

# The Prophets Have Spoken

## God's Message to Israel for the Last Days

*"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (1Peter 1:19-21).*

All of the prophets of God have a common message for Israel and the Gentiles in the Last Days beginning with Abraham and the covenant made with him in Genesis chapter 12. This covenant was confirmed in chapters 15, 17, and 22.

God chose one man and his seed to be the channel of blessing to all nations on earth and He spoke His Word through the descendants of Abraham to give us the Holy Scriptures.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

*"What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God" (Rom. 3:1-2).*

There never has been a Gentile prophet because God chose Abraham's seed to communicate His Truth to the world.

Gentile prophets are false prophets.

*"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:1-3).*



When Abraham was tested by God he took Isaac to one of the mountains of Moriah, to the Holy Mount at Jerusalem, to offer him as a burnt offering, but God provided His Ram to be offered instead of Isaac. Almighty God then said to Abraham:



*“By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And **in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed**; because thou hast obeyed my voice” (Gen.22:16-18).*

God was foreshadowing a future day when He would go with His beloved Son to Jerusalem and at the Holy Mount, would offer Him as a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, and because of this, all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

### *The Covenant of the Land*

Moses also was a prophet of God and God gave him the plan for His people Israel before they entered the Land to possess it. The land was given to Abraham and his seed by covenant for Scripture states:

*“In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, **Unto thy seed have I given this land land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:**” (Gen. 15:18).*

Abraham and the patriarchs did not possess the land but sojourned in it and before Abraham's seed could enter the land and take possession of it God spoke through His prophet Moses. God made **another covenant** with His people, the covenant of the Land. The land was God's land and Moses warned the nation of Israel that they could possess it but if they turned away from the Lord they would be driven out of the land.

In Deuteronomy chapters 28 to 30 Moses gave a prophetic outline of the future occupation of the land. He told them that they would be driven out and scattered among the Gentile *nations*

*twice; first by the Babylonians and later by the Romans.* The Babylonian captivity would occur when they had a king:

*“The LORD shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone. And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee” (Deut.28:36-37)..*

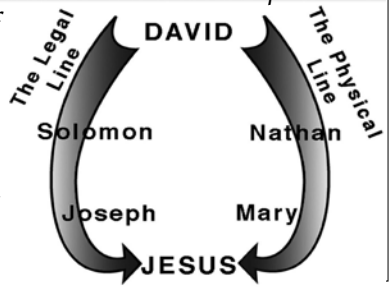
Jehoiachin was taken to Babylon in 597BC, and Zedekiah the final king over Judah, was taken by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon in 586BC. Jehoiachin was released after the death of Nebuchadnezzar (562BC) in the first year of the reign of his son Evilmerodach (560 BC), but Zedekiah died in prison.

Ezekiel prophesied that the throne of David would be vacant after the overthrow of Zedekiah and would remain thus UNTIL Messiah came to reign. Nebuchadnezzar would overturn the throne **three times**. When Ezekiel prophesied, Nebuchadnezzar had twice overturned the throne but Zedekiah had listened to the false prophets and trusted in an alliance with the Egyptians.

*“And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. **I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it:** and it shall be no more, **UNTIL** he come whose right it is; and I will give it him” (Ezek.21:25-27).*

Before Zedekiah was taken to Babylon all his sons were slain before him and then his eyes were put out fulfilling the prophecy that he would be taken to Babylon but would not see it.

*“Thus saith the Lord GOD; This burden concerneth the prince in Jerusalem, and all the house of Israel that are among them...My net also will I spread upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare: and **I will bring him to Babylon to the land of the Chaldeans; yet shall he not see it, though he shall die there”** (Ezekiel 12:10-13).*



Jeremiah prophesied that this captivity would last for 70 years and that after 70 years a remnant would return and rebuild the Temple (Jer.25:9-12; 29:10). More than 100 years beforehand Isaiah had prophesied that Cyrus would release the captives in Babylon (Isaiah 44:26-28; 45:1-4, 13) and Jeremiah's prophecy was fulfilled when Cyrus made a decree to allow the Jews to return and rebuild God's House at Jerusalem. The Samaritans who possessed the land during the Babylonian captivity frustrated the rebuilding of the Temple and caused work to cease during the reigns of Cambyses/Ahaseurus (529-522BC) and Smerdis/Artaxerxes (522BC). The prophets Haggai and Zechariah encouraged Zerrubbabel and after 20 years the Temple was completed about 516BC in the 6th year of the reign of Darius.

God's had promised that *"David shall never want (lack) a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel"* (Jer.33:17) and the line of David was preserved through David's son Solomon and later, Jehoiachin, down to Joseph the legal father of Jesus. Another line was preserved through David's son Nathan down to Mary the virgin mother of Jesus Christ. Both of these genealogies are recorded in the New Testament in Matthew's Gospel chapter 1 and in Luke's Gospel and chapter 3.

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to advise her that she would give birth to Messiah he said:

*"Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the **Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:** And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end"* (Luke 1:30-33).

The Prophet Zechariah prophesied that Messiah would present Himself to the nation as the rightful heir to the throne of David and this occurred on Palm Sunday when Jesus entered Jerusalem riding upon an ass and the colt, the foal of an ass. The people cried, *"Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest"* (Matthew 21:9). The words of Zechariah were fulfilled:

*"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem:*

*behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an as"* (Zechariah 9:9).

It is a matter of history that the rulers of the people rejected their King, tried Him before the High priests and Pontius Pilate and so the nation was again sent forth into captivity just as Moses foretold.

Moses prophesied a **second dispersion before Israel entered the land of Canaan:**

*"The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from **the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth**; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; A nation of **fierce countenance**, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favor to the young: And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee.*

*And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee. And **thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body**, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, **in the siege**, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee"* (Deut.28:49-53).

