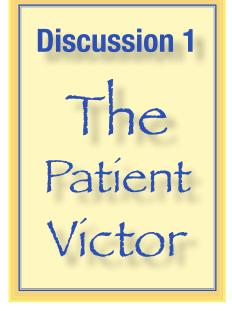


In & Out of Babylon

Unveiling God's Power and Transformational Agenda in the Life and Prophecies of Daniel

A Group Study Course by Roderick Graciano & Timothy Ministries

A. At the beginning of Daniel's story (Dan 1-6), what was the general attitude of the Babylonian's toward Daniel's God, YHVH? (Cf. 2Ki 18.33-35.)



B. The first six chapters of *Daniel* all communicate a similar message to dispirited Jewish exiles (and to presently beleaguered Christians). List the six triumphs:

1. TRIUMPHS OVER

2. TRIUMPHS OVER

3. TRIUMPHS OVER

4. TRIUMPHS OVER

5. TRIUMPHS OVER

6. TRIUMPHS OVER

C. If God is triumphant, why are his people in exile and His enemies still in power?
God has a deeper purpose and agenda of divine Self-disclosure (Eze 28.26; 34.27-30; 39.28), involving:
1. Perfecting for His Son (Rom 8.29; Rev 19.7), 2. Transforming the (Mat 6.10)
3. Disciplining the rebellious(ISA 24.21; 1Co 6.3; Eph 3.10)
D. What is the first message we should take home from Daniel 1 through 6?
God reigns over the nations (Psa 47.8), but waits for His victory.
E. What does this mean for us?
 In our present trials let's recognize what David Wilcox expressed in the language of theater:
You say you see no hope, you say you see no reason We should believe that the world would ever change
Look, if someone wrote a play just to glorify What's stronger than hate, Would they not arrange the stage To look as if the hero came too late he's almost in defeat It's looking like the Evil side will win, so on the Edge of from the moment the whole thing begins
It is Love who makes the mortar And it's Love who stacked these stones And it's Love who made the stage here Although it looks like we're alone In this scene set with shadows Like the night is here to stay There is evil cast around us But it's love that By David Wilcox, © 1993 Irving Music, From the Big Horizon album
2. We must enter into God's work with patience for the, recognizing the value of what God is giving us now (1Ti 4.8).



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- 1. Label the parts of Nebuchadnezzar's dream image on page D-2.
- 2. Why are these empires symbolized and not others, like China?



- 3. Why does the image begin with Babylon rather than with Pharaonic Egypt or Assyria?
- 4. In what sense are the four kingdoms increasingly inferior (Dan 2.39,40)?
- 5. Why are empires symbolized by metals in the dream, and by beasts in the subsequent visions? Why are the empires symbolized as connected on the one hand, and as distinct beasts on the other?
- 6. Why does the stone strike the feet rather than the head?
- 7. TRICK QUESTION: What is the *Omega Point,* i.e., the ending point for the events predicted by Nebuchadnezzar's dream image?

The Designer of My Destiny

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." — Eph 2.10 (NLT)

8. How does God design the destiny of empires?

By	y designing the destinies of	(Psa 40.5; Isa 14.24-27),
_	(Amo 3.6) and	(Pro 16.9; 19.21; 21.1;
Ac	t 10.41; 17.26; Rom 9.23-24).	
9.	What happens when people live their lives withou	t a sense of divine purpose?
A.	They live materially productive but ul lives (Psa 49.20; 146.4), or	timately
В.	They live despairing and 3.18-19 in the NIV), or	líves (Job 18.5-13 g Phí
c.	They invent their own purpose, withou	t realizing its true

- 10. What can we do to help our children fulfill their destinies (Psa 139.16; Pro 20.24; Rom 8.28-30)?

(ISA 30.1).

- B. Teach them God's love for _____ (Jer 29.7-11; Heb 11.16)
- C. Ask God for a _____ word for them (Amo 3.7; Rom 1.11; 1Co 14.26; 1Tí 4.14)
- D. Pronounce a ______over them in the Name of the YHVH (Gen 28.3,4; 49.28; Num 6.22-27; 2Sa 6.20a; Sirach 3.9).

