

Chapter 13a

The following is the chapter from the Original Code in the Bible on the subject of Bible prophecy (with some minor edits and additions). It is worth repeating here on Angelfall because it explains this entire issue and debate in a simple, easy to understand, yet interesting and clear manner. There is a much enlarged discussion (three complete chapters) on the subject of Bible prophecy in **Theomatics II**. Please refer to that work.

The Great Bible Prophecy Debacle

Predictions Gone Sour, and Nobody Yet Knows the Day or the Hour

Without a doubt, the number-one subject of interest to Christians the world over is the second coming of Jesus Christ. When is Jesus going to return to planet Earth? What is going to happen after He gets here?

No subject has elicited more questions and interest relative to theomatics than this one. People everywhere want to know if the discoveries made in theomatics shed any new light on the subject of eschatology (the end of the world.) The answer is a resounding—
Yes!

The Greek word "eschatos," from which eschatology is derived, means "the last or final things." There are two hundred pages in **Theomatics II** that discuss this area extensively (pp. 375-573) and show a large number of theomatic patterns. In this condensed version, I shall simply give the reader a synopsis and general overview—explaining in simple terms the conclusions I have arrived at based upon the research.

I sincerely believe, in all humility, that the following will be the most objective explanation ever given to the Christian Church relative to the book of Revelation. However, be forewarned. What you are about to read may not be what many people expect or anything close to it!

Right now there is mass confusion and utter frustration among Christians when it comes to the subject of Bible prophecy. People have heard so many different things—all kinds of predictions, date setting, and loony theories. As we have now surpassed the year 2000, the hype and hysteria surrounding this subject is likely to increase dramatically. This will be especially true as world events become more formidable and people feel less secure and more fearful.

The Fun Stuff

When compared to other aspects of Bible study, the subject of Bible prophecy has been appropriately called the "fun stuff." It seems to titillate and excite people as nothing else can. Over the years, and even now, the Christian media is saturated with various radio and television ministries, hundreds upon hundreds of books and video programs—all focused on Bible prophecy and the end times. The Seventh-Day Adventist Church has spread its weeks-long prophetic seminars into nearly every city and neighborhood in the country. Numerous individuals are caught up in the idea of trying to fit modern-day events and all the events happening in the world and associating them to the things mentioned in the Bible.

So much has been said, particularly since the 1970s. Books such as the **Late Great Planet Earth**, by Hal Lindsey, have sold upward of fifteen million copies. From this has come a prophetic pop culture, which has almost reduced the Bible to a **National Enquirer** level of spirituality.

Most Christians today seem apathetic toward the subject, and many don't seem to know what to believe anymore, given the many failed predictions about when the rapture was supposed to have taken place. Even though confusion has settled in, many Christians are still hopeful and expectant.

Theomatics will bring a whole new focus of understanding to this entire subject. After reading the following, your heart should breathe a sigh of relief. We may not have the answer to every question, but there will finally be a crisp solution to the whole dilemma.

There Are Major Cracks in the Foundation

Almost everything being taught today in the Christian Church, the media, books, etc. about Bible prophecy and the end times **is operating under a delusion of false premises** (and conclusions that are even worse). Bible students have grossly misunderstood the Word of God. Few, if any, scholars have ever comprehended the correct method of understanding the Books of Daniel and Revelation and other significant passages.

The basic premise that people are trying to go on today is that God gave us Daniel and Revelation so that we could figure out and understand future world events. In other words, embedded inside the Bible is a prophetic blueprint describing the major world events to come—up until the return of Jesus. We just have to be clever enough to figure it all out.

Section 1 of this chapter will examine the various persuasions, or schools of thought, that are currently prominent. In section 2, the correct premise and method of investigation will be discussed in light of theomantics.

Section 1: Pick Your Persuasion

The issue of Bible prophecy—the entire debate—is centered on just one passage of scripture, Revelation chapter 20, verses 1-8. This passage talks about a period of time consisting of "the thousand years."

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him the thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ the thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him the thousand years.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

This is a watershed passage. The manner in which you understand and interpret it will determine how everything else in the Bible **MUST** be interpreted.

In the Rocky Mountains of the United States there is an invisible line called the Continental Divide. All the little streams that start on one side of the line eventually form rivers that flow toward the Atlantic Ocean. The streams on the other side of the line will

eventually make their way to the Pacific Ocean. When a drop of rain falls, only a few inches determine which ocean the drop will eventually end up in. The same is true here. Christians today are totally divided on how the above passage is supposed to be interpreted.

Right now there are five camps or schools of thought. Virtually everyone out there will fall into one of these five categories, in one form or another. The following may seem a little academic but is very important to understand before proceeding. You will find the following interesting and helpful.

- ***Historic premillennialism*** — This teaching believes there will be a LITERAL and FUTURE one-thousand-year reign of Christ on earth after Jesus returns. It also believes that the church is going to go through what is called "the great tribulation," a period lasting either three-and-one-half or seven years preceding the second return of Christ. During the thousand-year period that follows the great tribulation and the Antichrist, the world will experience peace and tranquility as Christ rules over the earth and the Church administers his kingdom. According to this view, there is no future hope for the nation of Israel or Jewish people outside the Church and faith in Jesus Christ. This belief system is adhered to by many Christians, especially those who have seen the errors of the next group below.
- ***Premillennial dispensationalism*** — A future one-thousand-year reign of Christ on earth will occur, but in a whole different context. Today this is the dominant belief among 85 to 90 percent of all evangelical Christians. If you attend a Bible-believing evangelical, fundamentalist, Charismatic, or Pentecostal church, you are most likely a dispensationalist (but you probably don't know it).

Everything in this belief system revolves around the nation of Israel. At its foundation, premillennial dispensationalism teaches that God has two separate and distinct bodies of people—Israel and the Church. There is a separate plan and different eternal destiny for each of these two peoples. The Church's hope is eternal bliss in heaven (the kingdom of heaven). Israel's hope is an earthly kingdom (the kingdom of God). The proponents of this system are the ones who teach that Israel returning to Palestine in 1948 is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

Essentially, this persuasion teaches that when Christ came the first time, he did so as the Messiah with the objective of offering the Jewish people an earthly political kingdom. When the Jews rejected the Lord's offer, as dispensationalism teaches, God was forced to go with "Plan B," and that is where the whole idea of the cross and the Church first came into being. According to dispensational teachings, the Church was never foreseen or prophesied in the Old Testament. It came about only because the Jews rejected Christ's supposed offer.

