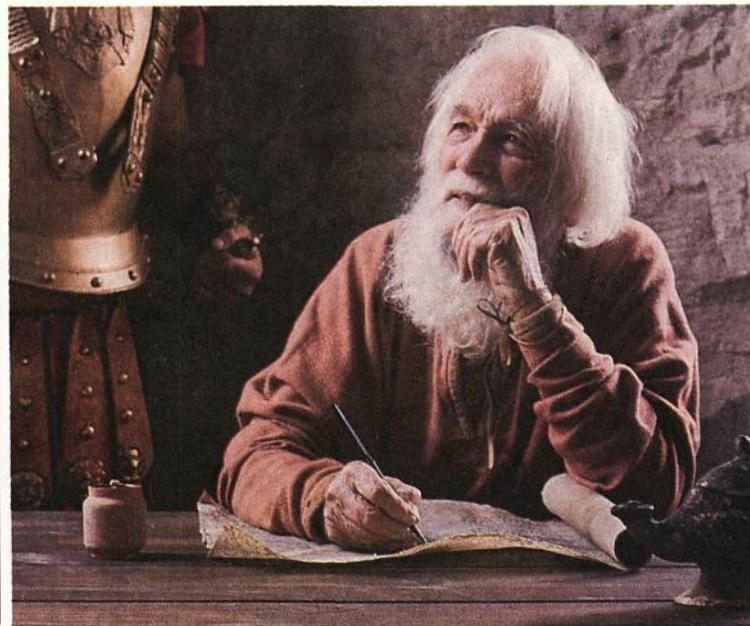
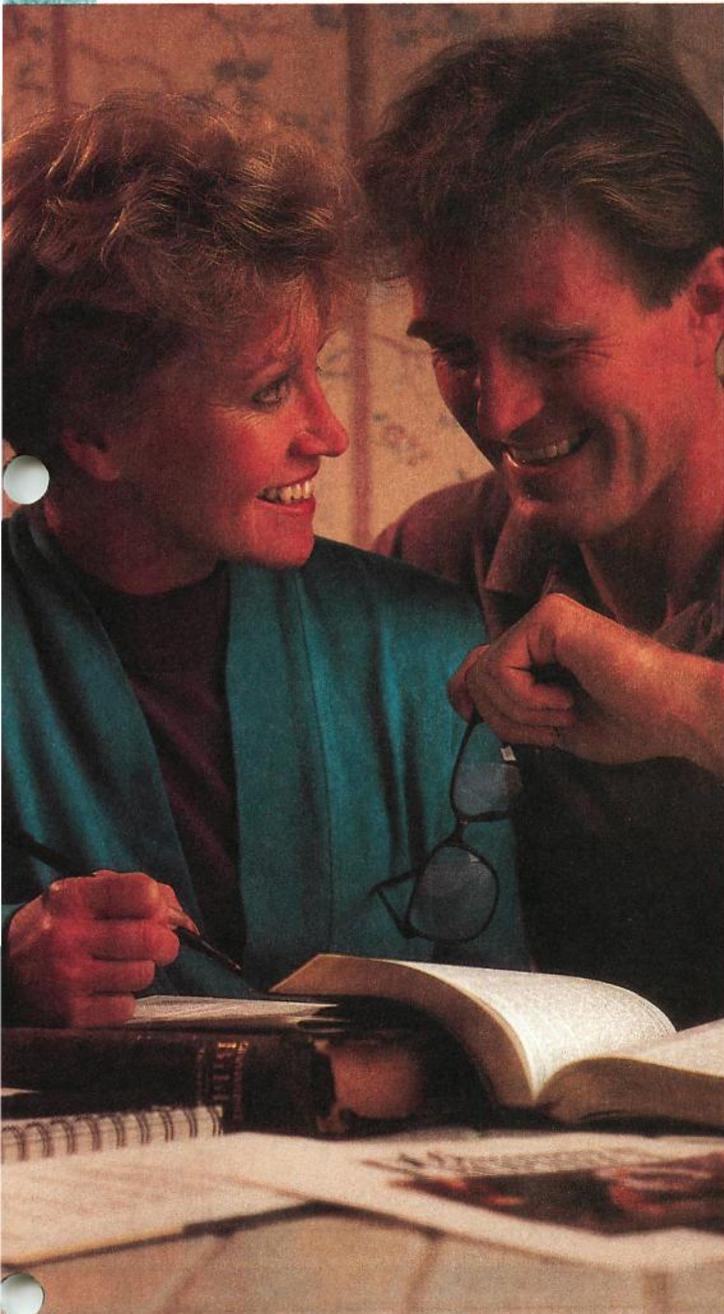


Discoveries in PROPHECY

WITH
MARK
FINLEY



New Age Conspiracy

Discoveries in Prophecy

by Mark A. Finley
Speaker-Director, *The It Is Written* Telecast

Discoveries in Prophecy is a series of 26 evangelistic presentations in magazine format by Evangelist and *It Is Written* Speaker-Director Mark A. Finley. These presentations have been reproduced here just as delivered; therefore, the reader will encounter occasional references to slides shown during the actual delivery of the topic as originally preached, and other references characteristic of a live presentation.

See the inside back cover for a complete list of the *Discoveries in Prophecy* evangelistic magazines—keyed to chapter in Mark Finley's book entitled *Beyond Orion's Gates*—and information on how to order additional evangelistic magazines and other Hart Research Center outreach materials.

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Discoveries in Prophecy

New Age Conspiracy

One great glorious event—the second coming of Jesus Christ! We look forward to that day when, indeed, we *shall* behold Him. It was Halloween Eve, October 30, 1938. America relaxed on a quiet Sunday evening listening to the radio. Orson Welles' program, the Mercury Theatre of the Air, was presenting the very famous *War of the Worlds*, written by H. G. Wells. Orson Welles, with his deep, resonant voice, was a magnificent actor. And as he performed H. G. Wells' *War of the Worlds* over radio that Halloween Eve, with all the sound effects, it sounded real! It was presented in a documentary format, and "on-the-spot news reporters" described Philadelphia in flames, described Martians landing in New York, described these great alien monsters who had descended from flying saucers, walking up and down the streets of American cities. It was terrifying!

