jewish age for worship and temporal forgiveness of sin (Hebrews 8-10). We are now to worship God, no longer only in Jerusalem and no longer in temples as is in the Jewish system, but now everywhere on earth in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). (Also it is not practical for millions to billions of believers to worship in a temple in Jerusalem at the same time.) The Church is now the sanctuary of God and is to be living sacrifices. Now only Christ is to have first place and preeminence in everything. We are to live under His headship and authority as He directs us using the Holy Spirit. ***Our Lord Jesus Christ and living under His authority are now to be central in our lives. When this happens, we live by God's Greatness. Christ with the Holy Spirit leads us to do only that which comes from the Father as a source.***

The Church and Christ are now in focus. Israel as a covenant nation is now out of focus. All believers in Israel, as all the Gentile believers, are now in and are part of the Church. Because all believers are now one in Christ and the Cross did away with the Jewish system of worship, there will be no future Jewish Periods. They have no future purpose.

The purpose now is that believers from the entire world are in Christ and become mature in Christ. This is why the Church is called a holy nation and a new race unto Christ. God wants all to believe and, as believers, to know and relate to Him in His depth and to live amongst His great Glory for ever and ever. There is nothing else.

THE CHURCH PERIOD AND ISRAEL - The Church Period is when Christ completes everything in God's Plan and, at its end, brings the consummation of history (Ephesians 1:10). Israel as a covenant nation (not individuals) was divorced by God. The Northern Kingdom was divorced in her history. This is taught directly in the Bible. (See Jeremiah 3:8,) The Southern Kingdom was divorced at the Cross by implication when the Jewish leaders said let Christ's blood be on us and on our children. They were denying Christ as their Messiah forever and taking full responsibility for His death. A spiritual leader cannot have two wives at the same time (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6). Thus, Christ now marrying the Church is a definite sign He divorced Israel. The fact that now the Church is a holy nation to God

is another sign that Christ has divorced the covenant nation of Israel. ***(And after the divorce of Israel and marriage to the Church, Christ cannot remarry Israel or He would be defiled. He never divorces the Church.)***

The covenant nation of Israel has no future purpose in God's plan after the Cross even though she played a most vital role before the Cross. She was used to bring the Law, God's Word, and as a genealogy for our Lord. God has not in any way forsaken the Jews. Individual Jews can have all that God offers anyone - salvation and maturity in Christ. This is true also for the Gentiles who lived before Israel existed in the 2000 year time period from Adam to Abraham. They did not have all the information that we now have. But they knew to live by faith and by love. They knew that a Savior or redeemer was coming, though they did not have complete information as we do now.

Job 19:25 - "And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,..."

Thus, there will be no Jewish Tribulation and no Jewish Golden-Age Millennium. There will be no future special Kingdom of Israel in God's Plan, though there may be in Satan's.

(It was Satan that brought the current Israel into the land of Israel according to his plan for the endtimes. He will use her in the coming calamity in a major war with Islam. He may want his man to rule the world from Jerusalem. God restores Israel to her land only after and when her people have repentance (Leviticus 26:40-45). Most of the people in the land have no interest in their Messiah. They are in the land with great apostasy - certainly not in repentance. They only believe that God gave them the land. Thus, God did not bring them back.)

DOCTRINAL DISCUSSION - The only Kingdom of importance now is the Kingdom of God ruled by Christ from heaven. As stated, we are to seek it first. All believing Jews and Gentiles are now in the Kingdom of God. Bringing back animal sacrifices and physical temples would deny the Christian faith and the efficaciousness of the Cross. They will not happen in God's plan, though they might in Satan's. The only thing that matters now is that one becomes a Christian and then becomes mature in Christ. This is what God is doing and offers everyone. But they must respond to God. After the Cross of Christ, bringing back animal sacrifices would be an affront to God and to Christ. In God's Plan, they will not happen.

Hebrews 5-6 teaches that after or when one who has been enlightened by the Cross and then returns to the Jewish system of animal sacrifices and temples, one can no longer renew their repentance to be saved. Christ died once for all for sin, In application, those Christians today who believe strongly that God will restore Jewish temples and animal sacrifices may not be saved and/or may not understand advanced spiritual truth. They may misunderstand how the endtimes unfold. (Such could be the case with Dispensational Theology that wants to bring back temples and animal sacrifices. Dispensational Theology that teaches a Pre-Tribulation Rapture and a Jewish Golden-Age Millennium is not taught in the Bible.)