As Christians today, we are now living in "the 2,000 year" gap period, running from the cross to the present, called the "dispensation of the gospel of grace." The kingdom that Jesus supposedly offered to Israel has been temporarily postponed and "placed on the

back burner." **Before it can finally be realized, the Church must be taken out of this world and raptured to heaven.** When the Church departs this earth, so will the Holy Spirit. That will then bring to a close the Church age and usher in the next dispensation, or the millennium.

Dispensationalists are vehemently opposed to the concept that the Church is going to go through the great tribulation. The doctrine of the "pre-tribulation rapture" is of major and critical importance to the dispensationalist. This event **must** take place **before** the tribulation, also known by dispensationalists as "Daniel's seventieth week."

Then all hell breaks loose as the nation of Israel must face the wrath of the Antichrist. At the end of the great tribulation, Israel will be purged, and Jesus will return in the clouds, land on the Mount of Olives, and finally restore the Old Testament Jewish kingdom, which had to be abandoned at Christ's first coming. At that point, Jesus will march into Jerusalem, sit on David's throne, and along with all the Jewish people, rule the world for a thousand years. The temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt, lambs will again be sacrificed on the altar, and a revised version of the Old Testament religious and sacrificial system will become the new world religion. However, the people of Israel, for the most part, will become believers only **AFTER** they physically see Jesus landing on the Mount of Olives. When Christ shows them the nail prints in His hands, they will all repent, fall down, and finally accept Him as their Messiah.

Most evangelical Christians today follow this persuasion, whether they fully comprehend it or not. Just about every ministry that focuses on Bible prophecy and the end times—every book out there on the subject of Bible prophecy—is founded on these ideas and notions. Yet not one in a thousand Christians has ever investigated the history behind this supposed enlightenment, nor have they done an in-depth analysis to see how thoroughly it contradicts the clear teachings of the Bible. Premillennial dispensationalism completely destroys (mixes up and confuses) the eternal plan and purpose of God.

For example, if the Jews had accepted Christ's original "kingdom offer," they would have been saved by legal obedience instead of faith, and the cross of Christ would not have been necessary as a means to salvation. As the Bible so clearly contradicts, Jesus was the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). The truth is, the Bible nowhere states that Jesus ever offered the Jews an earthly kingdom. In fact, what is absurd about this argument is that in John 6:15, the Jews tried to take Jesus by force and **MAKE** him a king! But the Bible says that the Lord left them and went up in a mountain to pray. **It was Christ Himself who rejected the Jews' offer of an earthly kingdom.**

The other major problem with this theory is why God would ever allow the Jews to be saved by sight (instead of by faith), after they physically see Jesus, and not give the same opportunity to the billions of other people living on earth at the time Jesus returns. The dispensationalist teaches that all of this is possible because the Jews are from a different dispensation and under a different covenant, where salvation can come by legal obedience. This thoroughly contradicts all scripture that clearly teaches that it is only through faith in Christ's shed blood that anyone ever has or ever will be saved, regardless

of time. All of the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament pointed to just one thing—God's ultimate sacrifice of His Son on the cross.

The dispensationalist tries to get around all this by saying that God simply knew ahead of time the Jews would reject Christ. When fully examined, this argument comes apart at the seams. As the existence of theomantics clearly proves, God never had any plan different from what actually took place. The Church and the New Testament were in God's mind from the very beginning of creation. That is why in Acts 7:38, Old Testament Israel is called "the church in the wilderness." The old covenant failed because it was based upon a legalized system. Jesus came to bring all humanity—Jews and gentiles—a new covenant along with a "fresh and living way" (Heb. 10:20). In the end, it is those who are of faith who are the true children and descendants of Abraham (Gal. 3:7). God has a very special love for the Jewish people, but they must come to Him on the same terms as everybody else (Rom. 11:7-33).

There are three complete chapters in **Theomantics II** (chapters 14, 15, and 16) that thoroughly discuss these issues and document everything. What is most interesting is that very few of these teachings existed before the year 1830. They began in England with a group of Christians called the Plymouth Brethren and from there spread to America. Premillennial dispensationalism is a horrible deception that has infiltrated the Christian church without Christians being aware of its false premises and conclusions. Once its errors are exposed, just about everything being taught today in the Christian media about Bible prophecy and the end times will completely collapse.

- ***Amillennialism*** — Theomantics generally confirms this teaching. **The Amillennial view is the historical teaching of the Christian Church.** For over eighteen hundred years, the Church taught, for the most part, that the expression "thousand years" was simply symbolic of a complete period of time (there are many symbolic numbers throughout Revelation). It is the time running from the cross until the second advent of Christ. The "resurrection" or coming to life that takes place is of the souls of Christians who have died and they come to life in heaven and reign there with Christ. There is no proof that this passage indicates a physical or bodily resurrection.

The millennium is therefore a period when God's heavenly kingdom and Satan's evil kingdom run parallel with each other. The binding of Satan took place at the cross of Calvary, and that is why the gospel can now go forth to the nations and Satan is no longer able to deceive them.

The Catholic, Lutheran, and Presbyterian churches have always followed amillennialism. A number of other evangelical Christian denominations are also amillennial in their eschatology. The amillennialist does not believe that there will be any future kingdom of God upon earth (in the earth's present sinful state). When Jesus returns, everything will be wrapped up in one major event. We will enter into eternity, and there will be both a new heaven and a newly re-created earth that will last for all eternity.

- **Postmillennialism** — The postmillennial viewpoint believes there is going to be a future period of time upon earth of a thousand years, but it will take place BEFORE Jesus returns. It will be a time when the Church rules upon earth and essentially dominates every aspect of society. The basic premise of this teaching is that suddenly and dramatically the world will experience a massive revival and conversion, as evil will be supernaturally ripped out of the world. Inexplicably, mankind will make a U-turn and begin following righteousness and the principles of God. This will usher in the golden age of the millennium, a thousand years of utopia and peace.

The implications of this belief is that the church, through "anointed apostles," will rule the world politically. This also infers both military and police powers. This teaching is founded on the premise that God created Adam to have dominion. This dominion was lost because of sin. So if Christians and the church get right with God, then God will give them back the reigns of rulership, and the lost dominion can be reclaimed.