Wis. of Ben Sira 3.9: For a father's blessing strengthens the houses of the children, but a mother's curse uproots their foundations.

We're called to take one day at a time (Matthew 6.34), and when confronted with new challenges, to simply do the next right thing.

However, it will help us do the next right thing, if we know our calling and destiny (Philippians 3.14).

A Blessing for Sons

By your faith in Jesus the Messiah,
I bless you in the Name of His Father,
the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.¹
By your adoption into God's family through the blood of Jesus²
Who made you co-heir with your Lord and Brother,³
I bless you in the Name of your true Father in Heaven,⁴
YHVH.

May he give you and your descendants the blessing of Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as a sojourner, and advance God's kingdom in it.⁵

May you bear much fruit for your Father's glory,⁶
may He fill you with the power and compassion of the Holy Spirit,⁷
may He give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation
in the knowledge of Christ,⁸
may He grant you to know Him, the power of His resurrection

and the fellowship of His suffering,⁹
may you fully understand and experience all
that God your Father has freely given you,¹⁰
including the mighty gifts of the Holy Spirit,¹¹
av you love hold on that for which Christ Josep loid hold on

may you lay hold on that for which Christ Jesus laid hold on you,¹² may you be filled with the knowledge of His will

in all spiritual wisdom and discernment,¹³

and may you abound in the fruit of the Holy Spirit.¹⁴ May those who bless you prosper and

may those who would curse you be overcome by good.¹⁵

______, may God make you like _____

In the Name of your Father, the Commander of Angel Armies, fulfill your ministry, calling and destiny.¹⁶
Amen

References

1 Rom 4.16	9 Phi 3.10
2 Joh 1.12,13; 1Jo 3.1	10 1Co 2.12
3 Rom 8.17	11 1Co 14.1
4 Joh 20.17	12 Phi 3.12
5 Gen 28.4; Mat 6.10	13 Col. 1.9
6 Joh 15.8	14 Gal 5.22,23; Phi 1.9; 1Th 3.12
7 Eph 3.16; Col. 3.12; 2Ti 1.7	15 Gen 27.29b; Rom 12.21
8 Eph 1.17	16 Col 4.17; 2Ti 4.5; Rom 8.28-30

A Blessing for Daughters

By your faith in Jesus the Messiah, I bless you in the Name of His Father, the God of Sarah. Rebekah and Rachel.¹ By your adoption into God's family through the blood of Jesus² Who made you co-heir with your Lord and brothers,³ I bless you in the Name of your true Father in Heaven,4 YHVH.

May he give you and your descendants the blessing of Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as a sojourner, and advance God's kingdom in it.5

> May you bear much fruit for your Father's glory,⁶ may He clothe you with strength and dignity, that you may laugh fearlessly at the days to come,⁷ may He give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ,8

may you fully understand and experience all that God your Father has freely given you.9 including the Spirit of prophecy and healing, 10

may you lay hold on that for which Christ Jesus laid hold on you, 11 may you be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and discernment, 12

and may you abound in the fruit of the Holy Spirit.13 May your spiritual children be like the stars of the heavens, and all arise to call you blessed.14

_, may God make you like

In the Name of your Father, the Father of compassion, 15 fulfill your ministry, calling and destiny.¹⁶

Amen

References

1 Rom 4.16 9 1Co 2.12 2 Joh 1.12,13; 1Jo 3.1 10 Act 2.18; 1Co 14.1 3 Rom 8.17; 1Pe 3.7 11 Phi 3.12

4 Joh 20.17 12 Col. 1.9

5 Gen 28.4; Mat 6.10 13 Gal 5.22,23; Phi 1.9; 1Th 3.12

6 Joh 15.8 14 Gen 15.5: Pro 31.28

7 Pro 31.25 15 2Co 1.3,4 8 Eph 1.17

16 Col 4.17; 2Ti 4.5; Rom 8.28-30



In & Out of Babylon

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1. Based on the story of Daniel ch. 4, what precedes effective testimony?