To believe a Jewish Millennium after the Rapture divides believers without having all in the Church. There is no such teaching in the Bible. All believers are the Church without exception having been called out of the Dominion of Satan into the Kingdom of God. The Bible calls believers throughout the epistles the saints of God (Christ). The believers in the Tribulation

are also called saints showing the Church is in the Tribulation (Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4; 11:18; 13:7, 10; 14:12; 16:6; 17:6; 18:20, 24; 10:8; 20:9). There will be no Pre-Tribulation Rapture. We should not expect one because judgement begins with the house of God (us)(1 Peter 4:17). The Church's falling away is largely responsible for bringing the Tribulation.

Christ and His Church are to be central, no longer the covenant nation of Israel. Those who wrongly look for a return of Israel may not see that God's major plan is to mature her people in Christ. God does not have a different future plan for the Church and Israel. There is only one plan. We are to become one in Christ and mature in Him.

Thus, wrongly believing the above, leaders can go to teaching mainly first-level training without also teaching God's Word in depth, not realizing they are bringing eternal harm to their people. (Do the churches know they are not teaching sufficient of God's Word?) The Bible commands that we are to leave mainly first-level training and pursue maturity (Hebrews 6:1) Thus, training with mainly first level training can be sin.

THREE DISPENSATIONS IN HISTORY - There were three dispensations or special periods in biblical history of about 2000 years each. The first was the Gentile Dispensation from Adam to Abraham. In this dispensation, God put forth some rules for the spiritual warfare. This dispensation included Noah's flood and the Tower of Babel. At this time, there were no Jews. The Second Jewish Dispensation of 2000 years was from Abraham to Christ. This dispensation centered in the nation of Israel and brought the law and the genealogy leading to Christ. It brought the Cross. There were Bible books written in both dispensations. The third and last Church Dispensation brings the consummation of history in Christ. This dispensation centered in Christ and His rule from heaven in the Kingdom of God. Most of the New Testament books were written in this period.

OLD TESTAMENT TEACHINGS LEAD TO THE CROSS - Old Testament believers were justified in their lifetimes before the Cross came by looking forward to the Cross coming. In God's mind, Christ was crucified before the world's foundation - before man was created (Revelation 13:8). Romans 4 teaches that Abraham, in His lifetime for example, was justified before God. The Old Testament believers were led of the Holy Spirit, were filled by the Holy Spirit, and lived by faith. But the Old Testament says little about it.

Adam and Eve were promised that the seed (Christ) of the woman would crush the head of the serpent (Satan) - Genesis 3:15. Abraham was promised a seed (Christ) that would bring blessings to all the families of the earth (Genesis 12:3). Daniel's seventieth week, now history, promised that Messiah the Prince would come to bring the New Covenant for the salvation of all people. It does not refer to the anti-Christ or to the endtimes Tribulation. (Daniel 9.)

WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO THE CHURCH (BE OUTCOME ORIENTED) - God (Christ) has entrusted to the Church that she, being outcome oriented, evangelize complete or entire local and foreign areas. She is to disciple converts to a maximum maturity in Christ-likeness with maximum high-skill spiritual ability in relationship living. This is in contrast, being mainly procedurally oriented, to doing only mainly some evangelism and working only mainly for some spiritual growth. Of course, we can be both procedurally and outcome oriented. God will lead individual churches for what part they should do in the evangelism and what should be taught first to take her people to maturity in Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 3:19; 4:11-13; Colossians 1:28; Hebrews 6:1; 11:35; James 1:2-4)

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Not being mature in Christ and not being involved in God's work as much as they otherwise could, believers can be impeded from knowing as much about God. They will not send as much spiritual wealth on ahead, and will not receive as many spiritual rewards in eternity that God wants to give. Their knowledge of God's Word will plateau, and there can be a loss of biblical intellect. This will bring an immature Church. Doing less of God's will, they will glorify God less. Is this not happening now? (Matthew 6:20-21; Romans 2:5-6; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.)

ENDTIMES CRISES IN THE CHURCH AND WORLD, BRINGING THE ENDTIMES TRIBULATION (CAUSE AND SYMPTOMS - STRATEGIES OF SATAN; THE DIALECTIC PROCESS) - The average churches today, particularly in the United States, are now going mostly to first-level training and using the world's rock type music to reach new and the younger people (symptoms). They do this not recognizing the need to become mature before death, not being outcome oriented, and not recognizing the strategies of Satan (the cause), They generally are without also teaching in breadth with depth with a version of God's Whole Counsel. Churches may not have an established written detailed curriculum by which they use to mature their people, including their children and youth. There are no doubt exceptions.

There are reports that in some world areas, many new believers are coming to Christ. They are on-fire for God. Those in persecution areas are growing in Christ. This is good news.

