

The witness of John Baptist.
(Cf. Mt. 3. 1-17; Mk. 1. 1-11; Lk. 3. 1-18.)

15 John bare ^awitness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me; for he was before me.

16 And of his fulness have all we received, and ¹grace for grace.

17 For the ^blaw was given by Moses, *but* ^cgrace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

18 No man hath ²seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath ^ddeclared *him*.

19 And ^ethis is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that ^fprophet? And he answered, No.

22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?

23 ^gHe said, I *am* the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the ^hLord, as said the ⁱprophet Esaias.

24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.

25 And they asked him, and said

A.D. 26.

^a vs. 6-8, 15; Mal. 3. 1.

^b Law (of Moses). John 7. 19. (Ex. 19. 1; Gal. 3. 1-29.)

^c Grace (in salvation). (Rom. 3. 24.)

^d Lit. led him forth, i.e. into full revelation. John 14. 9.

^e Lk. 3. 15.

^f Deut. 18. 15.

^g Mt. 3. 3.

^h Jehovah. Isa. 40. 3.

ⁱ Isa. 40. 3.

^j Bethany.

^k Sacrifice (of Christ). John 6. 33-35. (Gen. 4. 4; Heb. 10. 18.)

^l Sin. Rom. 3. 23. note.

^m Holy Spirit. vs. 32, 33; John 3. 5, 6, 8, 34. (Mt. 1. 18; Acts 2. 4.)

unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

28 These things were done in ^jBethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the ^kLamb of God, which taketh away the ^lsin of the world.

30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the ^mSpirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

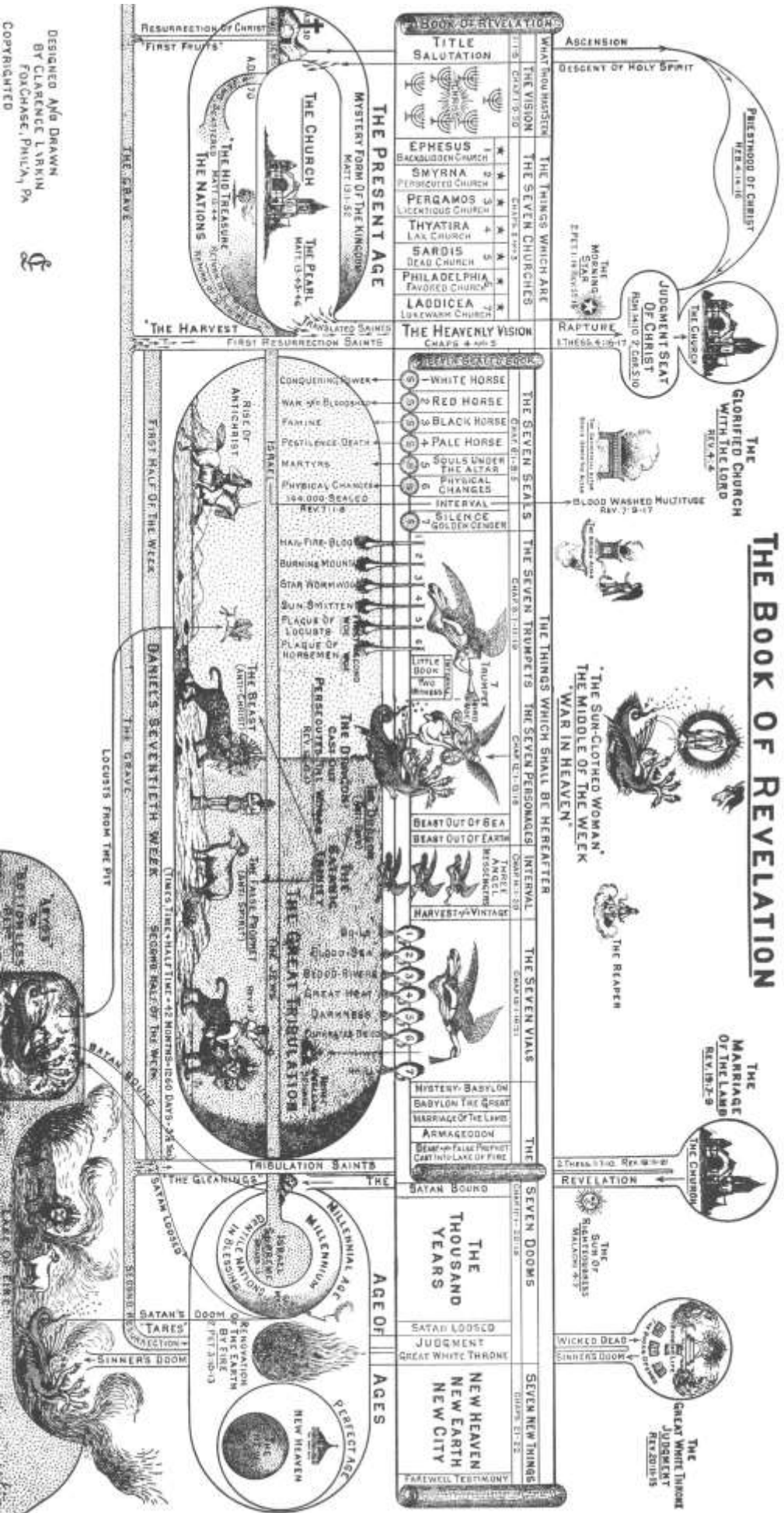
¹ Grace. Summary: (1) Grace is "the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man . . . not by works of righteousness which we have done" (Tit. 3. 4, 5). It is, therefore, constantly set in contrast to law, under which God demands righteousness from man, as, under grace, he gives righteousness to man (Rom. 3. 21, 22; 8. 4; Phil. 3. 9). Law is connected with Moses and works; grace with Christ and faith (John 1. 17; Rom. 10. 4-10). Law blesses the good; grace saves the bad (Ex. 19. 5; Eph. 2. 1-9). Law demands that blessings be earned; grace is a free gift (Deut. 28. 1-6; Eph. 2. 8; Rom. 4. 4, 5).

(2) As a dispensation, grace begins with the death and resurrection of Christ (Rom. 3. 24-26; 4. 24, 25). The point of testing is no longer legal obedience as the condition of salvation, but acceptance or rejection of Christ, with good works as a fruit of salvation (John 1. 12, 13; 3. 36; Mt. 21. 37; 22. 42; John 15. 22, 25; Heb. 1. 2; 1 John 5. 10-12). The *immediate result* of this testing was the rejection of Christ by the Jews, and His crucifixion by Jew and Gentile (Acts 4. 27). The *predicted end* of the testing of man under grace is the apostasy of the professing church (see "Apostasy," 2 Tim. 3. 1-8, note), and the resultant apocalyptic judgments.

(3) Grace has a twofold manifestation: in *salvation* (Rom. 3. 24, refs.), and in the *walk* and *service* of the saved (Rom. 6. 15, refs.). See, for the other six dispensations: *Innocence*, Gen. 1. 28; *Conscience*, Gen. 3. 23; *Human Government*, Gen. 8. 21; *Promise*, Gen. 12. 1; *Law*, Ex. 19. 8; *Kingdom*, Eph. 1. 10.

² Cf. Gen. 32. 30; Ex. 24. 10; 33. 18; Jud. 6. 22; 13. 22; Rev. 22. 4. The divine essence, God, in His own triune Person, no human being in the flesh has seen. But God, veiled in angelic form, and especially as incarnate in Jesus Christ, has been seen of men (Gen. 18. 2, 22; John 14. 8, 9).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION



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