Now, three times during that two-hour radio broadcast on October 30, 1938, Orson Welles announced to his audience that this was a dramatization of H. G. Wells' science fiction novel called *The War of the Worlds*. But when he narrated it, his voice filled with pathos and all the dramatic power he could muster, he described it as real. He talked about people in their homes looking out and seeing these flying saucers. He talked about laser lights flashing from the saucers, killing thousands. He talked about the American armies unable to cope with the poison gas and nuclear explosions coming from the saucers. Again and again he described horrifying scenes. The problem was, it struck terror into thousands of American hearts. They actually thought that what they were hearing on the radio was real. They missed the announcements that it was just a fictitious drama.

One man in Harlem looked out his window and said, "I see them, I see them glittering in the sky! I see those flying saucers." Another person donned a gas mask, say-

ing, "If poison gas is exuding into the atmosphere, I'd better be protected." Others put towels over their mouths, fled their homes, and drove into the countryside, believing the cities were being attacked. Many quickly exited their apartments and ran down fire escapes.

Orson Welles, as he narrated the drama, emphasized the powerlessness of the Army troops to cope with this devastating attack. One lady looked out her window and said, "They're coming, they're coming! They're approaching my home. The only alternative is suicide." In fact, that night a number of people called their friends

and said they were taking their lives. The next morning, the newspaper revealed that not only were common people deceived, but many scientists were also deceived.

Here's a slide showing the headline in the next morning's edition of the *New York Daily News*, a very respected newspaper: "Fake Radio War Stirs Terror Through the United States."

The article went on to explain how this broadcast brought total, absolute, chaotic terror throughout the

country. Even diploma-laden scientists, men whose minds were big enough to realize there might be life on other planets, were deceived.

THE WINGED SERPENT

Now let's go back for a few moments to ancient Egypt. The walls of Egyptian tombs are covered with hieroglyphics—Egyptian picture writing. In those tombs they often drew serpents with wings on them. You see, the ancient Egyptians believed that when things got bad enough on earth, there'd be deliverance from above. And they believed in the concept of war between the forces of good and evil. They believed that when things got so bad, the winged serpent-god would descend from the sky, fight off the forces of evil, and establish a kingdom on earth.

In 1922 archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the

When you walk outside and look up at the stars, you think about other planets and begin to wonder: Is there life on other worlds?

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tomb of King Tutankhamen, that boy king who died at age nineteen. In King Tut's tomb are pictures of the winged serpent-god, indicating again this ancient Egyptian belief that when things got really bad on earth, there'd be deliverance from the sky—from the winged serpent who would come to deliver mankind.

The ancient Peruvians believed this as well. Here's a slide showing a grave painting from the Inca culture. The Inca Indians were one of the most powerful and longest-lived cultures in the area of Peru, as were the Aztecs, who lived in Mexico and Central America. Here's an Aztec medicine man, one of their most powerful religious leaders. But notice he has a *winged serpent* around him. Look through the whole ancient world, and you see the symbol of the winged serpent.

This is a slide showing the death chair, overlaid in gold, one of the thrones of King Tutankhamen. But look at the right-hand arm of the chair. You can see the wings, and you can see the serpent's head coming out of the chair. All through the ancient world, people believed forces of good and evil existed, and homage was paid the *winged serpent*, who would deliver humanity from evil.

COUNTERFEIT RESCUE FROM SPACE

If things get bad enough on earth, and we can't solve our problems—there'll be an invasion from outer space. That's why back in 1938 so many were deceived. They had this idea of good and evil forces from outer space in the back of their minds. They thought that forces from outer space could come to earth, forces more powerful than earthlings. Why do you think science fiction movies about space are so popular, and that teenagers and adults flock to them by the thousands? Movies like the *Star Wars* trilogy, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and *E.T.—the Extra-Terrestrial* are good examples of this popularity. Why do you think *Star Trek*, the television space program, is so popular and draws such high ratings year after year? Because in the back of their minds, people have the idea that creatures from outer space will invade our planet.

When you walk outside and look up at the stars, you think about other planets and begin to wonder: Is there life on other worlds? Is our planet the only one inhabited? Maybe if there are beings on other planets, those beings will visit earth. Are they good or bad? Will there be an invasion from outer space?

But this leads me to another subject. Last time we pointed out—that's why it's so important not to miss a meeting—that there was a being called Lucifer, created perfect by God. God gave this angel and the others the wonderful power of *choice*. And Lucifer, whose name means "light-bearer," rebelled against God! There was a *cosmic conflict* in heaven, an intergalactic war. Lucifer, now called Satan, led his angel cohorts in rebellion

against God. The devil and all his followers were cast out of heaven. So there was—and still is—a war raging between good and evil.

Could it be . . . *might* it be . . . is it *possible* that Lucifer, under the guise of this *winged serpent*, has tried to *deceive* various cultures? Could it be possible that Satan himself knows that the greatest event in history is the second coming of Christ? And that all of society, all of humanity is moving toward that event? And could it be that Satan wants to *deceive* multitudes and pull off a *counterfeit* second coming before Jesus comes, so that millions will be

How can you and I be kept from these deceptions of Satan? How can you and I be kept from his Last Day delusions? There's only one way.

deceived by a being of dazzling brightness?

Notice the interesting magazine cover on this slide: "Intergalactic War, Battleground Earth: Starship Invasions." This is what many of your children are being taught. "Forced to seek a new home, the Legion of the Winged Serpent has selected earth." Do you remember that back in the Garden of Eden Satan came to deceive Eve as a serpent? And Satan deceived the heathen religions, like that of the Egyptians—even with their advanced civilization—with this idea that if things got bad enough a *winged serpent* would come, the winged serpent-god. Satan seduced the Aztec culture into believing this heathen deception. They were actually offering young children and babies—as human sacrifices—to the winged serpent-god!

The devil's deception has succeeded so well that today among flying-saucer buffs, there's the idea that Christ is going to come via a flying saucer, and they call themselves "the Legion of the Winged Serpent." You see, these flying-saucer buffs *deny* the literal coming of Christ. Satan's pulling off a master deception here. He wants to deceive multitudes into thinking that some Being of dazzling brightness will come by *modern technology*, via some flying saucer. Satan is slowly but surely spreading the idea that these extraterrestrial powers are *good* and that Christ will come by means of these beings of dazzling brightness to set up His eternal kingdom on earth.