As introduced earlier, Satan uses a strategy called the Heglian Dialectic Process. He brings a chaos or method (Anti-thesis) to take things from the way they are (Thesis) to where he wants them to be (Synthesis). His objective, if he is to win the spiritual warfare (which he cannot do), is to prevent some of God's elect from believing the Gospel and/or from accomplishing some of God's chosen work. Thus, he encourages the churches to do less than God requires (method). This is happening in the current Church Growth Movement, even though some good things are being accomplished.

Of course there probably are exceptions. But some have said that in the big picture the Church does not do what she believes. She is not going anywhere. For example, if she believes she should do area-wide local evangelism, is she doing it? If she believes she should mature her people in Christ at the highest levels, is she doing it? Is she training her people to live as Christ lives? If she believes she should impact her community with the Christian example and testimony, is she doing it? One author stated that the Church has no impact on the direction the United States is now taking. The country is acting as if the Christian Church does not exist.

As a method, Satan encourages churches to teach only or mainly first-level training of the Bible and to do but little evangelism outside the church building walls or property. He, through deception, encourages them not to have a major program to evangelize the children, such as with after-school Bible clubs in the public schools. (Statistics show that about 85 % of the people coming to Christ world wide do so by their 14th birthday; 99 % believe before they leave college. So why would we not emphasize evangelizing the children?).

In this manner, as a method, he takes the churches from being obedient to God (the way things are), from teaching God's Whole Counsel and from attempting to evangelize complete local areas (particularly the children). He takes them to doing mostly first-level teaching and doing, but little evangelism outside the church buildings or property (method). He does this with the goal to take churches where they no longer or do little to preach the Gospel particularly in the community. (result). (Churches should work with Child Evangelism Fellowship to place tens of after school Bible clubs and use the Awana program to help reach the children and the Youth.)

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Satan encourages people to believe and teach evolution so they will not seek after God. The Bible teaches that we know of God through His great power in creation (Romans 1:18-22). Satan gets them to believe there are errors in the Bible so it cannot be trusted. He gets churches to use paraphrased versions of the Bible that have poor accuracy and error. He gets people to believe there is no life after death. He encourages the churches to wrongly require water baptism and/or works to be saved. He gets them to do works to maintain their salvation. He has many strategies.

REFORM AND REVIVAL - Many churches and organizations are working for reform in the United States. Reform by itself may delay the coming of the Tribulation. But it will not prevent it from coming. It will not change the country's destiny. Reform, delaying the Tribulation, can allow more time to evangelize and mature our people, especially the children and youth, before the Tribulation comes. Believing that reform will change the nation is a satanic strategy, if it executed without also working for revival. Only revival in the Church, turning from sin, will cause God to heal the nation (2 Chronicles 7:14). The problem of working for reform is that time and energy are taken away from the sharing of the Gospel and the teaching of God's Word for maturity. By itself, it will not change the country or prevent the Tribulation from coming. If one is working for reform, one must also be working to share the Gospel and working to mature one's people, especially the children and youth. These can work together. A Church works for revival when it trains her people to do evangelism and to become mature in Christ living as Christ lives. This means living by strong love and faith.

Satan wants the resulting outcome that churches do not preach the Gospel and do but little teaching of God's Word. He wants and works for churches to become the liberal unsaved church (not believing in the Gospel of Christ for salvation and certainly not preaching it). He encourages church people to become involved in immorality, wrong divorce, and speaking in false tongues.

(There are some righteous reasons for divorce and remarriage. For example, God divorced Israel and is now marrying the Church. God of course hates divorce and wants marriages to last a lifetime, as we should. A detailed discussion is beyond the scope of this paper. (I have an available paper on the subject.)

(I realize we may have differences here. But in my view, biblical tongues (always foreign languages in the Bible) were used to tell the first century Jews that the Joel prophecy was now being fulfilled (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:1-16). The Holy Spirit was now going to all peoples of the earth, no longer only to the Jews and their proselytes. This was a signal to the Jews that the Jewish period was now permanently over. Tongues, always foreign languages (never ecstatic utterances) a person did not normally know were a gift from God for this purpose. They have nothing to do with some spiritual power for living the Christian life. The Bible teaches that this gift has ceased (1 Corinthians 13:8).

The above wrong or incomplete actions and others help to bring the endtimes Tribulation. We need to do critical analysis of our own personal situation and give it much prayer. We should make needed changes even if they are hard to make. We do not want to be wrong before God.

