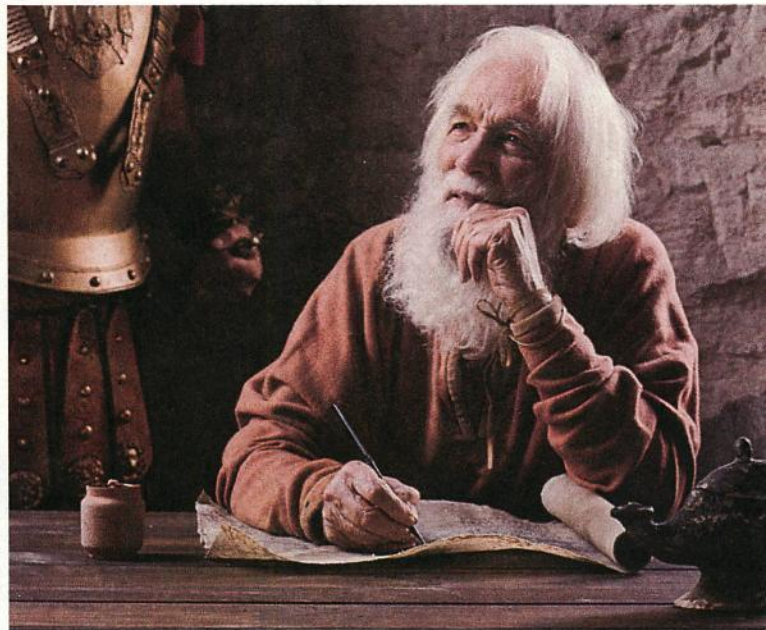


# **P** Discoveries in **PROPHECY**

WITH  
**MARK  
FINLEY**



**Facing Revelation's Judgment**

# 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

## Facing Revelation's Judgment

Every man or woman who has ever lived has a case pending before the judgment bar of God—the Supreme Court of the Universe. Every person has an appointment. No one will be excused. No one can escape the summons. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.” 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Whether we believe it or not! Whether we like it or not! Whether we profess to be Christians or not! Whether we are rich or poor, black or white—we must all appear! God has no favorites. When a person is summoned by the court in heaven, he must appear to “give account of himself to God.” Romans 14:12.

The decision of heaven's court will forever seal each person's destiny. The verdict will be irrevocable, for there is no higher court of appeal. But before the final sentence is passed, a thorough investigation will take place in heaven's court.

The prophet Daniel describes the awesome court, presided over by the Ancient of Days and attended by “ten thousand times ten thousand” angel witnesses (Daniel 7:10). Standing before the Ancient of Days is the Son of God, the Advocate of mankind. And who is on trial? As we continue reading the seventh chapter of Daniel, we find that, although human beings are not present, books are opened.

Evidently “the books” contain the records of the deeds of those who stand trial, for Solomon wrote, “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:14.

Malachi, the last book in the Old Testament, refers to a “book of remembrance” (Malachi 3:16), and King David also writes about a book of God (Psalm 56:8).

In this age of computers and technology, we can imagine a heavenly computer containing the precise, exact, all-inclusive record of a life. But why would an all-knowing, omniscient God need a “hard copy” history of men and

women? Obviously, He has total awareness and knowledge.

But these heavenly records are kept, not to jog God's memory, but for the benefit of the universe. These records will provide clear evidence of God's love and justice as the destiny of each person who has ever lived is decided.

The records leave out nothing, as Solomon pointed out: “For all these God will bring you into judgment.” Ecclesiastes 11:9. And not only are our deeds recorded, but our words as well. Matthew wrote, “Every idle word

men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matthew 12:36, 37.

### **SPEAKING VOLUMES**

It has been estimated that the average person speaks enough words in one week to fill a book of 320 pages! In sixty years, that could mean more than three thousand such books! What will your library of books—“say”

in the judgment? And more than that, even the motives behind those words and actions will be open to view: “[God] will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts.” 1 Corinthians 4:5.