So Satan's deception is widespread, and it's working today on countless human beings. This deception is in

fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy in Matthew 24:24, NIV: "False Christs and false prophets will appear and perform *great signs and miracles*." Please notice, friends, our all-knowing Lord doesn't say that this just possibly *may* happen—He warns us that it **WILL** happen. This is going to occur in the last days, and the deception will be very powerful!

What if flying saucers and alien, extraterrestrial beings did exist? What if they actually came and appeared on earth? What if Satan himself appeared—but *disguised* as a being of dazzling brightness? What if he appeared in San Francisco? What if Satan appeared as a being of dazzling brightness in Los Angeles or Chicago or Chattanooga? What if he healed people of cancer, gave blind people back their sight, and performed other miracles? And what if this being of dazzling brightness looked like a heavenly angel—or like the glorified Christ Himself? And what if he told us in the most beautiful voice you've ever heard, "I am Christ. I have kept My promise to Return"?

Now you know that the devil is a fallen angel with awesome supernatural powers. God's Word does its best to warn us in 2 Corinthians 11:14 that "Satan himself is transformed into *an angel of light*!" That's why Jesus says in Matthew 24:24-26, "If it were possible they shall *deceive* the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; *believe it not*." And Revelation 12:12 warns, "*Woe* to the inhabitants of the earth . . . for the Devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." The shorter the time to Jesus' return, the greater will be Satan's wrath and deceptions.

DEVILS, WORKING MIRACLES

Now I want to ask you very seriously: What if a cry went out, "Christ is in San Francisco! He's walking the streets, reaching out His hands. He has returned! Come to meet Christ. He's even uttering the words of the Sermon on the Mount. Thousands are coming to Him. They're being healed of cancer, of blindness, they're being raised up off beds of illness. Come to Christ!" Would you go? *How would you know* if it were the true Christ or the devil himself? Someone says, "Oh, Satan could never work *miracles*." Someone else says, "Satan could never *heal* people of cancer or blindness—only God could do that." Don't be so sure. The Bible, in Revelation 16:14, warns us about "the spirits of *devils*, working *miracles*, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and the whole world."

So can the devil work miracles—yes or no? YES! That's what the Bible says. If the devil can make people sick, he can simply withdraw his hand and apparently heal them. Now, don't misunderstand me. Can *God* work miracles? Does God work miracles? Absolutely. But won't the devil, with his supernatural power, *counterfeit* those miracles

to accomplish his own purpose of deceiving people? And when Satan at the end time appears on earth as a being of dazzling brightness and claims he's going to set up his kingdom on earth, will he repeat some of Jesus' beautiful words and work miracles to deceive people? Indeed he will! That's what the Bible warns us against.

How can you and I be kept from these deceptions of Satan? How can you and I be kept from his last-day delusions? There's only one way, and that's knowing what the Bible really teaches about Christ's second coming. God will never allow Satan to counterfeit the genuine return of Jesus—that is beyond his diabolical power. So if we understand *how* Christ is going to come—and Bible prophets clearly tell us just how He will return—we won't be deceived.

CHRIST'S RETURN IS CERTAIN

Jesus Himself, in His wonderful promise in John 14:1-3, began by saying, "Let not your heart be troubled . . ." You look at the world and see wars, racial conflicts, famines, immorality, earthquakes, tragedy and heartbreak. But our loving Lord says, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions. . . . I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I—I just *might* come again. Perhaps I'll come again. I'm not *sure*, but I'll *think* about it." Are you awake? Is that what the Bible says? No! Thank heaven, Jesus says, with the full

Christ's Second Coming will be very, very real—it will be literal, personal, actual, tangible—and cataclysmic!

force of His sterling character that cannot lie: "I WILL come again"! I like that, don't you? No uncertainty about that—no *if*, no *maybe*, no *perhaps*, no I *think* so, no I *guess* so. Jesus said unequivocally, "I WILL come again"! He gave us a promissory note signed with His own blood—and we can *bank* on it.

Is He coming again? Yes. "And *receive* you unto Myself . . ." Now notice the wording. He doesn't say He'll come down to earth as a being of dazzling brightness and set up His kingdom *here*. He says, "I will come again and *receive* you unto Myself that *where I am* there *you* may be also." He doesn't say He's coming to be where *we* are, He says He's coming to take us *where He is*. And

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He's in heaven! In this very passage He said He was going to heaven "to prepare a place"—a mansion—for us. But He's coming back to receive us. We'll be caught up in the sky to meet Him! He says, "I will come again." He comes with His angels and power and glory. Christ's Second Coming will be *very, very real*—it will be literal, personal, actual, tangible—and cataclysmic!

CHRIST'S RETURN IS LITERAL

Christ came once two thousand years ago as a babe in Bethlehem's manger. Very few recognized Him then. But He's coming in the clouds of heaven so that all will see Him. Now, some people say to me, "I believe in the second coming of Christ, but when Christ comes, it's like He just *manifests* His presence in your heart. It's kind of like a *warm feeling*, and the kingdom of God is in your heart." But the Bible teaches that Christ's second coming will be *much more* than a warm feeling in your heart. Certainly when we open our heart to Jesus, His Holy Spirit comes into our hearts, and it's a wonderful, warm experience—we literally shouldn't miss it for the world.

But when Christ returns to this earth, the Bible says it'll be an actual, literal, tangible appearing of a very real Christ in the clouds of heaven. It will be visible, audible, and breathtakingly glorious—the most awesome, sensational event we can ever experience or even imagine. Titus 2:13 says, "Looking for that blessed hope"—and it IS a hope, the hope of the ages—"and the *glorious appearing* of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ." It will be a powerfully majestic, spectacular, glorious appearing!

In the last chapter the apostle Paul ever wrote, just before his execution, he puts it this way in 2 Timothy 4:6-8: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto *all them also that love His appearing.*"

Do *you* love—and long for—the appearing of Jesus? When that wife of yours dies, mister, and you're left alone, you say, "Oh, I want to see her again! I want to hold her again, I want to embrace her again." You can look forward to Jesus' appearing. Or what about when you look forward to the birth of that baby, and you've gone out and bought the little crib and the blue or pink blankets, and you've bought the little birdie whirligig that goes around, and you and your wife hold hands, and you both go in and turn on the little birds before the baby's born, and you put your hand on your wife's tummy when she's eight months pregnant, listening to the "tweet-tweet" of the birds, and you put your arms around one another and wonder, "What shall we name the new baby?" But when that baby is born dead, you long for Christ's appearing.

