

REVELATION

Is it for The Church?





The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

–Revelation 1:1

who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

–Revelation 1:2, 3

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

–Revelation 1:10,11

Lord's Day vs. Day of the LORD

“The Greek phrase translated the Lord's day [tē kyriakē hēmera] *is used only here*

And is different from the one translated
'the Day of the Lord' [tē hēmera tou kyriou] , or
[hēmera kyriou] ;

Acts 2:20; 1Th. 5:2; 2Th. 2:2; 2Pet. 3:10

Ethelbert William Bullinger

(15 December 1837 – 6 June 1913) was an Anglican clergyman, biblical scholar, and ultradispensationalist theologian. — Wikipedia



First Day of the Week

- Christians met on the day after the Sabbath because Jews couldn't go places on the Sabbath and that is the day Jesus arose.
- So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and *said to them, "Peace be with you." John 20:19
- On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together a to break bread... Acts 20:7 Paul at Troas
- On f the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up. 1 Cor. 16:2

Bullinger on “The Lord’s Day”

- He says “The Lord’s Day” is synonymous with “The Day of the LORD” and should be understood that way.
- Acknowledges the Christians typically came together on “the first day of the week”, which came to be called “The Lord’s Day”.
- EWB says it was called “The Lord’s Day” later by pagan converts used to worshipping the sun god on Sunday.
- He believes John’s Revelation was about the Day of the LORD and therefore concerns Israel and not The Church

Didache on Lord's Day

But on the Lord's day, after that ye have assembled together, break bread and give thanks, having in addition confessed your sins, that your sacrifice may be pure.

CHAPTER 14:1

Didache written before Revelation?

- Didache was a manual for how to conduct church. It is logical that such an outline would have been useful to early churches that did not have access to all NT scriptures.
- Scholars used to date it as mid second century but now think it was earlier
- Mentions apostles and prophets traveling around
- No mention of gnosticism or other later heresies
- No mention of destruction of Jerusalem around 70 AD
- Does not mention persecution or falling away

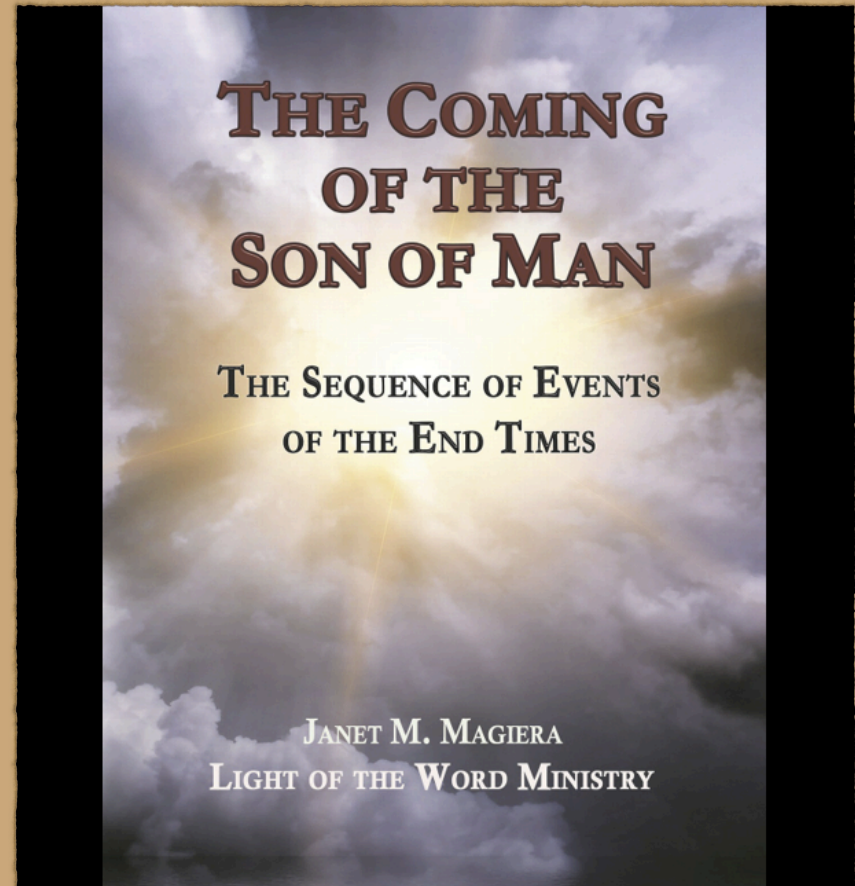
Bullinger's Theory on Revelation

“Our great fundamental proposition— which we may
as well state at once— is, that
The Church is not the subject of the Apocalypse”

Bullinger, E.W., Commentary on Revelation, p.3

“In the Spirit on the
Lord’s Day”

In Revelation 1:10



This use of the term “Lord’s day” does not refer to Sunday, nor does it indicate that every event recorded in the book of Revelation is about the day of the Lord. Rather, as the day of the Lord was the context and focus of John’s heart when he began writing the book, so it is the focus of the book itself.