Satan also establishes false religions that do not teach the true Gospel. This is so that people involved and deceived will not find the true Gospel to be saved. The true Gospel is that Christ died on the Cross for our sins according to the Scriptures. He was buried and arose bodily from the death on the third day. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) These religions wrongly add human works to be saved and/or believe that Christ was created (instead of believing He is God and has existed forever). They work to maintain their salvation They do not believe that salvation is not of works, only being by faith in the Cross. They do not believe the Cross is efficacious, complete in itself. They wrongly work to gain and

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maintain their salvation. Doing so, they may not and probably are not saved, even though they may teach the Bible. Only God knows their hearts.

The falling away situation in our churches most probably cannot be changed until Church leadership, followed by the Church people, have revival with greater obedience to God. Only then will God heal the country. Based on what happened to Old Testament Israel, very few churches, especially in the United States, are expected to change. Thus, the Tribulation will come sometime without recourse as prophesied. Signs now signal it could come at any time.

POPULATION CONTROL - Satan works to control population so that the elect might not be born, believe, and/or might not accomplish God's work. He does this by the HIV virus, AIDS, the plague, having abortions, and by the gay marriage movement. (No children). In the coming Tribulation, as God allows him, He will martyr many believers. As last result, In Revelation's second and devastating calamity at the time of the trumpets, he kills about 90% of the world's population by a major war. This is followed by the last and great Tribulation. In this Tribulation, he will bring the Mark-of the Beast system forcing people to accept the mark in order to buy or sell, formally denying the Gospel, or be martyred. Satan will leave a few Christians alive or God will destroy his forces. These are most likely the ones that are alive and remain at the Coming of the Lord. When Christ comes to rapture the Church, there will be but very few believers alive.

(It should be observed that the current government, or the one in the Tribulation's beginning, may require us to have a computer chip on our being. If it is not associated with a denial of the Gospel or adopting some false worship system, it is not taking the Mark of the Beast. Thus, if Christians go to the death wrongly believing it is the Mark of the Beast, they do so needlessly. Satan may attempt this ploy before the Mark-of-the-Beast Period as a ploy to martyr Christians.)

WHAT MUST HAPPEN, OCCUR, AND BE COMPLETED THAT CAUSES CHRIST TO BRING THE TRIBULATION - The Tribulation comes when the sin in the endtimes favored nation crosses God's threshold for sin. Signs signal now it can come any time. (As stated, only God knows the time.)

God has implemented a special endtimes sequence that implements the events of Revelation's seven-sealed scroll. It is similar to the sequences that He implemented with Old Testament Israel (Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28 and the prophets). He uses it as part of His method to terminate history. (Because the sequence repeats, I call it a Pattern Sequence.) God uses a favored nation. It was Israel and now is the United States. When the favored nation in the sequence has good obedience, God brings her great blessing. God has greatly blessed the United States by orders of magnitude more than any nation in history, including Israel. When the favored nation has major sin, as is happening now to the United States, God brings warnings. Then, when people do not repent, He brings divine discipline using a foreign military and places the favored nation (both believers and unbelievers) and the other nations under the rule of world government for a number of years. For example, Israel's Southern Kingdom was placed under the rule of Babylonian empire for seventy years. This endtimes discipline period is the Tribulation when another world government will rule. God will deliver His people to Himself in the Rapture at the end of the discipline period, after the endtimes Tribulation. He delivered Israel, after her divine discipline in bondage, to her land. This sequence is developed in detail from the Scriptures in my book: *Watchman Warning*. This was determined by examining and comparing the phrases, vocabulary, sequences, entities, and happenings in Revelation with those in Old Testament Israel in Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28, and the prophets. There definitely is a matching pattern. This pattern is developed in detail in *Watchman Warning*.

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There are several reasons for God using the endtimes Tribulation that occurs just before Christ's Second Coming. These include (some previously introduced):

(1) bringing the events of the seven-sealed scroll that allows our Lord to win back the Title Deed of the Earth from Satan. God uses scrolls in the Bible for many reasons. One was for how people gain back lost property; Jeremiah 32:11.

(2) as a method, using the Mark of the Beast, to formally polarize the beliefs of all the final living people to formally accept or deny the Christ. This polarization allows Christ can bring the Rapture. The wheat cannot be separated from the tares in Rapture until **after** all the tares are bundled for the fire - the Lake of Fire; Matthew 13:29-30.

(3) to bring discipline on the endtimes favored nation (the United States) and other nations, now in the Pattern Sequence, for sin. In effect, God uses the endtimes Tribulation to begin history's termination as it leads to Christ's Second Coming.