This theory has had many followers through the centuries. In recent years it has experienced a modern-day resurgence, cloaked in "neo" teachings that have been referred to as "Christian reconstructionism," "dominion theology," or "kingdom now theology," and various teachings that came out of what is known of as the "latter rain movement" and "manifest sons of God movement." Whenever a great revival and outpouring of love for God take place, people tend to take another look at postmillennialism as being an attractive idea.

- **Preterism** — This is the fastest-growing eschatology theory. Numerous ministries are springing up promoting books and seminars, and being very vocal about it. Preterism is a complete backlash to everything else currently being taught.

The other four persuasions are known as "futurist." Preterism is the exact opposite. It considers everything in the Books of Daniel and Revelation fulfilled between the time of Christ's ascension and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. when Titus the Roman invaded the holy city and slaughtered millions of Jews (this was evidently the fulfillment of Matthew, chapter 24). Preterists believe that there is very little, if any, future prophecy present in the Bible. Everything must be interpreted historically. Preterists have gone to great lengths to find a historical explanation for just about everything mentioned in Scripture and the Book of Revelation.

Preterists are divided over whether Christ will someday return to this earth. The world could continue indefinitely, or God could suddenly end it all. However, the Bible does not tell us anything about how that may happen.

IMPORTANT COMMENT: Since writing this chapter from **The Original Code in the Bible** a few years ago, the following observation has been made. Over the last 150 years or so, pre-millennialism (particularly the dispensational brand), has pretty much dominated evangelical Christian thought in America. In recent years, many highly trained and reputable theologians and apologetic ministries, have turned against dispensationalism because they see too many holes and fallacies and interpretive

problems with the whole dispensational system. So what they have done, is swung clear over the fence and turned to preterism as the answer to understanding Daniel and Revelation. But even the preterist movement is rife with all sorts of views and factions within itself (it has its own bag of interpretive problems), and the whole thing is almost as confusing as dispensationalism. What all of this is telling us is that people are groping for answers to the prophetic dilemma, but they are still confused. They are jumping from one false premise to another false premise.

The Spiritual or Idealist View

The formal position of theomantics and Angelfall, in relation to this whole area of Bible prophecy and eschatology, is that it generally confirms the Amillennial interpretation, in conjunction with a **Spiritual or Idealist view of Revelation**, the definition being,

The SPIRITUAL VIEW (also called Idealist by some writers) does not see the book of Revelation as predicting specific events in history. Rather **it sees the visions as expressing eternal spiritual truths that find expression throughout history**. Only in the last few chapters are specifically predictive eschatological issues taken up (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Revelation#Spiritual_or_Idealist_view).

A Most Perplexing Dilemma

What is difficult to understand is: how is it even possible for so many people who claim to love God and study the Word objectively to come up with five completely different and diverse views? Each persuasion claims to base its position squarely on the Word of God. Probably the most tormenting question is how any honest and sincere Christian is supposed to know which of these premises is correct.

We know for sure that God is not the author of confusion, yet every direction we look, we see Christians greatly divided over the subject of eschatology.

Heresy Is Hereditary

Dallas Theological Seminary is universally recognized as the unofficial world headquarters for premillennial dispensationalism. It is probably the most influential evangelical institute in the United States. Also, its adherents do not believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit or gifts of the Spirit, as taught by modern-day Pentecostal and Charismatic Christians. A number of years ago, one professor changed his viewpoint on a number of issues, and upon leaving Dallas Seminary wrote a best-selling book entitled **Surprised by the Power of the Spirit**. I would like to quote a portion of Dr. Jack Deere's chapter entitled "The Myth of Pure Biblical Objectivity."

The idea that fallen humanity, even redeemed fallen humanity, can arrive at pure biblical objectivity in determining all their practices and beliefs is an illusion.

Let me illustrate this for you. It is common for professors of theology to protest that Scripture, not their experience, determines their doctrine. If you ask a Dallas Seminary professor his view of the millennium (the thousand year reign of Christ described in Rev. 20:4-6), he will tell you that he is premillennial. That means that when Christ comes back to the earth, he is going to set up a kingdom on earth and will reign here a thousand years before the creation of the new heavens and new earth. If you ask him why he believes this, he will declare to you that it is the plain teaching of the Scriptures.

If you ask a professor from Westminster Seminary [in Philadelphia] the same question, he will probably tell you that he is amillennial. That means there will be no literal thousand-year reign of Jesus on earth between his second coming and the creation of the new heavens and new earth. If you ask him why he believes this, he will tell you it is the plain teaching of the Scriptures.

Both cannot be right, in fact, neither may be right. The truth is that both Westminster Seminary and Dallas Seminary have godly, intelligent, and skillful interpreters of Scripture who disagree on quite a few doctrines of Scripture. Yet both sides will claim that the reason they hold their position is because it is the plain teaching of the Scripture! I suspect that this is not the whole truth.

The truth is, if you take a student who has no position on the millennium and send him to Westminster Seminary, he will probably come out an amillennialist. If you take that same student and send him to Dallas Seminary, he is even more likely to come out a premillennialist. There will be few exceptions to this rule. Our environment, our theological traditions, and our teachers have much more to do with what we believe than we realize. In some cases they have much more influence over what we believe than the Bible itself.

Consider the preceding example. Either the amillennialist or the premillennialist is definitely wrong. If the premillennialist is wrong, then no matter how much he protests, his doctrine could not have been derived from the teaching of Scripture because Scripture would not have taught that, assuming the doctrine of premillennialism is an error.

Over the years, I have observed that the majority of what Christians believe is not derived from their own patient and careful study of Scriptures. The majority of Christians believe what they believe because godly and respected teachers told them it was correct. I have seen this illustrated in hundreds of ways.¹

It's Time for a New Direction

The conclusion that theomatics research has led me to over the past twenty years is that the above interpretations of Bible prophecy are essentially false and erroneous. In all honesty, no one yet has accurately interpreted Scriptures that pertain to future events. What is there to make us believe that just around the corner, someone is going to finally strike gold, put all the events and dates together in correct chronological order, and pull the prophetic rabbit out of the hat?

God's word emphatically teaches that we are not to divinate by trying to figure out what the future is going to be. Yes, it is indeed true that in the Old Testament there are many prophecies concerning the coming of Christ, all of which had a literal historical fulfillment. Many people have drawn the inference that God just kept right on predicting in the same manner—all the way out to the end.

Jesus told us in plain words, "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father" (Mark 13:32). Jesus also stated, just before His ascension to heaven, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power" (Acts 1:7).