No erasures, no cover-ups in that day. We might be able to fool our friends and even our families, but no one can fool God. He reads the secrets of the heart!

On the day of judgment, we will find ourselves in one of two positions: either our entire record of past failures will be covered by the blood of Jesus, or our record will stand to condemn us. Not what we profess, but what we have done, will make the difference. We are told that when Jesus comes, “He will reward each according to his works.” Matthew 16:27.

Such an understanding is not contradictory to the Bible teaching that we are saved by grace. While works cannot

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atone for our sin, they do indicate how complete our surrender is to Christ. Many people profess to be Christians, but a mere profession of faith in Christ is of no value unless it is demonstrated by loving works.

Says Sakae Kubo:

“Let us consider what it would mean if the judgment were not based on works. By what would God judge us—our skin, our race, our social class, our education, our looks, our talents, our strength, our membership in the church, our mere profession of Christ? God can judge us only by our works—good or bad.”—*Your Summons to Court*, p. 20.

Good works obviously are not done by a genuine Chris-

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The purpose of the judgment is simple: Which side do we stand on in earth's great conflict? Are we with Christ? Have we let Him live out His life in us?

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tian to earn merit. They are the spontaneous result of a heart full of love for God and man. A love relationship with Jesus motivates His followers to behave in a manner that is pleasing to God. In His famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus made this clear: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16.

Summing up this thought in the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon said, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment.” Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14.

Since our relationship to Christ is judged by our conduct, there must be some clear standard by which to measure that conduct. In our judicial procedures here on Earth, the usual standard for determining whether a crime has been committed is to determine whether or not a law has been broken. Only when a law has been violated can a man be found guilty.

In God's judgment there is also a law or standard. In the second chapter of James, we find a reference to the Ten Commandments, followed by the assertion that man shall be “judged by the law of liberty.” James 2:12. God's Ten Commandment law is the standard by which the lives of men will be judged.

The purpose of the judgment is simple: Which side

do we stand on in earth's great conflict? Are we with Christ? Have we let Him live out His life in us? Have we had a supreme love for His will as expressed in the Ten Commandments? Is it our joy to follow His will for us, in the strength He promised to give us? Is He writing His law in our hearts now? How would anyone know?

When Christians accept Christ as Lord and desire to become citizens of His kingdom, God asks them to pledge their love and allegiance to Him and to uphold the laws of His government. Earthly governments require their naturalized citizens to do the same. However, not all immigrants remain faithful to their solemn vows. Some outwardly seem to be loyal citizens of the land but later are found to be subversive. When this is proven, the citizenship of that person is revoked, and he or she is deported.

Likewise, not all Christians remain faithful to their vows. It is not enough to be declared righteous by our heavenly Ruler; we must allow Jesus' life of obedience and faithfulness to be lived out in us.

Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” Matthew 7:21.

The whole controversy between good and evil, between Christ and Satan, is about God's character of love. God's law is a transcript of that character. No wonder it figures so prominently in the final judgment!

But a most astounding fact, little known by most Christians, is that the heavenly court is in session now! As we will learn in the next chapter, the Bible reveals that God's

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judgment began in the year 1844. That is why, in the closing chapters of the book of Revelation, John outlines the world's last warning and invitation by saying, “The hour of His judgment has come.” Revelation 14:7.

And who is doing the judging? After portraying the dramatic picture of three angels flying in the midst of heaven, the book of Revelation depicts an angel crying out to the Son of Man, “Thrust in Your sickle and reap,

for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." Revelation 14:15.

This same picture of the Son of Man coming at judgment time is shown in the Book of Daniel. "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion." Daniel 7:13, 14.

### DEFENSE ATTORNEY AND JUDGE

Unlike any earthly court scene, we find, then, that the one who is our Advocate is also our Judge! While the Son of Man has complete authority to judge our case, His death on Calvary provides a complete sacrificial atonement for our sins. "He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25.

