

STUDY GUIDE

*Composed by Jackie Sciascia and Laina Maher
Pamela Goettl, Publishing Editor*

for

REVISED EDITION

THE FOOTSTEPS *of the* MESSIAH

By Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

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Biographies



Author, Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, Th.M, Ph.D., is one of the foremost authorities on the nation of Israel, and the messianic Jewish believer. This has made him a popular speaker and teacher at Bible conferences, congregations, and churches throughout the world. He received his B.A. from Cedarville University, his Th.M. from Dallas Theological Seminary, and his Ph.D. from New York University. His graduate work also includes studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Based in San Antonio, TX, he is founder and director of Ariel Ministries, which is dedicated to evangelism of Jewish people and discipleship of Jewish and Gentile believers from a messianic Jewish frame of reference. For a detailed biography and testimony visit Ariel Ministry's website at www.ariel.org.



Study Guide Co-Author, Jackie Sciascia has been married since 1979 to her wonderful husband Charles and has a beautiful daughter, Lauren. Jackie and her family attend Cross Community Church in Boerne, Texas. In the past she has taken a number of Precept courses, one of which was Revelation, taught by co-author and good friend Laina Maher. Jackie leads a teaching ministry out of her home in San Antonio, Texas where she teaches and disciples women, especially those with a Catholic background, in God's word. Jackie was active in the Women's Ministries at Castle Hills Baptist Church, serving as its Prayer Chairman in 1997 and Co-chair of the Prayer Chain in 1998, and also wrote the Leader's Guide to the Bible Study "The Power of Supernatural Thinking" by Judy Golightly.

Through the years Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, the author of "[The Footsteps of the Messiah](#)" and a good friend of the family since 1991, has taught Jackie to study and apply the Jewish frame of reference to the Scriptures. This has resulted in a greater appreciation of the Jewishness of God's Word and a deeper affection and love for the Lord's beloved nation of Israel. Her prayer for this Study Guide is that the Lord Himself would bless and prosper it, so that many more may receive the blessing promised in Revelation 1:3 "Blessed is he who **reads** and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near."



Study Guide Co-Author, Laina Maher married George in 1967 and God graced them with four beautiful daughters, and now eleven grandchildren. They are members of CrossBridge Community Church in San Antonio, Texas. Early in her marriage Laina began her Christian pilgrimage. Through the years, God has allowed her to disciple many young women, teach Young Married Couples Sunday School and Precept Bible Studies alongside her husband.

Through the Revelation Precept Bible Study God birthed in her a passion for the book of Revelation. A classmate gave her a copy of [The Footsteps of the Messiah](#) and in reading this she gained a greater understanding of Revelation. Her friend, Jackie Sciascia, introduced her to Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, and she was able to have Q & A sessions with him where she came to understand God's end time intent for the Jewish nation as it relates to the New Testament. Her hope for you is that though this may be one of the most in-depth studies you may ever do, that your investment will give you the knowledge of how blessed you are as believers.



Study Guide Publishing Editor, Pamela Goettl has been married to her wonderful husband, Barry since 1989 and has two beautiful daughters, Kimberly and Meghan. Pamela and her family have lived in San Antonio, Texas since 1992. They are members of Community Bible Church where Pamela is also employed as the Human Resources Manager.

Pamela accepted the Lord in a small church in South Carolina in 1980. A few years after moving to Texas she began to attend Community Bible Church where she participated in various bible studies and small groups. She was introduced to [The Footsteps of the Messiah](#) through her friends Jackie and Laina and was so excited at how the book explained Revelation she asked Jackie and Laina to teach it. She has been attending [The Footsteps of the Messiah Bible Study](#) since 2003 and has learned so much. This study has taught her not just about prophecy; it has also given her a better understanding of the entire Bible.

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Introduction

Dr. Fruchtenbaum states in the introduction to *The Footsteps of the Messiah*, “This book is a study of prophecy. More specifically, it is a study of eschatology, the study of the last days.”

The book examines prophecies chronologically, those that have already been fulfilled, those that are presently unfolding, and the sequence of events which will occur during the Tribulation, Millennium, and the Eternal Order.