Or when that seventeen-year-old son goes through the windshield of the car, and you get that phone call at night. When you turn on the news and you see the famine, the heartache, the sorrow, the disappointment everywhere. It's at those tragic moments of life that your heart beats faster and through your tears you look up and you say, "Jesus, I know You're going to come. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, and put an end to this mess, put an end to this sorrow and sickness and suffering and death." That's when we love His appearing.

The Bible describes the ascension of Jesus, when He

How many are going to see Him
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is no secret coming, no
hidden event.

left this earth after thirty-three years to return to heaven and His Father. With the eleven disciples, Jesus made His way toward the Mount of Olives, just east of Jerusalem. Jesus raised His hands in benediction to them and in blessing and praise to the Father. And as He lifted up His hands, He began to ascend, rising higher and higher. Man steps off a mountain and goes *down*—God steps off a mountain and goes *up*! For the laws of the Creator are subject to the Creator, just as creation is subject to its Creator.

And the Mount of Olives was the Cape Canaveral, the Cape Kennedy "launching pad" in Christian history. As Jesus ascended, in panoramic view He saw old Jerusalem with its cobblestone streets where He had preached, and the Temple. He saw Pilate's judgment hall and the bloody hill of Calvary. He ascended higher and there was Bethlehem—His birthplace—and Nazareth—His hometown. He saw the hillsides where He broke the bread and fed the five thousand. As He ascended still higher He saw the Sea of Galilee that He had walked upon. As He continued to rise, a crowd or cloud of heavenly angels met Him. And they sang, "Glory to God! Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain!" And then He was out of sight of earth and in sight of heaven. And heaven's gates were thrown open wide, and King Jesus triumphantly entered in!

CHRIST'S RETURN IS PERSONAL

Those disciples, in their last lingering look, strained their eyes to see Jesus go—till a cloud received Him out

of their sight. They felt alone, perhaps a little abandoned, and without saying much they kept staring up at the sky into which their Lord had disappeared. But then the Bible says in Acts 1:10, 11 (NIV) that two angels came down and proclaimed: “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? *This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.*”

He went up into the clouds. He’ll come back in the clouds. This same Jesus—the very same Person. They saw Him go; we’ll see Him come back. It’s no secret event. This same Jesus who went to heaven with an actual, physical body will come back in an actual, physical body—not as some ghostly spirit or intangible essence! It’s not some make-believe coming, not some spiritual experience of His simply coming into our hearts. A literal Christ went. A literal Christ is coming back. The same Christ who touched blind eyes and deaf ears and healed them, the same Christ who raised the dead, is coming back in power and glory! He’s coming to raise the dead and to heal the sick who love Him. Our bodies will be transformed.

CHRIST’S RETURN IS VISIBLE

The Bible teaches that the second coming of Christ is a glorious, dramatic, climactic event in the clouds of heaven. Revelation 1:7, NKJV, says, “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and *every eye is going to SEE Him.*” How many are going to see Him when He comes? Every eye. This is no secret coming, no hidden event. He comes in the clouds, and according to the Book of Revelation *every eye will see Him.*

Jesus came secretly once, two thousand years ago. Most people didn’t even know He’d come, except for the Wise Men and a few shepherds. But when He comes again, He’s going to write it across the sky—He’s going to come in glory. The Bible knows nothing about a secret rapture, a secret second coming, for “every eye will see Him.” *Every eye.* The eyes of the blind will be opened. The eyes of the young and the old will see Him. Eyes that are dim, tear-stained eyes—tears will be wiped away in that day. We’ll see Him come, my brother and sister.

Someone may say, “Pastor, just the *righteous* will see Him come, but the wicked, who aren’t expecting Him, won’t notice a thing.” No! Everyone, every eye will see Him. Read Matthew 24:30 (NIV) to clarify this point: “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.*” All the nations of the earth, the Bible says, will see Him return. But note that it says they will “mourn.” Will *believers* mourn—or will they praise God with ecstatic thanks as thrills run up and down their spines? It is the *wicked* who realize they’re lost who will

be mourning. *Both* the righteous saved and the unrighteous lost are going to *see* Him—but with completely opposite reactions.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:27, NIV: “For as *lightning* comes from the east and flashes to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.” Anything secret or invisible or silent about lightning? We hear that booming thunder roll majestically in the heavens, we see that illuminating flash of lightning brighten the night sky all across the horizon from east to the west. It’s glorious, spectacular, dazzling!

Now, follow me. Satan can appear as a being of dazzling brightness in Chicago, or Paris, or Chattanooga, or Tokyo. Satan can appear as this angelic being, as the Bible says, “transformed into an angel of light.” But Satan can never counterfeit the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven so that “every eye” would see it fulfilled in each characteristic the Bible describes. You see, there are *five characteristics* to Christ’s second coming.

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRIST’S RETURN

First, it’s *literal*. That means it’s real. No imagination is required or even involved. It’s an actual event occurring at a definite moment in time.

Second, it’s *visible*. That’s because its dazzling brightness in the heavens is like lightning, and *every eye sees it*. It’ll be so spectacular, you can’t *help* seeing it!

Third, it’s an *audible* event. Not only does every eye *see* it, but every ear *hears* it. The Bible says in 1

As the crowning act in his drama
of deception, Satan himself will
impersonate Christ and make it
appear that Jesus has come.

Thessalonians 4:16, NIV: “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. . . .” This verse, far from being silent, is one of the *noisiest* in Scripture! The word “voice” here is from the Greek word *phone*, from which we get the word “telephone.” Who ever heard of an inaudible phone? The “loud command” is translated “shout” in the King James Version, and the “trumpet” is noisy, producing the loudest, most penetrating sound of all musical instruments. Describing

the same event, the Lord Jesus speaks of the “*great sound of a trumpet*” in Matthew 24:31—and in 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, the apostle Paul says, “*the trumpet shall sound*”! Christ’s return will NOT be secret or silent.

Fourth, it’s a **resurrecting** event. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NIV), the verse referred to above, has more to tell us. After the trumpet call of God, it says, “The *dead* in Christ will *rise* first.” All those who died believing in Christ will be brought to life at that grand and glorious moment!