- 2. What precedes humility?
- 3. Just how dependent are we, according to Daniel 5.23?

The Holy Spirit is the one who has been constantly sustaining and renewing the creation ... so that the sun rose this morning for another day and there was breakfast on your table. The Holy Spirit is the one who gives life to every mortal creature that breathes on the planet, and who is the energy behind every breath you take in this life.

Christopher J. H. Wright, Knowing the Holy Spirit Through The Old Testament (IVP 2006) 4. What is life?

5. In view of Daniel chapters 4 and 5, do we really want free will?

Tale of Two Kingdoms

"The Most High is ruler over the kingdom of men. He gives it to anyone He wants and sets over it the lowliest of men."

- Daniel 4.17

GOD'S RULE

MAN'S RULE

- 6. How can we tell when we have sins of autonomy?
- 7. What are the sins of autonomy that I must repent of now?

Discussion 4

Father of



In & Out of Babylon

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- 1. What is a saint?
- A Catholic Dictionary (Attwater) says: One whose holiness of life and heroic virtue have been confirmed and recognized by the Church's official processes...
- The Bible says: All people whom God considers His own (Rom 1.7). We are saints by
 ______, not by

____, not by (See 100 6.2).

2. Who then qualify as saints?

A.

B.

3. Do members of the Israelite remnant believe in Jesus of Nazareth?

See: Isa 10.20-22; 11.11-12.6; 28.5; Mic 2.12,13; 5.2-9; 7.18-20; Zep 3.11-13; Zec 12.9-13.1; **Rom 11.25-29**; Rev 14.1-5.

- 4. Why would God allow His saints to be attacked, overcome and oppressed (Dan 7.21,25; 8.12,24; 11.35; Rev 6.9-11; 13.5-7)?
- 5. What is "the apostasy" that Paul said was coming (2Th 2.3; cf. 1Ti 4.1-3)?

Probably based on the prophecies of Daniel (8.12-13; 9.23; 11.32), and the words of Jesus in Mat 24.10-13, Paul spoke of the apostasy as:

6. What is the "Great Tribulation"? (Dan 12.1,7• A períod of unparalleled	7,11; Jer 30.7; Mat 24.15-21 (Daぃ. 12.1),				
 commencing upon the appear of 	•				
· roughly	before the Coming of Christ				
• It is also called the "Time of (Jeremiah 30.7),					
· and will be particularly local	ized in(Mat 24.16).				
7. Daniel, chapters 7-12, draw our attention repeatedly to the "little horn" of the End Time (7.8-11,20-26; 8.9-25), also called "a despised person," the End-Time king of the north (11.21-45). We have come to recognize this character as <i>The Antichrist</i> . Why would the Holy Spirit focus so much of Daniel's visions on information about this one individual?					
A.					
В.					
c.					
D.					
8. Why will God permit the rise of The Antichri	st, anyway?				
A.					
В.					
C.					
D.					

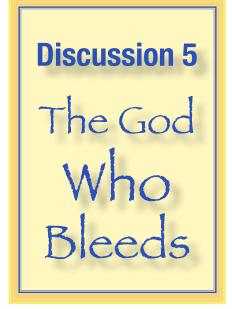


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Dan. 10.4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, 5 I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. 6 His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

Rev. 1.12 ...And when I turned I saw ... 13 ...someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 16 ...His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

Who was the glorious man who stood above the Tigris and spoke to Daniel?

The Alpha and Omega of Rev 1, our

2.	Didn't the Son of God just sit on His heavenly throne before His first coming?
• +	te's the one who commanded the armies of YHVH during
	(Jos 5.13-15)!
• +	te's the one who marched ahead of David against
	(2Sa 5.23-35).

- He is the Malach YHVH who struck down in one night (2Ki 19.35)!
- He's the one who has always had more than _____ at his command (Mat 26.53).

