

History of the Chart of the Ages

There is broad familiarity with the Chart of the Ages and its many details and features illustrating the *Divine Plan of the Ages* by Pastor C. T. Russell. Some presume the Chart of the Ages was made by someone before Pastor Russell and that he was not responsible for its details. Some Biblical charts were indeed drawn during the William Miller era and even before. These were to illustrate history, chronology and prophecy, **but not a comprehensive “divine plan.”**

Since first issuing the *Divine Plan of the Ages*, questions follow regarding when and how Pastor Russell produced the graphical Chart and if he was responsible for its detail and features.

The following pages document Biblical charts **before** and **after** the Chart of the Ages:

Next Page (2)

Here is a copy of William Miller’s from the 1840s. This is strictly illustrating prophetic time.

Page (3)

1877 C. T. Russell **collaborated** with N. H. Barbour in “*Three Worlds*.” The front piece has a simple outline with Patriarch, Jewish, Gospel and Millennial dispensations followed with some chronology.

Page (4)

1878 Pastor Russell and Barbour with “*Herald of the Morning*” showing the same basic elements.

Page (5)

1880 J. H. Paton in “*Day Dawn*” used the “*Three Worlds*” to tabulate sections of chronology.

On Reprint page 3821-3826 is an article first issued in 1894 detailing these early connections and disconnections with Barbour, Patton and others in regard to the “divine plan.” Notice particularly the last paragraph on R3825 regarding the “Chart of the Ages” introduced in Volume 1.

Pages (6–12)

History of publishing the **first** “Chart of the Ages” with copies of original charts from 1881 through 1916. **FIRST** appearing in “*Food for Thinking Christians*” **authored by C. T. Russell.**

Except for the three worlds concept where Russell collaborated with Barbour regarding ages and dispensations, notice the distinctive details which **never appeared on any earlier charts**:

- ✓ Pyramid shapes indicating unique persons and groups within each age with their roles and status.
- ✓ Horizontal planes, R, P, N, M, L and K, indicating relationships in this divine program.
- ✓ Distinct transition points 1–11 including overlapping points and events in the harvests.
- ✓ Layers of Kingdom classes and administration: The Christ, Great Company, Israel, the World.
- ✓ Dealing with the incorrigible following the Millennium.
- ✓ The Plan in relation to the Tabernacle.

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THIS CHART WAS DESIGNED BY ANY OTHER THAN PASTOR RUSSELL HIMSELF. It was first printed in “*Food For Thinking Christians*” and offered to subscribers in the July and August 1881 Tower with this announcement from the pen of C. T. Russell. His editorial use of “we” does not credit another author:

We present to each of our readers with this issue, a “Chart of the Ages,” ... with the suggestion that you hang it in some convenient place where it will be often in your sight; that its diagram of the narrow way to life, may be a constant and helpful reminder to you of the way our Leader trod; that thereby you may be enabled to make your calling and election sure.

We hope too, that you will so place it, that it will be an object of interest to all who may visit you, and that you will so familiarize yourself with it as to be able to *explain its* teachings to them; thus each reader will be a preacher of the “narrow way to life”—to Glory, Honor and Immortality, so soon to close; and also of the plan of God for the world’s salvation, which is only just beginning. May God make you able ministers of his word.

EXPLANATIONS.

- 677. B. C. A. This was the period when Manasseh was carried to Babylon, and the ten tribes ceased to be a nation. Moses' "seven times" and Ezekiel's seven years begin here.
- 607. B. C. B. The captivity begins under Jehoiachin. The beginning of the forty-nine Jubilees.
- 457. B. C. C. Beginning of the 2300 days of Daniel's vision in the eighth chapter, concerning the Ram, He-Goat, and the Little Horn.
- 158. B. C. D. The league formed between the Romans and Jews. Beginning of Hosea's two days, or 2000 years. Hosea 6:1-3. Luke 13:31-33.
- 4157. A. M. E. Birth of Christ.
- 33. A. D. † The Crucifixion. End of the seventy weeks.
- 508. A. D. F. Taking away (Pagan) "daily sacrifice." Conversion of the "ten kings" to the Christian faith.
- 538. A. D. G. Rise of Papacy. Beginning of the 1260 years, or "time, times, and half a time." Commencement of the civil power of the Pope, and his reign over the kings.
- 1299. A. D. H. One hundred and fifty years of the Fifth Trumpet. Beginning of the Ottoman Empire, by Othman, (Gibbon, vol. 4, p. 299),—or the "five months." Rev. 9:5.
- 1449. A. D. I. The Sixth Trumpet begins to sound. Mohamet II. attacks the Greeks at Constantinople, and destroys the empire, A. D. 1453. This Trumpet was to sound 391 years and fifteen days. Rev. 9:15.
- 1840. A. D. J. Fall of the Ottoman power. Drying up of the river Euphrates. Beginning of the "Seventh Trumpet."
- 1588. A. D. K. The war begins between Catholics and Protestants in Europe. 210 years, or "seven months," in which the kings of Europe were destroying the Papal power.
- 1798. A. D. L. End of the Papal power over the kings in Europe.
- 508. A. D. to 1000. Ten kings reign in the Roman world—thirty years between Pagan and Papal Rome. Rev. 17:12.
- 538. A. D. to 1843. Rev. Chap. 10. Opening of the Little Book. 45 years to the End.
- 1843. A. D.