We do not have to stand alone in the judgment! If we have confessed Christ as Lord and Saviour, He will confess us before His Father. "Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven." Matthew 10:32. If we are Christ's, He is our Advocate. He has promised that in the judgment, we will appear as though we had never sinned, for we will receive credit for the perfect life of obedience He lived on Earth.

Those who love and follow Jesus with all their hearts have nothing to fear in the judgment, for Jesus will present the merits of His own shed blood to cover every confessed sin. As John writes, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:7.

Picture in your mind's eye the day in court for Abelson of Adam and Eve. He chose to listen to His Lord's commands but was killed by his jealous brother. As Abel's case comes to the docket, I can imagine God and the angels reviewing Abel's life. They will see his acceptance of the death of the Lamb of God, as symbolized in the lamb's sacrifice. And all heaven nods in agreement. Jesus, Abel's Advocate, stretches out His nail-scarred hands and says: "My blood, Father, paid Abel's debt." The life of Christ is credited to Abel's account. Abel's sins are all covered by the blood of the Redeemer whom he worshiped by faith.

Abel's life is sealed, then, for all eternity, for as Scripture says, "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels." Revelation 3:5.

But not all will be clothed in white raiment and named in the Book of Life among those who will live forever. Think for a moment about Judas' day in court. Judas-one-

time follower of Jesus, a prominent disciple. Judas—not an innately wicked man, not a man who couldn't have chosen to live his life in another way. Judas—the disciple who made the choice that will forever associate him with one ruthless word—betrayed. While at times this tragic figure found himself drawn to Christ, he refused to surrender completely to the Saviour's love. His human frailty won out. One weakness led to another until he sold his Lord for thirty pieces of silver. Then in anguish he hanged himself.

Jesus loved Judas. He stooped to wash his dusty feet on the night of the last supper. He gently spoke to him, hoping to touch that proud heart. Jesus looked ahead to the day of the judgment and agonized over the decisions Judas was making daily. No one could have been sadder, as Jesus watched Judas turn away from his Advocate.

So in the judgment, as Judas' name is called, angels will

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The most tragic words in the human language will be the cry of those who have put off salvation, spurning the sacrifice of Jesus on their behalf.

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not hear the triumphant cry, "My blood pays the debt," but instead the final words, "He who is filthy, let him be filthy still." Revelation 22:11. Judas has only his own righteousness to bring to the judgment, and as the Bible says, "We are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags." Isaiah 64:6.

Only those who have continued to make Christ first in their lives can wear Christ's robe of righteousness. Without that, no man can be vindicated in the judgment. Judas' name is wiped out of the Book of Life, not because his sins are of any greater magnitude than any other man's, but because they are not covered by the cleansing blood of Jesus.

We are living in a solemn time. Like the Israelites of old, we must take inventory of our lives. The only possible preparation for our summons to court lies in our acceptance of and our commitment to Jesus. Soon our probation will close, and the decree will go forth, "He who is unjust, let him be unjust still . . . he who is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11.

At that time, the mercy and pardon God has extended for so long will be withdrawn. Not because God's heart

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has hardened or His mercy has run out. But because men and women will have sealed their habits into a pattern that will never change.

### **LAMENT OF THE LOST**

Thoughts lead to actions. Repeated actions become character. Our developed character settles our eternal destiny. When the mind becomes hardened because of repeated habit patterns and God's love is resisted, our eternal destiny is sealed. God has done everything He can do! There is no other way He can reach us. He has exhausted all of His possibilities. The most tragic words in the human language will be the cry of those who have put off salvation, spurning the sacrifice of Jesus on their behalf. In despair, they will declare, "The harvest is past, The summer is ended, And we are not saved!" Jeremiah 8:20.

Human beings can experience no deeper feeling of despair than knowing that the point of no return has arrived. The gospels record a parable in which only part of a wedding party is prepared for the event. Because the bridegroom tarries, ten young women fall asleep. Half have reserve oil; half have none. And then comes the inevitable shout at midnight, "Here is the bridegroom! Go out to meet him!" (See Matthew 25:6.)