3. Is it possible for such a warrior to be wounded (Gen 3.15; Zec 12.10), and if so, how seriously?
As the Messiah, He would "be cut off and have nothing," i.e., he, and be denied any honor and recognition from the
nation, the city and sanctuary where He (Dan 9.19,24-26; Num 6.23-27; Den 12.5,11; 1Kí 8.29; 11.36; 2Kí 21.4).
4. When would this "cutting off" occur?
After Jerusalem and the Temple were rebuilt, but before both the city and temple were demolished a second time (Dan 9.26). Therefore, the Messiah had to have appeared
5. Could He not, with His omnipotence and foresight, have prevented His own wounding and death?
Of course, but the pain and suffering were required by
6. There are parts of God's redemptive plan that remain mysterious and difficult to understand. Passages like Proverbs 16.4 and Romans 9.17-24 seem to indicate that it was part of God's plan to raise up wicked people, doomed to destruction, for His <i>and our</i> greater glory! Can we trust such a God?
unlike so many ambitious men, God did not ask His servants to bear the whole burden of His vision. Instead, He Himself incurred the by far! We may not be able to trust a general who remains behind in safety while his soldiers suffer on the battle-field, but we can trust a King who leads His people into the fray and is
we can trust a God who
7. Do we dare join the fellowship of His suffering (Philippians 3.10; 1John 3.16)?

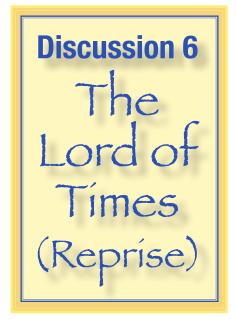


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1. The Law instructed that the land be left fallow and enjoy a sabbath every 7th year (Lev 25.2-7). Israel's 70-year exile fulfilled God's promise that the land would enjoy its sabbath rests for all its sabbatical years that were violated (Lev 26.34; 2Ch 36.20-21). For how many years had Israel apparently ignored the sabbatical year?



- 2. As Daniel repented for his people's disobedience, what span of years did God reveal to him regarding the future of his people and their holy city? (Dan 9.24)
- 3. In the vision of Daniel 9, why are the 70 weeks divided into 3 groups of 7, 62 and 1?

Because each of the 3 time periods would have a .

4. Is it reasonable to say there is a chronological gap between the 69th and 70th week?

Yes, because there has been a gap in

5. Upon what era does the final vision of Daniel 10-12 focus? Trace the information about the "abomination of desolation" (Dan 12.11 and 11.31).

The "end of days" (10.14), the "end time" (11.40; 12.4).

6.	Why does a	a standing	angel have	to "stand	un" (Dan	12.112

The Hebrew word *amad* (used twice in this verse) can mean _____ or ____ for one who is already standing or moving.

7. Why would Michael *stop* standing over the people of Israel (cf. Gen 15.16; Num 14.9; Dan 8.23)?

The time comes when he must _____ for a time!

8. Why would the Lord wait to come until the "hand of the holy people is completely smashed" (Heb. <i>napayts</i> , Dan 12.7; cf. Deu 32.36)?
9. Does God want <i>our</i> "power" to be completely broken? (See Luk 20.18)
10. When will Daniel arise to receive his allotted inheritance (Dan 12.11-13; see p. D-23)?
11. What will Daniel inherit (Dan 7.27; 12.13)?
12. If Daniel's people are not resurrected until after the Great Tribulation (Dan 12.1-2), what does that imply about the time of the rapture of 1Th 4.13-5.4?
13. Was it fair to reveal a glorious future to Daniel, only to tell him he'd die before it all happened (See Heb 11.39-40)? Why did God reveal these things millennia in advance?
14. Since Daniel did not live to see all his prophecies fulfilled, what was his ultimate mission?
A. To reassure the exiles of his day, and pray for .
B. To prepare Israel for their future
C. To alert discerning people that Messiah would have to before entering His glory (Luk 24.25,26).
D. To prepare us for our End-Time



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The Divine Assignment

1. The Nature of the Assignment (Act 17.24-27):

Acts 17.24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and *does not live in temples built by hands*. 25 And he is *not served by human hands, as if he needed anything,* because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and *he determined the*

Discussion 7
Saints In
Babylon
Part A

times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

The work	God	has	called	us	to	is:
----------	-----	-----	--------	----	----	-----

A.