CHRONOLOGICAL CHART OF THE WORLD,
BY
WILLIAM MILLER.

A CHART OF DANIEL'S VISIONS.

Arranged and Published by J. V. HIMES, No. 11, Devonshire Street.

Thayer & Co., Lith. Boston.

To which is added

Beginning of the Four Monarchies.

The 49 Jubilees begin.

Persia and Grecia, 299 years.

First thousand years of the Roman government, or one day.

The second thousand, or second day. Hosea 6: 1-3.

(Miller's Lect. p. 76.)

(Miller's Lect. p. 86.)

The Ten Kings reign again at the close of Papacy 45 years.

The 70 Weeks. Daniel 9: 24. 490 years.

1810 carries us to the cleansing of the sanctuary—or the end of the world.

Daniel's vision of the three last kingdoms. 2300 days. Dan. 8: 13, 14.

From the last Jubilee kept by the Jews to the End, is just forty-nine Jubilees, or 2450 years. 2 Chron. 34: 31-33

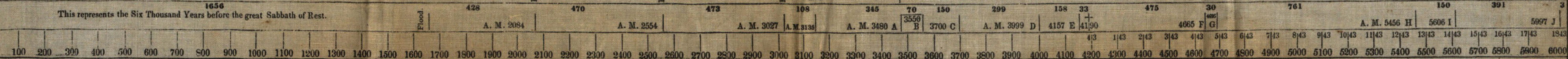
("Miller's Views," Lect. on "Battle of Gog," p. 67.)

Ezekiel's "seven years," in which time the church is in conflict with "Gog," or the wicked nations, Ezek. 39: 9. Ezek. 39: 12. L 45

(Miller's Lect. p. 225.)

See Jer. 15: 1-9. Dan. 7: 25. Dan. 12: 17.

For the Chronology, see 2 Chron. 33: 9-12. This represents the "seven times," (Lev. 26: 14-46), in which the people of God were to be punished under the Jewish and Christian dispensations.

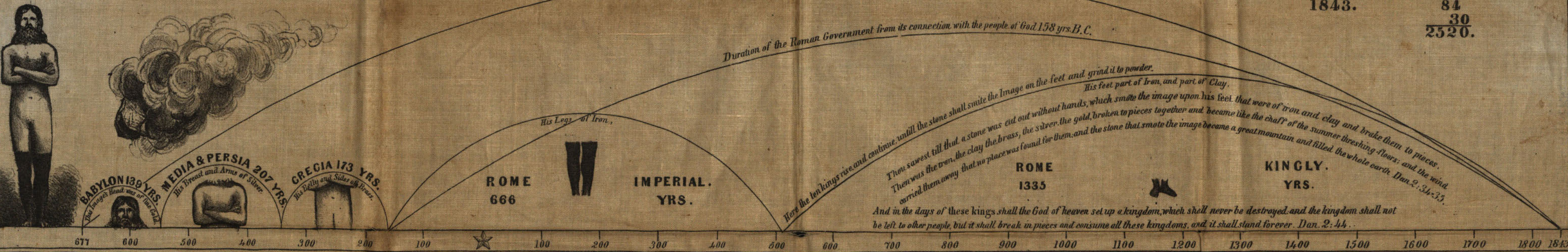


Thou, O king, sawest and beheld a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee, and the form thereof was terrible. Dan. 2: 31.

The seven times or 2520 years began 677 years B. C. and will end in 1843.

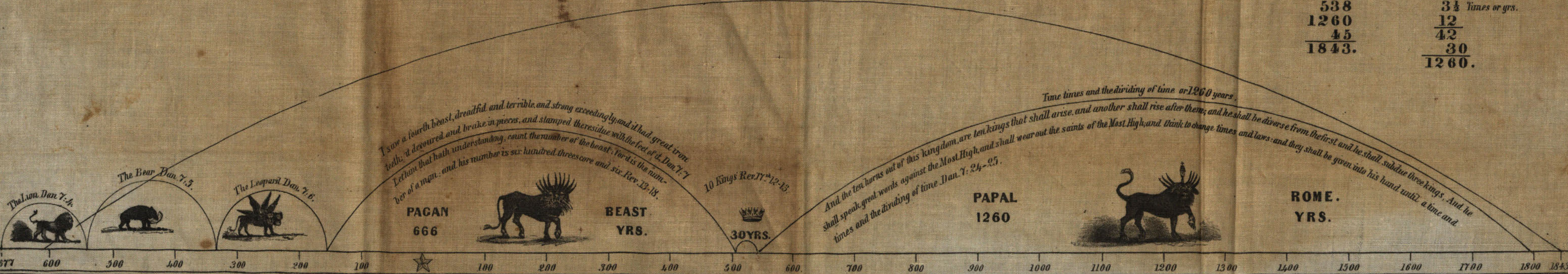
Prophetic calculation.

2520	7 Times or yrs.
677	12
1843.	84
	30
	2520.



