

## SCHEDULE OF LAST THINGS

According to the Bible there are nine great events that will take place at the end of time. One purpose of this study is to see whether or not the descriptions of these events in the various parts of the New Testament are consistent with each other. Another purpose is to see whether the events will take place separately or come rushing in, one after another, once the sequence has gotten started.

The quotations are from the New International Version of the Bible. The events under consideration are:

1. THE LAST DAY
2. THE GENERAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD
3. THE RETURN OF JESUS
4. THE GATHERING OF THE ELECT FROM THE EARTH
5. THE HARVESTING OF THE WICKED FROM THE EARTH
6. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EARTH
7. THE FINAL JUDGMENT
8. A REWARD IN HEAVEN
9. PUNISHMENT IN HELL

The method used in this study is to look at each of the relevant passages (in the order of its appearing) and assess its relationship to other passages in the New Testament.

### **Matthew 3:11-12:**

*“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”*

It was John the Baptist who spoke these words. He was speaking to a Jewish audience. John told them that the Messiah was coming. He told them what the Messiah would do both in the immediate future as well as in the remote future.

As to the immediate future, John said that the Messiah already had His “winnowing fork in His hand.” Now, the purpose of a winnowing fork is to separate the good grain from the chaff. It can be truly said that Jesus

“separated” people: some people accepted Him and some did not. Thus they were separated.

Not all the people who accepted Jesus seem to have been baptized with the Holy Spirit. Actually, we read only that the apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and that Cornelius (along with his household and his friends) were baptized with the Holy Spirit as they were listening to the apostle Peter speak. These are the only two times that the New Testament specifically says that anyone was baptized with the Holy Spirit.

All people, however, who reject Jesus will be baptized with fire. Concerning this, John said that the Messiah would “clear His threshing floor.” In order to do this, Jesus will return to earth. To Jesus’ “RETURN,” I assign the number “3.”

When Jesus returns, He will clear His threshing floor. This is a way of saying that He will send out His angels to “HARVEST” wicked people from the earth. To this, I assign the number “5.”

When John said that the Messiah would gather His wheat into barns, he was inferring that the Messiah would “GATHER” His elect from the earth. To this, I assign the number “4.”

Certainly, when John spoke of the Messiah gathering His wheat into barns, he was referring to the storing of God’s elect in “HEAVEN,” which is their eternal storage place. To this I assign the number “8.”

The reference to the chaff being burnt with unquenchable fire almost certainly refers to the eternal punishment of the wicked in “HELL,” to which I assign the number “9.”

So, Matthew 3:11-12 implies a connection between the RETURN (3) of Jesus, the GATHERING (4) of the elect, and the HARVESTING (5) of wicked people from the earth. Also according to this passage, these events will culminate in certain people being rewarded in HEAVEN (8) and others being punished in HELL (9).

This is presented schematically in the following way:

|                        |         |                   |                  |                  |                     |                     |                     |                |                |
|------------------------|---------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                        | 1       | 2                 | 3                | 4                | 5                   | 6                   | 7                   | 8              | 9              |
| Scripture:             | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return           | Gather-<br>ing   | Harvest             | Destruc-<br>tion    | Judg-<br>ment       | Heaven         | Hell           |
| <b>Matthew 3:11-12</b> |         |                   | <b>implied..</b> | <b>stated...</b> | <b>implied.....</b> | <b>implied.....</b> | <b>implied.....</b> | <b>implied</b> | <b>implied</b> |

Admittedly, these connections may not be absolutely clear from Matthew 3:11-12 alone, but they become compelling as other passages are taken into consideration. If these connections hold up in our investigation of

subsequent verses, Matthew 3:11-12 will be shown to be laden with information about the future.

### Matthew 7:21-23

*“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”*

In this passage, Jesus was not speaking about people’s entering the kingdom of God on earth (the church) but about entering the kingdom in heaven. There will come a day (here called “that day”) in which people will be judged by Christ in order to determine whether or not they will be admitted into heaven. Some will be admitted; others will be sent away in spite of the fact that they may think they should be admitted.

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|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|------|
|                        | 1                  | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7                 | 8             | 9    |
| Scripture:             | The Day            | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment     | Heaven        | Hell |
| <b>Matthew 7:21-23</b> | <b>stated.....</b> |                   |        |                |         | <b>implied..</b> | <b>stated....</b> | <b>stated</b> |      |

This passage is significant in that it hints at something that will become apparent in subsequent passages, namely, that the expression “the DAY” (1), when it applies to the end time, is the same as the “day of JUDGMENT.” This passage also indicates that after decisions will have been made on the day of JUDGMENT (7) as to people’s eternal destiny, and those decisions will be carried out without delay. Some people will receive their reward in HEAVEN (8) while others will be sent to HELL (9).

### Matthew 13:40-43

*“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”*

This passage shows that “weeds” (bad people) will be permitted to grow side by side on earth with the “good seed” (good people) until the time

comes when they will be separated. The separating will be done by angels. Note that there will be a separation even within the kingdom (church).

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|-------------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|---------------------|---------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
|                         | 1       | 2                 | 3      | 4                   | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8                 | 9             |
| Scripture:              | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing      | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven            | Hell          |
| <b>Matthew 13:40-43</b> |         |                   |        | <b>implied.....</b> |         |                  |               | <b>stated....</b> | <b>stated</b> |

It is immaterial for this present investigation whether we think of Christ’s people as being GATHERED (4) from the earth, or whether we think of bad people being taken out of the kingdom (church). Both amount to a separation.

It appears that, following the separation, there will be no delay in good people being taken to HEAVEN (8) and the wicked being assigned to Hell (9).

**Matthew 16:27**

*“For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.”*

Here, for the first time, explicit mention is made of the return of Jesus in these passages. What will He do when He returns? This passage provides a partial answer: He will reward each person according to what each has done.

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|                      | 1       | 2                 | 3      | 4                  | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8               | 9              |
| Scripture:           | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing     | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven          | Hell           |
| <b>Matthew 16:27</b> |         |                   |        | <b>stated.....</b> |         |                  |               | <b>implied.</b> | <b>implied</b> |

This passage links the RETURN (3) of Jesus to the final destiny of humans. From other passages we know that some people will be rewarded in HEAVEN (8) while others will be paid back in HELL (9). This passage tends to do away with the idea that Jesus will return to earth in some temporary capacity, so as to reside here on earth for a thousand years. His return will bring the history of this earth to a close.

This passage also casts doubt on the idea that Jesus did return in some symbolical way in AD 70, for it is obvious that He did not in AD 70 reward each person with his or her final reward.

## Matthew 24:27-28

*“For as the lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.”*

The implication of this passage is that when Jesus, the Son of Man, returns, His people will have no trouble finding Him. They will not need to go out into the desert to look for Him, for they will be inexorably drawn to Him like vultures are drawn to a carcass.

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|                  | 1       | 2                 | 3      | 4                 | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:       | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing    | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| Matthew 24:27-28 |         |                   |        | stated....implied |         |                  |               |        |      |

This passage brings two elements of the end time together. It unites the RETURN (3) of Jesus with the GATHERING (4) of the elect. This makes it unlikely that Jesus will return secretly without His people knowing about it, for when His people are gathered to Him, they will certainly know that it is He.

## Matthew 24:29-31

*“Immediately after the distress of those days ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”*

Here, Jesus brought together several events of the end-time: The material world will start to be DESTROYED (6); the Son of Man (Jesus) will RETURN (3); and the nations of the earth will mourn. Their mourning implies that they will have a premonition that they are about to be HARVESTED (5) from the earth. Before that sad fate befalls those who are about to be HARVESTED (5), Jesus will send forth His angels to GATHER (4) His elect from the Four Corners of the earth.

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|-------------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                         | 1       | 2                 | 3                  | 4                         | 5              | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:              | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return             | Gather-<br>ing            | Harvest        | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>Matthew 24:29-31</b> |         |                   | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated...implied..</b> | <b>implied</b> |                  |               |        |      |

Now for the first time in this study, the RETURN (3) of Jesus is explicitly tied to the GATHERING (4) of the elect. Up to this point, the connection was only implied. Here it is stated. In this verse it is also implied that wicked people will be HARVESTED (5) during the time that the earth is in the process of being DESTROYED (6).

**Matthew 24:36-41**

*“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.”*

On the day when the Son of Man returns, some people will be gathered from the earth and others will be left. Those who are gathered will meet Jesus in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17), while those who are left behind will await the terrible destruction that is coming upon the earth (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8).

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|                         | 1       | 2                 | 3                  | 4                  | 5                       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:              | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return             | Gather-<br>ing     | Harvest                 | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>Matthew 24:36-41</b> |         |                   | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated...implied</b> |                  |               |        |      |

Here again, the DAY (1) of Jesus’ RETURN (3) is described as contemporaneous with the GATHERING of the elect (4). This passage also implies disaster (5) for those who will be left behind on the earth.

There is no hint in this passage that Jesus will come to earth again to begin His reign. This is because He has already been reigning ever since He ascended to God’s right hand (Acts 2:33-36). When He comes again, it will not be to begin His reign, but rather to gather up His people and to take them away with Him. He will come to end His reign on earth.