Death is not a long night without
a morning, and the grave is not a
prison from which there’s no
deliverance.

This is a worldwide resurrection of the faithful from every land and every generation—all the way back to Adam and Eve. Satan can never counterfeit this. He can perform some “great signs and miracles.” And he can trick and deceive poor mortals like us. If devils can appear as angels of light, it would be easy for one of them to *impersonate* a dead person with the perfect tone of voice and other mannerisms, just as Hollywood has actors play the parts of Caesar, Lincoln, and JFK. But since Satan cannot create life, he can never duplicate the global resurrection accomplished by the Lifegiver.

Fifth, it’s an **elevating** event. The very next verse, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, NIV, says: “After that, we who are still *alive* and are left will be *caught up* with them in the clouds *to meet the Lord in the air*.” Now get this. *Where* do we meet the Lord? “In the air.” Does He come *all the way down* to the earth at this time? Does He *walk* on the earth as a being of dazzling brightness? What do you know about any being who walks on the earth and claims to be Christ? What do you know about any being—even one of dazzling brightness, who apparently works miracles of healing—if we have to meet him on this earth and not in the air? What do you know? That it’s the *false* christ, who is *Satan*. The Bible tells us in advance so we won’t be fooled. We’ll meet the Lord *in the air*, caught up to be with Jesus.

SATAN WILL PLAY HIS GREATEST ROLE

The devil knows his time is short. But in a last-gasp effort, as the crowning act in his drama of deception, Satan himself will impersonate Christ and make it appear that Jesus has come. With supernatural power and diabolical cunning, he’ll show himself in various places

as a majestic being of dazzling brightness. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything our eyes have yet beheld. His voice is gentle, yet full of melody. He compassionately heals hundreds, thousands of sick people.

But the Saviour *warns* us in Matthew 24:23-26, NIV: “If anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘There He is!’ *do not believe it*. . . . If anyone tells you, ‘There He is, out in the desert,’ *do not go out*; or, ‘Here He is, in the inner rooms,’ *do not believe it*.” He tells us not even to go out to investigate, for He knows that Satan’s “great signs and miracles” will be overpowering. Our only safety is knowing the truth about Christ’s return.

We won’t have to read about it in the newspaper or see it on television!

Jesus’ actual second coming, there is *no possibility of counterfeiting*. It will be universally known—witnessed by the whole world. Words pale and fail to describe the spectacular glory of the event. But let’s review the facts briefly: When Jesus comes, it will be *real*—the heavens dazzle “like lightning,” with the brilliance of a thousand suns. When Jesus comes, every eye sees it and every ear hears it. When Jesus comes, the dead are **resurrected**, and our bodies are transformed. When Jesus comes, we’re caught up with the resurrected believers who rise to meet Jesus Christ **in the air**.

New life will flow through our bodies and course through our veins. There’ll be no more arthritis, rheumatism, or tiredness. We’ll throw away our crutches, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and eyeglasses. Every tear is wiped away. Have tears filled your eyes? Perhaps some loved one has died. Once a year, maybe at Easter, you go to the grave and put flowers on it. You miss that husband, that wife, that son or daughter. You miss that brother who died last year of a heart attack, or that sister who died of cancer, or that son who was killed in the war. You miss them. One day, the Bible says, “The Lord Himself will come down from heaven, . . . and the dead in Christ will rise . . . and we who are still alive and are left will be caught up”—and the next two words are “*with them*”! We’ll be *with them* to meet the Lord in the air. We’ll be reunited again—reunited with our loved ones!

A GRAND REUNION

In an old English graveyard, there’s a tomb with an angel carved in stone. One hand of that angel is up over his eyes, shielding his eyes from the glory of Christ’s second coming. The other hand has a key in it. The angel is looking down at the grave, and you can tell the message if you look closely. One hand shades his eyes, his other hand holds a key, and he’s looking toward the tomb. He’s going to put his key in the door of that tomb. The door of the tomb has a lock chiseled in the stone. The tomb’s inscription says, “Until He comes.” The message is obvious: When Jesus comes, that angel will take his key, un-

lock the door of the tomb, and liberate our loved ones from death's prison house!

Friends, I'm here to tell you that death is not the end. The grave is not our loved ones' final resting place. Death is not a long night without a morning, and the grave is not a prison from which there's no deliverance. Jesus Christ went into the grave and came out triumphant over death. He's the Lifegiver, who turned the tomb into a tunnel. And Christ raised Lazarus from the dead as proof positive that those who love Him *will* be resurrected when He comes.

Someone observed that the reason Jesus said, "Lazarus, come forth," is that if He hadn't used Lazarus's name but simply said, "Come forth," ALL the dead would have come forth back there in the first century. But when Jesus comes back again, He's going to say, John, come forth. Mary, come forth. Tony, come forth. Alice, come forth. Joan, come forth. The graves will open, and the dead *will* come forth. Husbands and wives long separated by death will embrace and kiss again. Children will come out of a cold grave and be placed again in the eager arms of their parents.

And we're caught to meet Jesus in the sky. Though Sa-

Buildings crumble. Bridges tumble down. This Grand-daddy of all earthquakes splits the earth and shakes it to its foundation, to its very core.

tan may try like the devil, he can never counterfeit that. He can't counterfeit every eye seeing Christ, every ear hearing Him, the faithful dead everywhere resurrected. Don't let anyone mislead you: Christ's return won't be a *secret* coming where the righteous are silently, invisibly snatched away. No, history won't end like that! History will end, to paraphrase English poet T. S. Eliot, with a bang, not a whimper! The angels all look forward to it. Jesus looks forward to it. All heaven longs for that triumphant day. The whole universe is moving toward one great, glorious, climactic event—the return of Jesus Christ!

DON'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD!

Now look, friend, it's okay if you miss *some* parties. There are some parties going on tonight that I hope you miss. You see, some parties, some great events even, are okay to miss. Sometimes I race to the airport and still miss my plane. Well, that's not too good, but it's not the

worst thing in the world. If you miss a taxi or a train or a bus—even an airplane—another one will eventually come along. But if you miss *this* event—the coming of Christ—there *is* no other one, ladies and gentlemen. If you miss this event, you miss it forever. There'll be no second chance, my friend.