Throughout the ages, God the Father has reserved totally for Himself all knowledge and control of the future. Even Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, had to submit to that. He stated that even He Himself did not know many of these things. Why should it be different for any of us? We too must walk by faith.

The simple reason why there is so much confusion on this issue is because no one has ever gotten the premises right. The amillennial position generally comes close to being correct. Amillennialism admits that there are certain aspects that God has not yet revealed to us. All the other persuasions are probably light-years from the truth.

The old car cannot be fixed—too many parts are worn out. It is ready for the junk heap. We need to buy a brand-new car. This whole subject needs a fresh start, a new beginning. This book is going to present an entirely new premise, one that will ultimately provide some conclusive answers and finally place the train on the right track.

Two Completely False Premises

Dispensationalists have taken almost the entire Book of Revelation and crammed it into a little time slot called "The Great Tribulation," making it applicable mostly to the Jewish people. They have taken the passage from Revelation 4:1, where John goes up into heaven, and in order to make everything fit their premise, contrived the fantastic interpretation that this event of John going up is talking about the rapture of the Church to heaven. What this enables the dispensationalist to do, is take everything from chapter 4 onward, and make it apply to Israel and the Jews, essentially stuffing eighteen chapters of the Bible into a three and one-half or seven year period of time. Something, obviously, about God taking a huge section of the Bible just to tell us about what happens during three years of time (after the Church has left this world), does not sound right.

Then you have the preterist viewpoint, which teaches that none of it is future, but the whole thing took place in the first century.

Both of these premises prove unequivocally that someone has probably missed the whole point of what Revelation is all about. Recently I received a letter from an American schoolteacher who currently lives and teaches in Japan. She gave the following analogy after reading the prophetic section of **Theomatics II**.

It's kind of like if someone gave you a map of Rochester, Minnesota, in order to help you navigate around Rochester, New York. You might just glance at the city name without realizing it's the wrong reference completely. Then, when you try to navigate you get really frustrated because nothing adds up. There's a City Hall, and hospitals, and churches, and a "Main Street," etc. But somehow you just can't seem to find your way around. There's just enough similarity in content that you don't notice what the problem is for quite some time. Then, one day it dawns on you that you aren't just confused on some minor points; the problem is that **THE WHOLE MAP IS THE WRONG MAP!** In other words, as you say in **Theomatics II**, the whole BASIS is the wrong one. No wonder we're all confused.

Section II: Establishing the Right Basis and Premise

Let us begin by asking ourselves a very simple question. What is the major purpose of the Bible? Why did God give us His Word? The answer is simple. It was to reveal to us His eternal plan and purpose. In essence, the Bible is the eternal Word of God, and in those very words we have the key to understanding everything.

The purpose of the Bible is to reveal eternal truth. It is not primarily to reveal future times and events.

The purpose of Daniel and Revelation is not to satisfy our intellectual curiosity in attempting to know the future world events.

Times and events are not important to God—He simply uses those things to illustrate a higher meaning. **What is important are the spiritual and eternal truths that are imbedded in symbolical language.** All times and events will someday be history. If all God gave us Revelation and Daniel for was to predict a future world history, then when everything was over with, the Bible would have no more meaning than a newspaper 150 years old. Eternal truth is all that God cares about. That is why, when it comes to the subject of Bible prophecy, everybody today is caught up in the wrong thought pattern.

What we are about to discover—and it will be painfully clear—is that the overall subject of Bible prophecy, as it is commonly believed and taught, is something that does not even exist in the Bible. Christians are waiting for times and events that will probably never take place: things such as an Antichrist, a coming time called "the Great Tribulation," a computerized mark on the right hand or forehead, the battle of Armageddon, a certain kind of rapture, and a restored Jewish or Church kingdom lasting for one thousand years.

The Bible Is Relevant

Does the Bible still relate to this earth and all of its times and events? Most certainly! But as it will be shown, **it will do so in a whole different context.** It will relate to the events in a spiritual or symbolic context, rather than a direct material or physical manner. It will

relate everything that is happening in the world according to the overall eternal plan and purpose of God. In a few moments I'll be more specific.

As humans, we tend to view everything according to place and time, because that is our nature. We want to deal with real facts in a real world. It makes us feel comfortable and more secure when we are able to understand and relate times and events to the dimension we are living.

But that is the view from the human/carnal perspective. God looks at things completely differently. He is above all of us. He sees everything in the context of eternity. That is why to understand these things one needs to see them from God's perspective, through His eyes instead of physical/sensual eyes. Let us not forget that we are just the creature; He is the Creator. What we think, how we believe, is not important. How God thinks *is* all-important.

Everything that people are trying to apply to specific times and events is actually talking about something much more significant! **We must first understand how all the things specifically mentioned in Revelation relate to the spiritual, heavenly realm. Then we will be able to connect to the physical realm.** John could not be shown the things in Revelation until he was taken up into heaven (Rev. 4:1). It was only from that vantage point that all of it could be visualized.

Theomatics shows us that the Bible is intended to reveal the big picture, the overall plan that God has for the entirety of His creation, including the angelic realm. He has embedded eternal truth in His Word with an elaborate system of symbols and types, all intended to bring forth that eternal truth (refer to chapter 9 on understanding the implications).

Theomatics Crushes Literalism

All schools of prophecy, both futurist and preterist, follow the predisposed premise of LITERALISM. As a rule, you interpret all prophetic passages in a grammatical-historical literal manner, as much as is reasonably possible. Everything is to be understood in a specific earth-time sequential manner. This principle is especially true for premillennial dispensationalism; it is the very cornerstone of the system. It is the conclusion of this author, that such a method of interpretation will send Christians away from the truth—in the exact opposite direction.

Dispensationalism detests the idea that God might use numbers symbolically in the Bible. Most evangelical scholars won't touch the subject. It is an area of biblical interpretation that few dispensationalists (or futurists) know how to deal with, so it is basically ignored. Dispensationalists would much prefer to debate other issues. Their standard position is that since everything is to be taken literally, numbers are no exception. According to them, "We have no reason to believe that there is any significance to the numbers mentioned in the Bible, other than their quantitative value" (pp. 139-142, **Theomatics II**).

To admit that God may have imparted a symbolic principle to numbers in the Bible would in effect destroy their system. The very fact that theomatics exists—the very fact that God has put a hidden and symbolical system of this nature in the Bible—is going to knock the pilings out from underneath the entire grammatical-historical-literal premise.