Since no record exists of Jesus’ people ever having been gathered from the earth in droves in the year AD 70, there is no reason to think that He returned to earth at that time.

**Matthew 24:45-51**

*“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

The central idea of this passage is that the Son of Man will expect to find His servants faithfully serving Him when He returns. If some are faithful, they will be rewarded, but if they are not, they will be punished in a place where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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|                         | 1       | 2                 | 3                  | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8                       | 9    |
| Scripture:              | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return             | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven                  | Hell |
| <b>Matthew 24:45-51</b> |         |                   | <b>stated.....</b> |                |         |                  |               | <b>implied...stated</b> |      |

From this passage it appears that the RETURN of Jesus (3) will go hand in hand with His rewarding of His faithful servants (8) and with punishing unfaithful ones (9). This is the third time in our study that a passage connects Jesus’ return with reward for some people and punishment for others. The earlier passages are Matthew 3:11-12 and Matthew 16:27.

This passage does not read as though Jesus would come to earth and wait a thousand years before finally rewarding and punishing His servants.

**Matthew 25:6-13**

*“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ ‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ But while*

*they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said, ‘Open the door for us!’ But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.’”*

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|                        | 1                  | 2                  | 3                  | 4                  | 5                  | 6                  | 7                  | 8              | 9              |
| Scripture:             | The Day            | Resur-<br>rection  | Return             | Gather-<br>ing     | Harvest            | Destruc-<br>tion   | Judg-<br>ment      | Heaven         | Hell           |
| <b>Matthew 25:6-13</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>implied</b> | <b>implied</b> |

“The DAY” (1) is spoken of here in connection with the RETURN (3) of the “bridegroom.” Jesus told the story of five young ladies who were allowed to enter the wedding feast (8) and of five others who were not allowed (9). We have already seen in Matthew 7:21-23 that “the day” was used in connection with reward and with punishment. Therefore, it is safe to say that the expression “the day” is beginning to shape up in this study as a great day, indeed.

### **Matthew 25:31-33**

*“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on the throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.”*

Here Jesus spoke of His return. People from all nations will be gathered before Him and He will separate (judge) them as a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats.

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|                         | 1                  | 2                  | 3                  | 4                | 5                   | 6                | 7             | 8             | 9             |
| Scripture:              | The Day            | Resur-<br>rection  | Return             | Gather-<br>ing   | Harvest             | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven        | Hell          |
| <b>Matthew 25:31-33</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>implied..</b> | <b>implied.....</b> | <b>stated</b>    | <b>stated</b> | <b>stated</b> | <b>stated</b> |

The connection between Jesus’ RETURN (3) and the JUDGMENT (7) is here explicitly stated. When Jesus returns He will sit in judgment.

When Jesus said that “all nations will be gathered before him,” He was implying both the GATHERING (4) of the elect and the HARVESTING (5) of wicked people from the earth. This passage displays a relatively full panorama of the events in the final drama.



**Matthew 25:31-46.**

*“(31) When the Son of Man comes in his glory.... (34) Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world....(41) Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels....(46)Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”*

I have telescoped this rather long passage together, leaving out some intervening words, in order to highlight something that has already been shown in Matthew 7:21-23. This passage indicates that the heavenly reward for the righteous and the punishment of the wicked people will take place immediately following the judgment, and without delay.

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|                         | 1       | 2                 | 3                  | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7                 | 8                | 9             |
| Scripture:              | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return             | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment     | Heaven           | Hell          |
| <b>Matthew 25:31-46</b> |         |                   | <b>stated.....</b> |                |         |                  | <b>stated....</b> | <b>stated...</b> | <b>stated</b> |

From these verses, the picture of the final drama is fleshed out before our eyes in even greater detail: The RETURN (3) of Jesus is again brought into connection with the JUDGMENT (7). Some people will be invited to enter HEAVEN (8) and others will be consigned to HELL (9) following the JUDGMENT (7). There does not appear to be any gap in this passage for Jesus, after His return, to set up a kingdom that will last a thousand years on this earth.

**Luke 10:10-14**

*“But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.’ I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths.”*

These verses are taken from Jesus’ admonition to the seventy-two disciples, whom He sent out on a limited commission. Jesus said it would not go well with any town that rejected His messengers. In these verses Jesus referred both to “that day” and to “the judgment.”

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|                      | 1                   | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7                   | 8              | 9    |
| Scripture:           | The Day             | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment       | Heaven         | Hell |
| <b>Luke 10:10-14</b> | <b>stated</b> ..... |                   |        |                |         |                  | <b>stated</b> ..... | <b>implied</b> |      |

Here for the second time in our study, the DAY (1) and the JUDGMENT (7) are brought together. Previously they were brought together in Matthew 7:21-23, but only by implication. Although this is the first time that the connection between the day and the judgment is specifically stated, it will certainly not be the last time.

Jesus said that Capernaum would “go down to the depths.” This seems to be a reference to HELL (9).

### Luke 12:45-46

*“But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not ware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.”*

The key elements in this verse are as follows: The master will RETURN (3) on a certain DAY (1). He will punish a servant who has abused his position. The punishment falls into two parts: The master will “cut him to pieces,” which suggests the painful HARVESTING (5) of wicked people from the earth, and he will assign him “a place with unbelievers,” which suggests punishment in HELL (9).

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|                      | 1                    | 2                   | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7                    | 8      | 9              |
| Scripture:           | The Day              | Resur-<br>rection   | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment        | Heaven | Hell           |
| <b>Luke 12:45-46</b> | <b>implied</b> ..... | <b>stated</b> ..... |        |                |         |                  | <b>implied</b> ..... |        | <b>implied</b> |

More is implied in this passage than is specifically stated. If, however, anyone takes this and Jesus’ other sayings about the end time into consideration, it becomes clear that Jesus was careful to fit His teaching into a definite framework.

## Luke 17:22-24

*“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. Men will tell you, ‘There he is!’ Or ‘Here he is!’ Do not go running off after them. For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.”*

This verse shows a difference between the way Jesus thought about the end time and the way some people today think about it. Some people today think there will be many days on earth with the Messiah after He returns, but Jesus spoke of only one day (“His day”). If Jesus had been referring to a thousand-year period, one would have to conclude there will be a long season of thunder and lightning.

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|                      | 1                  | 2                 | 3              | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:           | The Day            | Resur-<br>rection | Return         | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>Luke 17:22-24</b> | <b>stated.....</b> |                   | <b>implied</b> |                |         |                  |               |        |      |

Although this passage does not describe in detail all the things that Jesus will do when He RETURNS (3), it does designate His RETURN (3) as being on “His DAY” (1). Therefore, it connects, as do many passages in the New Testament, His return with that one special day.

## Luke 17:30-37

*“It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot’s wife! Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left. ‘Where Lord?’ they asked. He replied, ‘Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.’”*

The day on which the Son of Man will be revealed is the day on which Jesus’ elect (chosen ones) will be gathered from the earth.

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|                      | 1                  | 2                 | 3                 | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:           | The Day            | Resur-<br>rection | Return            | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>Luke 17:30-37</b> | <b>stated.....</b> |                   | <b>stated....</b> |                |         | <b>stated</b>    |               |        |      |

This is the sixth time in this study that the RETURN (3) of Jesus coincides with that very special DAY (1).

It is the seventh time that Jesus' RETURN (3) has been brought into connection, either by direct statement or by implication, with the GATHERING (4) of His elect. It should not surprise anyone that these two events happen together, for one of the main purposes of Jesus' return will be to gather His people and take them away with Him.

## Luke 21:25-28

*“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”*

When Jesus' followers see the Son of Man RETURNING (3) in glory they should rejoice, because they are about to be GATHERED (4) from the earth.

Wicked people will “faint from terror” for they will soon be HARVESTED from the earth (5).

| Scripture:           | 1       | 2                 | 3      | 4   | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
|----------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|---|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                      | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing                            | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>Luke 21:25-28</b> |         |                   |        | <b>stated...implied..implied..implied</b> |         |                  |               |        |      |

This is the second time that the destruction of the earth has been brought into connection with the RETURN (3), the GATHERING (4), and the HARVEST of the earth (5). The previous time was in Matthew 24:29-31, which appears to be a somewhat parallel passage.

## Luke 21:32-36

*“I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray*

*that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”*

|                      |                    |   |        |         |         |          |       |        |      |
|----------------------|--------------------|---|--------|---------|---------|----------|-------|--------|------|
|                      | 1                  | 2   | 3      | 4       | 5       | 6        | 7     | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:           | The Day            | Resur-                                    | Return | Gather- | Harvest | Destruc- | Judg- | Heaven | Hell |
|                      |                    | rection                                   |        | ing     | ing     | tion     | tion  | ment   |      |
| <b>Luke 21:32-36</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>implied..implied..stated...implied</b> |        |         |         |          |       |        |      |

Here the DAY (1) and the DESTRUCTION (6) of the earth are explicitly joined to each other. When “THAT DAY” (1) arrives, some people will be able to escape the destruction that will come like a trap. This implies a GATHERING (4) of the God’s people and a HARVESTING (5) of those that are not His people. Although the earth will be DESTROYED (6), people that belong to the Son of Man will stand before Him. Their standing before Him suggests the JUDGMENT (7).