The Footsteps of the Messiah is detailed, thorough, and scholarly, however, Dr. Fruchtenbaum has purposed to create a resource that the reader in search of truth about end times can understand. With a wealth of wisdom drawn from his Jewish background and extensive research, Dr. Fruchtenbaum even tackles the “problem passages” to provide a comprehensive overview of the entire range of eschatology.

Dr. Fruchtenbaum leads the reader into specific rules of interpretation of Scripture to prevent the spiritualizing or sensationalizing of end time events and to keep the reader from attempting to fit Scripture into current events.

In contrast to the majority of Bible studies that are written from a Christian frame of reference, *The Footsteps of the Messiah* is written from a completely Jewish frame of reference.

Jackie Sciascia and Laina Maher wrote this Bible study in order to make the information more understandable for the average student. Many of the homework assignments included in the handbook were born out a desire to provide background information to the student.

Dr. Fruchtenbaum makes the statement, “Spiritual life is impossible without good doctrine, but good doctrine without spiritual life is dead.” Jackie and Laina were drawn to write this Study Guide, because as they read the book they recognized Dr. Fruchtenbaum’s grasp of sound doctrine, and they wanted to share this important information with a broad range of students. Because of the abundance of information in the marketplace regarding end times, they also realized that his complex theological statements needed to be broken down into simple questions and classroom discussions.

Classroom instructions are: each week the leader instructs the class to read through the lesson in *The Footsteps of the Messiah* twice. The first reading provides an overview, and gives the student a chance to highlight the important points. The second reading is for the purpose of answering that week’s homework questions from the Study Guide.

Advance preparation of each lesson is important because it allows the student to come ready to participate in class discussion of the material studied. Because there is no actual lecture by the leader, students are asked not to comment unless they have prepared the lesson at home. This insures that all discussions will be focused on the material, not on the opinion of any individual.

It is critical to note that, in this book, Scripture is used to interpret Scripture, and also that Scripture is always handled in its proper context. These concepts both prevent the student from sensationalizing and spiritualizing Scripture

For more information about manuscripts, references, and books mentioned in this Study Guide please go to Ariel Ministries’ web site at www.ariel.org, send email to HomeOffice@ariel.org, call (210) 344-7707, or fax (210) 344-1114.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

According to Revelation 1:3, you are about to embark on a wonderful blessed journey in prophecy. This study will be entirely different from anything you have ever done before. This first chapter is proof of that statement. The author lays the foundation of this first chapter with the rules of interpretation (hermeneutics) and its proper application to various prophetic passages. Dr Fruchtenbaum wrote his book not based upon current events, but on Scripture itself, getting all of his explanations (exegesis) from the Bible. Because of that fact no major revisions of the basic content of his work on prophecy were ever required since its first publication in 1977.

1. What is the meaning of Eschatology?

Rules of Interpretation

Eschatology is the study of the last days.

Hermeneutics teaches us principles, laws, and methods of interpretation.

Amillennialism is a system of theology rejecting the 1,000 year reign, either before or after the return of Christ.

Premillennialism is a system of theology that believes Christ will reign on earth for 1,000 after His Second Coming.

Postmillennialism is a system of theology that believes Christ's Second Coming will occur after the 1,000 reign of peace

2. Why has prophecy suffered at the hands of its friends and enemies?
3. Describe the Golden Rule of Interpretation and its proper usage in Scripture.

The Bible should be approached with the assumption that this book can be understood just like any other book that is taken literally. Besides figures of speech, the Bible does use symbols, but the symbols are usually explained, and they are explained by the usage of literal words. Unless the text indicates clearly that it should be taken symbolically, the passage should be understood literally. This Golden Rule of Interpretation is the first of four basic rules of interpretation and by far the most important. It lays the foundation for the other three.

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11. Give examples of this law in the book of Revelation.

12. Describe the Law of the Context.

13. What is the danger of studying a verse alone?

Outline of Eschatology

The Outline of Eschatology

Eschatology begins with the **sixth dispensation**.