There are hundreds of specific things mentioned in the Bible that could be analyzed in making this refutation. This is an enormous subject that implicates hundreds of Bible passages. Trying to cram this entire discussion into one brief chapter would be the equivalent of trying to eat an entire elephant in one sitting. The only possible way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time. So I'm going to begin by discussing three very specific items.

The Big Three

At times I have had the opportunity to debate various proponents of the pre-millennial position. Recently, I had a private discussion with an individual based in Washington, D.C., who is recognized as one of the world's major proponents and defenders of the pre-mil/pre-trib dispensational persuasion. Like all others, he admitted that **if numbers are used in Revelation in a symbolic sense (instead of literal), the entire futurist system of premillennial dispensationalism would collapse.** This admission is exceedingly significant, for it admittedly shows what a thin presumptuous thread everything is hanging by.

Here are three major items, any one of which if it is not literal, and does not mean *exactly* what the dispensationalist says that it means, the entire system will topple.

Item 1: The 144 Thousands

In my previous two books, I have had entire chapters that deal with this number from Revelation. Both in Revelation 7 and 14, the discussion concerns the "144,000." Actually, in the original Greek the number 144 appears in the papyrus with the three Greek letters ρμδ, which add up to 144. It is followed by the word *thousands* in the plural (ρμδ χειλιαδες), meaning "144 thousands."

This number is highly symbolic. Scores of Bible scholars have seen this fact, apart from any knowledge of theomatics. **The number 144 is one of the major symbolic numbers in theomatics for all of God's people from all ages.** It stands for all Christians who comprise spiritual Israel, or the Church. It is the "great multitude, which no man could number, from all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues," which "stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands" (Rev. 7:9).

Dispensationalism takes this passage literally. It teaches that this is a literal number of 144,000 Jews (Scofield's Jewish evangelists), who are saved during the tribulation period

after the church has been raptured to heaven. Then they start evangelizing the nation of Israel just before Jesus returns to set up the millennium.

It should be noted this passage also states that these 144,000 are celibate virgins, and that they have never told a lie (Rev. 14:4,5). The problematic question is this. Where are you going to find 144,000 male Jewish virgins in Israel (or anywhere for that matter), who have never had sex or ever told a lie? Obviously, those qualifications are spiritually symbolic of moral purity and honesty.

If dispensationalism is going to be consistent in its method, it must also take these words at face value.

Also, the Book of Revelation names the twelve tribes that these 144 thousands come out from. However, the list in Revelation chapter 7 includes the names of tribes that never existed in the Old Testament—and tribes that existed in the Old Testament are eliminated elsewhere in Revelation. This too destroys the literal principle. All of the Jewish bloodlines would have to have been kept intact—over a period of three thousand years—within their respective tribes, if all of this were to be taken literally.

Here again, theomantics overwhelmingly confirms that this number 144 is symbolic. The value of 144 is 12 x 12, and twelve always represents God's chosen people in Scripture. God's chosen people from the Old Testament consisted of twelve tribes. Jesus had twelve disciples. After all the multitudes were fed, there were twelve basketfuls gathered up and saved.

Item 2: The Great Tribulation

How many times have you heard a Christian brother or sister ask this question: "Do you believe the rapture is going to take place before the great tribulation, or at the end of the great tribulation?" In reality, this may be the wrong question, because what if there is no such thing as a literal three and one-half or seven year "great tribulation"? No one seems to even question that idea. It is a foregone conclusion for 99 percent of all born-again Christians.

Theomantics completely destroys the idea that there is going to be a future period on earth called "The Great Tribulation"—a specific period lasting three and one-half or seven years. Chapter 17 of **Theomantics II** is devoted to a complete discussion of this.

The "Great Tribulation" theory is based upon four passages that discuss a time frame of forty-two months (Rev. 11:2, 13:5) and the time of 1,260 days (Rev. 11:3, 12:4). Both forty-two months and 1,260 days equal three and one-half years. This number is also referred to twice in the Book of Daniel, as "time, times, and half a time" (and also in Rev. 12:14).

Theomantics clearly indicates that all of these expressions are used in a symbolic sense. They apparently have nothing to do with future, earthly, time. **These expressions**

represent the entire period of this world or age—the time that the woman in Revelation 12 was in the wilderness. There is an entire thematic structure for the topics of wilderness, desolation, and time—all based upon patterns of 1,260 and 420.

In theomantics, both the words "the woman" (της γυναικος") from Revelation 12 and the word "wilderness," (τη ερημω) have a numerical value of 1,260, and the text states "the woman was in the wilderness 1,260 days" (Rev. 12:6). (That's a small coincidence, of course.)

This world is a spiritual wilderness. John the Baptist, who was the last Old Testament prophet, came crying as a voice in the wilderness. Jesus began His ministry in the wilderness. Again, all of this is to be interpreted symbolically. Theomantics unequivocally links this woman in Revelation 12 to Eve, "mother of all the living," who represents fallen humanity as a whole. Again, it represents the entire age of this world. If this understanding is correct, it will most likely overturn the one assumption most sacred to dispensationalism, the idea of Daniel's seventieth week, which is also discussed extensively in **Theomantics II** (pp. 429-432).

Here again, we have misread the city map because we simply assumed that God meant a literal and future time period. There is no valid basis for giving these passages only a literal interpretation.

The Bible does, however, teach that there will be persecution and great tribulation in general. Christians from all ages have undergone great tribulation. Their troubles will undoubtedly increase before the end.

Item 3: The Millennium

This subject has already been discussed briefly. There are two chapters in **Theomantics II** that cover this aspect (chapters 22 and 23).

A host of powerful and dramatic thematic patterns point to the fact that the expression "thousand years" is highly symbolic. It concerns ruling and reigning with Christ in general. For that reason, I am not convinced that this passage may have any sort of an earth/time sequential interpretation. Right now we just can't say for sure. The best approach is to study the meaning in light of the numbers, performing a symbolic comparative analysis with similar passages. When the time comes, God's light will shine through.

A Table with Two Legs Cannot Stand

If a three-legged table has one leg knocked out from under it, the entire thing will collapse. To presume that all three of the above can have only a very explicit, futuristic, and literal interpretation, and hang your entire eschatology on that clothesline, is recklessly presumptuous. It's like walking a tightrope between two skyscrapers before making sure the cable has been securely attached. But that is what dispensationalism and

thousands of books on Bible prophecy have done. They have skipped merrily down the garden path, and never once stopped and pondered the above passages to see if maybe, perhaps, God has placed a symbolic meaning there. Again, if any one of the above is not literal, man's entire "prophetic system" falls from the sky.