The two selections from Luke twenty-one (verses 25-28 and 32-36) are very significant. Six of the major events of the end time are brought together in these selections. Jesus showed in these verses that, even before men and women are taken from the earth, the material world will begin to unravel. Here is what will happen: There will be signs in the heavens. Heavenly bodies will be shaken. The sea will be tossing. Many people will be afraid, because they will be aware that something awesome is coming upon the earth when they will then see the Son of Man returning in a cloud with power and glory. Evil people will be apprehensive, but God’s people will have reason to be encouraged. They should lift their heads, because they will soon be delivered from the things that are about to happen, in which things both heaven and earth will pass away.

### **THE RETURN PASSAGES**

The return of Jesus has been one of the major themes in the passages that we have looked at so far from the synoptic gospels. These passages could appropriately be called the “return passages.”

Up to this point, we have seen the RETURN (3) of Jesus being explicitly tied to that special DAY (1) (Matthew 24:36-41, Matthew 25:6-13, and Luke 17:30-37).

We have seen the RETURN (3) of Jesus explicitly tied to the GATHERING (4) of the elect (Matthew 24:29-31, 36-41, and Luke 17:30-37). The tie in has been implied at least four times.

We have also seen His RETURN (3) being explicitly tied to the final JUDGMENT (7) (Matthew 25:31-46).

In addition, we have seen His RETURN (3) expressly combined with saints' being rewarded in HEAVEN (8) (Matthew 25:31-46). The combination of the return and the reward has also been implied at least four times.

Further, we have seen a connection expressly made between Jesus' RETURN (3) and wicked people's being punished in HELL (9) (Matthew 24:45-51 and Matthew 25:31-46). This connection has also been implied at least four times. So we see that these events all fit together hand in glove.

**John 5:28-29**

*“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out--those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.”*

At this point in our study, the resurrection of the dead comes into the picture. Jesus said that the time would come when both good and bad people would come out of their graves. It appears that both good and bad people will come out at the same time. A judgment is implied since they will come out to separate fates. Those who have done good in their lives will come out to eternal life, but those who have done evil will come out to condemnation. Thus, both heaven and hell are implied.

|                     |         |                     |        |                |         |                  |                |                |                |
|---------------------|---------|---------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                     | 1       | 2                   | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7              | 8              | 9              |
| Scripture:          | The Day | Resur-<br>rection   | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment  | Heaven         | Hell           |
| <b>John 5:28-29</b> |         | <b>stated</b> ..... |        |                |         |                  | <b>implied</b> | <b>implied</b> | <b>implied</b> |

If subsequent passages sustain what this passage implies, then the RESURRECTION (1) the JUDGMENT (7), HEAVEN (8), and HELL (9) will be shown to take place in close conjunction with each other. If it should be that the evidence will show this, then the knot that binds these events together will grow even tighter.

**John 6:39-40**

*“And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

Here, for the first time in our study the resurrection of the dead is mentioned in connection with “the last day.” There should be no confusion. The resurrection will be on the “last day.”

|                     |                          |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                     | 1                        | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:          | The Day                  | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>John 6:39-40</b> | <b>stated.....stated</b> |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |

This passage should put to rest any speculation that some of the dead will be raised and reign with Christ for a thousand years on earth. This would not be possible, because the day of the RESURRECTION (2) will be the last DAY (1). This is confirmed by passages that follow.

### **John 6:44**

*“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

|                  |                          |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                  | 1                        | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:       | The Day                  | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>John 6:44</b> | <b>stated.....stated</b> |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |

Here, again, the RESURRECTION (1) is shown to take place on the last DAY (2).

### **John 6:54**

*“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

|                  |                          |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                  | 1                        | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:       | The Day                  | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>John 6:54</b> | <b>stated.....stated</b> |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |

Here we find Jesus stating in the third passage that the RESURRECTION (2) will take place on the last DAY (1).

### **John 11:24**

Some of the people who were alive in Jesus’ day understood the connection between the last day and the resurrection. One such person was Martha. Martha said, “I know he [Lazarus] will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

|                   |                          |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                   | 1                        | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:        | The Day                  | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>John 11:24</b> | <b>stated.....stated</b> |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |

Although Martha did not know that Jesus intended to bring Lazarus back to physical life, she did understand that the RESURRECTION (2) would be on the last DAY (1).

### John 12:48

*“There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.”*

It is amazing to see how these verses all fall into line with one another. This is getting exciting! What at first glance appears to be a confusing jumble of references to future events turns out to be a tightly woven mosaic of things to come.

Notice next that the “last day” is connected to the Day of Judgment.

|                   |                          |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                   | 1                        | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:        | The Day                  | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>John 12:48</b> | <b>stated.....stated</b> |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |

Here it is clearly stated that the JUDGMENT (7) will be on the “last DAY” (1). There will be no more days here on earth after the Judgment.

### John 14:2-3

*“In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

Jesus said in these verses that He would go away and return. He also said He would prepare a place for His people. The place He intended to prepare is in heaven.

|                    |         |                   |                              |                |         |                  |               |                |      |
|--------------------|---------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|----------------|------|
|                    | 1       | 2                 | 3                            | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8              | 9    |
| Scripture:         | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return                       | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven         | Hell |
| <b>John 14:2-3</b> |         |                   | <b>stated...implied.....</b> |                |         |                  |               | <b>implied</b> |      |



Summing up John 14:2-3, when Jesus RETURNS (3), He will “take” His people to be where He is. This implies a GATHERING (4) of His people, and if they will be with Him then HEAVEN (8) is implied.

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As we leave the gospels, please be reminded that five times we found that Jesus linked His RETURN (3) to the great “DAY” (1). Eight times He linked His RETURN (3) to the GATHERING (2) of His saints. Twice He linked His RETURN (3) to the DESTRUCTION (6) of the earth. Twice He linked His RETURN (3) to the JUDGMENT (7). Six times He linked His RETURN (3) to His servants being rewarded (8) and six times He linked His RETURN (3) to certain people being punished (9).

So as we make our way through the New Testament, we find that the connection between the final events continues to grow tighter. Now let us turn to the Acts of Apostles.

**Acts 2:19-20**

*“I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.”*

On the day of Pentecost the apostle Peter quoted these words from the prophet Joel. Joel called the DAY (1) “the great and glorious day of the Lord.” This indicates how outstanding that day will be. No other day will be like it.

|                     |                    |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                     | 1                  | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:          | The Day            | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>Acts 2:19-20</b> | <b>stated.....</b> |                   |        |                |         | <b>implied</b>   |               |        |      |

This is not the first time that we have found the DESTRUCTION (6) of the earth linked to the DAY (1). Once before, in Luke 21:32-36, it was stated that the destruction of the earth would take place on “that DAY.”

Someone might ask, “How can it be as you say? The disturbances mentioned in Acts 2:19-20 will take place BEFORE the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord, not at the same time, as you say.”

Yes, that is true, but please remember that Jesus suggested in Luke 21:25-28 that the material world will start to go “haywire” only shortly before the destruction of the earth. So, the winding down of the material

world will be connected with “the great and glorious day of the Lord” in that it will usher it in.

**Acts 17:31**

*“For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”*

In view of the fact that the DAY (1) has previously been linked four times with the JUDGMENT (7), it is not surprising that the apostle Paul links them here.

|                   |                          |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                   | 1                        | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:        | The Day                  | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>Acts 17:31</b> | <b>stated.....stated</b> |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |

Whether it is “the day,” “that day,” “the last day,” or “the great and glorious day of the Lord” all these expressions refer in the New Testament to the same day. It is the day on which the dead will arise, Jesus will return, the elect will be gathered, the earth will be destroyed, and the inhabitants of the earth will be judged.

**Romans 2:5-10**

*“But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God ‘will give to each person according to what he has done.’ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”*

The end-time day is called here “the day of God’s wrath.” The passage states that there will be a REWARD (8) for some people and PUNISHMENT (9) for others, as a result of the JUDGMENT (7).

|                      |                    |        |        |         |         |          |                                |        |      |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|----------|--------------------------------|--------|------|
|                      | 1                  | 2      | 3      | 4       | 5       | 6        | 7                              | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:           | The Day            | Resur- | Return | Gather- | Harvest | Destruc- | Judg-                          | Heaven | Hell |
|                      | rection            |        | ing    |         | tion    | ment     |                                |        |      |
| <b>Romans 2:5-10</b> | <b>stated.....</b> |        |        |         |         |          | <b>stated..implied.implied</b> |        |      |

This passage confirms that the DAY (1) and the JUDGMENT (7) are the same.

### Romans 2:16

*“This will take place on the day when God will judge men’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.”*

Here, the DAY (1) and the JUDGMENT (7) are brought together again.

|                    |                    |         |        |         |         |          |               |        |      |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|----------|---------------|--------|------|
|                    | 1                  | 2       | 3      | 4       | 5       | 6        | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:         | The Day            | Resur-  | Return | Gather- | Harvest | Destruc- | Judg-         | Heaven | Hell |
|                    |                    | rection |        | ing     |         | tion     | ment          |        |      |
| <b>Romans 2:16</b> | <b>stated.....</b> |         |        |         |         |          | <b>stated</b> |        |      |

This is the seventh time in this study that the DAY (1) and the JUDGMENT (7) have been brought together. Twice they have been brought together by implication and five times by direct statement. So we conclude that “the day” looms large in the New Testament. (See our study of “THE DAY.”)