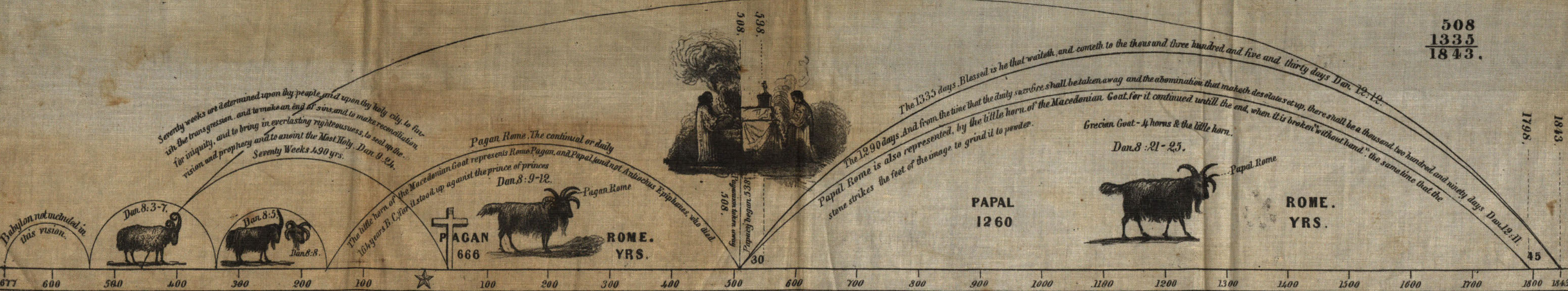
49 Jubilees or 2450 years.

538	3 1/2 Times or yrs.
1260	12
45	42
1843.	30
	1260.



The 2300 days Dan. 8: 14.

508
1335
1843.



HERALD OF THE MORNING

GOD IS LOVE

"All nations whom thou hast made, shall come and worship before thee."

Vol. 7.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JULY, 1878.

No. 1.



N. H. BARBOUR, Editor.

ASSISTANT EDITORS,

C. T. RUSSELL, PITTSBURG, PA.

ELD. J. H. PATON, ALMONT, MICH.



PLAN OF THE AGES:

"Both the Cherubim of one measure and one size."

PLANE OF THE FLESH

Earthly Jerusalem.
 Earthly Sacrifice.
 Earthly Kingdom.
 This one looking forward to the sacrifice.

TWELVE TRIBES.

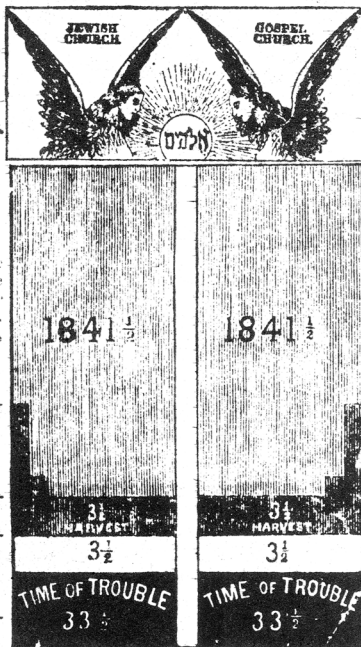
From the end of the Patriarchal age, at the death of Jacob, to the end of the Jewish age, at the death of Christ, was 1845 years.

Birth of Jesus—

Baptism of Jesus—

Crucifixion, A. D. 33—

Jerusalem destroyed—
 A. D. 70.



PLANE OF THE SPIRIT

Heavenly Jerusalem might
 Spiritual Kingdom
 Heavenly Kingdom
 Spiritual Kingdom
 Heavenly Kingdom
 This one looking back to the sacrifice.

TWELVE APOSTLES.

From the end of the Jewish age, at the death of Christ, to the end of the Gospel age, should, if of equal measure, be 1845 years.

2300 days ended in 1843-4.

606, days ended in that

1874, also jubilee cycles

1873, the double complete.

"Times of the Gentiles" end in 1914.

TERMS—Six Months, 25 Cents; One Year, 50 Cents.

The Divine Plan of the Ages

Chart of the Ages

The following four pages are scans of the four published Charts by Pastor Charles T. Russell and used in his publications from 1881 through 1916. The pages initially display in full page width. Change the zoom percent or scroll to examine all the details.

A point should be made here that this chart stands head and shoulders above other supplementary charts in *Studies in the Scriptures* and the *Towers*. Such graphics were offered to explore various details of time, prophecy, history, covenants, etc. They were never intended to modify or replace this chart consistently offered as the central framework for understanding the main concepts of Biblical truth from its inception until his death in 1916.

Page 7

1881 Chart of the Ages as it first appeared in "[Food For Thinking Christians](#)." This included the first explanation of the Chart on pages 105-124.

Page 8

1886 Included with the July issue of the *Watch Tower* which introduced Volume 1 of *Millennial Dawn*. It was essentially the same as the 1881 chart with more clarity and ordering information at the bottom. This was included as a supplement with the following announcement:

"Upon the inside of this number you will find a copy of the Chart of the Ages, such as we once had mounted upon rollers, the supply of which has for some time been exhausted, preventing us from filling many applications received. We take this method of placing it in the hands of all our readers.

"We trust that it may have a two-fold effect: first, that you may be blessed by a fresh examination of the chart and its lessons, as expressed in the explanation furnished in the pamphlet "FOOD" page 105. (Every reader is welcome to a copy of "FOOD" free.) Secondly, we hope that being quickened and refreshed by a clear view of our Father's plan, you may be stimulated as well as enabled, to explain the plan to others, illustrating it by the chart. Thus, no matter how simply you tell it, you can preach the "good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." The chart will not only interest and hold the attention of your thoughtful neighbor, but will make the truth the more easy of comprehension. Thus many can let their light so shine as to honor their Heavenly Father, as well as to bless and refresh their neighbors and friends.