This is a graphic description of the Roman dispersion after the awful siege of Jerusalem in AD70. Following that siege the nation has been **scattered among all nations** and suffered persecution exactly as Moses prophesied:

*"And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end*



*of the earth even unto the other...And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see. And **the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships**, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you” (Deut.28:64-68).*

Titus, the Roman General, sent many of the captive Jews to Egypt to work in the mines just as Moses foretold. Inquisitions, pogroms, and the Nazi holocaust through the centuries have fulfilled the Word of the Almighty upon His people for their sin.

When Messiah came He also foretold this siege of Jerusalem and the scattering of His people among the nations. He said:

*“And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and **shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled”** (Luke 21:20-24).*

The arch of Titus at Rome bears testimony to the fact that the prophecies of Moses and Jesus were fulfilled. Jerusalem was destroyed and not one stone of the Temple was left. The vessels of the Temple were taken as spoil to Rome as indicated on the Arch of Titus.

Almost two thousand years have passed and miraculously the Jewish people have been preserved by God. Persecution has

isolated them and prevented integration with Gentile nations. God is faithful to His promise to Abraham and all the prophets. Jeremiah prophesied:

*"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But **this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more"***  
(Jer.31:31-34).

The Epistle to the Hebrews teaches us that **this new covenant** was made with better

sacrifices than those of animals for it was made with the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who came in the fulness of time just as Isaiah prophesied in chapter 53 of his prophecy and as David prophesied in Psalm 22 and Psalm 69. Isaiah wrote:

*"Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. **He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath born our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was***

***upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all"*** (Isaiah 53:1-6).

Messiah also indicated that the New Covenant would be based on His shed blood when at the last supper Jesus took the cup and said:

*"This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is shed for you"*  
(Matthew 22:20).

Thus at Passover, Messiah suffered as the Pascal Lamb of God to bear away the sins of the world in fulfilment of the many prophecies, types and shadows given under the first covenant. John the Baptist declared when he first saw Jesus:

*"Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world"*  
(John1:29).

The world awaits the return of Messiah not as the lowly man of sorrows but as King of kings and Lord of lords. Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead He took His disciples to the Mount of Olives and they saw Him ascend up to heaven and a cloud received Him out of their sight. Two angel then announced that

*"This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven"*  
(Acts 1:11).

Zechariah the prophet spoke of this day:

*"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle...Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south"* (Zechariah 14:1-4).

### ***Israel Chastened but Not Abandoned***

Though the nation reject Messiah when He came the first time the prophet Jeremiah has indicated that God has not abandoned

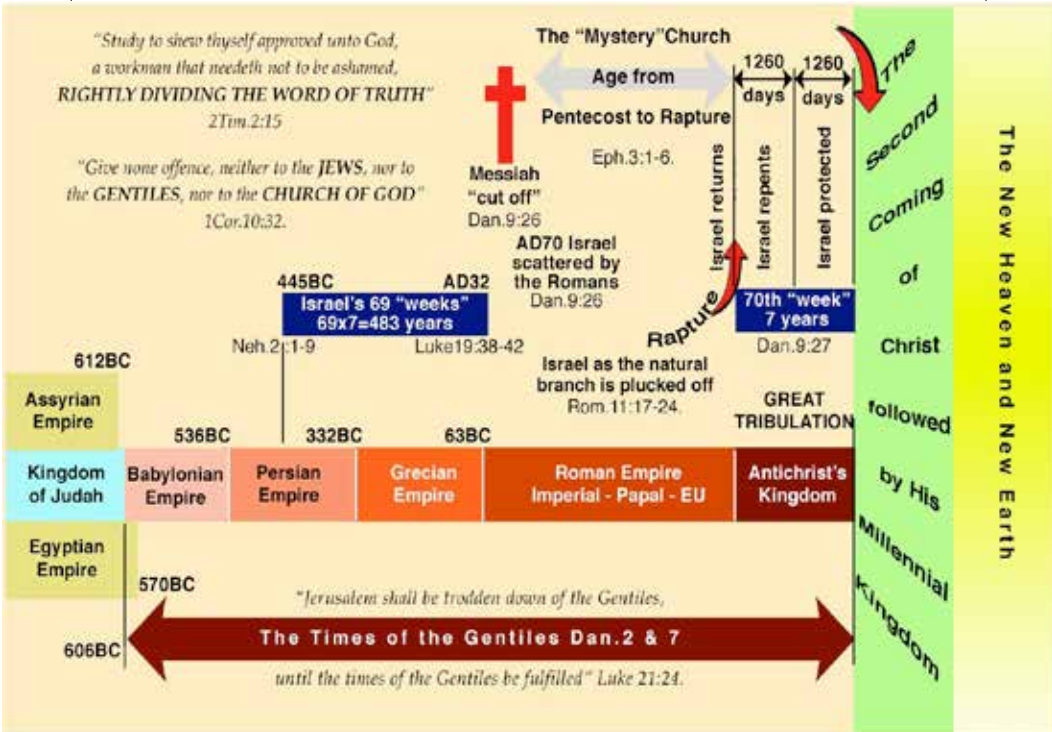


His people for he wrote:

*"Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD" (Jer.31:31-37).*

Paul the Apostle of Messiah agreed with Jeremiah for he wrote:

*"I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew... I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for*



*to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? (Romans 11:1-2,11-12).*

The dispersion of Israel among the nations is only UNTIL God does a work among the Gentiles through His Church and so Paul states:

*“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, UNTIL the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For **this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins**” (Romans 11:25-27).*

The Apostle Peter spoke to the leaders of Israel

*“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, **when the times of refreshing shall come** from the presence of the Lord. And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive **UNTIL the times of restitution of all things**, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:19-21).*

The Apostle James spoke concerning God's plan for Israel:

*“Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, **After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things**” (Acts 15:14-17).*

### *The Times of the Gentiles*

Jesus said that Jerusalem would be trodden down by the Gentiles UNTIL the “*times of the Gentiles*” is fulfilled. Since 606-586BC Jerusalem has been trodden down by Gentile nations and still the holy Mount is occupied by Gentiles. There is yet a final Gentile ruler to arise out of the Revived Roman Empire who will tread Jerusalem down but when Messiah comes the 2nd time He

destroy Antichrist with all who follow him. This is the Beast, the Man of Sin, spoken of by the prophets.