Theomatics establishes that not just one but ALL THREE are highly symbolic. It makes me cry to even think about so many who have devoted their entire lives to lecturing and writing on the subject of Bible prophecy, the thousands of people who have attended prophetic conferences and listened to speaker after speaker eloquently and confidently talk of how all the things in Revelation and Daniel are "lining up." And yet in certain aspects, these folks are a million light years away from the truth. They are trapped in an erroneous thought pattern.

We should bow down in humility before God, pleading for His mercy, lest we ourselves fall into the same delusion.

NOTE: It should be stressed that erroneous thinking in this area has nothing to do with whether or not an individual is saved or a Christian. The subject of Bible prophecy is simply a diversion. For the most part it does not affect the essentials of the Christian faith.

A Wide-Angle View

There is one very important and major fact concerning the Book of Revelation (and various portions of Daniel). Very little of it is to be understood primarily in a futuristic context (trying to understand everything in a past historical, or preterist way, is equally erroneous.)

The Book of Revelation covers the entire span of the world's history—bumper to bumper—from the creation of Adam to the new heavens and new earth.

Everything that is mentioned carries deeper symbolic meaning. It comprises an enormous network—all of it operating on the language of the symbol. Things relate to one another in ways that we have never imagined, which would be virtually impossible to comprehend with just a "simple" reading of the text, i.e., the grammatical-historical method. Chapter 9 of this book discussed this.

There are so many things that could be shown to illustrate this. Here, we will have time only to take a few more bites out of the elephant.

Genesis and Revelation Are Linked

One of the major keys to putting the entire puzzle together is understanding the fact that the Book of Genesis is directly linked to Revelation. You cannot understand Revelation without Genesis. Genesis gives us only part of the picture, and when that is connected with Revelation, we can start to see how all of it comes together.

The Woman of Revelation, Chapter 12

And there appeared a great sign in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

2 And being pregnant with child, she cried out in labor and pain to give birth.

3 And there appeared another sign in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, for to devour her child as soon as soon as it was born.

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should nourish her there for 1,260 days.

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Many people have wondered who this woman might possibly be? Virtually all dispensationalists teach that she represents Israel. The primary question is this. Where else in Scripture do you find statements made concerning a woman and a serpent, and the seed or offspring of the woman? The answer is obvious—in Genesis! Theomatics establishes that the woman in Revelation 12 is none other than Eve, who "became mother of all the living" (Gen. 3:20). In Genesis, God told Eve that her offspring or child was going to destroy Satan and crush the dragon's head (Gen. 3:15). In theomatics, the expressions "the man child," and "her child," both add up to 888, the numeric value for the name Jesus.

What is interesting is that the woman in Revelation is seen in heaven (how did Eve get up there?) However, reading the complete chapter of Rev. 12, all of this is tied into the original angelic rebellion that took place eons ago. All during the battle between the woman and the serpent, Revelation talks about the war going on in heaven and the stars (angels) falling to earth. **The two aspects are actually tied together.** Theomatics proves beyond any reasonable doubt that Eve represents all the angels of heaven who were cast down to earth. There are eternal and heavenly mysteries related to all of this—matters that no one has even thought of yet. When all of the pieces fall into place, it is evident how inextricably woven together Genesis and Revelation are.

It would take literally chapters to discuss this fully. (Lord willing, all of this will be discussed in my forthcoming book, **The Luciferian Rebellion**.) Every verse would have to be carefully examined and the logic of every argument evaluated and compared to *all* the verses in the Bible that are implicated. If the hypothesis is correct, everything must fit together perfectly; there can be no contradictions. Theomatics must always be in agreement with the clear statements of scripture.

The major fact I am seeking to point out here is that this chapter 12 of Revelation goes right back to the very beginning. It covers the entire span of this world's history. It is not limited to just the end times.

The Beast of Revelation 13

Without a doubt, the most famous chapter of Revelation is chapter 13. It concerns two beasts, one who rises out of the sea and another out of the earth. The second beast makes everyone bow down and worship an image of the first beast. People have universally tried to interpret the beast as being the supposed Antichrist who is yet to be revealed (chapter 18 of **Theomatics II** discusses this as well).

Here too, all goes back to Genesis, and is tied into Adam and Satan. Other passages such as Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 are implicated. Isaiah 14 speaks of Lucifer, who fell from heaven. Ezekiel 28 talks about the anointed cherub who was in the Garden of Eden. The original rebellion that took place in heaven (of which the garden of Eden story is only a model) is now implicated. The beast system is not something yet to occur in some sort of "end time late great planet earth scenario." It covers the time from the original satanic rebellion in heaven and the fall of man in the garden. The mark of the beast on the forehead or right hand is spiritually symbolic. It represents Satan's power over man's thoughts and actions and his being able to buy or sell in the world's spiritual economy. It apparently has nothing to do with people having a computerized mark in the hand or forehead (see chapter 19 of **Theomatics II**). This kind of event could happen, but that is not necessarily what Revelation 13 is talking about. It is a much bigger and broader picture than that.

There are other aspects of this world/beast system that can be understood only by reading the Book of Daniel. God also uses earthly kingdoms (such as Greece, Persia, Rome, etc.) to bring forth eternal truths as it relates to this world and its entire span of history. All of this is extremely complex and convoluted. The depth of the symbolism can be overwhelming. We have not even scratched the surface of some of these areas. Right now, however, major building blocks are starting to fall into place.

Babylon the Great

In the latter chapters of Revelation appears the great harlot, symbolically Babylon the great city, who has a kingdom over the rulers of this world (Rev. 17:18). This woman is none other than the same woman, or Eve, who appears initially in Revelation 12. She rides on the back of a seven-headed dragon or beast, the same as in Revelation 12. **She is the great harlot because she committed spiritual fornication with Satan back in the garden of Eden.** All that transpires in this world stems from that.

Everything concerning the final conclusion of this present world system is typified by God's destruction of the great city Babylon. Actually, Babylon began in Genesis with the building of the city and tower of Babel. The word "Babel" is the same word as "Babylon" in Hebrew.

Some prophetic scholars have tried to take all of this literally by saying that the ancient city of Babylon (near present-day Bagdad, Iraq) is going to be rebuilt during the end times. That sort of interpretation is far-fetched. All of these chapters are spiritually symbolic. They relate to end time events only in the broadest manner. Once the spiritual symbolism is understood, we are able to fit the pieces into place to understand how the symbolic aspect relates to events happening right now in the real world.