Dispensation: First Greek word is *oikonomo* it means “to manage,” to regulate, to administer, or to plan. The second Greek word, *aion*, means “age” and emphasizes the dispensation in its element of time. The term “dispensation” refers to a specific way by which God administers His program and His will in the world.

Dispensations: separate periods of time in which God dispenses His will in a specific and unique way, based on a covenant upon which a particular dispensation is founded. Within each dispensation God administers His economy, His rule, His authority, and His program in some different way than it was before. (Manuscript #41 Dispensations of God by Dr. Fruchtenbaum.)

There are seven dispensations:

The Dispensation of Innocency or Freedom (before the fall)	Genesis 1:28 to 3:8	Edenic Covenant
The Dispensation of Conscience or Self-Determination (immediately after the fall)	Genesis 3:9 to 8:14	Adamic Covenant
The Dispensation of Civil Government	Genesis 8:15 to 11:32	Noahic Covenant
The Dispensation of Promise or Patriarchal Rule	Genesis 12:1 to Exodus 18:27	Abrahamic Covenant
The Dispensation of Law	Exodus 19:1 to Acts 1:26	Mosaic Covenant
The Dispensation of Grace	Acts 2:1 to Revelation 19:21	New Covenant** Eschatology
The Dispensation of The Kingdom or Millennium	Revelation 20:1-10	New Covenant

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14. Name the two major divisions of the Dispensation of Grace.

The Book of Revelation

15. The book of Revelation is divided into three sections, what are they?

16. Who is the author of the book of Revelation?

Old and New Things in the Revelation

17. What is the difference between a reference and a quote? How many times does Revelation refer back to the Old Testament?

18. The first 20 chapters of Revelation can be found elsewhere in the Old Testament. What chapters in Revelation have totally new information?

19. Since most of the prophecies in Revelation are not new, what is its value?

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20. How is Revelation unique in so far as prophecy?

21. The last two chapters of Revelation are a description of what? (Discussed further in chapter 22)

22. What is the high point of the Old Testament Prophecy? High point of the New Testament Prophecy?

The Usage of Symbols in the Revelation

23. There are two extremes when studying Revelation, what are they?

24. There is a balanced approach to studying symbols, what is it?

25. Why is The Golden Rule of Interpretation applicable for studying symbols in Revelation?

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33. If so, what is it?

According to Zondervan's *The Strong's NASB Exhaustive Concordance*, "heed" means to guard, to watch over, and to keep in custody. It is a very serious admonition to us to carefully handle the book of Revelation and with that comes the blessing.

34. Is the blessing conditional and why? And what specific reward is involved?

35. Why is the "blessing" we receive from the study of this book so unique?

36. What is the real meaning of the word "keep," and how is it applicable for us?

The Salutation – Revelation 1:4-8

37. What does the definite article "The" mean?

38. What does the number "7" mean in Scripture?

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39. Even though there are more than seven churches mentioned in the Bible, how are these seven churches to be understood?

40. Name the different roles the Triune God played in the giving of prophecy.

41. How is the Holy Spirit described regarding the seven churches?

42. In verses 5b-6, John praises God for five things, what are they?

43. What is the theme of the book of Revelation?

He is our “all sovereign God,” in control of history; and the events described in the Revelation will be brought to pass by God.

Things that John saw—Revelation 1:9-20

44. Who did John see?

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45. Where was John living at the time?

46. Where is it located?

47. Give the reason for John's banishment.

48. Describe the voice of the Lord.

49. Why is the Lord's Day not considered to be Saturday or Sunday?

50. John describes Jesus how?

51. Jesus holds three offices, name them?

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52. What is Jesus' function in each office?

53. There is a sub-theme in the book, what is it? And why is this theme so important?

54. What is the meaning of the "7" lamp stands?

55. How is Jesus identified?

56. What are the three divisions of the book of Revelation?

57. Who are the "7" stars?

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58. When the word “star” is used symbolically, what is it referring to?

Chapter 1 Application: After learning about the law of context, how important is it now for you to study the word in its context?