WHAT MUST HAVE HAPPENED OR HAVE OCCURRED THAT ALLOWS CHRIST TO RAPTURE THE CHURCH; CHRIST'S SECOND COMING, THE RAPTURE, AND THE ETERNAL STATES -

After the endtimes Tribulation, at the seventh trumpet, the court sits in heaven. It sits after all people who are to live, have lived, and have made formal binding decisions to accept or deny the Gospel. It sits after all Christ's enemies become his footstool. It examines the books and determines that indeed all the elect did believe and indeed did accomplish all of God's chosen works. Thus, the court determines that Christ has won the warfare over Satan. As a result, the heavenly court awards Christ both the Kingdom of the World that becomes the Kingdom of God and also the Title Deed of the Earth. (Compare Daniel 7:10, 13-14; Revelation 11:15-18; 20:11-15).

These awards give Christ the legal authority, according to the rules of the spiritual warfare, to rapture the Church (at the marriage of the Lamb - Christ) and to bring the final resurrections and judgments. At His Second Coming (before the time of the bowls), He raptures the Church and then, with the holy angels, He kills all the rest of humanity (unbelievers) with the rod of iron and the wine press operations (Revelation 2:27; 14:17-20; 19:15). They are killed because of their formal commitment to deny the Gospel. Thus, these peoples can no longer be saved. Thus, the Rapture is Post-Tribulation. There is definitely an endtimes Tribulation. There will not be a millennial kingdom. According to the Scriptures, all promises to Israel for the land have been fulfilled (See Joshua 21:43, 45; Nehemiah 9:7-8, 24; Ezekiel 33:24).

God said that if He did not leave a believing remnant, the people would become like Sodom and Gomorrah (Romans 9:29). They could not longer be saved. Thus, after the Rapture, Christ will kill all the remaining people across the earth. They no longer can be saved. There is no millennial kingdom coming. Because there are believers (Church called saints) in the Tribulation, on this basis, there cannot be a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

He uses the 1000 years (most likely a day or short time period - see 2 Peter 3:8) in Revelation to determine whether or not any one remaining after the Rapture will repent. Satan is bound during this period. None repent, so Christ releases Satan and brings the final battles at Armageddon etc. that kills all the remaining people who no longer can be saved. (Revelation 16:11, 12-21.) The Church is resurrected before the 1000 years and the unbelievers after the 1000 years. (Revelation 20:4-6.) Christ, after the 1000 years, brings a warfare and casts Satan and his angels into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10). By examining the many Bible verses when Christ comes in the clouds, the period

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of Christ's Coming includes the Rapture, the 1000 years (the period of the bowls), the resurrections and judgments, and the Great White Throne Judgment.

At the judgments and resurrections, all believers go to live with God in the new Jerusalem forever. All unbelievers go to be away from God forever to live in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20-21). There is no Scripture that teaches that one will ever get out of the Lake of Fire, even though some believe it might happen (Universalism). If we believe it might happen, we must hedge about being wrong and share the Gospel in order for our loved ones and others to be saved. It is unthinkable to be wrong here. Even staying in the Lake of Fire for a short period is a most terrible experience. ***At some point in the resurrections and judgment, all knees, of both believers and unbelievers, will bow before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will declare Him Lord of all, to the glory of God the Father (Phillippians 2:10-11). (So why not do it now?)***

For believers, God will remove the depraved natures and their memories containing any sin when they enter heaven (Isaiah 65:17). No sin or memory of sin is allowed in heaven. God will remove from all unbelievers all knowledge they have of and from the Bible and of God. They will not know why God has forsaken them. The believers will be in perfect blessing. The unbelievers will be in both spiritual and physical pain. The believer will be in perfect light of Christ. The unbeliever will be in complete or absolute spiritual and physical darkness. They will never see another person forever. The Lake of Fire is a most terrible place. It is a most lonely place.

God has given us His Gospel from His love for the lost (us) (John 3:16). We should, also from our love for the lost, work with commitment to help everyone believe the Gospel, praying that God will work in them.

UNBELIEVERS ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE - It must be thoroughly understood that anyone who does not receive the Gospel to go to heaven, are without excuse at the judgment. God makes it clear in the Bible to all people that He exists through His power in creation. This allows man to pursue God by at least some faith. (Romans 1:18-22)

If the unbeliever chooses not to make this pursuit, it is his choice. This is a reason that teaching and believing evolution without creation is so devastating. God has put in the conscience of every person some law to be obeyed (Romans 2:14-16). Thus, when man disobeys this law, he sins, and he knows that he sins. This experience and knowledge of creation should give him some motivation to seek God. But man has a way of relating this sin to only making mistakes instead of breaking God's laws. Generally unbelievers, even Satan, do not understand that justice is necessary for sin (Proverbs 28:5). They may not even understand sin. Thus, he believes he is living a good life. And of course Satan brings them some deception to act like the Most High God in some manner. The sin nature also does this.