The apostle Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 15:51-55 that our mortal bodies will be changed in an instant when Jesus breaks through the blue. When the trumpet sounds, he says, we will "put on immortality." We'll have glorious, immortal bodies! We'll be clothed with newness, and new life will just pulsate through our veins as we ascend to heaven.

The Bible says that when Jesus returns at the end of the world, there'll be "a great earthquake." Talk about the Big One! You know, the earthquake that's supposed to hit Los Angeles—the Big One everyone's predicting? The one that seismologists and geologists are talking about—that's not the Big One. *This*, my friend, is the Big One. The really Big One will come in connection with Christ's return. Revelation 16:18 tells us, "There was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, *so mighty* an earthquake, and *so great*." Buildings crumble. Bridges tumble down. This Grand-daddy of all earthquakes splits the earth and shakes it to its foundation, to its very core. Explosions rip the air, and fires break out everywhere. Revelation 6:14 and 16:20 say, "Every mountain and island were moved out of their places. . . . Every island fled away, and the mountains were not found." This is no secret event!

On that last fateful day—as, indeed, throughout history—there are *two classes of people*: the wicked and the righteous. The righteous look up and *thrill* to see Jesus come! The wicked also see Him—and shake with fear. Revelation 6:15-17 (NIV) describes their reaction: "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?'"

TWO CLASSES—TWO DIFFERENT REACTIONS

When Christ comes, the heavens dazzle with breathtaking brightness. It's true that every eye sees Him, and every ear hears Him. But the two classes of people react quite differently. The righteous don't call for rocks and mountains to hide them from their Lord. They look up and say, "This is our God!" Have you ever before understood Isaiah 25:9? "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have

waited for Him.” Do you get the wording? *This* is our God. You see, we haven’t accepted Satan, the deceptive being of dazzling brightness. This is our God, He comes in the clouds of heaven. He comes so every eye will see Him. He comes raising the dead. “*This* is our God; we have *waited* for Him.” We haven’t accepted Satan’s delusions. We haven’t been fooled by his miracles. We’ve waited for the true Christ to come from heaven.

Jesus would love to bring the whole world to heaven. But if He did, it wouldn’t be heaven—it would be sinful earth all over again.

So we see our loving Lord coming in majesty and glory. The earth is shaking. The dead are resurrected. As the earth is heaving and tossing and turning, we’re caught up and escorted by angels to meet Jesus. And the same earthquake that tumbles the buildings opens the tombs. The same earthquake that destroys the wicked liberates the resurrected righteous. And the righteous come out of their tombs with new life from Jesus. The Master says in Matthew 13:49, “The angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just.”

As the wicked see Christ coming, they see the shaking buildings and the flaming cities. The wicked look up and are terrified. They haven’t given their lives to Jesus. They’ve lived sinful, selfish lives. They try to run and hide. The Bible says in Jude 14 and 15 that the Lord is coming with thousands of His holy angels to convict the ungodly. There’s no second chance then, no new opportunity then. When the wicked see Him coming, they shriek in terror.

Now, friend, Jesus wanted to save them, but this is the end. Jesus had often tapped them on the shoulder. Jesus had spoken to their hearts by His Holy Spirit. Perhaps a loving mother or minister had tried to reach them, but they refused to listen. Love could not bring them to heaven. Jesus would love to bring the *whole world* to heaven. But if He did, it wouldn’t be heaven—it would be sinful earth all over again. You’d have the same drunkenness and immorality, the same fighting and war and robberies. If He brought the whole world to heaven, someone would start sin all over again, and heaven itself would be ruined.

The only way you can be taken to heaven is if heaven is in your heart *now*. The only way you can be taken to heaven is if you’re worshiping *here* the Christ you’ll worship *there*. If you won’t make Christ your Master *here*, so that He sits on the throne of your life now, you wouldn’t make Him your Master up *there*. And God’s love can’t bring everyone to heaven, because then it wouldn’t be heaven—we’d have the same war, the same selfishness, the same lusts, the same greed.

So Jesus says, “Come to Me. I’ll give you every opportunity to be saved and to live in heaven. Whatever sin you’ve committed, I’ll forgive. Whatever sin has tripped you up, I’ll give you the power to overcome. I’m reaching out to you right now—but I won’t save you against your will. And if you choose to turn your back on Me and reject Me, that choice to separate from Me will lead you to destruction.”

It’s strange but true that the same sun that hardens *clay* melts *butter*. The sun is no different—the material is. The same Christ who draws the righteous through the brightness of His love destroys the wicked because they can’t stand the presence of His glorious, holy character. The Bible says in 2 Thessalonians 2:8 that the wicked are destroyed with the brightness of Christ’s coming—but they really destroy themselves through a long series of unfortunate choices.

Revelation 19:11 says, “I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse, and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True.” Christ comes. It’s over now—it’s ended. Heaven’s armies come forth. Verse 15 says, “Out of His *mouth* goeth a *sharp sword*, that with it He should smite the nations.” What does the Bible liken to a sword? It says in Hebrews 4:12 and Ephesians 6:17 that *God’s Word* is like a sharp sword. So His Word smites the wicked, and they begin to run. They’ve never given a thought to God or His Word, or their eternal destiny. Now they cry out to the rocks and mountains, saying, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne.” And they’re destroyed. Their pleasure is interrupted.

THE GODLESS PLEASURES OF POMPEII

Come back with me, please—back two thousand years. On the beautiful shores of the Mediterranean, the city of Pompeii was *THE* pleasure resort. If worldly people wanted to have a good time in the first century, they went to Pompeii. Pompeii was the center of wine, women, and song—the center of pleasure. It had great amphitheaters where fifteen to twenty thousand people would come and cheer. But Pompeii was a godless city, a city that had turned its back on God and had no use for spiritual things.

Yet the weather was fine every day in Pompeii. The beautiful climate caused gardens and landscaping to flourish. Many inhabitants of Pompeii had great man-

sions. They even kept guard dogs because crime was bad there. In Pompeii's archaeological ruins you see the guard dogs set in tile. Statues there told about the parties in Pompeii. Sometimes these parties would last seven or eight days. They'd go day and night. People would drink and eat until they were intoxicated gluttons. They'd get so filled up that the host would provide a feather and golden basin so that, after they gorged themselves by eating and eating for hours, they'd go outside and tickle their throat with the feather so they could vomit into the gold basin and go back and eat more!