Bright and glowing, five figures rush out with joy. Stumbling in confusion, five are lost in outer darkness.

God's day of judgment approaches for all of us! For many, death comes so suddenly. Many reading these pages will die before Jesus returns. Are you ready? You can be! Why not surrender your life fully to Him right now! ▲



# 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!**

### *Facing Revelation's Judgment*

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. How many of us will eventually have to appear in the judgment?

“For we must \_\_\_\_\_ appear before the judgment seat of Christ.”

To check your answer, see 2 Corinthians 5:10 (1150 / 1142).

2. The prophet Daniel describes the judgment scene. Which of the following appear in his description?

To check your answer, see Daniel 7:9, 10, 13 (888 / 864).

- A. The Ancient of Days (God the Father)  
 B. The Son of man (God the Son)  
 C. A bailiff with eyes of fire  
 D. The open books of judgment  
 E. A 20-person jury

3. What parts of our lives will be revealed in the judgment?

To check your answers, see Ecclesiastes 12:14 (689 / 657); Matthew 12:36, 37 (960 / 956); and 1 Corinthians 4:5 (1134 / 1127).

- A. Our good works  
 B. Our evil works  
 C. Our words  
 D. Our hidden, secret thoughts  
 E. Our height and weight

4. What is the standard by which all are to be judged?

“The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”

To check your answer, see James 2:12 (1202 / 1195).

5. Daniel mentioned the open books of judgment. Fill in at least two of these books in the following verses:

Malachi 3:16: “a book of \_\_\_\_\_.”

To check your answer, see James 2:12 (943 / 927).

Revelation 20:12: “the book of \_\_\_\_\_.”

To check your answer, see James 2:12 (1233 / 1229).

## Quick Quiz

6. The Book of Revelation describes the urgent messages of **three angels**—messages to be preached to the whole world just before Christ's second coming to earth. The **first angel's message** is about the judgment. Fill in the blanks below:

To *check your answer*, see **Revelation 14:6, 7 (1228 / 1224)**.

"And I saw another \_\_\_\_\_ fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting \_\_\_\_\_ to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, Saying with a loud voice, \_\_\_\_\_ God and give \_\_\_\_\_ to him; for the hour of his \_\_\_\_\_ is come: and worship him that made \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_, and the fountains of \_\_\_\_\_."

7. Notice that the Bible says, "the hour of **his** [that is, God's] judgment is come." So, not only are we as God's people judged before the onlooking universe, but in some sense, **so is God**. Check the answer below that makes the most sense to you.

- A. God is on trial for something He has done **wrong**.  
 B. God's **character** has been attacked by Satan, and in the judgment, He is on trial to determine if He is indeed a God of love—or, as Satan charges—a selfish tyrant.  
 God is being judged to see if He is really **divine** or not.

8. When the judgment is **finished**, what will Christ declare?

"He that is \_\_\_\_\_, let him be \_\_\_\_\_ still:  
and he which is \_\_\_\_\_, let him be \_\_\_\_\_ still:  
and he that is \_\_\_\_\_, let him be \_\_\_\_\_ still:  
and he that is \_\_\_\_\_, let him be \_\_\_\_\_ still."

To *check your answer*, see **Revelation 22:11 (1235 / 1231)**.

9. If we trust in Jesus and His sacrifice for us, do we have anything to fear in the judgment?

"He is also able to \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ those who come to God through him, since He always lives to make \_\_\_\_\_ for them."

"Whoever \_\_\_\_\_ me before men, him I will also \_\_\_\_\_ before my Father who is in heaven."

To *check your answers*, see **Hebrews 7:25 (1194 / 1186)**; and **Matthew 10:32 (957 / 953)**.



### Words to the Wise:

"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and His angels."—Revelation 3:5.