THERE WILL BE AN ENDTIMES TRIBULATION - God is not a God of partiality (Romans 2:11; Galatians 2:6; Ephesians 6:9). He would not have some believers miss the Tribulation and then have many believers die in the Tribulation of such a very large number that no one can count them. As the Rapture comes, the world will be in great apostasy as unbelievers and no longer can be saved. Very few Christians will be alive. Our Lord said that when He comes, will He find faith on the earth (meaning very little) - Luke 18:8? The days will be like the days of Noah. In Noah's time, very few believers were delivered, the rest were killed (drowned). This is the pattern. After the deliverance of God's people by the Rapture, God will kill the remaining people because they can no longer be

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saved. It occurs when Christ brings the rod of iron and wine press operations.

We know there is a future Tribulation because when Christ comes, He casts the persons of the Beast and the False Prophet into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 19:20). This shows definitely there is an endtimes Tribulation. Also the Bible teaches that the Tribulation is ***the*** Tribulation, ***the*** great one (See the Greek in Revelation 7:15:). The events of Revelation unfold in a Pattern Sequence for how Christ wins back the Title Deed of the Earth from Satan.

Kenneth Wuest in his translation of *The New Testament* has it:

*Revelation 7:14 - These are the ones that come out of **the** great tribulation, **the** great one.*

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THE TRIBULATION COMES - We learn what will happen in the coming Tribulation by knowing that the Tribulation comes as divine discipline on the favored nation and on the other nations according to the Pattern Sequence. By studying what happened to Old Testament Israel in her sequences, we can know what will happen in Revelation's.

A calamity will come that will establish world government. As the Church falls sufficiently away and the sin of the rest of the people increases, God allows Satan to use a calamity, as a method in the Dialectic Process. Satan acts to take the world from independent governments to world government under one rule of world government (under Satan and his man with Babylon the Great). The calamity, will bring power black-outs, war, famine, and plague over one fourth of the earth (Revelation 6:8). The infrastructure, particularly in the United States, will break down, preventing goods from getting to the market place. There will come a financial crisis. Satan will use foreign military to bring the calamity that represents world government. This is God's way in the Pattern Sequences. They are now here. Foreign military has been training in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for many years under the United Nations. The United States, as the favored nation, has had more light from God than any nation in history. Thus, she can expect the greatest judgment of any nation in history. There will come a major war in the Middle East.

As this calamity happens, the then president will declare martial law as is allowed by an existing executive order. When this happens the then president will rule in dictatorship no doubt using FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and the military. The Congress, Constitution, and Supreme Court will now go away. They are no longer legal as long as martial law exists. The then president will bring in more foreign military to restore order. He will place the country under world government. Then we are in the Tribulation. The beloved America as we know her now will be gone forever. We will now have a controlled society, very likely under a military ruled government. And this will have come because the Church is falling away. She is bringing the Tribulation on herself. This is all according to God's Plan.

Satan directs the coming world government, as allowed by God, using a group of internationalists. (They are called Babylon the Great by the Bible and called the Illuminati by the world.) They rule secretly from behind the scenes (Revelation 17:3-7; 18) using sorcery. He uses the illuminati now to bring precursors that help establish world government. ***There is definitely a world conspiracy in place led by Satan to bring world government and the endtimes.***

We can know what will occur by studying what happened to Israel and comparing it with Revelation. When the calamity comes to establish world government, our biblical training time

in freedom will be truncated. Our Constitution and government will be taken from us. It will be replaced by an evil one of the world government. With a new constitution, the coming world government can take from us what it wants and place us where it wants, and we will have no legal defense. Under world government, Church buildings will be confiscated. This government will make war with the Church. Most Christians, beginning with Church leadership, will be martyred. Our children and youth will be satanically educated by the state, being prepared for world government and not ever to be saved (Deuteronomy 28:32, 41). The government will most likely use the public and private school properties. Parents will not be able to do anything about it. They will be taught the endtimes world religion that can look authentic. They will never see a Bible again.

(How will you feel when your children, grandchildren, and youth are under satanic education and you did not take time to train them when you could and were warned of the coming situation? What will you do during the calamity when food, water, gasoline, communications, and electricity are not available from the grid for some long time period time? Churches and families should now put in provisions for their people in order to get through the calamity. They should have some preparation for the plagues that are coming.)

