

Israel's

Covenants & Kingdom



by John R. Ecob DD

PROPHECY SERIES - STUDY NO 4 FOR THE HERALD OF HOPE

**ISRAEL'S
COVENANTS
AND
KINGDOM**
by

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for
Herald of Hope Inc.**

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Preface

The story of Israel over the past 2,000 years has been written in blood, sweat, and tears. No other people have suffered so deeply, been hated so bitterly or maligned so cruelly, and yet have survived so miraculously, as the Jew. They have been isolated in ghettos, stripped and sent naked into gas chambers, beaten, robbed, expelled, and massacred with sword and gun. Church and Government have stirred up the masses in pogroms against them. Again and again their wealth has been plundered and they have been forced to convert to Islam and Christianity, yet after 2,000 years of dispersion they are again miraculously established as a nation in the land that God gave to their forefather, Abraham 4,000 years ago.

While the number of Jews in the land constitutes less than 0.01% of world population, Israel is militarily so powerful that she is feared by her neighbours. Technically, Israel has been described as the Research and Development Laboratory of the world, and after being robbed for 2,000 years she is now prosperous and economically strong. The number of scientists per head of population in Israel is much greater than that of any other nation.

What is it about this amazing people that makes them so indestructible and sets them apart from every nation? Why is it that every nation that has blessed Israel is blessed, and every nation that has cursed Israel is cursed? There has to be a reason, and the answer lies in the Bible; the Word of God.

God made covenants with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), and their descendants, which He will never renounce. *"The gifts and calling of God are without repentance"* (Rom.11:29). God will never, never, repent of, or turn from, His covenants with Israel. They are everlasting covenants.

Moses said to Israel:

"What nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law?" (Deut.4:8). *"Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him"* (Deut.4:35).

The greatest evidence of the existence of the one and only living God, is the nation of Israel.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Israel's future is governed by covenants and prophecies that God gave to the nation. About 2,000BC when God chose Abraham and gave him the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession, He established a people who would play the central role in His dealings with mankind. Abraham's descendants would become tribes and the tribes would become a nation under Moses. From the line of David, God would bring His virgin-born Son, Jesus Christ, into the world and He would ultimately rule the world as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Jerusalem was chosen by God to be the centre from which Christ would rule the world when the kingdom of God is established in the "last days". In that day

"the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Mic.4:1-2).

All of history moves toward this final triumph of Israel's Messiah and King and unless we understand God's plan for Israel there is no possibility we will be able to rightly interpret the scriptures.

Israel is absolutely unique. No other nation can compare with her. Israel was the God-chosen vehicle to bring salvation to all mankind; in Old Testament times the nation provided a haven for all who fled from the idolatry that dominated Gentile kingdoms and in New Testament times Israel gave birth to the Church of Jesus Christ.

The prophets of Israel were God-chosen men to whom was entrusted His Word to be faithfully recorded and preserved by scribes from the priestly class. These scriptures given to Israel, provide the only infallible record of the origin of the universe and of past human history; they are the only source of light that we have concerning the future.

The knowledge of the unseen world was vouchsafed to Jewish prophets and without their testimony we would wallow in superstition and uncertainty concerning what lies beyond the grave. Paul asked,

*"What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because **unto them were committed the oracles***

(utterances) of God" (Rom.3:1-2).

Moses reminded Israel of their privileged position. He said:

*"Thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, **above all the nations that are upon the earth"** (Deut.14:2).*

The reason God choose Israel is clearly stated:

*"The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because **he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers...**" (Deut.7:7-8).*

God is a faithful covenant-keeping God who has made promises that He will never break. These promises bind God to behave according to His own decrees so that men can have an absolute assurance of where they stand with their Maker. If we fail to understand the covenants God has made with men we will eliminate any possibility of understanding God's plan of redemption or what is in store for the world. Even when Israel sinned and departed from God, His covenant promises held true and He said:

"I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Mal.3:6).

Throughout history, each time Israel sinned against the LORD He sent affliction. He used His *"four sore judgments"*; the sword, famine, wild beasts, and pestilence. These were judgments, but they were motivated by love toward Israel with the intention of bringing the nation to repentance and ultimately blessing Israel.

The sorrow and affliction of the Jews over the past 2,500 years will come to an end in the *"time of Jacob's trouble"* (Jer.30:7) i.e. the Great Tribulation when they will mourn for what they did to their Messiah and King; they will be fully restored to the Lord and become the head of the nations.

Chapter 2 - Israel's Covenants

The Abrahamic Covenant

God made a covenant with Abraham which was confirmed to Isaac, to Jacob and his children. In spite of the waywardness of the children of Israel God has bound Himself to perform the oath made with Abraham. God promised the following:

"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.12:2-3).

"Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates" (Gen.15:18).

*"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for **an everlasting covenant**, to be a God unto thee, **and to thy seed after thee**. And I will give unto thee, and to **thy seed after thee**, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for **an everlasting possession**; and I will be their God" (Gen.17:7-8).*

Other nations are blessed by God through Abraham. God said:

*"Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and **all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?**" (Gen.18:17-18).*

After Abraham had offered Isaac on one of the mountains of Moriah the LORD said:

*"**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**" (Gen.22:16-18).*

It is the declared intention of Almighty God to bless the nations of earth through the nation of Israel and those nations that are filled with hatred for the Jew bring themselves under the curse of God.



The Palestinian Covenant (Deut.chs.28 to 30)

The Palestinian Covenant made with Israel just prior to entering the promised land states three things:

1. If Israel obeys the voice of the Lord they will be **blessed in the land** promised to Abraham and his seed (Deut.28:1-14).
2. If Israel disobeys the voice of the Lord she will be **cast out of the land** and scattered among the nations (Deut.28:15-68,29:29).
3. If, after Israel has been scattered among the nations she turns again to the Lord, then God will pardon her and **restore her to the land** and will even place all the curses that have been on Israel, upon her enemies (Deut.30:1-20).

As we trace the history of Israel we can see that this covenant has controlled how God has dealt with the nation ever since they entered the land under the leadership of Joshua. The Abrahamic covenant gives Israel the right to the land and that right can never be lost but the enjoyment of the land can be lost; it all depends on Israel's relationship with the Lord. The land belongs to God (Joel 3:2) but Israel is given the right to dwell there **while they obey the Lord**.

There is a prophetic character about the Palestinian Covenant that indicates there will be **two captivities before Israel reigns with Christ in the millennial kingdom**; the first in Babylon and the second when Rome would scatter them among all the nations.

1) The **Babylonian captivity** is described in Deut.28:36-37:

"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".

In 586BC Nebuchadnezzar took Israel's last king, Zedekiah, put out his eyes and took him bound to Babylon where he died in prison. This can only apply to the Babylonian captivity because Israel had no king after 586BC.

2) The **Roman captivity** is described in Deut. 28:49-68:

"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

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*understand; A nation of fierce countenance... 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 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."*

In AD70 The Roman legions with the insignia of the **Roman eagle** besieged all their cities and Josephus the Jewish historian indicated in his book *The Jewish Wars* that the Jews ate their own children in the siege of Jerusalem. After the capture of Jerusalem, many of the 97,000 captives were sold as slaves to work in the Egyptian mines just as the Palestinian covenant indicated! There were more slaves than buyers so the prophecy "*no man shall buy you*", was fulfilled.

However Moses told Israel in Deut.4:30-31 that

*"**When thou art in tribulation**, and all these things are come upon thee, even **in the latter days**, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice... he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers."*

The fact that Israel has been scattered for 2,000 years does not mean that God has abandoned the nation and Moses prophetically indicated that in the "**latter days**" Israel can still be restored! Other prophecies give great detail of Israel's restoration to the land first, in unbelief (Ezek.36:22-24), then her cleansing and conversion (Ezek.39:22-29). Hosea wrote:

*"**Afterward** shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness **in the latter days**" (Hosea 3:5).*

Other prophecies tell how God will make a "**new covenant**" (Jer.31:31) with Israel in the last days that will be a "**covenant of peace**" (Ezek.34:25; 37:26), and an "**everlasting covenant**" (Isa.55:3) from which Israel will never again stray (Ezek.37:25). God will cleanse Israel from all their uncleanness and He promises

*"I will ... 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:... 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).*

Under the covenant that God has made with Israel, failure is not final and in the foreknowledge of God, Israel will respond when afflicted in the Great Tribulation; when, early in the Tribulation, a “*northern army*” invades (Joel 2:20), led by Gog from the land of Magog (Russia) together with a company of Islamic nations as described in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39.

It will be this attempt to exterminate all the Jews in the land of Israel in the first half of the Tribulation that will cause the remnant world-wide to cry out to God and be delivered.