Four great empires have occupied Jerusalem just as Daniel prophesied in chapters 2 and 7 of his prophecy: Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. Corrupt Christendom and Muslims have occupied the Holy Land but the prophets have foretold that Israel would be established as a nation in the Last Days BEFORE they acknowledge their sin of rejecting Messiah. It is God's purpose to re-establish the nation in the land so that He can fulfil His purposes upon them and bring them to acknowledge their sin. Since 1948 the Jewish people have been restored to the land and this is part of God's plan to be again reunited with His people. The prophet Ezekiel made this clear in chapter 36 of his prophecy. God spoke through the prophet concerning the land:



*"But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for **they are at hand to come**. For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown: And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded: Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it ...Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols wherewith they had polluted it: And **I scattered them** among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them....But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; **I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went**" (Ezek.36:8-22).*

Then AFTER the nation is established in the land there will come a day when the prophet states that Israel will seek the Lord and the land will be greatly blessed. Ezekiel prophesied:

*“For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. **A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you:** and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. **And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.** And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God”* (Ezek.36:24-28).

Since 1881 when the Zionist movement began, Jews have been returning to settle in the land. In 1897 the first World Zionist Congress was held and has continued since meeting yearly, bi-yearly and four yearly. On the 14 May 1948 Israel became a nation recognized by the UN. But this is only a secular return to the land which Ezekiel prophesied would happen BEFORE the nation is cleansed from her sin and blessed under the New Covenant in Messiah's blood that God has promised for the Last Days. This is why God said: ***“I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake...”*** (Ezek.36:22,32). Then God said: ***“I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them”*** (Ezek.36:37).

When Israel acknowledges Messiah, Jesus Christ, she will be blessed.

This restoration to the land which we have witnessed is further prophesied by Ezekiel in chapter 37 in the vision of the valley of dry bones. In his vision he saw a valley of very dry bones which God told him *“are the whole house of Israel”* (Ezek.37:11). The prophet indicates three stages in the full restoration of Israel in the land promised to Abraham.

The bones are *“very dry”* for they are scattered for a long period of time; 1800 years. The bones are disorganized until Ezekiel

prophesys the first time and they come together, bone to his bone, to form skeletons. The Zionist movement has brought organization into the Jewish global community; bones are meeting with bones.

Again Ezekiel prophesied and sinews and skin formed on the skeletons but there was no life in them. Israel is again a nation since 1948 but she lacks any spiritual life.

The third time Ezekiel prophesied the Spirit came upon the lifeless bodies and they stand up, a great living army. The conversion of Israel will occur in the Last Days and Ezekiel foretells how and when this takes place in chapters 38 and 39 of his prophecy.

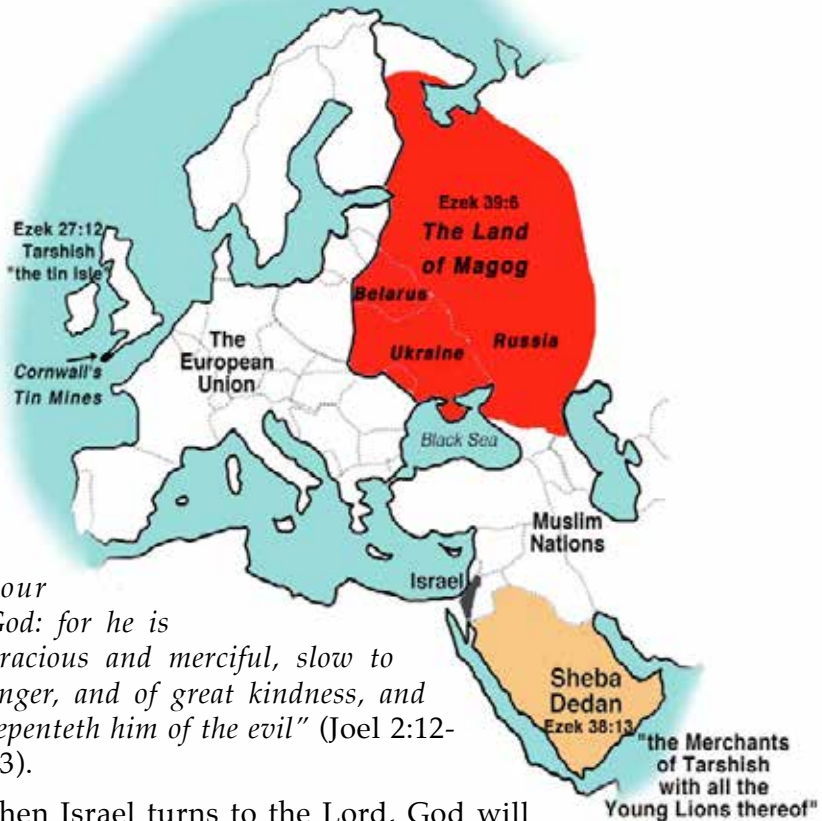
### *Israel's Final Holocaust*

Ezekiel has prophesied that Israel is yet to suffer a holocaust that will bring the nation to her knees and cause her to cry out to Messiah for deliverance. That holocaust will be at the hands of **Islamic nations led by Russia** and is described in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39. The invading armies will come from **the land of Magog**, the ancient name for the land of the Scythians north of the Black Sea. Josephus stated that the Magogites "were by the Greeks called Scythians". Gog will be her leader and he will assemble an army from Persia (Iran), the house of Togarmah and Gomer (Turkey), Libya and Ethiopia (Northern Sudan) (Ezek.38:1-7).

These are fanatical Islamic nations with a deep hatred for Israel and when armed by Russia will sweep through the land; "like a cloud to cover the land" (Ezek.38:9). The prophecy states that they come "out of the north parts...it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land" (Ezek.38:15-16).