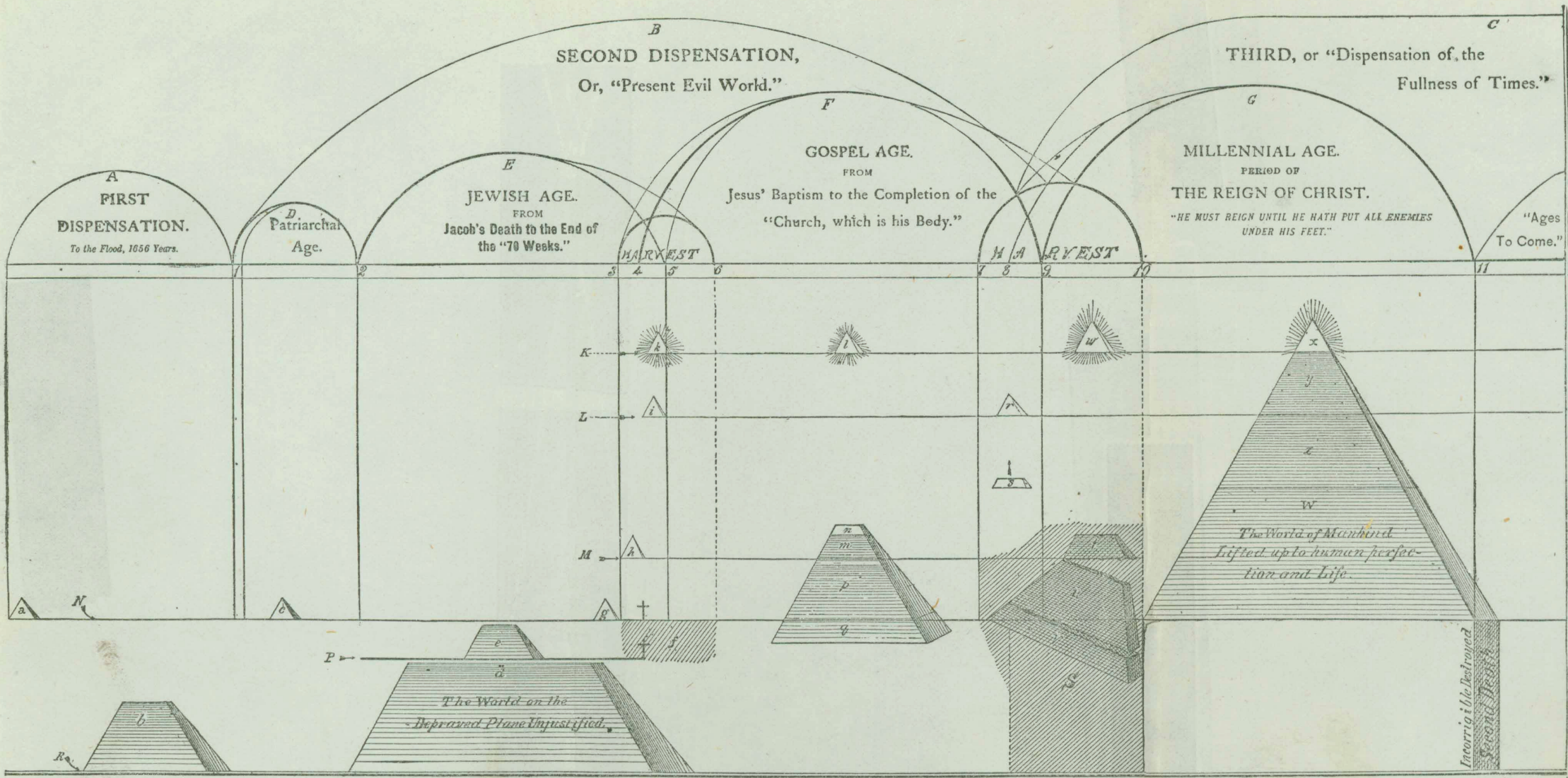
Page 9

1886 Included with the above announced "*Millennial Dawn*" but formally drafted for printer plates by the "Pittsburgh Photo Engraving Company." This included some differences in type font and general appearance, but with all the same notations as in 1881. This same chart was used in all issues of the volume from 1886 to 1912.

Page 10

1913 The Chart was drafted again with clearer type fonts for a new printing plate. This version carried the words: "Messianic Age." Otherwise the text is the same. This version was used from 1913 until the Pastor's death in 1916.

Pages 11 and 12 are contemporary adaptations of the Chart of the Ages.



THE
TABERNACLE
 OF THE WILDERNESS.
 THE HARMONY OF ITS TEACHINGS.



THE TABERNACLE.

Its teachings are in harmony with the Chart of the Ages, showing the same STEPS as necessary in coming from sin to glory.
 The entire ground of the Tabernacle enclosure is called "Holy." Outside the court all was unholy, and is the equivalent to the unjustified plane in Chart of Ages. THE COURT enclosure parallels the justified or PERFECT HUMAN plane. The "Holy" represents the condition of consecrated Christians, BEGOTTEN of the Spirit. The Most Holy, beyond the second veil represents the PERFECT SPIRITUAL condition when "we shall be like HIM." The glory plane is still further along the grand climax of hope—"Glory, Honor and Immortality."