Our real estate will be confiscated. We will no longer have any rights. We will have a world false religion without justification for sin. World trade will flourish. There will come a new financial system. We will need (to be trained) to take strong stands against the world government's indoctrination and the severe persecution. (I have a detailed potential endtimes scenario as to how the endtimes can unfold and what we will experience. It is based on the Old Testament and Revelation's teachings regarding the Pattern Sequence and some secular data.)

THE TRENDS TODAY IN OUR CHURCHES - These churches today teaching mainly first-level Bible, can be becoming immature with a loss of Biblical intellect. The trends are such that now fewer know and can teach God's Word in breadth with depth. Few understand and can discuss the doctrines of prophecy in detail below the notion level. We are rearing young people now who know, but little of the Bible.

Are they being taught to live by faith and by love? Are they being taught to live in head-subordinate relationships patterned after the Son's walk with the Father? Are they being taught to stand strong on doctrine and in Christ when the persecution comes? Are we being taught to do area-wide evangelism?

With these trends continuing and because the teaching of God's Word will be illegal in the Tribulation under world government, we are heading into the darkest spiritual period in all of history. Very few will know God's Word comprehensively, including the prophetic doctrines. And the Church with its limited training is helping to fuel this now. God brings a famine of His Word and takes away our music (songs) when countries go under divine discipline (Amos 5:23; 8:11). Precursors are happening now as the churches are going to mainly first-level teaching and using rock music that is replacing the hymns. This is Satan's method to keep the elect from believing and from accomplishing God's work. It allows him to rule the world.

The Bible teaches there will come a great falling away, apostasy, or departure from the faith when the Tribulation comes (2 Thessalonians 2:3). Going into the Tribulation with very few people knowing God's Word in any depth and without adequate background, many will fall away from the faith under

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the coming persecution. This gives Satan more power. Many who believe a Pre-Tribulation rapture may fall away in the Tribulation believing they have missed the Rapture and therefore are not Christians. The Bible teaches that we perish when we have a lack of knowledge (Job 36:12; Isaiah 5:13; Hosea 4:6). The churches are fueling this lack of knowledge now by their limited teaching.

SUMMARY: WHAT THE CHURCHES ARE DOING TO FALL AWAY TO HELP BRING THE ENDTIMES TRIBULATION- In our understanding, the following, as a summary, is happening on the average, (though there are many exceptions even in some foreign countries) that lead to the coming of the endtimes Tribulation:

1. The Churches are doing but little **local** area-wide evangelism off the Church property, particularly in the United States.
2. The Churches are not adequately maturing their people in Christ-likeness, even though working for some Christian growth.
3. The Churches are speaking in false tongues and using the world's (not God's) loud rock type repetitive beat music to bring younger people into the churches.
4. The Church people are involved in immorality, wrong divorce, and wrong remarriage after divorce.
5. Many churches wrongly believe that God will bring back animal sacrifices and physical temples.

This situation of sin in our churches causes the sin of the rest of the world to greatly increase. (Sin will continue to increase to Christ's Second Coming.) Believing wrongly in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture or that there will not be a Tribulation causes some to go spiritually to sleep. Some believe the present times can continue for many more years, which will not happen. They will be truncated without warning. People not prepared, can be caught blind sided. **Churches generally do not know and recognize the signs that signal the Tribulation can be coming soon. Thus, most will be caught blind-sided when the calamity suddenly comes.** This falling away and lack of discernment are primarily caused by Church leadership falling away. They can expect great judgment.

WHAT OUR CHURCHES SHOULD DO NOW - We should now take serious warning - a Watchman Warning - and act urgently and with commitment. Current signs and conditions now signal that the Tribulation, beginning with calamity, can come at any time. Only God knows the timing.

The overwhelming sign is that because America is deteriorating sinfully in every category, we know for certainty, the overall church is falling away. World government is being planned. God is bringing warning through acts of God and through His Watchmen. We are now calling evil good and doing what is right according to own eyes. We no longer endure sound doctrine. We can no longer tell the difference between the holly and the profane. There is accelerating debt in the favored nation. People are declaring peace- peace when there is none. There is a great increase in sodomy. Peace-peace is a tenet of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture for believers because they believe (wrongly) they will miss the Tribulation. There is a decrease in the knowledge of God. The people have forgotten the true God. When God brings warning of judgment coming, He brings flooding rain (Ezekiel 13:11-13). (Are Katrina and the Napa area flooding (2005) strong signs of judgment coming? Also the far-east Tsunami (2004) could be a strong warning.) The many signs are listed in my prophecy report and books.