The prophet Joel described this invasion in chapter two of his prophecy and called upon the nation to repent and turn to the Lord:

*"Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD*



*your  
God: for he is  
gracious and merciful, slow to  
anger, and of great kindness, and  
repenteth him of the evil" (Joel 2:12-  
13).*

When Israel turns to the Lord, God will destroy the invading Islamist armies:

*"Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people... But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savor shall come up, because he hath done great things. Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things" (Joel 2:18-21).*

Ezekiel gives a fuller description of the devastation that takes place when God responds to His repentant people. The judgment poured out upon the invading armies will be a **global**

earthquake, a great meteorite shower, pestilence (disease), and total disunity among the invaders so that *"every man's sword shall be against his brother"* (Ezek.38:21). Only one sixth of the enemy will survive and it will take 7 months for Israel to bury the dead in a mass grave on the eastern side of the Dead Sea. The debris left in the land will take 7 years to burn. All of this is described in Ezekiel's prophecy chapter 38:18-23 and 39:1-7.

**DANIEL  
CHAPTER 7**



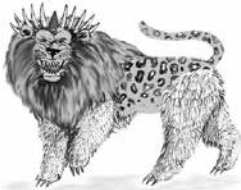
**Babylonian Empire  
606BC to 536BC**



**Persian Empire  
536BC to 332BC**



**Grecian Empire  
332BC to 63BC**



**Roman Empire  
63BC till  
Christ Returns**

At the same time that the Russian-led Islamic armies are destroyed, the land of Russia (Magog) will be burned with fire (Ezek.39:6) and this will explain why the residue of their army will retreat to Siberia, *"into a land barren and desolate,*

*with his face toward the east sea (Pacific), and his hinder part toward the utmost (north) sea"* (Joel 2:20).

Israel will suffer enormously at this time and the prophet Zechariah stated that only one third would survive. But it is only the beginning of a 7-year period of Tribulation that will burst upon this earth at the end of the age as indicated in the prophecies of Daniel chapter 9.

At this time the entire nation of Israel will seek the Lord their God for Ezekiel prophesied:

*"So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward. And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into*



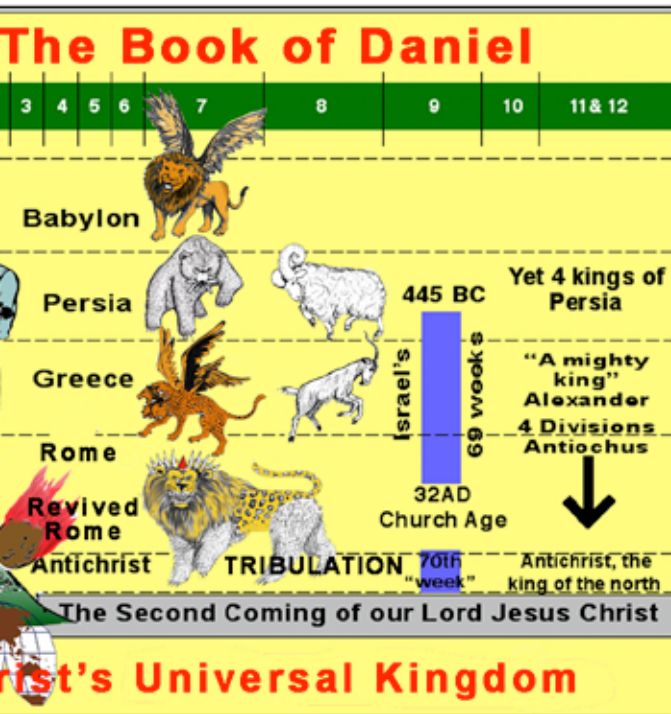
*the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword. According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them.*

*Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; **After that they have born their shame**, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid. **When I have brought them again from the people**, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD" (Ezekiel 39:22-29).*

The final and complete regathering of Israel to the land promised to Abraham

can only be accomplished when the nation repents of her rejection of Messiah and turns wholeheartedly to Him as King, Lord and Saviour.

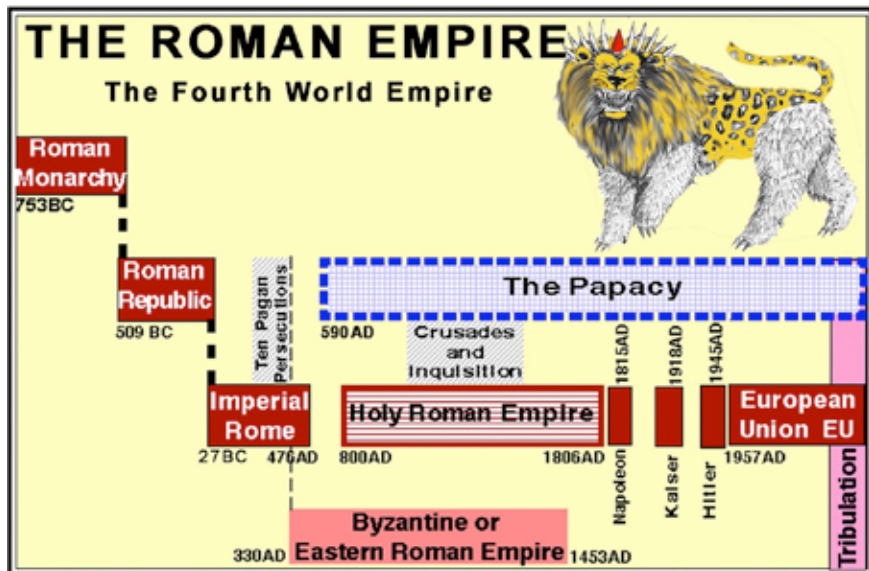
Jesus Christ indicated that the first thing He would do after He returned in glory and power would be to gather His chosen seed of Abraham from where they have





been scattered all over the earth.