### 1 Corinthians 1:7-8

*“Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

This passage says that the “day of our Lord Jesus Christ” is the day on which the Lord Jesus will be revealed. To say that He will “be revealed” is the same as to say that He will RETURN (3). (See our study of “THE RETURN.”) To say that some people will be found “blameless” on that day imply the JUDGMENT (7).

|                     |                    |         |                    |         |         |          |                |        |      |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------|----------|----------------|--------|------|
|                     | 1                  | 2       | 3                  | 4       | 5       | 6        | 7              | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:          | The Day            | Resur-  | Return             | Gather- | Harvest | Destruc- | Judg-          | Heaven | Hell |
|                     |                    | rection |                    | ing     |         | tion     | ment           |        |      |
| <b>1 Cor. 1:7-8</b> | <b>stated.....</b> |         | <b>stated.....</b> |         |         |          | <b>implied</b> |        |      |

This is the sixth time that Jesus’ RETURN (3) has been connected to “the DAY” (1).

### 1 Corinthians 4:5

*“Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait til the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.”*

When Jesus returns, one of His tasks will be to judge the “motives of men’s hearts.” When He judges people’s motives some people will receive praise.

|                   |         |                   |                    |                |         |                  |                        |        |      |
|-------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|------------------------|--------|------|
|                   | 1       | 2                 | 3                  | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7                      | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:        | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return             | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment          | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>1 Cor. 4:5</b> |         |                   | <b>stated.....</b> |                |         |                  | <b>stated..implied</b> |        |      |

Jesus’ RETURN (3) is connected here yet again with the JUDGMENT (7). This is the third time that these two events have been connected. One of Jesus’ main purposes for returning will be to judge the world. At that time, those who are found worthy will be REWARDED (8) with “praise from God.”

### 1 Corinthians 5:4-5

*“When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.”*

If it should happen that the brother in Corinth who had taken his father’s wife would repent and turn, he could be saved “on the day of the Lord.”

|                     |         |                   |                    |                |         |                  |                |        |      |
|---------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|----------------|--------|------|
|                     | 1       | 2                 | 3                  | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7              | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:          | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return             | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment  | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>1 Cor. 5:4-5</b> |         |                   | <b>stated.....</b> |                |         |                  | <b>implied</b> |        |      |

This passage shows that ultimate salvation will take place on a certain DAY (1). It is referred to here as “the day of the Lord.” Question: Where will those people go who are saved? They will go to HEAVEN (8).

Prior to this, we have found the connection mentioned three times between “the day” and a heavenly reward.

### 1 Corinthians 15:22-23

*“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.”*

When Christ returns His dead saints who have died will be resurrected.

|                        |         |                          |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                        | 1       | 2                        | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:             | The Day | Resur-<br>rection        | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>1 Cor. 15:22-23</b> |         | <b>stated.....stated</b> |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |

Prior to this verse we could have only surmised that the RESURRECTION (2) of the dead would take place in conjunction with Jesus’ RETURN (3). Here it is clearly stated.

### 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

*“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.”*

When the last trumpet sounds, the dead in Christ will be raised, and they will be given new bodies. Those of Christ’s people who are still living on the earth at that time will be clothed with immortality. In both cases, it will be a thrilling experience.

|                        |         |                          |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                        | 1       | 2                        | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:             | The Day | Resur-<br>rection        | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>1 Cor. 15:51-53</b> |         | <b>stated.....stated</b> |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |

The RESURRECTION (2) of the dead is now for the first time explicitly linked also to the GATHERING (4) of the saints. This passage indicates that these two events will take place in conjunction with each other.

### 2 Corinthians 1:13-14

*“For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. And I hope that, as you have understood us in part, you will come to*

*understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.”*

What did the apostle Paul mean when he said that “the day of the Lord Jesus” would be a day in which he would “boast?” To what day was he referring? He was referring to the day on which the Lord Jesus will return. It will be a day of “boasting.” See 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20.

|                       |             |                   |         |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                       | 1           | 2                 | 3       | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:            | The Day     | Resur-<br>rection | Return  | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>2 Cor. 1:13-14</b> | stated..... |                   | implied |                |         |                  |               |        |      |

This is now the seventh time in the New Testament that “the DAY” (1) has been brought into connection with the RETURN (3) of Jesus Christ. Five times previously, the connection has been established by explicit statements and once by implication.

**Philippians 2:14-16**

*“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.”*

The expression “the day of Christ” refers to the same day, of course, as does “the day of the Lord Jesus” in 2 Corinthians 1:14. Both expressions refer to the day on which Christ will return. The day on which Christ returns will be a day of boasting. See 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20.

|                            |             |                   |         |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                            | 1           | 2                 | 3       | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:                 | The Day     | Resur-<br>rection | Return  | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>Philippians 2:14-16</b> | stated..... |                   | implied |                |         |                  |               |        |      |

This is the eighth time that the DAY (1) has been brought into connection with the RETURN (3) of Christ.

**Colossians 3:4**

*“When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”*

Christ’s “appearing” and His “returning” are the same. (See our study on “The Return.”)

|                |         |                   |                 |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|----------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                | 1       | 2                 | 3               | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:     | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return          | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>Col 3:4</b> |         | <b>implied..</b>  | <b>stated..</b> | <b>implied</b> |         |                  |               |        |      |

When Christ “appears” (3), His people will also “appear” with Him. That is, those of His saints who have died will have been RESURRECTED (2) and brought with Jesus when He RETURNS (3) (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14). At that time, those of His saints who are still alive on the earth when He “appears” will “GATHERED” (4), that means they will be changed (1 Corinthians 15:51) and caught up in the air to be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:17). In this fashion, all the saints will “appear” with the Lord.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:19

*“For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?”*

The apostle Paul will “glory” (rejoice) over his crown (the people he has brought to the Lord) when Jesus returns.

|                      |         |                   |                    |                |         |                  |                |                |      |
|----------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------|
|                      | 1       | 2                 | 3                  | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7              | 8              | 9    |
| Scripture:           | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return             | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment  | Heaven         | Hell |
| <b>1 Thess. 2:19</b> |         |                   | <b>stated.....</b> |                |         |                  | <b>implied</b> | <b>implied</b> |      |

Paul spoke of the fact that he would “glory” in his “crown” when Jesus comes. Implied in this is that there will be a JUDGMENT (7) at which time Paul (and others) will be rewarded (8). This will all take place when Jesus RETURNS (3).

This is the eighth time that the HEAVENLY (8) reward has been brought into connection with Christ’s RETURN (3). This is the fifth time that the JUDGMENT (7) has been brought into connection with Christ’s RETURN (3).

If the final rewards and punishment will be handed out when Christ returns, there will be no significant lapse of time between His return and the end. Only by disassociating His return from the Judgment and from the ensuing final rewards and punishment, is it possible to find a time slot in which Christ would (supposedly) rule on earth for a thousand years.

### 1 Thessalonians 3:13

*“May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.”*

Mention is made in this passage of the fact that Jesus will come with “all His holy ones.” The apostle Paul was referring to the saints who will have died by the time He returns. If Jesus brings His dead saints with Him, this implies that they will have been resurrected before He returns.

Here, the apostle Paul expressed his hope that the brethren in Thessalonika would be found blameless and holy in God’s presence when Jesus returns. This implies that they will have to stand inspection, and we know that the day of inspection is the Day of Judgment.

|                      |         |                   |                  |                |         |                  |               |                     |      |
|----------------------|---------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|------|
|                      | 1       | 2                 | 3                | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8                   | 9    |
| Scripture:           | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return           | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven              | Hell |
| <b>1 Thess. 3:13</b> |         | <b>implied</b>    | <b>...stated</b> |                |         |                  |               | <b>.....implied</b> |      |

Here, a connection is implied between the RETURN (3) of Jesus (which is stated) and the RESURRECTION (2) of the dead. Also a connection is implied between the RETURN (3) of Jesus and the JUDGMENT (7) (inspection) of the saints.

This is the third time that Jesus’ RETURN (3) and the RESURRECTION (2) have been linked together. This is the sixth time that Jesus’ RETURN (3) and the JUDGMENT (7) have been linked.

### 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

*“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of the men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.”*

When Jesus returns, God will bring with Jesus those saints who have died. For that reason Christians should not worry about their friends and brethren who have “fallen asleep” (died). Jesus will bring their friends and brethren with Him when He returns. If Jesus brings with Him the saints who have fallen asleep, this implies that they will have been resurrected.



|                         |         |                         |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                         | 1       | 2                       | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:              | The Day | Resur-<br>rection       | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>1 Thess. 4:13-14</b> |         | <b>implied...stated</b> |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |

This is the fourth time that the RETURN of Jesus (3) has been linked to the RESURRECTION (2) of the dead.

**1 Thessalonians 4:15-5:2**

*“According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.*

*“Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”*

We see in this passage that Jesus will return on the “day of the Lord.” No one knows, of course, when that day will be. For that reason, it can be appropriately said that the “day of the Lord” will come as “a thief in the night.”