Some of them had delicacies for dessert—they'd actually take little pink baby mice and dip one in honey and swallow it alive so they could throw up and eat more. You might say they were bulimic—they were certainly hedonistic. Anything that pleased them, they did. It's like the drug addict who keeps shooting dope into his veins and is stimulated by it in a chain reaction. On this slide you see the great statues. They had feasts that lasted for months. They had great open baths, something like sauna baths. And men and women bathed nude together in them. It was a drunken society that had no use for God. These are wine flasks that were found in Pompeii. They were a drunken society that loved wine, that loved beer and drinking. *Pleasure* was their god, a god they worshiped devotedly. They never thought anything

I wonder if his gold means anything to him now.

Friend of mine, is there anything in your life that could keep you from being ready? Any habit you want to lay on the altar? Any sin in your life you want to confess? Just now, right where you are, won't you bow your head and say, "Jesus, I sense that it's almost over. I want to be ready when You come. Jesus, I don't want to make the mistake of those people in Pompeii. I want to be caught up with You in the sky. Lord, You loved me so much—enough to die for me! You want me to be in heaven. And, Lord, I want to be there to live with You forever and ever and ever."

It's almost over. Why not open your heart to Jesus right now? ▲

Pompeii tells us something: That there is a final day, a final night for every human being on earth. And one day Christ is going to interrupt our parties.

would change their lives, never thought Pompeii would do anything but continue to thrive. It was a magnificent city, located on the sea, with flowers and mountains.

But then one day a volcano called Vesuvius began moving, and it erupted so quickly that Pompeii's inhabitants were encased in lava and died at their parties. On these slides you see people—actual human beings from over nineteen hundred years ago, who were encased in the lava of Pompeii. Pompeii tells us something: That there is a final day, a final night for every human being on earth. And one day Christ is going to interrupt our parties. One day Christ is going to interrupt our pleasure. One day Christ is going to come down through the skies—and as I look into the eyes of this man of Pompeii,

Discoveries in Prophecy

Quick Quiz

Our heavenly Father has *so much* He longs to teach us! Think of each seminar session as one in a series of steps leading upward—a series of “lessons from heaven.” May we learn our lessons well, so we in turn can teach others. God’s Word, the Bible—our Textbook for this seminar—offers **Learning Unlimited!**

New Age Conspiracy

Numbers in parentheses below refer to page numbers in special-edition Seminar Bibles—the first number for the King James Version, the second for the New King James Version. For example: (709 / 681).

1. Jesus *promised* to *return* to this sinful world when He said, “I _____ come again”! **To check your answer, see John 14:3 (1068 / 1063).**

2. The Savior leads us to believe His Return would be *visually spectacular* when He says it will be “as the _____” that comes out of the *east* and shines all the way to the *west*.
To check your answer, see Matthew 24:27 (976 / 971).

3. The Apostle Paul leads us to believe Christ’s Return will be *noisily audible* when he describes that event by saying, “The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a _____, with the _____ of the archangel, and with the _____ of God.”
**To check your answer, see 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (1176 / 1169).
Compare Matthew 24:31 (976 / 971) and John 5:28-29 (1054 / 1050).**

4. Certain characteristics may be said to describe Christ’s Second Coming. Check *one or more* of the **boxes** below to tell *what kind* of event it will be. **To check your answer, see Acts 1:11 (1078 / 1073), Revelation 1:7 (1218 / 1214), 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (1176 / 1169), John 14:3 (1068 / 1063).**
 - A. **Audible** - noisy, from the Savior’s voice and the trumpet call.
 - B. **Elevating** - the redeemed will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.
 - C. **Literal** - an event which actually happens in the real world.
 - D. **Personal** - the same Jesus who ascended to heaven will return, bodily.
 - E. **Resurrecting** - dead believers worldwide will come to life.
 - F. **Visible** - seen by all, witnessed by the whole world
 - G. **All** of the above.
 - H. **None** of the above.

5. The Bible warns that “_____ himself is transformed into an _____ of _____.” **To check your answer, see 2 Corinthians 11:14 (1154 / 1146). Compare Matthew 24:24 (976 / 971).**

6. T What the Bible means by “the Second Coming of Christ” is that *Jesus comes into your heart* when you invite Him and accept Him as your Savior.
 F **To check your answer, see any or all of the Scripture texts listed on this Quiz.**

Quick Quiz

7. Could John the Revelator use human language any more *clear* or *emphatic* about the *visible* nature of Christ's Return than to say simply: " _____ shall see Him"?
To check your answer, see Revelation 1:7 (1218 / 1214).
8. Besides the fact that the wicked are *all struck dead* by "the brightness of His Coming," *another* very cataclysmic, catastrophic event in connection with Christ's Return is "a _____ earthquake, such as was *not* since men were upon the earth, so _____ an earthquake, and so great."
To check your answer, see 2 Thessalonians 2:8 (1178 / 1170) and Revelation 16:18 (1230 / 1226). Compare also Revelation 6:14 (1222 / 1219) & 16:20 (1230 / 1226).
9. When Jesus said He was going back to *heaven* in order "to prepare a place"—a mansion—for you but would "come again, and *receive* you unto Myself," did He *finish* by saying:
 A. "that where *I am* [that is, in heaven], there *you* may be also"?
 B. "that where *you are* [that is, on earth], there *I* may be also"?
To check your answer, see John 14:1-3 (1068 / 1063).
10. T Satan and his devil followers are crafty and cunning, but thank heaven they're not able
 F to work any *miracles*, for *only God* can do that! **To check your answer, see Revelation 16:14 (1230 / 1226), 2 Thessalonians 2:9 (1178 / 1170), Matthew 24:24 (976 / 971).**
11. On the lines below, tell in your own words *why* you think Christ was **so strong** in His warning that we must "**believe it not**" if someone tells us Jesus is "in the desert" or "in the secret chambers" and that we must "**go not forth**" *even to investigate* such a report.
To check your answer, see Matthew 24:23-27 (976 / 971).