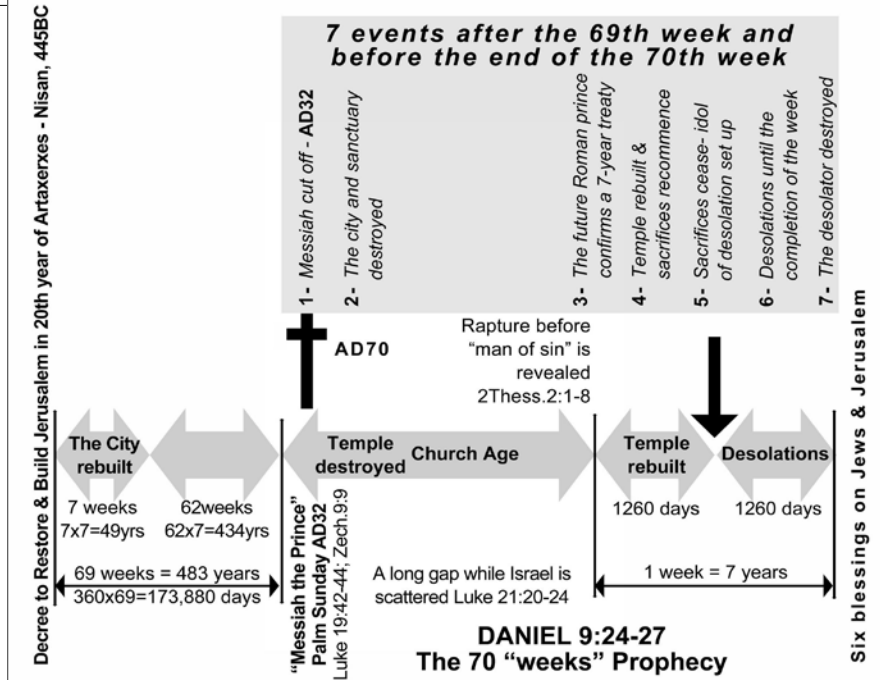
*“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great*



*glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matthew 24:29-30).*

### *The Prophecies of the Prophet Daniel*

The Prophet Daniel was given prophecies of the “times of the Gentiles”; the period of Gentile dominion over Jerusalem. He saw four great kingdoms in the earth from the time that Jerusalem was occupied until the time when Messiah will come in the clouds of heaven to reign as King of kings. In chapter 2 Daniel described an image which Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon had seen in a dream. The image had four main parts ; a head of gold, shoulders of brass, belly and thigh of brass and legs of iron. Its feet were part iron and part clay and it had 10 toes. Finally a stone “cut out without hands” came down from



heaven and smote the image on its feet. The entire image was destroyed and the stone became a mountain which filled the whole earth.

The prophet gave the Divine interpretation: There would be four kingdoms on earth beginning with Babylon until the eternal kingdom of God was established over the entire earth.

In chapter 7 of Daniel's prophecy the prophet had a dream of four wild beasts: **a lion** with eagle wings, **a bear** with three ribs in its mouth, **a leopard** with four heads and four wings and finally **a terrible fourth beast** which had iron teeth and ten horns. Then he saw a little stout horn come up among the ten and overcome three of the horns. Finally, the fourth beast is destroyed and Messiah's kingdom will be established:

*"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him:*

*thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.*

*I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Dan.7:9-14).*



The interpretation is obvious: the last stage of the Roman Empire will see an evil leader arise who will make

*"war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom" (Dan.7:21-22).*

The Roman Empire has never ceased to exist. It has changed its form from pure imperial iron, to iron and clay, but it is the same empire. After Imperial Rome fell in the West in AD476 the Eastern Byzantine Empire continued and the Holy Roman Empire with the Vatican, emerged in the West. Napoleon tried to establish the Empire and he was followed by the Kaiser of Germany and Hitler..

Just as the image had ten toes in its extremity so the fourth beast has ten horns (Kings) in its final stage and the prophet says:

*"The ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall*

*arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until **a time and times and the dividing of time**" (Dan.7:24-25).*

It is clear that this final Roman leader will only rule for a short space of time: "**a time and times and the dividing of time**" or three and a half years during which time he will seek to destroy the holy people of Israel immediately prior to Messiah's return. The saints are rescued by the appearance of Messiah in glory and power as He descends from heaven after which Messiah's everlasting kingdom will be established on earth. The little horn, Antichrist, will be destroyed with all who follow him.

When this kingdom is established it will be ruled by the saints of the most High God for we read:

*"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Dan.7:27).*

This will be the fulfilment of the promise made to Abraham that "*in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed*" (Gen.22:18).

Isaiah gives a great deal of information in his prophecy about the kingdom of Messiah.

*"And it shall come to pass **in the last days**, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: **for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the***

LORD" (Isaiah.2:2-5).

### *God's Timeline for Israel*



Israel - God's Olive tree

The prophet Daniel not only outlined the times of the Gentiles but he also gave us a prophecy that precisely and chronologically outlined events occurring in the nation of Israel from 445BC to Messiah's kingdom when the seed of Abraham and the Holy City will finally enjoy the blessings of Messiah's kingdom. The prophecy is

found in chapter 9 of the Book of Daniel and in verses 24 to 27.

The prophecy was given at the end of the 70 years captivity in Babylon when Daniel was praying about the future of his people and of Jerusalem. The angel Gabriel came to him with a complete answer:

*"Seventy weeks (sevens) are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*

*Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be **seven weeks**, and **threescore and two weeks**: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*

*And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and THE PEOPLE OF THE PRINCE that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many **for one week**: and in the **midst of the week** he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate" (Dan.9:24-27).*

Seventy sevens of years are determined on Daniel's people and

on Jerusalem. That is, 490 years **are determined on the seed of Abraham and Jerusalem** UNTIL six blessings are fulfilled which can only be in the kingdom of Messiah. They are:

- 1) *to finish the transgression,*
- 2) *and to make an end of sins,*
- 3) *and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and*
- 4) *to bring in everlasting righteousness,*
- 5) *and to seal up the vision and prophecy,*
- 6) *and to anoint the most Holy (place).*

The 490 years determined on Jerusalem and the Jewish people is divided into three parts:

i) **Seven weeks** or 49 years until the city is rebuilt in troublous times.

ii) A **further 62 weeks** or 434 years unto Messiah the Prince after which He is "*cut off*".

iii) There is a **long gap** after the 69th week in which **several events occur**: a) Messiah the Prince is cut off; b) the city of Jerusalem and the sanctuary are destroyed; and c) a future Roman prince will make a 7-year covenant with the nation of Israel and with others.

iv) The **final seven years** will see the Temple, which was destroyed by the Romans rebuilt, and sacrifices recommenced but half-way through the 7 years, a **Roman prince** will break his covenant with the people of God and cause the sacrifices to cease for the express purpose of spreading abominable idolatry in the Temple and around the world.