All the Other Things Mentioned

There are many other things mentioned in Revelation that fit into this entire picture. Here are just a few examples. Revelation describes Jesus opening the seven seals of the scroll. As each seal is opened, certain things take place. We read of the four horsemen of the apocalypse, the cry of martyrs, cosmic disturbances. Seven trumpets are blown, seven vials are poured out.

All of this contains vast amounts of symbolism. Again, it relates to this earth more in a broad sense than to specific events during a supposed "end time scenario." The same is true for everything else mentioned in Revelation. One example is Revelation 11, which describes the "two witnesses." Positively no one, absolutely no one to date, has been able to figure out the meaning of that chapter. In reply, all of it is spiritually symbolic. Theomatics throws some amazing light on it, but there are aspects of it that have not yet been revealed to us—matters that no one has even thought of yet.

The Moon Turning to Blood

One of the things constantly foretold in Revelation, the Old Testament, and by Jesus in the gospels, is the sun being darkened, the moon turning to blood, and the stars falling from heaven. How absolutely ridiculous it is to try and take these things literally. (If the sun went out, how could life on this planet possibly survive? How could a literal star, or sun from another part of the galaxy, fall down to this earth without burning it up?)

In Revelation 12, the woman Eve, who appears in heaven, was clothed with the sun and she had the moon under her feet. Upon her head was a crown of twelve stars (Rev. 12:1). What could all of this possibly mean?

In Genesis, during the time of creation, God created a greater light (the sun) and a lesser light (the moon) that reflected the light from the sun. He put them into the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth. This concerns not only physical celestial objects. It also contains vast realms of spiritual symbolism having to do with God's light and God's glory. Eve, who represents all the angels of heaven, was clothed with the sun (God the source of light), and she had the moon (God's reflected glory) put under her feet or her dominion.

All through the Bible many theomatic patterns surround women who have an issue of blood or hemorrhage. In other words, blood or life flows out much as when a woman has

her monthly cycle. In all three gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the story is told of how Jesus healed the woman who had the issue of blood. She has wasted all of her resources on human doctors who can do nothing to help her. She is dead broke and dying. All of this has tremendous symbolic significance as it relates to Eve, the woman who fell from heaven after she lost her glory and protective male covering. Her sun or source of light has now gone out, and she is bleeding to death.

Now when the Bible says that the moon will be turned to blood, what does that mean? When we go to Revelation 12, where do we see the moon? It is under the feet of the woman. And if a woman is bleeding to death, where is the blood going to flow to? It is going to run down her legs to her feet. And if the moon is under her feet, what is going to happen to it? It is going to turn to blood! **Numerous thematic patterns clearly indicate that the moon turning to blood and the woman having a flow of blood are the same thing.**

The Above Is One Tiny Example

This is just one example of literally thousands of things present in the Bible that are highly symbolic, and unless someone studies all the passages, and sees how God has embedded the meanings—and theomatics—throughout this huge network, the symbolism will never be seen or understood. So when Christians read a passage in the Bible about the moon turning to blood, they have no idea what the text is referring to. Is it some strange phenomena astronomically? Is it atomic war where the atmosphere is so polluted with fallout the moon turns red? What does it mean?

There are hundreds of things in the Bible that would be absurd if taken literally. A comparative analysis along with an in-depth study of theomatics, and the essential guidance of the Holy Spirit will give us insights into some of these areas that cannot be understood any other way. It is going to be a very slow and laborious job to get to the bottom of many of these things. The major difficulty is that so few Christians spend any time meditating and thinking on these deeper truths that are so close to the heart of God. We become bogged down in the cares of this life. As a result, vast numbers of precious Christian people are susceptible to the errors of the prophecy proponents, who themselves understand few if any of these things.

People Will Always Have Questions

This chapter would be incomplete without attempting to answer the major questions many Christians continue to have. What is going to happen in the days ahead?

Unfortunately, theomatics does not give us a crystal ball for viewing specific times and events. What it does tell us, however, is that God is in total control. It will give us much insight into the new heavens and new earth, and what God's ultimate objectives are for the plan of redemption. Those facts are present and can be understood clearly. We need to study the Bible and emphasize those basic things that God points out as important to

Him. Nothing else really matters. A future world (planet earth) history is not God's purpose for the Bible. It is the future of the cosmos that is in view (see Rev 21:1,2).

I do not believe that it is God's will for every Christian to delve too deeply into some of these areas. There will be time enough in eternity to have all this explained to us. Right now we need to focus on living the daily Christian life and drawing closer to Him. If theomantics does nothing more than increase people's faith, all of this effort will have been well worth the cost.

A Divine Prophetic Chronology

Bible prophecy scholars have searched and searched for some sort of Divine chronology or mathematical formula in the Bible—based upon all the dates and years mentioned—that will project out to the end of the world, i.e., from Adam up to the present. Countless scenarios have been worked out over the years, all of them different, all of them hoping to be exclusively right. On the Internet, there are numerous prophetic ministries doing this very thing.

Does such a scheme exist in Scripture? The answer is, Yes, there probably is one. But I don't believe anyone is going to discover it. God will have to reveal it, and that probably won't take place until after everything is said and done. Then we can all look back, and say, "Of course. Why didn't I see that?"

The Rapture Is for Sure

One of the most incredible theomatic patterns I have ever uncovered surrounds the rapture. Virtually every passage mentioning being caught up, taken up, rising from the earth, going up into the clouds, etc. is saturated with the number 107. (I showed a good part of this design in chapter 23 of **Theomantics II**, entitled "The Meaning of the Rapture.")

It definitely appears that there is going to be some sort of rapture. It may be a worldwide event, or it may be when each saint goes home privately to be with the Lord. Regardless, in being caught up we will forever be with the Lord. How, when, and where are not important. God knows the time and manner.

When you get on an airliner and fly from New York to Los Angeles, do you worry about whether the pilots are qualified to fly? Do you think they are capable of navigating the plane to its destination? Do you worry that maybe they forgot to put enough fuel in the tanks? Of course not. As Christians, we should have the same exact attitude. God is the pilot of eternity. He created everything to begin with and He has obviously thought through the future. He knows how to fly the plane. Let's just do our best, follow Him, and trust in His ability. Everything is going to work out in the end.