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# Discoveries in Prophecy

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

Magazine Title

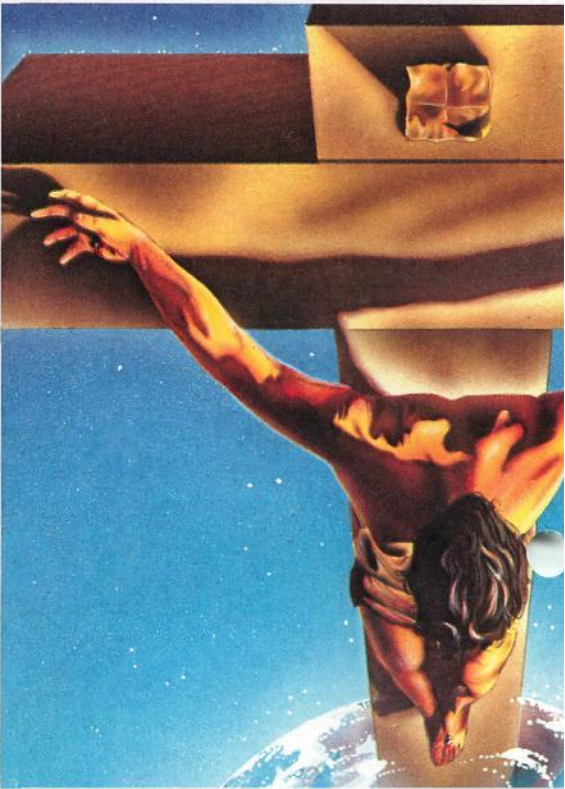
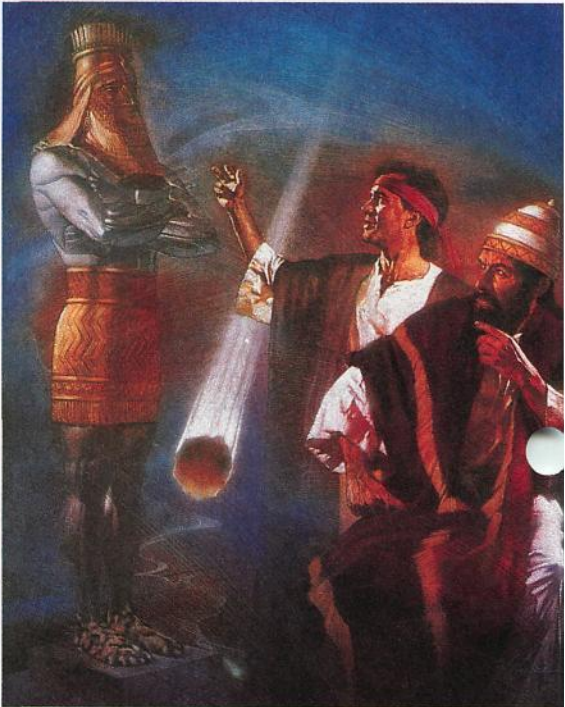
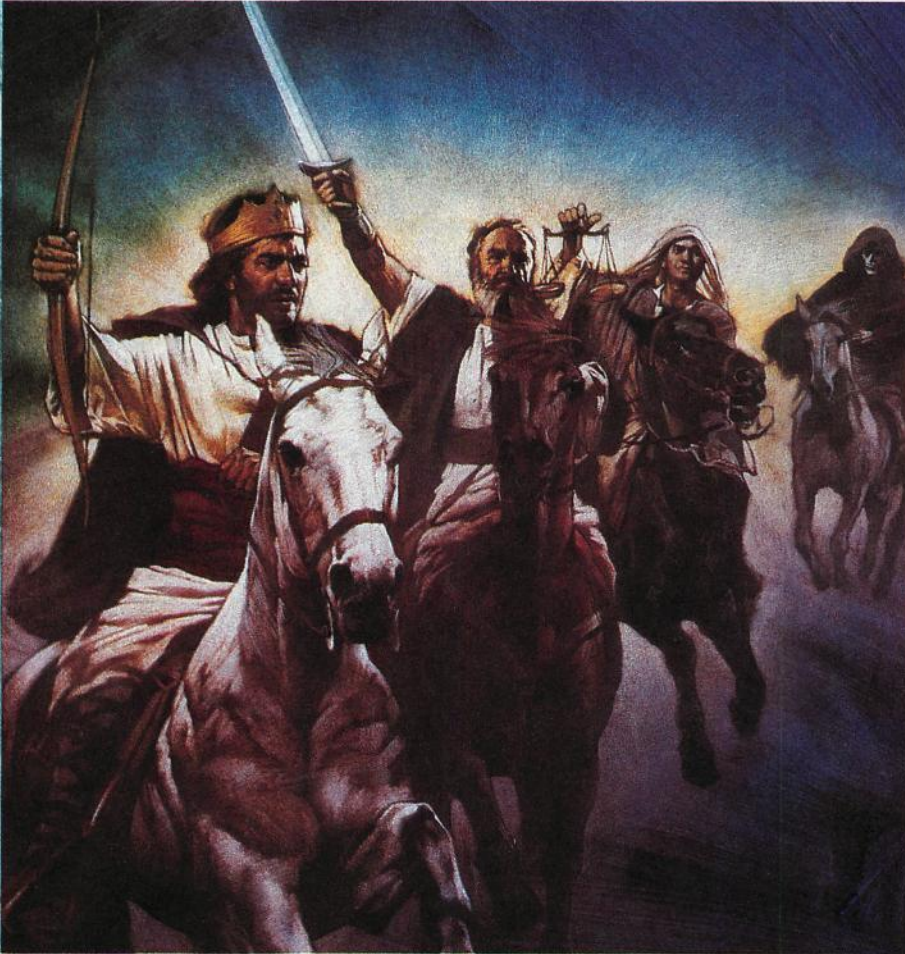
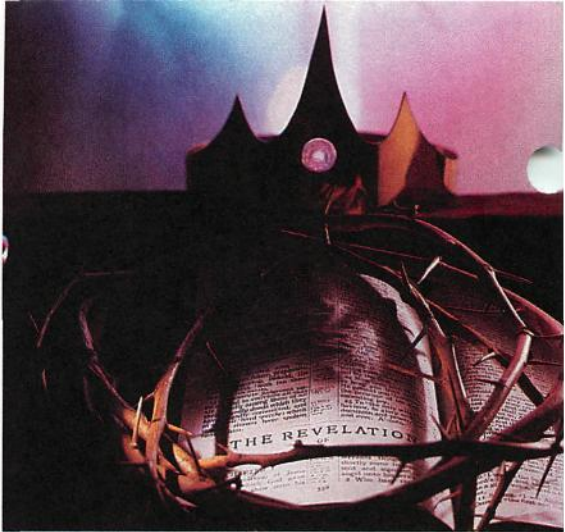
Beyond Orion's Gates