The **building of the 2nd Temple** was started with the decree of Cyrus in 536BC but the **rebuilding of the City** began in the 20th year of the Persian King Artaxerxes (Neh.2:1-11). He began his reign in 465BC and made a decree in 445BC for Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the CITY. The Samaritans opposed the work but it proceeded and was completed in "*troublous times*".

The second stage of 62 weeks (sevens) or 434 years, was to

bring the nation to **Messiah the Prince** and calculating by the lunar calendar this occurred exactly on the day Messiah rode into Jerusalem, riding upon an ass's colt in fulfilment of the prophecy of Zechariah:

*"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass"* (Zech.9:9).

On Palm Sunday the crowds in Jerusalem welcomed Messiah the Prince as the Son of David and King of Israel but the rulers despised Him, arrested Him, and crucified Him. The prophecy of Daniel was fulfilled four days later when Messiah was "cut off" on the cross. Then, 38 years later, the "city and the sanctuary" were destroyed by the Romans in AD70; in fulfilment of Daniel's prophecy.

#### *Israel's last Seven Years Before Messiah Returns*

There is yet seven years of Israel's history to run its course and this will **begin with the future Roman prince whose people destroyed Jerusalem, confirming a covenant** with many for "one week" or 7 years.

After WWII Europe was rebuilt under the Marshall Aid Plan funded by America and since then the EU has developed until nearly 500 million people stand under its flag. This is the revived Roman Empire, the final stage of the fourth beast in Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 7). There only remains for the EU to be divided into 10 parts and the "little horn" to take control half-way through the last seven years of Israel's history.

The Apostle John gave us the Book of the Revelation and in chapters 17 and 18 he described the final stage of the revived Roman Empire as a beast with 10 horns ridden by a harlot woman, the very symbol that Europe has adopted under the banner of the EU. The myth of the abduction of Europa by Zeus, the chief god of the heathen, is on EU coins and in sculptures and artwork identified with Europe. The Book of the Revelation, written in AD96, calls this harlot woman, "Mystery Babylon the

"Great" and the EU parliament at Strasbourg was designed with an unfinished tower to be a replica of the Tower of Babel.

The woman who rides the beast is undoubtedly the Papacy and apostate Christendom. The beast is the kingdom of the final Gentile ruler, Antichrist, who Messiah will destroy at His coming.

Jesus made it very clear that the gap in Israel's history before the 70th week would be occupied by the "mystery" form of the kingdom of God. The Apostle Paul indicated that the truth of the Church was not revealed in the Old Testament Scriptures as he said in his Epistle to the Ephesians:

*"For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)*

*Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 3:1-8).*

Similar statements are made in Romans 16:25-26 and Colossians 24-27.

In Scripture God likens Israel to an olive tree and so Paul wrote of the blindness which Isaiah had foretold would come upon the nation (Isaiah 6:9-13) and said that the natural branches would be broken off and the wild olive branch (Gentiles) would be grafted into the olive tree to partake of the "root and fatness" of the olive tree. But he indicates that a day would come when the



natural branches would be grafted back into the olive tree.

*"And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again. For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?" (Rom.11:23-24).*

When Israel rejected Messiah, God turned to the Gentiles as Paul told the Jewish elders at Rome:

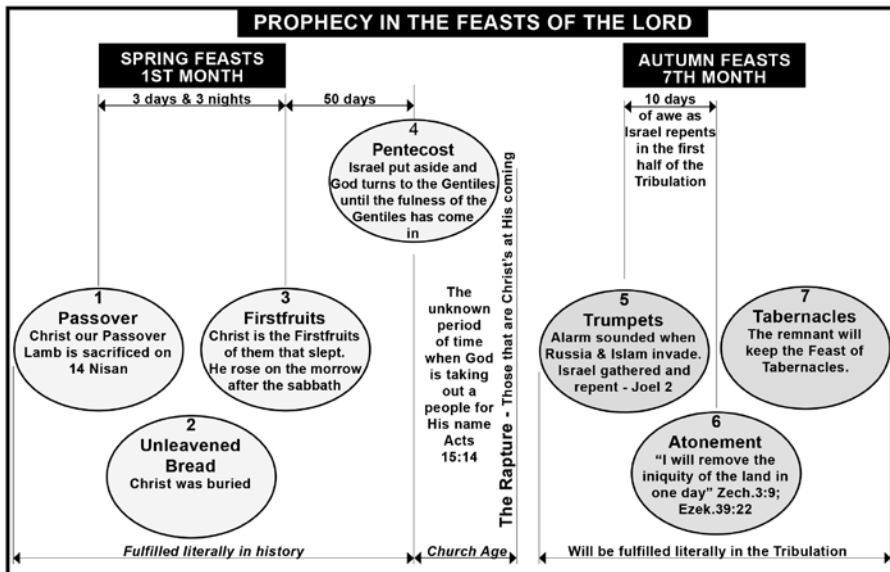
*"Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: For the heart of this people is grown caloused, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it" (Acts 28:25-28).*

But this blindness is only "UNTIL the fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (Rom.11:25); that is when the natural branches will be grafted back into the olive tree.

Scripture indicated that Israel's 70th week will be a time of great Tribulation over the entire earth and that the last half of that 7 years will see Antichrist reigning with awful power. This period is called "the Day of the Lord" and Paul wrote to the Thessalonian Christians:

*"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But **ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief...For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him"*** (1Thess.5:2-10).