When the Lord “comes down from heaven,” He will bring with Him “the dead in Christ,” who will have been raised from the dead. Then, Christ’s people that are on the earth “will be caught up” to “meet the Lord in the air.” They will be, thus, united with those whom the Lord has with Him when He comes. Following this, all of Christ’s saints will all be with Him forever.

|                          |                    |                   |                   |                     |         |                  |               |        |                |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|----------------|
|                          | 1                  | 2                 | 3                 | 4                   | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9              |
| Scripture:               | The Day            | Resur-<br>rection | Return            | Gather-<br>ing      | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell           |
| <b>1 Thess. 4:15-5:2</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated....</b> | <b>stated....</b> | <b>stated,.....</b> |         |                  |               |        | <b>implied</b> |

These verses give what is, perhaps, the clearest statement in the Bible regarding a connection between the first four end-time events. Only in these verses, are these four events explicitly brought together in one passage.

If this were the only passage in the Bible concerning the end time, it would be sufficient to set a person well on his way to understanding the order of the events of the “day of the Lord.”

On the “DAY of the Lord (1),” Jesus will RETURN (3). As a prelude to His return, the dead in Christ will be RESURRECTED (2). Upon His arrival He will GATHER (4) His saints from the earth and take them to be with Him.

These verses were written to comfort the saints in Thessalonika regarding their beloved brethren who had died. No mention is made in these verses of the harsh results of Christ’s return, but that does not mean that evil people will not be harvested from the earth, nor that the destruction of the earth and the judgment will not take place when He returns. A description of the harsh side of Christ’s return comes in the following passage.

## 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8

*“God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”*

In his first letter to the Thessalonians, the apostle Paul described the pleasant side of Jesus’ return. In his second letter to them, he described the harsh side.

Jesus’ return is here associated with the “harvesting” of the earth, which will be done in wrath. It will be done as a part of the punishment awaiting those who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel.

In contrast to what will happen to the wicked, God’s people will be given relief.

| Scripture:            | 1       | 2                 | 3      | 4                              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
|-----------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|--------------------------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                       | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing                 | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>2 Thess. 1:6-8</b> |         |                   |        | <b>stated..implied..stated</b> |         |                  |               |        |      |

This passage clearly states that Jesus, upon His return, will punish those who cause trouble for His saints. This is the seventh time that the RETURN (3) of Jesus has been linked to the HARVESTING (5) of wicked people from the earth. Prior to this, the connection has been only implied, but here it is clearly stated.

One of the reasons for Jesus’ return will be to relieve the suffering of His people. Ten times prior to this, a connection has been established between Jesus’ RETURN (3) and the GATHERING (4) of His people from the earth. The connection has been made four times by direct statement and six times by implication.

## 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10

*“They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed.”*

“The day” that is referred to in this passage is the day on which Jesus will come “to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among those who have believed.”

This passage shows that even after wicked people have been “harvested” from the earth, they will still have to face the Judgment and will be “shut out from the presence of the Lord.”

|                        |                     |                     |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                        | 1                   | 2                   | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:             | The Day             | Resur-<br>rection   | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>2 Thess. 1:9-10</b> | <b>stated</b> ..... | <b>stated</b> ..... |        |                |         |                  | <b>stated</b> |        |      |

In this passage Jesus’ RETURN (3) and the DAY (1) of His RETURN (3) are brought into association with the eternal fate (9) of the wicked.

This is the seventh time that the RETURN of Jesus (3) has been associated with certain people being cast into HELL (9). This does away with any theory of a second chance after Jesus returns.

## 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

*“Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.”*

This passage states that when the Lord comes, His saints will be gathered to Him. Therefore, none of the Thessalonians should think that they had been overlooked or that they had missed out on being gathered to the Lord.

|                       |                    |                   |                        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                       | 1                  | 2                 | 3                      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:            | The Day            | Resur-<br>rection | Return                 | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>2 Thess. 2:1-2</b> | <b>stated.....</b> |                   | <b>stated...stated</b> |                |         |                  |               |        |      |

This passage shows that when the Lord RETURNS (3) it will be the “DAY of the Lord” (1). This is the twelfth time that the Lord’s RETURN (3) has been associated with the GATHERING (4) of the elect. This connection does away with any thought that Jesus will stay on earth when He returns. He will not stay on earth with His saints, rather, He will take them away with Him so they can be with Him at His Father’s side.

## 2 Thessalonians 2:8

*“And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.”*

The Lord Jesus will return in splendor, and when He returns He will destroy the “lawless one.” The “lawless one” is a man who will set himself up as God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). This man will be destroyed as a part of the harvesting of evil people from the earth.

|                     |         |                   |                    |                |               |                  |               |        |      |
|---------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                     | 1       | 2                 | 3                  | 4              | 5             | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:          | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return             | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest       | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>2 Thess. 2:8</b> |         |                   | <b>stated.....</b> |                | <b>stated</b> |                  |               |        |      |

Here a connection is shown between Jesus’ RETURN (3) and the HARVESTING (5) of wicked people from the earth. This is the eighth time that Jesus’ return has been coupled with the harvesting of wicked people from the earth.

## 2 Timothy 1:12

*“That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.”*

Toward the end of his life, the apostle Paul could truthfully say that he had made an investment in the gospel. He was confident that what he had invested would be well guarded and that he would be rewarded on “that day.”

Question: To which day was Paul referring? Answer: He was referring to the day on which the Lord would return. Question: What would Paul’s reward be on that day? Answer: It would be the privilege of being with God in heaven.

|                       |                    |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |                |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|----------------|
|                       | 1                  | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9              |
| Scripture:            | The Day            | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell           |
| <b>2 Timothy 1:12</b> | <b>stated.....</b> |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        | <b>implied</b> |

This verse represents the sixth time that the DAY (1), here called “that day,” has been brought into connection with a reward for Christ’s people in HEAVEN (8).

This clearly shows that both Jesus and His apostles understood that the final events would happen in connection with each other. They made reference to the final events in a very careful and precise way.

## 2 Timothy 4:1-2

*“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.”*

In the New International Version of the Bible (which we are using in this study), the connection is not very clear in this verse between Jesus’ appearing (return) and His judging. In some of the ancient manuscripts, however, as well as in some other English translations, the connection is clearer. A proper translation of this verse would reveal, I believe, a connection between Jesus’ returning and His judging.

|                        |         |                   |                    |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|------------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                        | 1       | 2                 | 3                  | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:             | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return             | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>2 Timothy 4:1-2</b> |         |                   | <b>stated.....</b> |                |         |                  | <b>stated</b> |        |      |

Prior to this, a connection between Jesus’ RETURN (3) and His JUDGING (7) has been stated three times and implied three times. So we see that the evidence is piling up that Jesus will not return to set up a kingdom on earth but to render judgement.

## 2 Timothy 4:8

*“Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”*

This lovely passage shows that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will reward those who long for His appearing. He will reward them with a “crown of righteousness.” The day that they have “longed for” will be the day on which He will reward them. It will be the day of “His appearing.”

The apostle Paul’s reference to a “crown of righteousness” should not be taken to refer to a reward on this earth, for there will be no occasion for the wearing of crowns on this earth after Jesus appears. His appearance will usher in the Judgment, and the Judgment will be on the last day for this earth (John 12:48).

Furthermore, since the earth will have “fled from his (God’s) presence” (Revelation 20:11), no one would want to be on it, crown or no crown.

|                      |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                |                |                |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                      | 1                  | 2                  | 3                  | 4                  | 5                  | 6                  | 7              | 8              | 9              |
| Scripture:           | The Day            | Resur-<br>rection  | Return             | Gather-<br>ing     | Harvest            | Destruc-<br>tion   | Judg-<br>ment  | Heaven         | Hell           |
| <b>2 Timothy 4:8</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>implied</b> | <b>implied</b> | <b>implied</b> |

In this passage we find Jesus’ RETURN (3) having been brought into connection with the “DAY” (1) for the twelfth time.

The passage also implies that the JUDGMENT (7) will take place in connection with Jesus’ RETURN (3). With this, the connection between Jesus’ return and the Judgment has been clearly stated three times and four times implied.

This passage (2 Timothy 4:8) implies, in addition, that there will be a connection between the final JUDGMENT (7) and a (heavenly) reward (8). The connection between the Judgment and heaven has been implied five times prior to this and once stated (Matthew 25:46).

So the evidence is piling up that these final events will all be connected to each other.

## Hebrews 10:26-27

*“If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.”*



So we see that the synchronization in the New Testament of these future events goes way beyond mere coincidence. It must have been done intentionally.

## 2 Peter 2:9

*“If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.”*

Here, the Apostle Paul speaks of the Judgment as taking place on a “day,” yet who knows whether or not the judging will be concluded within a twenty-four hour period? After the final day starts, the terminology “day” and “night” may no longer apply, for time itself may have stopped.

|                    |                     |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        |               |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|---------------|
|                    | 1                   | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9             |
| Scripture:         | The Day             | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell          |
| <b>2 Peter 2:9</b> | <b>stated</b> ..... |                   |        |                |         |                  |               |        | <b>stated</b> |

We already know that the DAY (1) of JUDGMENT (7) will be “the last day.” See John 12:48. The day and the Judgment have been connected nine times prior to this.