CHART OF THE AGES.

ILLUSTRATING THE PLAN OF GOD FOR BRINGING MANY SONS TO GLORY, AND HIS PURPOSE—

"THAT IN THE DISPENSATION OF THE FULLNESS OF TIMES HE MIGHT GATHER TOGETHER IN ONE. ALL THINGS IN (UNDER) CHRIST: BOTH WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH" (THE SPIRITUAL AND HUMAN—EARTHLY FAMILIES) EPH. 1: 10.

"WRITE DOWN THE VISION AND MAKE IT PLAIN UPON TABLES, THAT EVERY ONE MAY READ IT FLUENTLY."

HABAKUK, 2: 2.

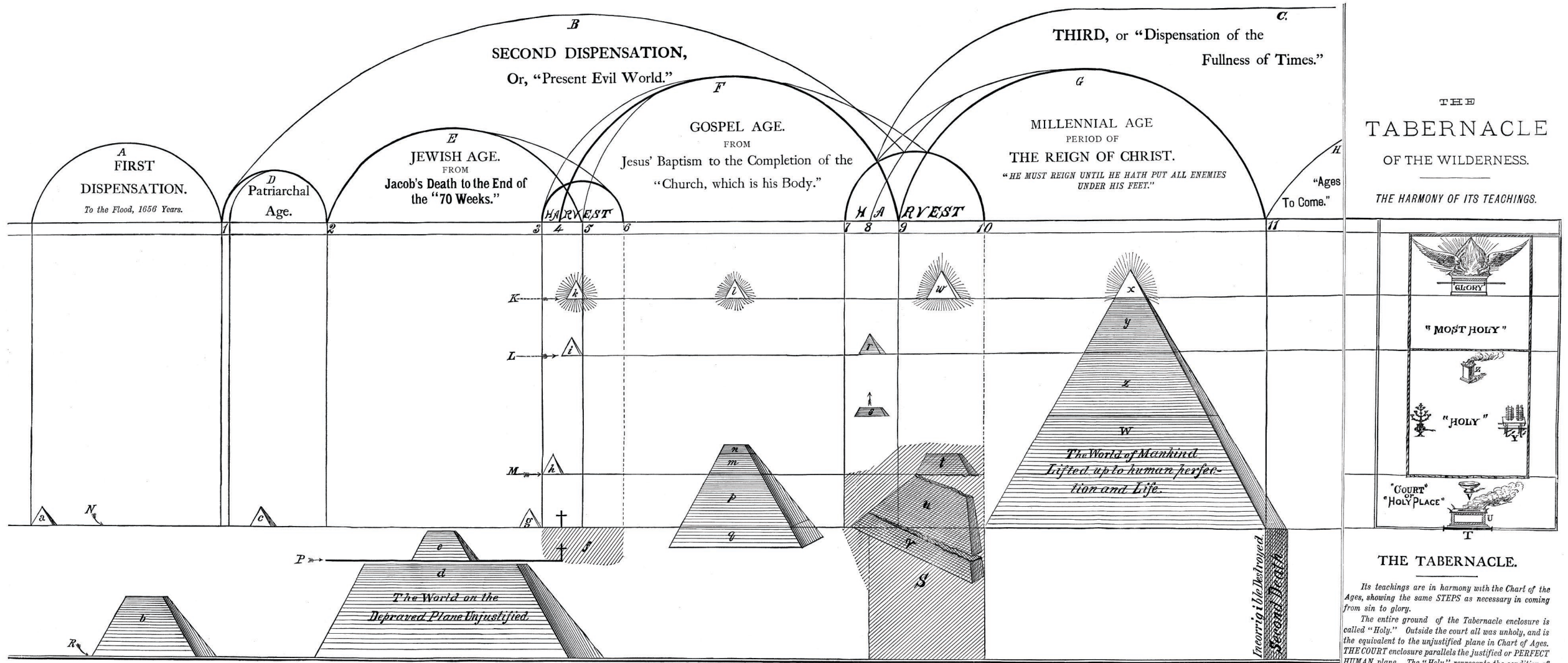


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FOR AN
EXPLANATION

OF
THIS CHART,

A
FREE MEETING

IS HEREBY APPOINTED AT



A DUPLICATE OF THIS CHART,

WITH ITS EXPLANATION,

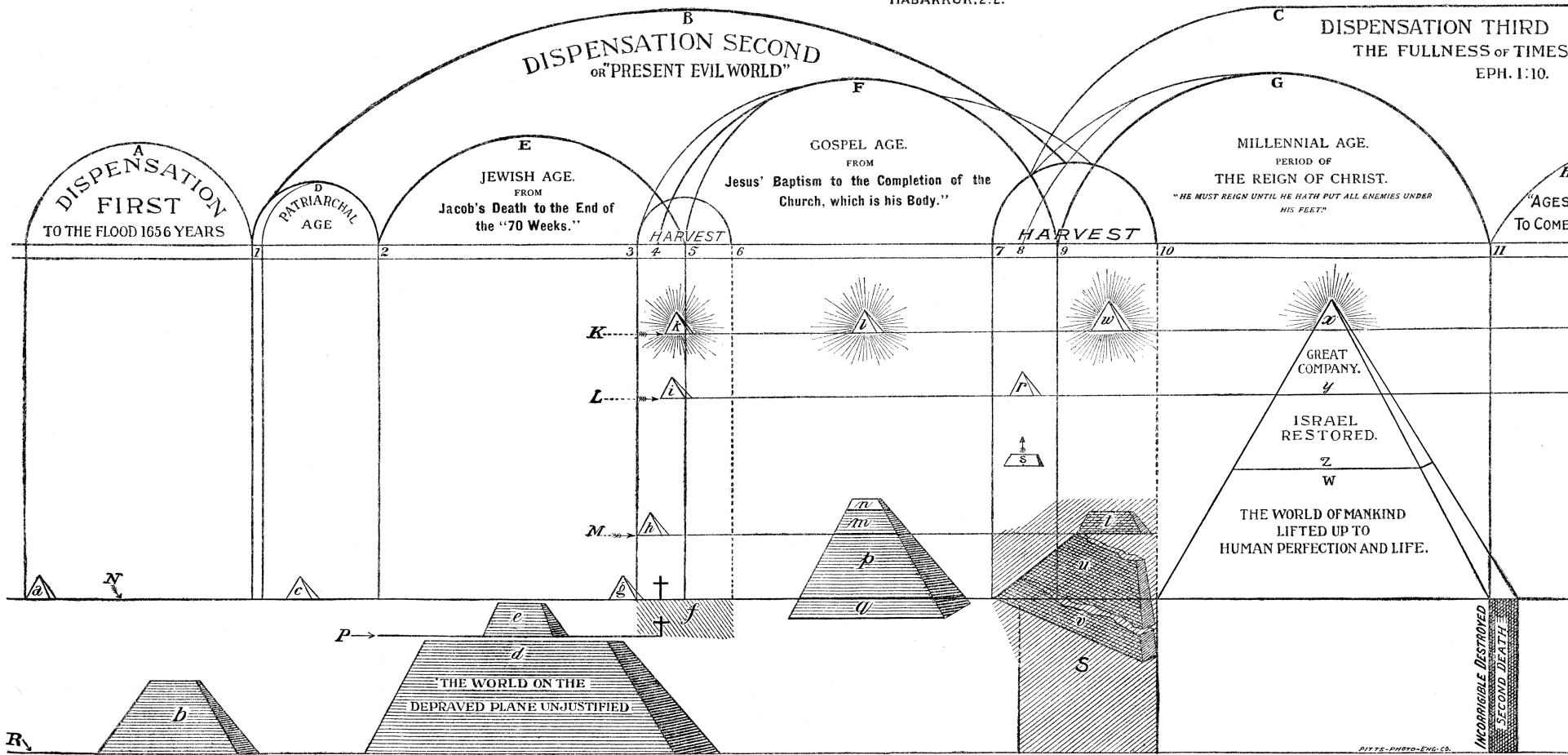
MAY BE FOUND IN "MILLENNIAL DAWN" A BOOK OF 351 PAGES, AND ALSO IN "FOOD FOR THINKING CHRISTIANS," A PAMPHLET OF 162 PAGES.

ADDRESS ZION'S WATCH TOWER,

PITTSBURGH, PA.

“WRITE DOWN THE VISION AND MAKE IT PLAIN UPON TABLES, THAT EVERY ONE MAY READ IT FLUENTLY.

HABAKKUK. 2:2.



THE
TABERNACLE
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THE HARMONY OF ITS TEACHINGS.



“MOST HOLY”