Magiera, Janet. *The Coming of the Son of Man: The Sequence of Events of the End Times*. LWM Publications. p. 89.

The Day of the LORD begins with the 6th Seal

The great signs of the earth, the sun turning dark and the moon turning to blood with powerful earthquakes, **(the 6th Seal)** signal the beginning of the day of the Lord, as well as the beginning of the wrath of God.

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Questioning Bullinger's Theory

...another undoubted fact (or EWB's theory?), that the Church of God is not the subject of the Old Testament, either in history, type, or prophecy. the "Mystery" or the secret concerning the Church of God, we are told that it " was kept secret since the world began " (Rom. xvi. 25). That " in other ages it was not made known unto the sons of men" (Eph. iii. 5). That it, " from the beginning of the world, hath been hid in God" (Eph. ili. 9). That it " hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to the saints" (Col. i. 26)

Bullinger, E.W., Commentary on Revelation, p. 8

Questioning Bullinger's Theory

These statements are "the true sayings of God," and not our own. We have no choice but to believe what He says. If any hold that, in spite of all this, the Church was not "hid in God," but was the subject of Old Testament prophecy, then we have nothing more to say to them; for, if they will not believe God, it is not likely they will believe us.

Bullinger, E.W., Commentary on Revelation, p. 8

Was Everything about The Church a Mystery?


- This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Ephesians 3:6
- OT prophets and Jesus said Gentiles would be in the kingdom.
- Many of Jesus's parables were about going away and coming back. It was not a mystery that there would be a time interval where his followers would watch and wait for him. The Church.

Was Everything about The Church a Mystery?

- Jesus spoke about the Holy Spirit coming while he was gone, being born again, being saved by believing alone.
- Not reasonable to say there was no way to properly understand the Gospels and Revelation until Bullinger's theory in the late 1800's.
- It is the complete union of Jew & Gentile and their elevated equal status that was the Mystery.

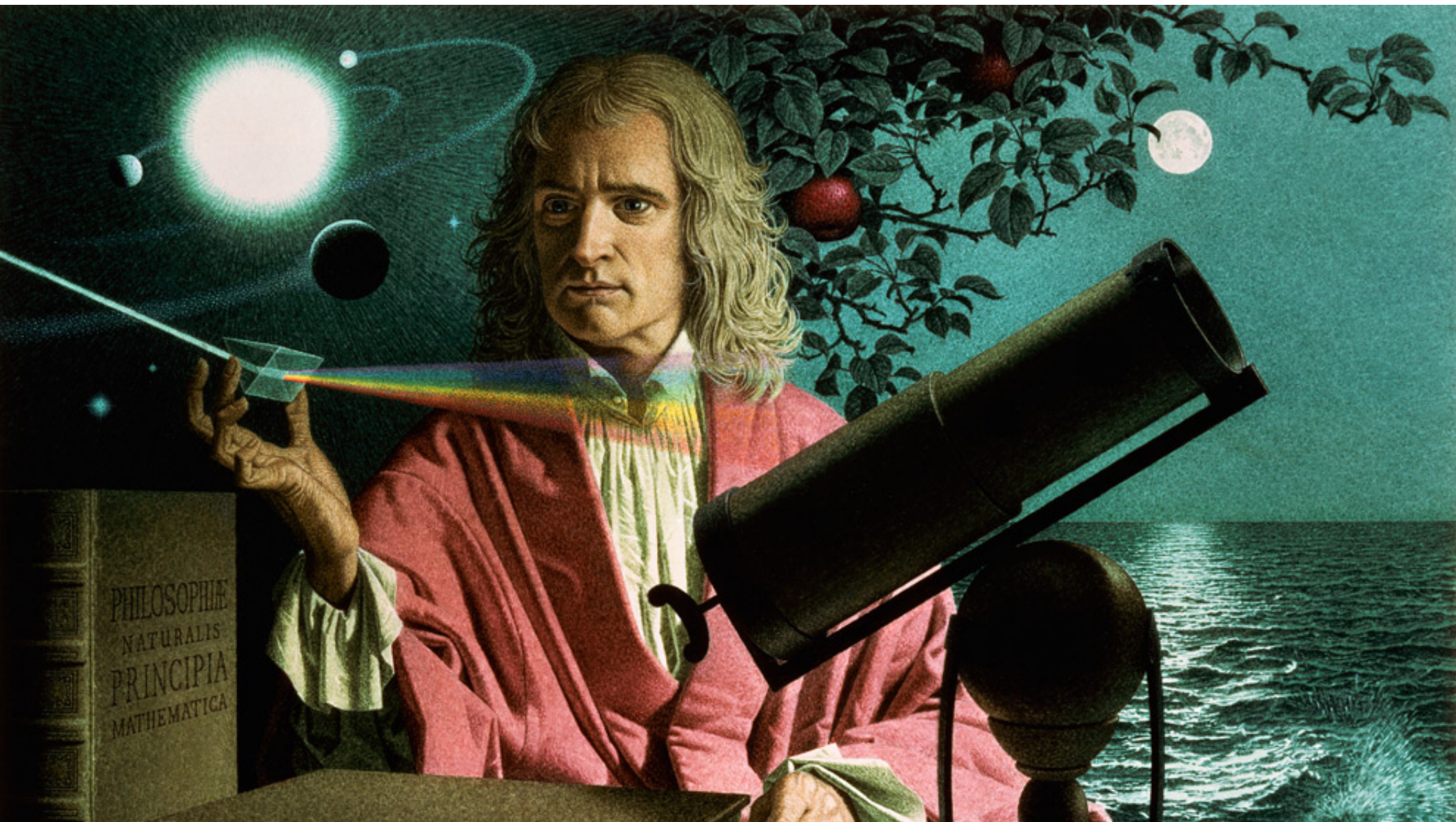
**A dwarf standing
on the shoulders
of a giant may
see further than
the giant himself**