В.

C. All about helping people find _____

2. The Place of God's Design:

Jer. 29.4 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

- A. God has called me to the land of ______ even as He called Daniel to the land of _____ MESOPOTAMIA _ .
- B. God has called me to the city of ______ even as He called Daniel to the city of _____ BABYLON _ .
- 3. Daniel's God-given circle of influence (ministry people-group) was the palace wise men.

My people are (Mat 15.24), and my circle of influence is (or will be):

4. H	ow do I minister to my circle of infl	uence?
A.	Dan 1.4: Learn their	
В.	Identify the key individu	al (for Daniel it was Nebuchadnezzar). The cle of influence is:
	because he/she has the gre	atest:
	I 7 infl	uence on others
	•	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	onal need
C.	Dan 2.24: Become an aut	hentic friend, working for their success re-
	gardless of whether they e	ver become
5. Is	n't our Great Commission to "mak	e disciples" (Mat 28.18-20)?
Yes,	but making Christian disc	ciples is about more than just "getting people
save	d to get people saved." It is a	bout bringing God's kingdom to our "neigh-
	• •	vill be
	25	
6. W	/hat does a transformed neighborh	ood look like? (What does it look like when the kingdom comes to
	ır neighborhood?)	•
	6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I	A.
	hosen: to loose the chains of injustice	Α.
and ur	ntie the cords of the yoke, to set the	
	sed free and break every yoke? 7 Is	B .
	o share your food with the hungry and	
_	vide the poor wanderer with shelter — you see the naked, to clothe him, and	
	turn away from your own flesh and	C.
	8 Then your light will break forth	
	e dawn, and your healing will quickly	
	; then your righteousness will go	D .
	you, and the glory of the LORD will	
-	r rear guard. 9 Then you will call, and	
	ORD will answer; you will cry for help, will say: Here am I. "If you do away	₹.
	be yoke of oppression, with the pointing	-
	and malicious talk, 10 and if you spend	F.
	lves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy	
	eds of the oppressed, then your light	G.
	se in the darkness, and your night will	
	e like the noonday. 11 The LORD will	H.
	you always; he will satisfy your needs un-scorched land and will strengthen	
	rame. You will be like a well-watered	1.
-	, like a spring whose waters never fail.	
	or people will rebuild the ancient ruins	1
	ill raise up the age-old foundations;	J.
-	ill be called Repairer of Broken Walls,	
Restor	er of Streets with Dwellings.	



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The Requisite Character

- The world is not blind to good character (Dan 1.4). Cultivating positive personal qualities will open doors of ministry for us. Daniel and his friends were recognized for their:
 - A.
 - B
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
 - F.

Saints In
Babylon
Part B

It's when a man stops learning that he begins to grow old....

— Joseph Hergesheimer

- 2. In our culture, Christians have become known for what they are against, and scorned as kill-joys. We cannot avoid being against evil: Daniel was against idolatry, sin and compromise. However, Daniel's reputation was built upon what he was for, and he became so beloved and respected that Darius the king could not sleep knowing that Daniel was in danger (Dan 6.18)! People knew that Daniel was for:
 - A. Dan 1.8-13; 6.21:
 - B. Dan 2.24: _____
 - C. Dan 6.5,10; 1Kí 8.46-50:
 - D. Dan 6.10, 16:
 - E. Dan 9: _____

Our Call To Servant-Leadership

"...the one who is greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the one who serves....I am among you as one who serves." — Luk 22.26,27 (NASB)