True Christians will not be on earth for the 70th week of Israel's history and Paul indicated they would be Raptured, caught



away, BEFORE the Day of the Lord begins and he wrote in 1Thess.4:13-18):

*"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1Thess.4:13-18).*

This is NOT the second coming of Messiah, it is the catching away the remnants of the true Church of Jesus Christ BEFORE the 70th week of Israel begins. Jesus spoke about this event to the Jews on two occasions as a sign to Israel that the 70th week had begun. He said:

*"I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one*

*shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the (living) body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together” (Luke 17:34-37). See also Matthew 24:40-42.*

The global disappearance of born-again Christians will be **the sign that the Church age has passed, the fulness of the Gentiles has come in**, and God is again dealing with Israel.

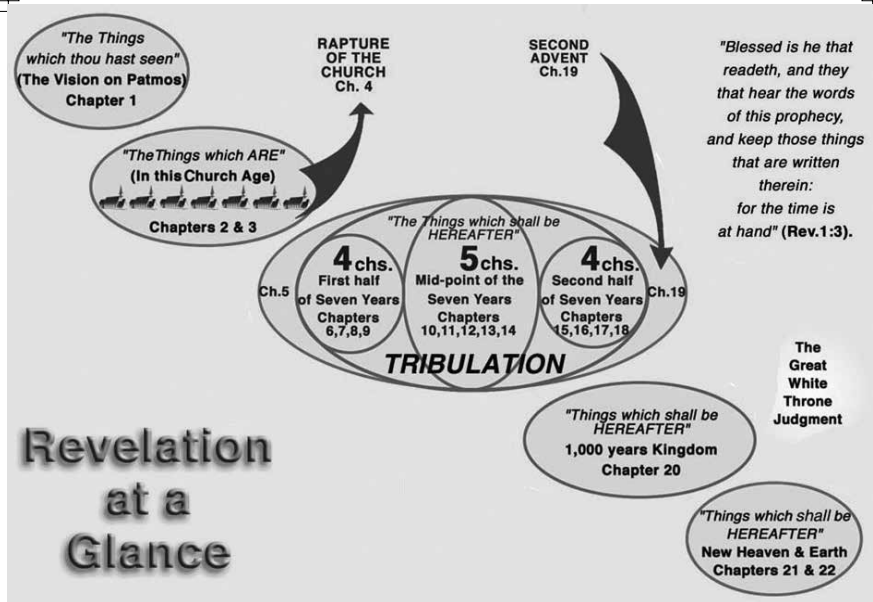
John in the Revelation points out that **immediately after the Rapture** takes place there will be 144,000 Jewish men sealed by God from all the tribes of Israel and he specifically states that this must occur BEFORE the earth is hurt by the judgments that the angels of God will pour out on the earth. We read:

*“And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel” (Rev.7:1-4).*

The 144,000 are just the *“firstfruits unto God”* and through their testimony *“all Israel shall be saved”* (Romans 11:26) as well as *“a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues”* (Rev.7:9).

The task of these 144,000 witnesses will be to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, that the King of kings is soon to appear and to reign over the earth. Jesus indicated that this witness would occur in the first half of the 7 years when He said:

*“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in **all the world** for a witness **unto all nations**; and then shall the end come”* (Matthew 24:14).



There will be two special Jewish prophets at Jerusalem who will preach during the first half of the 7 years:

*"And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and **they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.** These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth" (Rev.11:1-4).*

Just as Haggai and Zechariah encouraged the building of the 2nd Temple so these two prophets will encourage the building of the Tribulation Temple. Their testimony will be just 1,260 days which is the **first half of the 7 years** and at the end of the 1,260 days Antichrist will move into the Temple to "cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease for the overspreading of abominations" (Daniel 9:27).

In Daniel chapter 11 the prophet described **the first half of the 7 years** in verses 39 to 45 and at the end of that time he wrote:

*“But tidings out of the east (Iran) and out of the north (Russia & Turkey) shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas (Dead Sea & Mediterranean) **in the glorious holy mountain**; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him”* (Daniel 11:44-45).

The tidings that will trouble the Roman prince will be the invasion of Israel by Islamic forces led by Russia and it will be this invasion that God will use to bring the whole nation of Israel to repentance as Joel foretold in chapter 2 of his prophecy but when Israel turns to the Lord the Roman prince will have a problem. He made a seven-year covenant with ungodly Jewish leaders but now the entire nation, on one day, has turned to Jesus Christ their Lord and Saviour. Consequently, he will

*“go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain.”*

This one day is referred to in Isaiah's prophecy:

*“**BEFORE she travailed, she brought forth; BEFORE her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for AS SOON AS Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God. Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her”*** (Isaiah 66:7-10).

Israel's travail is in the first half of the 70th week. When Jesus described the 7 years of Tribulation in His Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24 & 25) He called the first half *“the beginning of sorrows”* (literally, *travail*) (Matt.24:8) and He described the second half of the 7 years as *“great Tribulation”* (Matt.24:21). BEFORE she travailed Israel brought forth Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ, the man child but in the first half of the 7 years she

will travail until the nation is born-again of the Spirit of God under the New Covenant.

The first half of the seven years will see the Russian-led Islamic invasion which God will use to bring the remnant nation to acknowledge Jesus Christ as her Messiah and Saviour, followed by the broken covenant with the Roman prince at the mid-point. The second half of the seven years will be Antichrist's reign during which time he will seek to eliminate the Godly nation of Israel. That is why Jesus called it "*great tribulation*" (Matthew 24:21).