Robert Burton

Clearly
Talking 

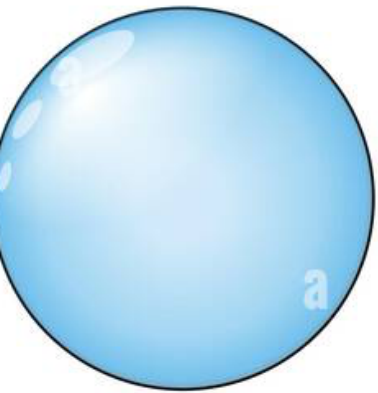


ght Victor Bryant 2015



Atomic models

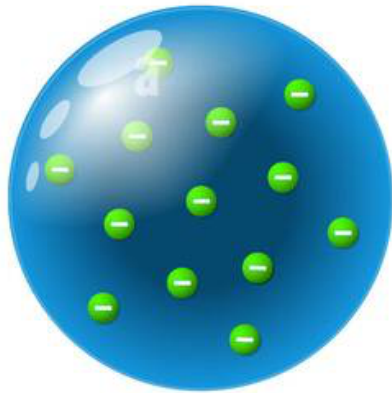
Solid sphere model



1803

J. Dalton

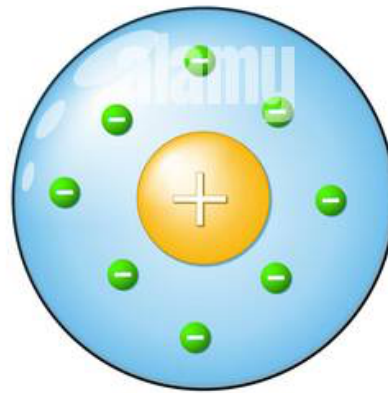
Plum pudding model



1897

J. Thomson

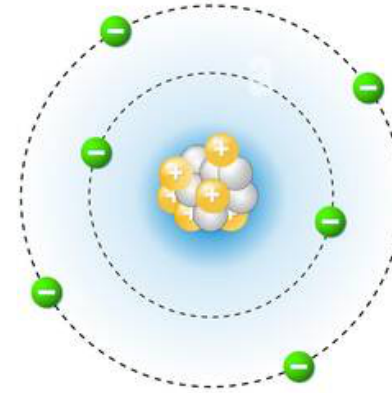
Planetary model



1911

E. Rutherford

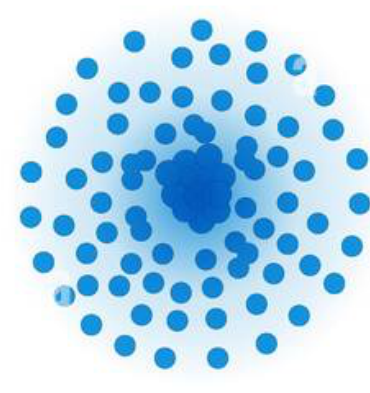
Bohr model



1913

N. Bohr

Quantum model



1926

E. Schrödinger

Other Unusual Theories

- He (Bullinger) was a member of the Universal Zetetic Society, a group dedicated to believing and promoting the idea that the earth is flat, and on 7 March 1905, he chaired a meeting in Exeter Hall, London, in which the flat earth theory was expounded.
—Wikipedia



Revelation 1-3 is to the Church Because:

- John obeyed the Lord Jesus in writing it and sending it to living believers at that time. They certainly read it as being “to them”.
- It speaks of “things which are” 1:19
- It refers to people alive at that time and to events at that time
- Evidence that “In the Spirit on the Lord’s Day” refers to Sunday
- Even if it doesn’t refer to Sunday, that does not mean that everything in the book occurs after the gathering together of the Church
- We must elevate what the text says above Bullinger’s theories

Let the Plan of Redemption Flow

- God's prophets have spoken about the coming Seed since Gen 3:15.
- Through Abraham's seed all nations will be blessed.
- The seed of David will rule righteously over the earth forever.
- The New Covenant will take away sin and put God's law in our hearts.
- This age of grace is a wonderful time where Jews and Gentiles are the spiritual seed and are granted equal status in Christ's body on earth.
- At the end of this age God will eradicate evil and resurrect the righteous to everlasting life in the kingdom.