12. On the lines below, describe the *totally opposite reactions* to Christ's Return as expressed by the *two classes of people*—the wicked and the righteous, the lost and the saved. **To check your answer, see Revelation 6:15-17 (1222 / 1219) and Isaiah 25:9—compare verse 8 (713 / 685).**



Words to the Wise:

**At His birth, Jesus set history's calendar.
At His Return, He'll stop history's clock.**

Discoveries in Prophecy

Complete list of evangelistic magazines, cross-referenced
to the book *Beyond Orion's Gates*, by Mark A. Finley

Magazine Title

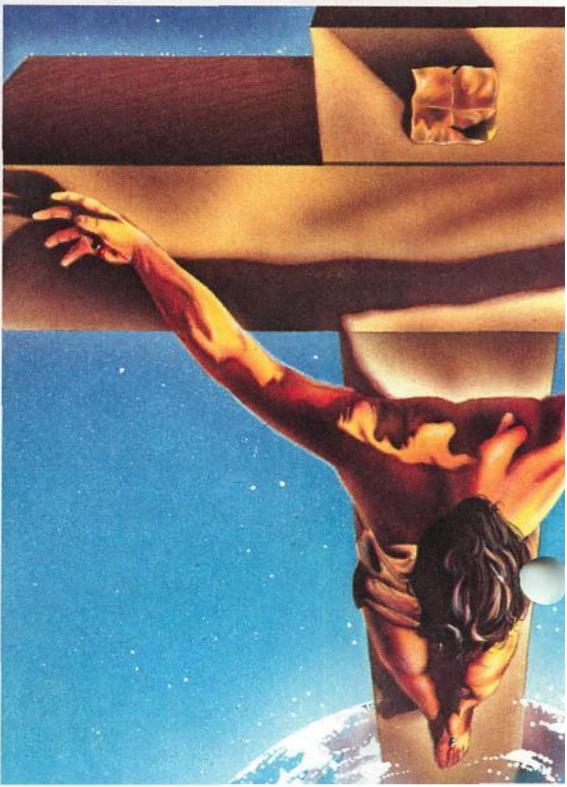
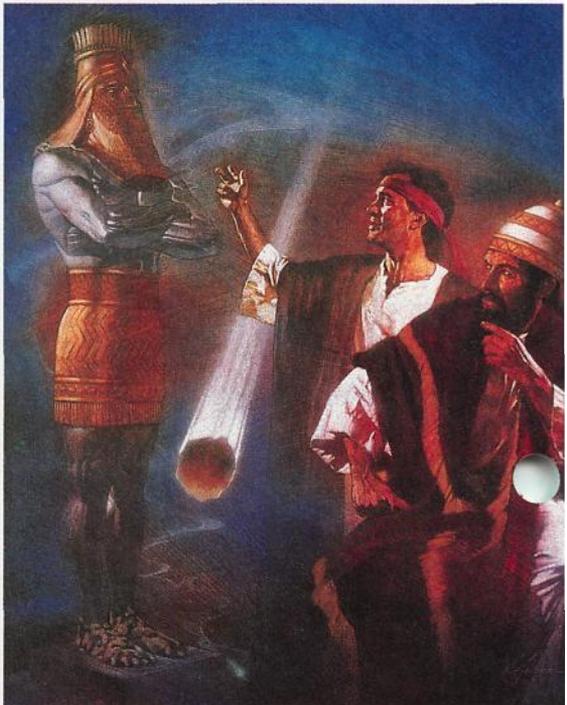
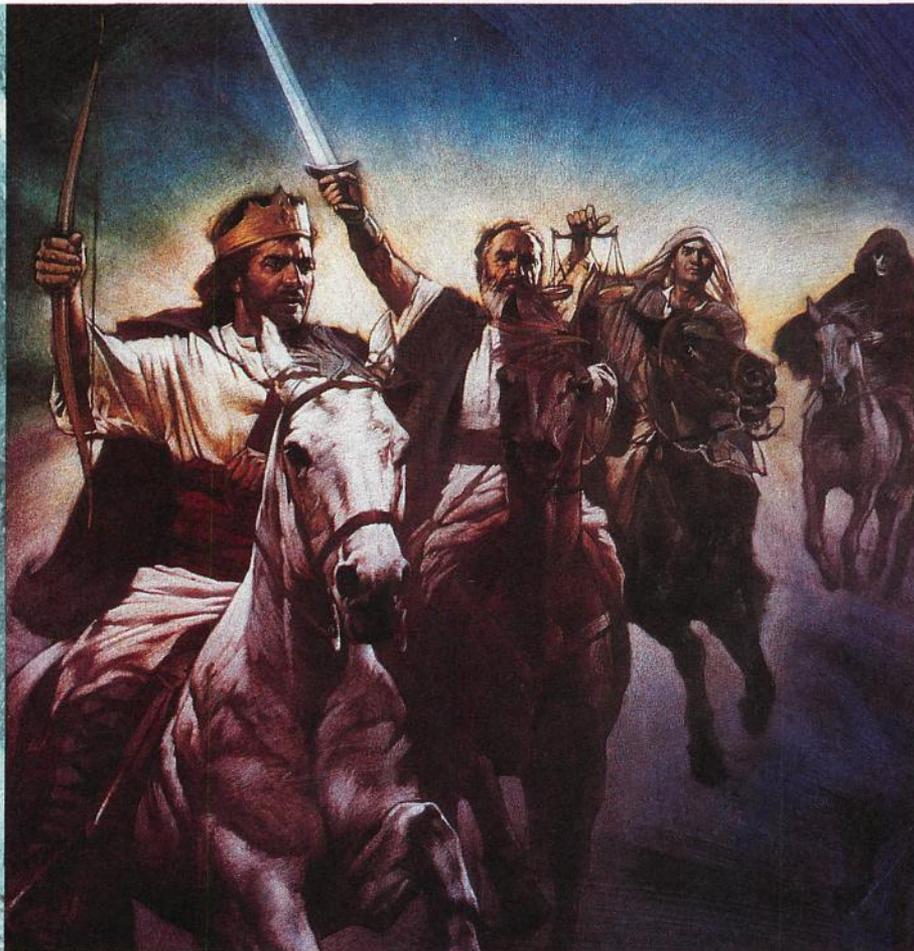
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1. Living Beyond 2000	Ch. 2: Lonely No Longer
2. Countdown to Eternity: Why Communism Failed	Ch. 5: A Man of Mud and Metal
3. A World in Turmoil	Ch. 6: Snoozing Through the Sirens
4. Angel 911: Revelation's Angelic Conflict	Ch. 8: Why Insurance Companies Are Wrong
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