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All church leaders should now warn their people that the Tribulation can come soon at any time. They should now prepare their people for going through the Tribulation to stand strong and gain more maturity in Christ and especially for eternity. They should do this with great urgency and commitment if they are not already doing it.

Churches and families should encourage their people to work to mature their people, help do area-wide evangelism, and no longer use rock music. **Church leaders and family heads should urgently work extra time training their children and the youth.**

(We will all bow before the Lord Jesus Christ in heaven. We will do this to the Glory of the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We will be in great awe standing before Him. But we will have the attitude to play rock music, have body motions, dance, and wave our arms, or will we have the attitude to sing *How Great Thou Are, To God Be the Glory, Crown Him With Many Crowns, and Great is Thy Faithfulness?* You know my answer. If we would only do the latter as we stand before the Lord in heaven, why would we now use the former in our worship services? Of course some of us may believe differently here.)

Church and family leaders should especially train and prepare their children and youth to stand strong in Christ with the coming satanic educational system. All should be taught Christian-Faith Doctrine, how to walk by faith, and how to walk by love. They should be told what will happen in the Tribulation so they will know what will happen and that Christ will take them in the Rapture. They should place their people into small home support groups. They should put in provisions to get through the coming calamity. **They should do these now while they still can. When the calamity comes it will be too late.**

MINIMUM SUGGESTED TRAINING - In our view, the training, heavily applications oriented, should at least include: (1) Christian-Faith Doctrines; with God's Attributes; (2) God's Plan for History including the spiritual warfare and endtimes Prophecy; (3) Christian-Life Relationship Principles patterned after Christ's walk with the Father including building strong marriages and families, how to walk by strong faith and strong sacrificial love, especially under persecution; (4) how to witness the Gospel; (5) How to establish and operate small groups; (6) the Voice of the Martyr's materials for what to do and not do in and out of prison as the underground Church; and (7) with more time, the Harmony of the Gospels (life teachings, and ministry of our Lord) and selected Bible books such as Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. We should train our people to do critical analysis of our situations and about what is happening, what is coming, and what we should now do. With the poor training most are getting now, and not concentrating on God, very few are able to do such analysis or even think to do such analysis. (I have a list of items that can be included in the above topics.) (I am available to help when needed.) We can modify the above teachings when God gives us leading.

KEY PERSONAL QUESTIONS THAT REQUIRE URGENT ACTION - Are you a Christian? How do you know? Are you and your people becoming highly mature in order to know and relate to God toward His fullest in eternity? How do you know? If you are a church or family leader are you with

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urgency maturing your people, especially your children and youth in Christ? What would make you think that you are? How and by what should they be trained? Are your children and youth prepared to stand strong without falling away against the satanic indoctrination that is coming? What would make you think they are? Are you prepared with needs-of-life provisions and needed Bible materials if the Tribulation should come without warning in a whirlwind today? The calamity and its effects could last for a long time period. Do you have a personal doctrinal statement? Do you know what you believe? If you are a leader and not maturing your people and not helping to evangelize your local areas, do you not expect judgment? If not, why not?

ENDING THOUGHTS - *Have you considered your future? The Bible teaches that Israel in her sin did not consider her future that she would come under judgment (Lamentations 1:9). Our churches today should consider their futures as the coming of the endtimes Tribulation is now impending. The bottom line is that we mature our people in Christ, help do are-wide evangelism, particularly of the children, place all our people into small home support groups, and put in some provisions for when the calamity comes. This is good insurance. So why not do it? I am working to do this. Lets work together. We can help each other. Would this not be part of God's best?*

We must be careful to obey now. The Bible teaches that God does not or may not answer our prayers when the discipline comes because we did not adequately obey in good times (Jeremiah 7:16;14:10-12). Even if the Tribulation is delayed, we should want to be prepared even 10 or more years early, than to be one second too late. But what if it comes this year? Should we not urgently prepare? It takes time to train, especially the children. And what are results if we do not? Are we not bringing eternal harm to our people? Will they not know and relate to God less. Will they not send less spiritual wealth on ahead and receive less heavenly rewards? What would make you think otherwise? Is not our Church leadership mainly responsible?

If we appreciate God's Greatness, we will do these things so our people can know and relate to God toward His fullest and be prepared for the coming Tribulation and for entering eternity. We want to know as much about God as we can and do all His will to the extent and scope that He desires and has planned for us. Knowing and relating to God the Father through Christ toward His fullness is all there is. We should live our lives to the glory of God. May Christ be exalted in our lives. We should major in the major of which there is but one - maturity in Christ to know and relate to God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 - Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW. PRAISE HIM FOR HIS GREATNESS.