“HOLY”



THE TABERNACLE.

Its teachings are in harmony with the *Chart of the Ages*, showing the same *STEPS* as necessary in coming from sin to glory. The entire ground of the Tabernacle enclosure was called “Holy.” Outside the court all was unholy, and is the equivalent of the unjustified plane in *Chart of Ages*. THE COURT enclosure parallels the justified or PERFECT HUMAN plane. The “Holy” represents the condition of consecrated Christians, BEGOTTEN of the Spirit. The Most Holy, beyond the second veil, represents the PERFECT SPIRITUAL condition when “we shall be like HIM.” The glory plane is still further along the grand climax of hope—“Glory, Honor and Immortality.”

CHART OF THE AGES.

ILLUSTRATING THE PLAN OF GOD FOR BRINGING MANY SONS TO GLORY. AND HIS PURPOSE—

“IN REGARD TO AN ADMINISTRATION OF THE FULNESS OF THE APPOINTED TIMES, TO RE-UNITE ALL THINGS UNDER ONE HEAD, EVEN UNDER THE ANOINTED ONE; THE THINGS IN HEAVEN AND THE THINGS ON EARTH—UNDER HIM.” EPH. 1:10—DIAGLOTT.

"WRITE DOWN THE VISION AND MAKE IT PLAIN UPON TABLES, THAT EVERYONE MAY READ IT FLUENTLY"

HABAKKUK 2: 2.