John again wrote of the 144,000 in chapter 14 of the Revelation and indicated that, at the mid-point of the seven years, they had joined the Tribulation martyrs in heaven:

*"And they sung as it were a new song **before the throne, and before the four beasts (angels), and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.***

*These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. **These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.** And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God" (Rev.14:3-5).*

The prophet Zechariah also indicated the nation of Israel would be pardoned in ONE DAY:

*"I will remove the iniquity of that land **in one day. In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbor under the vine and under the fig tree**" (Zechariah 3:9-10).*

Likewise the prophet Ezekiel:

*"So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God **from that day and forward**" (Ezekiel 39:22).*

The life of Joseph is seen as a "type" or shadow of Messiah. He was beloved of the Father, hated by His brethren, exalted to the throne and ruled while there was dearth over the whole earth for seven years.

At the end of the second year of the dearth Joseph was reconciled to his brethren, the children of Israel.

*"And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest" (Genesis 45:4-6).*

Could it be that at the end of the second year of the seven years of Tribulation the greater Joseph, Jesus Messiah, will be reunited with a deeply sorrowful nation of Israel; the Lord's brethren.

The Feasts of Jehovah are also prophetic in Israel's history. The Passover saw the Passover Lamb of God sacrificed at the very moment that the lambs were being sacrificed in the Temple and Christ rose exactly on the Feast of Firstfruits; on the first day of the week. Fifty days later Israel heard the *"wonderful works of God"* preached in Gentile languages on the day of Pentecost thus signifying that God was turning to the Gentiles in the Church to *"take out of them a people for His name"* (Acts 15:14).

Might it not be that the Feast of Trumpets will call the nation to repentance as the land is invaded by the *"northern army"* (Joel 2:20) and that after 10 days of Awe, on Yom Kippur the nation will experience the pardon of God under the New Covenant? Joel wrote:

***"BLOW YE THE TRUMPET in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand... BLOW THE TRUMPET in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is***

*their God? Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people (Joel 2:1, 15-18).*

These Scriptures may suggest that the time of Israel's pardon will be at a Feast of Yom Kippur at the end of the second year of the 70th week and that the animal sacrifices will only be memorials of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God who died to take away the sin of the world.

### *Israel in Great Tribulation*

The first half of the seventieth week will close with the martyrdom of the 144,000 witnesses, the abomination of desolation set up in the Temple by Antichrist, and the now Godly remnant of Israel under extreme persecution from Satanic forces. We now turn to the last book of the Bible, the Book of the Revelation. It is important to understand the chronology of the last seven years of history before Messiah returns to reign. The Book of the Revelation gives us that in detail.

In chapter 1 John has a vision of the risen Lord who is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Almighty.

In chapters 2 and 3 there are seven letters to seven churches in Asia Minor. These letters are prophetic of the seven stages of Christendom from Pentecost to the Rapture of the Church.

**Ephesus** ("desired") is the Apostolic Church of the first century.

**Smyrna** ("myrrh") was the suffering church during the 10 pagan persecutions.

**Pergamos** ("married") speaks of the state church under Constantine when the Church was married to the State.

**Thyatira** ("continual sacrifice") is the Papal Church when the Church assumed secular power under Gregory the Great (AD590) and holds power over her people with the continual sacrifice of the Mass.

**Sardis** ("escaping few") foretold the Reformation when some escaped the clutches of the apostate church of Rome in the 16th century.



**Philadelphia** (“brotherly love”) describes the great faith mission period of Christendom’s history. The Bohemian Brethren, the Moravian Revival, the Westleyan Revival, Hudson Taylor and the China Inland Mission and many many more missions that took the Gospel to the ends of the earth in the 18th and 19th centuries. These revived the message of the Lord’s return.

**Laodicea** (“the people rule”) is the last stage of Christendom before the Rapture of the true believers who make up the Bride of Christ. It is lukewarm, rich and increased with goods but bankrupt of spiritual life.

In every phase of Church history there are a remnant described as “overcomers”. These are the saved among the professing but unsaved multitude that fill the rolls of churches throughout Christendom.

Chapters 4 and 5 describe the catching away of the born-again believers and John saw a door open in heaven. He foresees himself caught up to the throneroom of heaven. This is the Rapture of the Church.

### *The 70th week in the Book of the Revelation*

From chapter 6 to chapter 18 God has revealed the events of the 70th week of Israel’s history. There is no mention of the Church on earth during this period because every true believer from the church age will be in heaven. Only the apostate Church will remain on earth.

The 70th week will be a time of awful distress. Jesus said it would be

*“such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened”* (Matt.24:21).

In the first half there will be 7 seals broken on a book to reveal seven judgments. The seventh seal will reveal seven trumpet judgments and the 6th trumpet judgment brings us to the mid-point of the seven years. That is the period of testimony for

the 144,000 Jewish witnesses and it is described in chapters 6 through 9.

At the mid-point of the seven years momentous events take place. Satan and his angels make war against the throne of heaven and Michael and his angels cast Satan into the earth. He comes down with great wrath *"for he knows that he has but a short time"* (Rev.12:12). Only 42 months are left before Messiah returns and casts Antichrist into the lake of fire and Satan is bound for 1,000 years.

At the mid-point of the seven years Antichrist, the Beast of Revelation 13, will move into the Temple at Jerusalem and begin to organize all the nations of the world in preparation for the final conflict of the battle of Armageddon.

These events are spelt out in Revelation chapters 10 through to 14.

The second half of the 70 week begins with the sounding of the 7th Trumpet judgment which releases the seven vial or bowl judgments poured out upon earth. This is the period which Jesus called *"great Tribulation"*. It occupies chapters 14 through to 18.

### *After the 70th Week - Messiah's Kingdom*

The 70th week will conclude with the second advent of Jesus Christ as described in Revelation 19. The Roman prince, the Beast, Antichrist, will be slain and cast into the lake of fire and all nations that survive the Tribulation will be gathered before the Lord. The Lord's brethren (Israel) are gathered first and the Gentile nations will be divided into two groups; the sheep and the goats. The population on earth will be small for Isaiah prophesied of this time and wrote:

*"the inhabitants of the earth are burned and few men left"* (Isaiah 24:6).

The sheep will go alive into the kingdom of Messiah and the goats will go away into *"everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels"* (Matthew 25:41). The Book of Revelation clearly states