## 2 Peter 3:4-7

(Here we approach another of those great chapters in the New Testament, which tie together the events of the end-time drama.)

*“They will say, ‘Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.’ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”*

|                      |                     |                   |                     |                |                     |                    |               |        |      |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                      | 1                   | 2                 | 3                   | 4              | 5                   | 6                  | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:           | The Day             | Resur-<br>rection | Return              | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest             | Destruc-<br>tion   | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>2 Peter 3:4-7</b> | <b>stated</b> ..... |                   | <b>stated</b> ..... |                | <b>implied</b> .... | <b>stated</b> .... | <b>stated</b> |        |      |

Here we see that the Lord’s RETURN (3) will be on a DAY (1) that is called “the day of JUDGMENT” (7). On that day, the present heavens and



earth will be DESTROYED (6). The expression “the destruction of ungodly men” implies the HARVESTING (5) of the earth.

## 2 Peter 3:10-13

*“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”*

To say that the “day of the Lord” would come “like a thief” is the same as saying that Jesus will come like a thief, which is stated in other places (Revelation 3:3 and Revelation 16:15). How does a thief come? A thief can come unnoticed or he can come unexpectedly, or both. Jesus will not come unnoticed, but He will come unexpectedly.

|                        |                    |                     |                     |                     |                     |                    |                    |                    |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                        | 1                  | 2                   | 3                   | 4                   | 5                   | 6                  | 7                  | 8                  | 9                  |
| Scripture:             | The Day            | Resur-<br>rection   | Return              | Gather-<br>ing      | Harvest             | Destruc-<br>tion   | Judg-<br>ment      | Heaven             | Hell               |
| <b>2 Peter 3:10-13</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>implied.....</b> | <b>implied.....</b> | <b>implied.....</b> | <b>implied.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> |

The DAY (1) on which Jesus will RETURN (3) is called here “the day of the Lord” and “the day of God.” This shows that there is no basic difference between these two expressions. Further, the passage states that it will be the day on which the heavens and the earth will be DESTROYED (6) by fire.

The apostle Peter encouraged Christ’s people not to be frightened, at the earth’s impending destruction, because they look forward to a new HEAVEN (8) and a new EARTH (8).

After Jesus returns, His people will no longer live on this earth. Indeed, it would be impossible them to live here, because this earth and sky will flee from the presence of God (Revelation 20:11) and no place will be found for them. The new heaven and earth will be “new,” not only from the standpoint of time but also from the standpoint of kind. They will be a new kind (Greek: “kainos”) of heaven and earth.

If we had only this one chapter (2 Peter chapter three), the relatedness of the end-time events would be clear. In this one chapter six of the nine

main events of the end time are brought together. They are: The DAY (1), the RETURN (3) of Jesus, the HARVESTING (5) of wicked people, the DESTRUCTION (6) of the earth, the JUDGMENT (7) and the HEAVENLY (8) reward. This one chapter should settle the issue of whether or not these events will happen connectedly, but if it does not, there are plenty of other passages to consider.

### 1 John 2:28

*“And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.”*

This passage shows that Jesus’ “appearance” is the same as His “coming” (returning).

It will be important to the followers of Jesus that they be “confident and unashamed before him at his coming,” for at that time questions will be asked as to whether or not they have “continued” faithful “in him.” If questions will be asked, this implies the Judgment. Therefore, this passage implies that the Judgment will take place at the time of “his coming.”

|                    |         |                   |                    |                |         |                  |               |        |                |
|--------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|----------------|
|                    | 1       | 2                 | 3                  | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9              |
| Scripture:         | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return             | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell           |
| <b>1 John 2:28</b> |         |                   | <b>stated.....</b> |                |         |                  |               |        | <b>implied</b> |

This is the eleventh time that that the JUDGMENT (7) has been linked to Jesus’ RETURN (3). So it is clear by now that one of the reasons for Jesus’ return will be to set in motion that chain of events that will lead to His judging the world.

### Jude 6

*“And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home--these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.”*

The judgment is here spoken of as taking place on “the great day.”

|               |         |                   |                    |                |         |                  |               |        |               |
|---------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|---------------|
|               | 1       | 2                 | 3                  | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9             |
| Scripture:    | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return             | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell          |
| <b>Jude 6</b> |         |                   | <b>stated.....</b> |                |         |                  |               |        | <b>stated</b> |

The DAY (1) and the JUDGMENT (7) have already been connected in our study eleven times previously. How many more times would we have to find them connected before we could approach some kind of certainty regarding in these matters?

**Jude 14-15**

*“Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: ‘See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.’”*

Here again, one of the purposes for the Lord’s coming (returning) will be to judge everyone and thereby “to convict all the ungodly.”

|                   |         |        |                    |         |         |          |               |        |      |
|-------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------------|--------|------|
|                   | 1       | 2      | 3                  | 4       | 5       | 6        | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:        | The Day | Resur- | Return             | Gather- | Harvest | Destruc- | Judg-         | Heaven | Hell |
|                   | rection |        | ing                |         | tion    | ment     |               |        |      |
| <b>Jude 14-15</b> |         |        | <b>stated.....</b> |         |         |          | <b>stated</b> |        |      |

Please, notice how the number linkages between the various elements of the end-time drama increases as we go through the New Testament. This is the twelfth time that the Lord’s RETURN (3) has been linked to the JUDGMENT (7).

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From this point forward, we will be looking at the book of Revelation. The passages that we have looked at up to this point should help us in coming to grips with some of the things described in the book of Revelation. If we keep the relatedness of end-time events clearly in mind, it will help us to be more sure-footed, than would otherwise be the case, as we make our way through the book of Revelation.

**Revelation 6:12-17**

*“I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.*

*“Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the*

*rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come and who can stand?’”*

The above verses (Revelation 6:12-17) describe the happenings that were shown to the apostle John when Jesus opened the 6<sup>th</sup> seal.

The 6<sup>th</sup> seal shows what will take place on the “great day” of the wrath of God and of the Lamb. On that day people will see the material world beginning to dissolve around them: They will see stars falling and the sky being rolled up like a scroll. They will see mountains and islands disappearing, and people will know that the earth is beginning to be destroyed.

Ungodly people will be afraid, because they will know that they are about to be “harvested” and appear before the Lord.

|                           |                    |                   |        |                |                                  |                  |               |        |      |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                           | 1                  | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5                                | 6                | 7             | 8      |      |
| Scripture:                | The Day            | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest                          | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>Revelation 6:12-17</b> | <b>stated.....</b> |                   |        |                | <b>implied..stated...implied</b> |                  |               |        |      |

It is implied here that on “the great DAY” (1) both the HARVESTING (5) and the JUDGMENT (7) will take place. The passage also states that the “great DAY” (1) is the day on which the earth will be DESTROYED (6).

Following “the great day” no one will be able to live on this earth, because the sun and moon will have been darkened, the stars will have been displaced, the sky will have been rolled up, and every mountain and island will have been removed.

Further, due to the fact that everyone on earth will have either been “gathered” or “harvested” in order to appear before the Judgment, there will not be anyone living on this earth. The history of this earth will then be finished.

This is the third time (previously in Luke 21:32-36 and 2 Peter 3:4-7) that the harvesting of wicked people, the destruction of the earth, and the final judgment have all three been brought together in one passage.

What these thoughts indicate is that the day of the wrath of God and of the Lamb is the last day. If that is true, then we know that all of the events that are revealed under the preceding seals in the book of Revelation (Seals 1-5) will have taken place before the final drama begins. From this

we learn that the first five seals describe events that lead up to the end. They do not describe the end.

### Revelation 9:13-16

*“The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God. It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet ‘Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.’ And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.”*

The 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet (like the 6<sup>th</sup> seal) portrays the final day, which is identified by the phrase, “this very hour and day and month and year.” All the passages that we have looked at so far indicate that there is only one great and final day in the New Testament. (You might want to examine our study concerning “The Day.”)

The 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet announces that the four angels, who have been reserved for this very day, will be released and that a tremendous army of riders on horses will accompany them. They will go forth to slaughter an enormous number of people. By doing this, they will start the harvesting of wicked people from the earth.

|                           |                    |                   |        |                |                |                  |               |        |      |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                           | 1                  | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5              | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:                | The Day            | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest        | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>Revelation 9:13-16</b> | <b>stated.....</b> |                   |        |                | <b>implied</b> |                  |               |        |      |

This is the sixth time that the HARVESTING (5) of wicked people from the earth has been linked to that great and terrible DAY (1) in the New Testament.

If the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet announces the final day, as we contend here, then all the events announced under the first five trumpets come before (precede) the events that are announced under the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet. Thus, the first five trumpets are similar to the first five seals in that they both reveal events that lead up to the end.

### Revelation 14:6-11

*“I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language*

*and people. He said in a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.’ A second angel followed and said, ‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.’ A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.’”*

This passage takes up the story of what happens after the saints have been safely placed on Mount Zion (Revelation 14:1-5). Three angels appear and announce the fate of the people left on the earth. They announce (1) that the time for God’s judgment has come, (2) that Babylon has fallen, and (3) that wicked people will be cast into hell. When this passage speaks of Babylon as having fallen it is describing the wrathful harvesting of the earth.

|                           |         |                   |        |                |         |                     |                    |                    |      |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|----------------|---------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------|
|                           | 1       | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                   | 7                  | 8                  | 9    |
| Scripture:                | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion    | Judg-<br>ment      | Heaven             | Hell |
| <b>Revelation 14:6-11</b> |         |                   |        |                |         | <b>implied.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> |      |

This portrayal of the end time is the same as what we have seen throughout this study. Indeed, this is the sixth time that the HARVESTING (5) of the earth has been linked to the JUDGMENT (7). It is also the sixth time that the JUDGMENT (7) has been linked to wicked people being condemned to HELL (9).