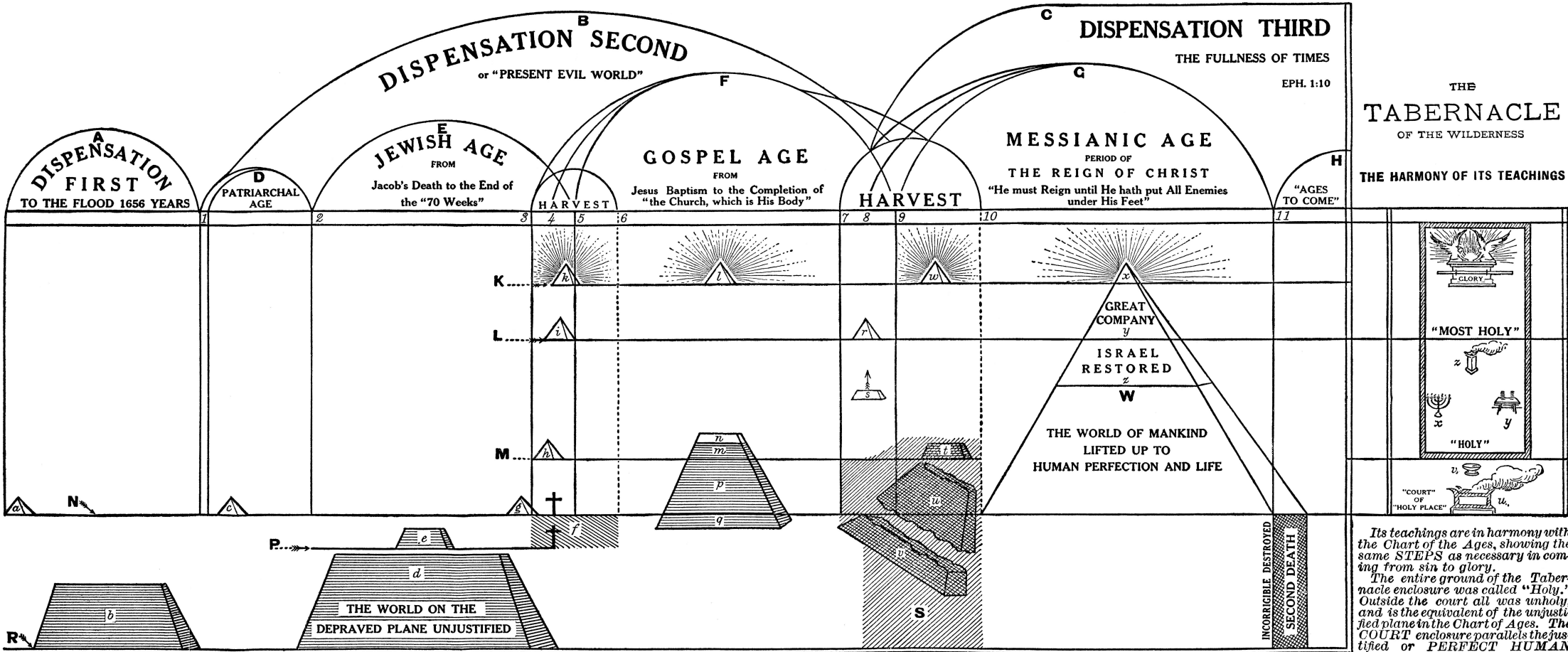


CHART OF THE AGES

ILLUSTRATING THE PLAN OF GOD FOR BRINGING MANY SONS TO GLORY, AND HIS PURPOSE—

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“Write Down the Vision and Make it Plain Upon Tables, That Everyone May Read it Fluently.” — HABAKKUK 2:2