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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        |
| 5. 2000 and Beyond: How to Find Personal Peace .....                   | Ch. 4: The Highest Ransom Ever Paid             |
| 6. Alive at End Time: The Secret of Personal Power .....               | Ch. 3: The Heart Specialist                     |
| 7. New Age Conspiracy .....  | Ch. 7: Beyond Virtual Reality                   |
| 8. The Beginning of the End .....                                      | Ch. 10: Adding Up Daniel's Numbers              |
| 9. Facing Revelation's Judgment .....                                  | Ch. 9: When Your Case Comes to Court            |
| 10. Why Our Streets Have Become Unsafe .....                           | Ch. 11: Whatever Happened to Right and Wrong?   |
| 11. A 6,000-year-old Remedy for Tension .....                          | Ch. 12: The Memory Lapse That Spawned Evolution |
| 12. The Greatest Religious Cover-up in History .....                   | Ch. 13: Assault on Heaven's Constitution        |
| 13. How to Identify a Cult   |   |
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ART DIRECTION/DESIGN: ED GUTHERO  
PHOTOS: ED GUTHERO, STAN SINCLAIR, DUANE TANK  
ILLUSTRATIONS: NATHAN GREENE, JIM PEARSON,  
NERY CRUZ AFTER SALVADOR DALI