This passage adds further weight to the thought that end-time events will take place in close sequence.

### **Revelation 14:14-20**

*“I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one ‘like a son of man’ with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, ‘Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.’ So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. Another angel came out of the temple in*

*heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, ‘Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe.’ The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses’ bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.”*

We find here an additional description of the harvesting of wicked people from the earth. The harvesting is described in pictorial language that was taken from prophetic writings of the Old Testament. The fact that the language is pictorial does not mean that the reality of it will be any less horrifying than the pictures that are used.

The one who initiates the harvesting is described as one who is like “a son of man.” That person will be returning on a cloud, so His identification is clear: It is Jesus. See Acts 1:9-11.

|                            |         |                   |                    |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|----------------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                            | 1       | 2                 | 3                  | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:                 | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return             | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>Revelation 14:14-20</b> |         |                   | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated</b>  |         |                  |               |        |      |

Here, for the tenth time the RETURN (3) of Jesus is seen as resulting in the HARVESTING (5) of the earth.

### **Revelation 16:12-21**

*“The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. ‘Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.’ Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.”*

*“The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!” Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe*

*earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.”*

The 6<sup>th</sup> bowl (Revelation 16:12-16) describes what will lead up to the harvesting of wicked people from the earth. The harvesting is here portrayed as a battle. It is the battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16).

Satan and the beast and the false prophet will use evil spirits to incite kings of the earth to gather for battle. (This battle is described in further detail in Revelation 19:11-21.)

The battle is said to take place on “the great day of God Almighty.” From passages previously observed, we know that “the great day of God Almighty” is the last day.

The 7<sup>th</sup> bowl (Revelation 16:17-21) is a continuation of the 6<sup>th</sup> bowl. It tells of things that will happen, from the battle of Armageddon down to the end of the world.

|                      |                    |                    |                    |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                      | 1                  | 2                  | 3                  | 4                        | 5                        | 6                        | 7                        | 8                        | 9                        |
| Scripture:           | The Day            | Resur-<br>rection  | Return             | Gather-<br>ing           | Harvest                  | Destruc-<br>tion         | Judg-<br>ment            | Heaven                   | Hell                     |
| <b>Rev. 16:12-21</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>implied...implied</b> | <b>implied...implied</b> | <b>implied...implied</b> | <b>implied...implied</b> | <b>implied...implied</b> | <b>implied...implied</b> |

This is the seventh time that the HARVESTING (5) of evil people from the earth has been shown to take place on the last DAY (1). Here, for the eleventh time the HARVESTING (5) of the earth is shown to coincide with Jesus’ RETURN (3). All of this evidence adds up and one cannot ignore it.

The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> bowls describe the same events as do the 6<sup>th</sup> seal and 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet: namely, the last day. Jesus will return on the last day and He will harvest wicked people from the earth.

**Revelation 17:12-14**

*“The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome*



*them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers” (Revelation 17:12-14).*

The ten kings mentioned in this passage will reign at the same time as the beast. They will serve the beast and make war against the Lamb and the Lamb will overcome them.

This passage sounds as though Jesus will be present for the battle. If He will be present, then His RETURN (3) is implied.

The statement that the Lamb will overcome the ten kings indicates that He will HARVEST (4) them from the earth.

Further, if He has His faithful followers with Him, this implies that His dead saints will have been RESURRECTED (2), and that His living saints will have been GATHERED (4) from the earth.

Therefore, four of the major end-time events are implicated in this passage, as the following chart illustrates:

|               | 1       | 2                                   | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
|---------------|---------|-------------------------------------|--------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
| Scripture:    | The Day | Resur-<br>rection                   | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| Rev. 17:12-14 |         | implied..implied..implied....stated |        |                |         |                  |               |        |      |

## Revelation 19:11-18

*“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter.’ He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**.*

*“And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, ‘Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great.’”*

This is a description of the last battle. It is easy to identify the one who is called the “Word of God.” It is Jesus Christ. It can be no other. This

is by no means the first time that He has been called “the Word.” See John 1:1-2.

This passage brings together in graphic detail the return of Christ and the harvesting of wicked people from the earth. The passage is full of echoes of Old Testament prophecies, which find their consummation in this passage. It would be too tedious at this point to list all of the echoes of Old Testament prophecies in the passage.

The message of the passage is that Christ will come again and do battle with those who make war upon Him and upon His people and that He will destroy them.

|                      |         |                   |                    |                |         |                  |               |        |      |
|----------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|------|
|                      | 1       | 2                 | 3                  | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9    |
| Scripture:           | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return             | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell |
| <b>Rev. 19:11-18</b> |         |                   | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated</b>  |         |                  |               |        |      |

This is a strong passage. It definitely links the RETURN (3) of Christ with the HARVESTING (5) of the earth. This is the thirteenth time in this study that these two events have been shown to take place in conjunction with each other.

### Revelation 20:7-10

*“When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth--Gog and Magog--to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”*

Here is another portrayal of the final battle. This portrayal reflects the language of the prophecies in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39. It shows that the final battle will result in wicked people being harvested from the earth. Fire will come down from heaven and devour them, and they will be harvested in that way.

|                    |         |                   |        |                |                    |                  |               |        |                |
|--------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|--------|----------------|
|                    | 1       | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5                  | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9              |
| Scripture:         | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest            | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell           |
| <b>Rev 20:7-10</b> |         |                   |        |                | <b>stated.....</b> |                  |               |        | <b>implied</b> |

Although Revelation 20:7-10 does not specifically state that people will be thrown into the lake of fire, it clearly implies that they will be. A few verses further down in the passage, it is clearly stated that people will be thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14).

Notice that the “thousand years,” mentioned in this passage, precede the harvesting of the earth. It is only after the “thousand years” are over that Satan is released. So, the “thousand years” do not follow the harvesting of wicked people from the earth. Quite to the contrary, the “thousand years” precede the harvesting of the earth.

It is impossible to conceive of there being a kingdom of universal righteousness while wicked people still roam the earth. That is not to say, however, that after the wicked have been harvested from the earth, Christ will set up a kingdom here. No, when Christ returns, the history of this earth will be done. Finished!

It is far more scriptural to think of Christ as reigning now. The apostle Paul said that Christ “must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet” (1 Corinthians 15:25). This agrees with the thought that the Christ has been reigning in the midst of His enemies (Psalm 110:2). He has been reigning all the while since He ascended to the right hand of God. He will continue to reign until people stop dying, that is, until death itself is destroyed, for “the last enemy to be destroyed is death” (1 Corinthians 15:26). After that, Christ will Himself be made subject to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:28).

## **Revelation 20:11-15**

*“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”*

This is a highly significant passage. Its message is specific and unequivocal. It shows that the major events of the end time will happen in conjunction with each other, as follows: The dead will stand before the

throne of God, which implies that they will have been resurrected. The destruction of the earth and sky is indicated by the fact that they will have fled from God’s presence and no place will have been found for them. All people, both great and small, will be judged. Those people whose names cannot be found in the “book of life” will be cast into hell.

|                            |         |                     |        |                |         |                    |                    |        |               |
|----------------------------|---------|---------------------|--------|----------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|---------------|
|                            | 1       | 2                   | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                  | 7                  | 8      | 9             |
| Scripture:                 | The Day | Resur-<br>rection   | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion   | Judg-<br>ment      | Heaven | Hell          |
| <b>Revelation 20:11-15</b> |         | <b>implied.....</b> |        |                |         | <b>stated.....</b> | <b>stated.....</b> |        | <b>stated</b> |

In this passage the RESURRECTION (2), the DESTRUCTION (6) of the earth and the JUDGMENT (7) are brought together, and the JUDGMENT (7) is shown to be a precursor to wicked people being cast into HELL (9).

### Revelation 21:1-2

*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.”*

Notice that this passage says that the first heaven and the first earth will have passed away by the time the “new heaven” and “new earth” appear. This suggested the destruction of this present heaven and earth.

John referred to the new heaven and the new earth as “the Holy City,” and also as “the new Jerusalem.” This is where God dwells; it is heaven.

|                          |         |                   |        |                |         |                    |               |               |      |
|--------------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|----------------|---------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|------|
|                          | 1       | 2                 | 3      | 4              | 5       | 6                  | 7             | 8             | 9    |
| Scripture:               | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion   | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven        | Hell |
| <b>Revelation 21:1-2</b> |         |                   |        |                |         | <b>stated.....</b> |               | <b>stated</b> |      |

This bringing of the DESTRUCTION (6) of the earth together with the rewarding of people in HEAVEN (8) makes for an unusual paring of events in the New Testament, but this is not the first time that they have been brought together. They were brought together previously in 2 Peter 3: 10-13.