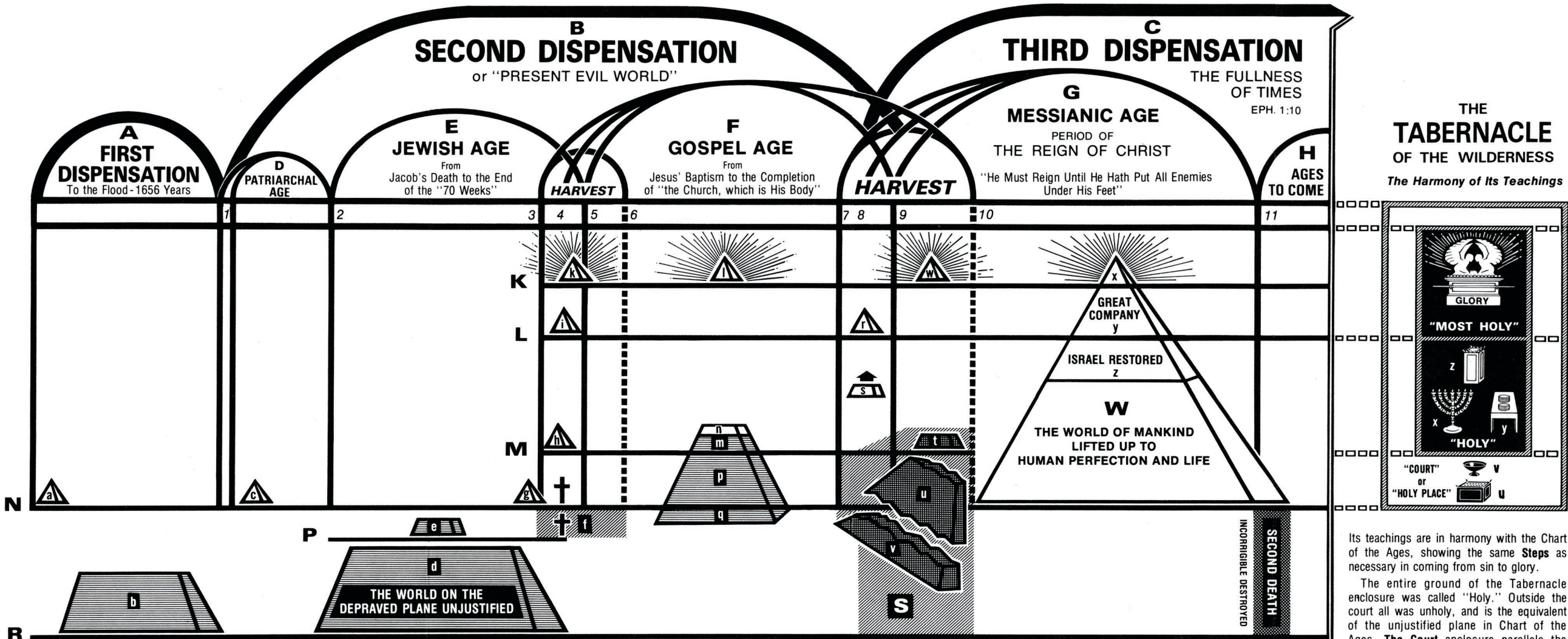


CHART OF THE AGES

ILLUSTRATING THE PLAN OF GOD FOR BRINGING MANY SONS TO GLORY, AND HIS PURPOSE—

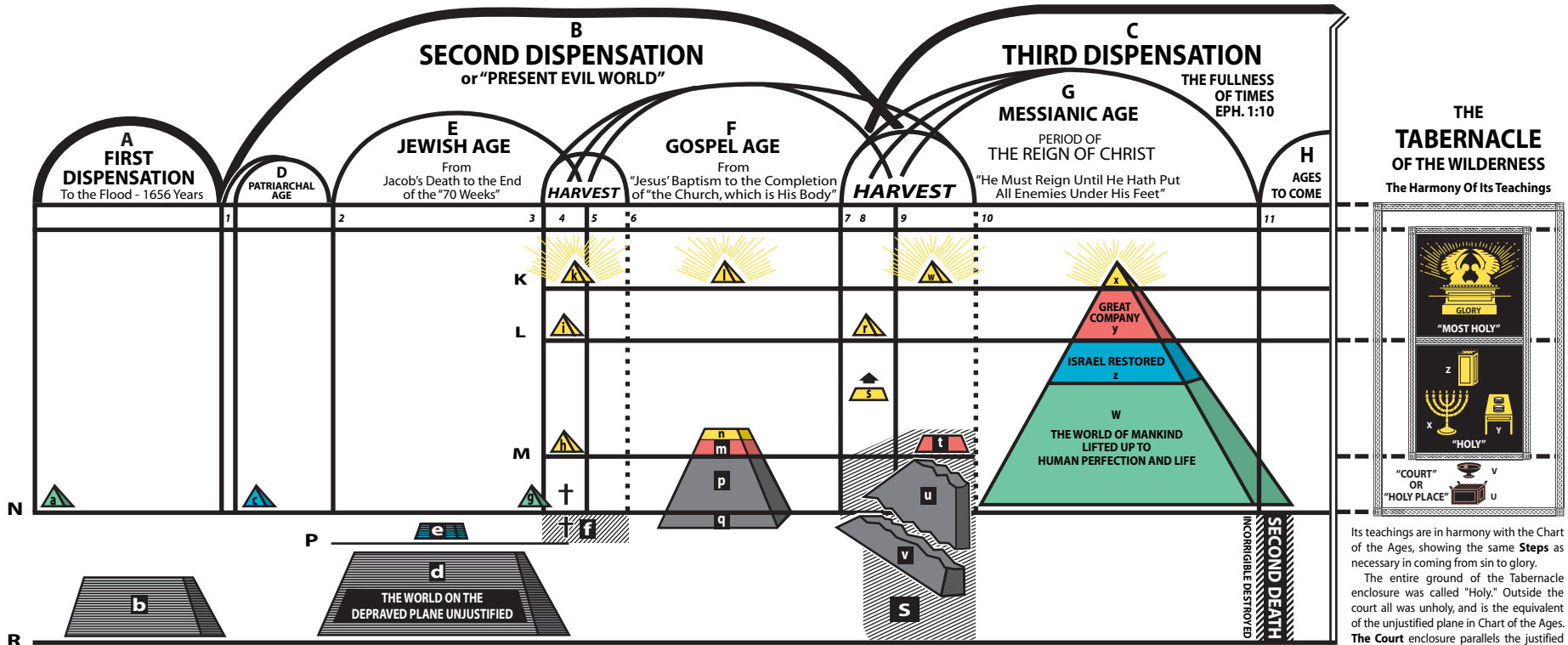
“... In Regard to an Administration of the Fullness of the Appointed Times, to Re-unite All Things Under One Head, Even Under the Anointed One: the Things in Heaven and the Things on Earth — Under Him.” EPH. 1:10 (Diaglott)

Its teachings are in harmony with the Chart of the Ages, showing the same Steps as necessary in coming from sin to glory.

The entire ground of the Tabernacle enclosure was called “Holy.” Outside the court all was unholy, and is the equivalent of the unjustified plane in Chart of the Ages. The Court enclosure parallels the justified or Perfect Human plane. The “Holy” represents the condition of consecrated Christians, Begotten of the Spirit. The Most Holy, beyond the second veil, represents the Perfect Spiritual condition when “we shall be like Him.” The glory plane is still further along the grand climax of hope — “Glory, Honor and Immortality.”

Chart of the Ages

From Paradise Lost to Paradise Restored



"Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." Habakkuk 2:2

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