- 3. Leadership is influence. Daniel had the character to influence people for righteousness, so God placed him in leadership positions. Daniel thus provides an example for our present lives, and also foreshadows our destiny to rule the nations (Dan 2.48; 2Ti 2.12; Rev 2.26,27; 5.9,10; 20.6). Consider the leadership qualities of Daniel and his friends:
 A. An uncompromised Message (Dan 3.16-18)
 Living out an uncompromised message requires that we know:
 - B. A willingness to ________(See Dan 4.27; 5.15)
 When faced with a king's unfavorable dreams or visions, the other wise men of Babylon weren't so much incapable of interpreting, as they were unwilling to risk the ruler's wrath.
 - C. Reliance on the Revealer of ______ (Dan 2.22)

 Should we find ourselves in exile, we should know that God is still willing to guide and direct us. We are not in the dark (1Th 5.1-6)
 - D. Ability to ______ (Dan 5.12)
 The people with the greatest influence in our lives are often the ones who can address our toughest problems.
- 4. The Glorious Promise: As we follow in Daniel's footsteps, we will:
 - A. "Be strong and carry out great exploits" (Dan 11.32, NKJV)
 - B. Give ______to many in the time of crisis (Dan 11.33)
 - C. Lead many to ______ (Dan 12.3)
 - D. ______ in the next age (Dan 12.2,3; 2Co 3.18 NIV)



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Coming Events...

1. RISE OF THE TEN KINGS:

Watch for the formation of an identifiable contingent of ten kings situated in the Middle East and in North Africa. Eight kings rule in the region now, in the nations

Discussion 9

Exiting

Mystery

Babylon

of: Jordan,	Kuwait,	Morocco,	oman,	Bahrain,	Saudí	Arabía,
		. and				

2. RISE OF THE TWO BABYLONS:

- The nation of Iraq will stabilize and become an and military power.
- Eventually, Iraq will call for a _____ to rule the nation.
- Watch for a union between Iraq and Syria in a revived
- Iraq will complete the rebuilding of the city of Babylon; this ancient city will become the _____ capital of the Middle East.
- The European union will continue to grow in strength and will the Middle East.

"The European Union aims to harness the boom in the Gulf sparked by rising oil prices to ramp up trade and boost its political and strategic leverage in the Middle East."

— AFP, May 8, 2007

- The European union will move its commercial capital to ______.
- Europe will economically fuel a boom in luxury products and
- Babylon, Iraq and Rome, Italy (Mystery Babylon), will face-off as commercial competitors for of the Mediterranean world.

3. RETURN OF TEMPLE WORSHIP TO ISRAEL

Watch for more news about the red heifer.

"Let the truth be known: there is nothing to stop the people of Israel from raising a new red heifer, from birth, and preparing it in the manner we have described in these pages, and raising children in purity to carry out the procedure - even without the original ashes. ... a perfect heifer, born and raised under a controlled environment, would be fit to be used for the Temple. And that is precisely what is being done today."

http://www.templeinstitute.org/red_heifer/original_ashes.htm

• The daily sacrifices may be resumed on a rebuilt altar before the Temple is built, Ezra 3.2,3. However, "the holy place" is a technical designation for the first room of the sanctuary proper, and that's will occur (Mat 24.15).

	where Jesus says the	will occur (Mat 24.15).
	• It is highly unlikely that the Jews will permit their temple to be built anywhere but over the pinnacle of rock where Solomon made a niche for the Ark of the Covenant. Therefore expect a crisis that will result in: A. The relocation of, if not destruction of, the	
	B. The shift of control over Jerusale from the Palestinians to the Isra	
	C. An international agreement to p Temple while allowing Temple platform (Rev 11.1,2).	
4.	BIG SURPRISE: IN THE MIDDLE EAST	
T)	What it means to "come o he great End-Time idolatry generated by nip of Mammon and Commerce; in other witic Hedonism. Coming out of Babylon (F	the two Babylons will be the wor- vords Consumerism and Material-
•	Prioritizing another's life over my own	
•	Prioritizing another's need for food and shelter over my	
•	Prioritizing another's eternal destiny over my	
	Prioritizing another's need for family over my	
	•	0