### Revelation 22:12

*“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.”*

With this statement, Jesus referred to His return and to the fact that He will reward His faithful servants when He returns.

|                         |         |                   |                    |                |         |                  |               |        |               |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------------|--------|---------------|
|                         | 1       | 2                 | 3                  | 4              | 5       | 6                | 7             | 8      | 9             |
| Scripture:              | The Day | Resur-<br>rection | Return             | Gather-<br>ing | Harvest | Destruc-<br>tion | Judg-<br>ment | Heaven | Hell          |
| <b>Revelation 22:12</b> |         |                   | <b>stated.....</b> |                |         |                  |               |        | <b>stated</b> |

This is the fourteenth time that a connection has been made between Jesus' RETURN (3) and the REWARD (8). This clearly shows that one of the reasons for Jesus' return will be to reward His saints.

## AN OVERVIEW OF INTER-CONNECTEDNESS OF THE EVENTS OF THE END TIME

| Scripture:       | 1   | 2                          | 3                                      | 4            | 5            | 6             | 7                          | 8                           | 9       |
|------------------|---|----------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
|                  | The Day                                   | Resur- rection             | Return                                 | Gather- ing  | Harvest      | Destruc- tion | Judg- ment                 | Heaven                      | Hell    |
| Matt 3:11-12     |   |                            | implied...                             | stated...    | implied..... |               |                            | implied.....                | implied |
| Matt 7:21-23     | stated.....                               |                            |  |              |              |               | implied.....               | stated.....                 | stated  |
| Matt 13:40-43    |   |                            | implied.....                           |              |              |               |                            | stated.....                 | stated  |
| Matt 16:27       |   |                            | stated.....                            |              |              |               |                            | implied.....                | implied |
| Matt 24:27-28    |   |                            | stated...implied                       |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| Matt 24:29-31    |   |                            | stated....stated...implied.....implied |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| Matt 24:36-41    | stated.....                               |                            | stated....stated...implied             |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| Matt 24:45-51    |   |                            | stated.....                            |              |              |               |                            | implied.....                | stated  |
| Matt 25:6-13     | stated.....                               |                            | stated.....                            |              |              |               |                            | implied.....                | implied |
| Matt 25:31-33    |   |                            | stated...implied...implied.....stated  |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| Matt 25:31-46    |   |                            | stated.....                            |              |              |               |                            | stated.....                 | stated  |
| Luke 10:10-14    | stated.....                               |                            |  |              |              |               | stated.....                |                             | implied |
| Luke 12:45-46    | implied.....                              |                            | stated.....                            | implied..... |              |               |                            |                             | implied |
| Luke 17:22-24    | stated.....                               |                            | implied                                |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| Luke 17:30-37    | stated.....                               |                            | stated...stated                        |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| Luke 21:25-28    |   |                            | stated...implied...implied.....implied |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| Luke 21:32-36    | stated.....                               |                            | implied...implied.....stated..implied  |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| John 5:28-29     |   | stated.....                |  |              |              |               |                            | implied...implied...implied |         |
| John 6:39-40     | stated....stated                          |                            |  |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| John 6:44        | stated....stated                          |                            |  |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| John 6:54        | stated...stated                           |                            |  |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| John 11:24       | stated...stated                           |                            |  |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| John 12:48       | stated.....                               |                            |  |              |              |               | stated                     |                             |         |
| John 14:2-3      |   |                            | stated...implied.....                  |              |              |               |                            |                             | implied |
| Acts 2:19-20     | stated.....                               |                            |  |              |              |               |                            | implied                     |         |
| Acts 17:31       | stated.....                               |                            |  |              |              |               | stated                     |                             |         |
| Rom 2:5-10       | stated.....                               |                            |  |              |              |               | stated...implied...implied |                             |         |
| Rom 2:16         | stated.....                               |                            |  |              |              |               | stated                     |                             |         |
| 1 Cor 1:7-8      | stated.....                               |                            | stated.....                            |              |              |               | implied                    |                             |         |
| 1 Cor 4:5        |   |                            | stated.....                            |              |              |               | stated...implied           |                             |         |
| 1 Cor 5:4-5      | stated.....                               |                            |  |              |              |               |                            | implied                     |         |
| 1 Cor 15:22-23   |   | stated...stated            |  |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| 1 Cor 15:51-53   |   | stated.....                | stated                                 |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| 2 Cor 1:13-14    | stated.....                               | stated                     |  |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| Phil 2:14-16     | stated.....                               | implied                    |  |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| Col 3:4          |   | implied...stated...implied |  |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| 1 Thess 2:19     |   | stated.....                |  |              |              |               | implied...implied          |                             |         |
| 1 Thess 3:13     |   | implied...stated.....      |  |              |              |               | implied                    |                             |         |
| 1 Thess 4:13-14  |   | implied...stated           |  |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| 1 Thess 4:15-5:2 | stated....stated...stated.....stated..... |                            |  |              |              |               |                            | implied                     |         |
| 2 Thess 1:6-8    |   | stated...implied...stated  |  |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| 2 Thess 1:9-10   | stated.....                               | stated.....                |  |              |              |               |                            |                             | stated  |
| 2 Thess 2:1-2    | stated.....                               | stated.....                | stated                                 |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| 2 Thess 2:8      |   | stated.....                | stated                                 |              |              |               |                            |                             |         |
| 2 Timothy 1:12   | stated.....                               |                            |  |              |              |               |                            | implied                     |         |

| Scripture:       | 1<br>The<br>Day | 2<br>Resur-<br>rection | 3<br>Return  | 4<br>Gather-<br>ing | 5<br>Harvest | 6<br>Destruc-<br>tion | 7<br>Judg-<br>ment | 8<br>Heaven | 9<br>Hell |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 2 Tim 4:1-2      |                 |                        | stated.....  |                     |              |                       | stated             |             |           |
| 2 Tim 4:8        | stated.....     |                        | stated.....  |                     |              |                       | implied....        | implied     |           |
| Hebrews 10:26-27 |                 |                        |              |                     |              | implied.....          | stated             |             |           |
| 1 Peter 1:7      |                 |                        | stated.....  |                     |              |                       | implied....        | implied     |           |
| 2 Peter 2:9      | stated.....     |                        |              |                     |              |                       | stated             |             |           |
| 2 Peter 3:4-7    | stated.....     |                        | stated.....  | implied....         | stated.....  | stated                |                    |             |           |
| 2 Peter 3:10-13  | stated.....     |                        | implied..... |                     | stated.....  |                       |                    | stated      |           |
| 1 John 2:28      |                 |                        | stated.....  |                     |              |                       | implied            |             |           |
| Jude 6           | stated.....     |                        |              |                     |              |                       | stated             |             |           |
| Jude 14-15       |                 |                        | stated.....  |                     |              |                       | stated             |             |           |
| Rev 6:12-17      | stated.....     |                        |              |                     | implied....  | stated....            | implied            |             |           |
| Rev 9:13-16      | stated.....     |                        |              |                     | implied      |                       |                    |             |           |
| Rev 14:6-11      |                 |                        |              |                     | implied..... | stated.....           |                    | stated      |           |
| Rev 14:14-20     |                 |                        | stated.....  | stated              |              |                       |                    |             |           |
| Rev 16:12-21     | stated.....     |                        | stated.....  | implied....         | implied      |                       |                    |             |           |
| Rev 17:12-14     |                 | implied..              | implied..    | implied..           | stated       |                       |                    |             |           |
| Rev 19:11-18     |                 |                        | stated.....  | stated              |              |                       |                    |             |           |
| Rev 20:7-10      |                 |                        |              |                     | stated.....  |                       |                    | implied     |           |
| Rev 20:11-15     |                 | implied.....           |              |                     | stated....   | stated.....           |                    | stated      |           |
| Rev 21:1-2       |                 |                        |              |                     |              | stated.....           |                    | stated      |           |
| Rev 22:12        |                 |                        | stated.....  |                     |              |                       |                    | stated      |           |

## **CONCLUSIONS THAT CAN BE DRAWN FROM THIS STUDY CONCERNING THE ORDER OF EVENTS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

1. The passages that we have looked at in the New Testament set the framework for a better understanding of the book of Revelation. What can be seen is that the book of Revelation presents a picture of the end time that is in harmony with the rest of the New Testament. This fact is reassuring. It would have been unsettling if the apostle John had painted a picture of the future that is out of joint with what other apostles and other inspired writers have written. Any interpretation of the book of Revelation that does not take into account the earlier parts of the New Testament is flawed.
2. Another thing that becomes clear, as we study these passages, is that most of the events that are pictured in the book of Revelation are end-time events. That is to say that the book of Revelation does not present a consecutive history of events from the days of apostle John forward. Instead, it tells the story of the end time and of things that will lead up to it.
3. Some of the events that are mentioned in the book of Revelation precede, and run up to, the coming of the Lord. For example, the first five seals (Revelation 6), the first five trumpets (Revelation 8-9), and the first five bowls (Revelation 16) describe events that will take place **BEFORE** the great and awful day of the Lord breaks forth. This is important to recognize.
4. Finally, this study also shows that the New Testament does not support the premillennial theory. It shows that Christ will, indeed, return but not to set up a thousand-year reign. Instead, He will come to take His people to be with Him (1 Thessalonians 4: 17) in heaven.