God's Word is Sure

God does give us absolute promises; He tells us that we are going to someday rule and reign with Him in heaven for all eternity. He gives us a blessed hope. But the Bible does not teach or anywhere imply that Jesus is going to someday return to this earth and set up a political kingdom of some sort.

It is this author's personal belief (and he is 95% sure of it)—that this is an event that will probably never happen. Theomatics clearly indicates that the idea of a literal thousand year reign is something that probably does not even exist (the whole concept of the millennium is spiritually symbolic).

JESUS SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT "MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD" (John 18:36). Jesus also stated,

"In my Father's house are many dwelling places: if it were not so, I would have told you. I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2,3).

If that is true, it means **we will go to him** when we die, not the other way around (he "returns" only to bring us to Himself). Indeed, our Lord came down to this earth two thousand years ago. He was born in a manger, died on the cross, and rose from the dead for one reason only. He accomplished all of that and then returned to heaven for just one reason—in order to make His Father our Father, and His God our God (John 20:17). That is the bottom line. God **wants to have us** as His prized possession, for we are His precious Bride. Heaven is our final home, not this earth. His desire is to bring us to Himself. He is not interested in entertaining us. He wants to have a real, lasting, and eternal relationship with us. He wants to share His deepest secrets with us, yet He is not about to do it on a superficial level. And sadly, just about everything being taught today in the Christian media about Bible prophecy and the end times, and Christ coming back and straightening out the world's political mess, is shallow and superficial.

So What Is Going to Happen?

Regardless of what anyone says, it is obvious, at least to me, that the world cannot go on much longer (or at least forever). At the rate man is destroying the environment, technology is exploding, and sin and wickedness are growing, I cannot see all of this lasting more than another fifty to hundred years, or even less. Jesus could actually "return" tonight. The seventh angel could blow his horn, and "time would be no more."

How is God going to end it all? There are a thousand possible ways. The Bible states that the heavens will melt with fervent heat and the earth will burn up. Is this to be symbolically understood, or is it physical? It could perhaps be both.

Conclusion

When Jesus came to earth two thousand years ago, everybody (including his own disciples), perceived that He was going to overthrow the Romans and then set up some sort of an earthly political kingdom. But His words were very clear. He specifically stated that "My kingdom is not of this world." His emphasis always pointed towards the new heavens and new earth. **Jesus never once stated that He was going to return to this earth and rule and reign from Jerusalem.**

So the issue back then was that everybody was looking for the wrong thing. They were trying to take all the Old Testament passages about the coming of the Messiah literally. They were looking for a political kingdom.

Today, history is repeating itself. Christians are still trying to force Christ down from heaven. We have failed to see the fact that God's real kingdom is eternal. It is heavenly. It has nothing to do with the political structure of this earth. Never has and never will.

"But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, **Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above)**... But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach" (Rom 10:6,8).

Addendum: What about 1948?

There is one critical issue that I must address—because it will remain a nagging question in the minds of a few Christians after reading the above. What about Israel's becoming a nation in 1948?

Because so much has been said in the Christian media, many Christians will have a difficult time understanding why Israel exists, if the conclusions expressed in this chapter, are true. **Dispensationalists have used this one single event—irrespective of all the contradictions in Scripture—as "absolute proof" that their whole premise, and everything else they say about Bible prophecy, is correct.** They are using the newspaper to interpret the Bible.

My conclusion is that God is behind what happened in 1948, but not in the manner that many people think. Just because Israel became a nation "born in a day"—that does not prove that Revelation 20 describes a future restored Jewish Kingdom lasting for one thousand years. The passage in Revelation that discusses the millennium does not say a single thing about Israel of the Jews.

One key to understanding this perplexing issue is the fact that God has two wills: (1) His revealed will, and (2) His sovereign will. All of us are commanded and required to obey God's revealed will. People can violate God's revealed will, but no one can affect, delay, hinder, or thwart God's permissive or sovereign will. Confusion arises when people try to

place into the realm of God's revealed will (a literal historic fulfillment), matters that are really hidden in God's sovereign will.

The reestablishment of a nation named Israel came about only because it was God's sovereign will. It may even be the fulfillment of certain spiritual things "prophesied" in the Bible. There may be certain natural and spiritual aspects to the event that run parallel and that God will fully reveal to us later on. Regardless, we know for sure that it is part of God's current program.

The founding of the nation of Argentina was in God's sovereign plan. But nowhere is that (or even the founding of America) mentioned in Bible prophecy. God is working out His purposes for all the nations and peoples of the earth. The events in the land of the Bible are no different.

One of the reasons God may have sovereignly allowed Israel to become a state is that the excitement surrounding the event has created tremendous awareness in the minds of many people that the Bible is relevant to our times. Millions of books on Bible prophecy would never have been written and read if this event had not taken place. **It was necessary in order to keep Christianity alive and dynamic.** If Christians misread the event (or road signs), that does not make God responsible for erroneous conclusions. Dispensationalists have taken the event and built a superstructure upon it, presuming that a whole host of Bible verses indicate a future world political kingdom. Those verses may not mean at all what some people think.

Theomatics II devotes four complete chapters to all of this, and discusses numerous issues, one of which is the fact that historical research strongly suggests that the majority of Jews living in Israel today are of gentile origin, and have no roots at all going back to Abraham—the Ashkenazi Jews. The other group, the Sephardic Jews, evidently *are* distant descendants of Abraham.

The Ashkenazi Jews originally migrated from the Black Sea area, from the "land of the Khazars," or Khazaria, when an entire nation **converted itself** to Judaism around 740 A.D. From there they spread north into Russia and west into Eastern Europe. These Jews became the great Jewish populations in Poland and Eastern Europe that were destroyed in Hitler's concentration camps. The Ashkenazi Jews are the ones that promoted the Zionist movement and the reestablishment of a homeland for Jewish people. The history surrounding this conversion and migration is thoroughly documented from numerous sources (see **Theomatics II**, pp. 427-429).

Over the centuries, since Bible times, the Jews have become so disseminated and diluted, that as the **Encyclopedia Britannica** states, "there is no Jewish race." One of the most difficult anthropological questions is "How to define what constitutes a Jew?" All of these issues are extremely problematic for dispensationalists who are trying to take everything in the Bible literally.

As Christians we should support the nation of Israel and the Jewish people. This is a human rights issue. Also, we should also show kindness to the Palestinian people. Everything should be done to bring peace and prosperity to that part of the world.