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

Isaiah speaks of a future day when the children of Israel

*“shall be named the Priests of the LORD: **men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves**” (Isa.61:6).*

Zechariah speaks of a day when anti-Semitism will cease and

*“ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for **we have heard that God is with you**” (Zech.8:23).*

Isaiah wrote of a day when Jerusalem will be the centre of world Government

*“in the last days, 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” (Isa.2:2-4).*

Attempts by Christendom to spiritualize the promises made to Israel and to apply them to the Church amount to insolence and unbelief that places Christendom under the curse of the God who promised Abraham that He would “*bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee*” (Gen.12:3). This promise was not confined to Abraham for it

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was repeated when Isaac blessed Jacob (Gen.27:29) and later, as Balaam looked over the tents of Israel, he described the nation as follows:

*“God brought him forth out of Egypt;...Blessed is **he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee**”(Num.24:8-9).*

Nations rise or fall depending on how they treat Israel. Even when Israel is **under the chastening hand of God** we dare not curse Israel.

The Ammonites were judged because they said, *“Aha, against my sanctuary, when it was profaned; and against the land of Israel”* (Ezek.25:3); the Moabites were judged because they said, *“Behold the house of Judah is like unto all the heathen”* (Ezek.25:8) and the Edomites because they *“dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance”* (Ezek.25:12). When the Philistines took *“vengeance with a despiteful heart”* (Ezek.25:15) God said, *“I will execute great vengeance upon them with furious rebukes”* (Ezek.25:17).

The city of Tyre rejoiced at the destruction of Jerusalem saying, *“Aha, she is broken that was the gates of the people”* (Ezek.26:2) and so God said He would *“cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up”* (Ezek.26:3).

There is no escaping the wrath of God when an individual or nation dares to curse God's chosen people Israel for they are central to God's plan of salvation for mankind. Ultimately Israel will rule this world when Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords.

God sent the heathen Babylonians against Judah to punish them for their wickedness but after 70 years of captivity had run its course, God said:

*“I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and **they helped forward the affliction**. Therefore thus saith the LORD; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies”* (Zech.1:15-16).

One sure way for a Gentile nation to bring upon itself the judgment of God is to vent its fury against the Jew even when the Jew is away from God. Israel is still God's chosen people even when being chastened; God will never abandon Israel and Bible prophecy clearly indicates that the present age will end with Israel returning to the Lord and to the land to reign with Christ in His millennial kingdom.

The Davidic Covenant

Not only has God chosen Abraham and his seed to be His special people and given them the land for an everlasting possession, but He has chosen one family within the tribe of Judah to reign over God's inheritance. When Israel's first king, Saul, failed, God chose David, a shepherd boy from Bethlehem who became a *"man after his (God's) own heart"* (1Sam.13:14).

God made a covenant with David and established his throne to be an everlasting throne. God said:

"And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever" (2Sam. 7:16).

Again we are reminded that Israel, the land, and the throne of David have all been promised by God **for ever**. Those who teach that God has finished with the nation of Israel and that the church is spiritual Israel replacing the Jews as the people of God are in denial of the plain statements of Scripture. Who gave these people the right to spiritualize away the literal meaning of the words of the Living God?

Surely, when these amillennial apostates see the Jews returning to the land in unbelief exactly as God said they would in Ezekiel chapter 36, they must begin to wonder about their system of theology. But it seems the Amillennialists are wedded to their god of Reformed Theology and find it impossible to believe that their Reformed idols could possibly be wrong.

Ezekiel made it clear that the throne of David would cease after Zedekiah was removed to Babylon but only *"UNTIL He come whose right it is"* (Ezek.21:27).

When Gabriel declared to Mary that she would *"bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus"* he also stated that

"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 1:32-33).

God chose Mary with the express purpose of bringing the Son of God into the world, to be the Saviour of the world and to sit on David's throne over the tribes of Israel where He would reign as King of kings over the entire earth.

David's Throne to be Restored in the Last Days

Amos prophesied of a future day when God will

*"raise up the tabernacle of David **that is fallen**, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it **as in the days of old**" (Amos 9:11).*

Amos prophesied in the days of Uzziah King of Judah more than 200 years before the throne of David ceased but God revealed to him that it would not only fall but would be raised up again in the last days. James made a declaration on behalf of the Apostles at Jerusalem that God was taking out of the Gentiles a people for His name and that Jesus would 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"(Acts15:16).

James quoted the prophecy of Amos and made it perfectly clear that Christ will return **after the Church is complete** and that Israel again will be restored.

The Davidic Covenant guarantees a literal throne over the nation of Israel for ever and the final King will be none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. This can only occur if the nation of Israel is saved in the last days and if Christ returns to reign from Jerusalem.

Scripture indicates that David will be Israel's Prince (Ezek.34:23-24; 37:24; Jer.30:9) under the Lord Jesus in the millennial kingdom. Since the Old Testament saints were all raised when Jesus rose from the dead (Matt.27:52-53), David already has his resurrection body and will return with Christ at the 2nd Advent immediately after the Tribulation.

"Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them." (Jer.33:25-26).

"All Israel shall be Saved"

Pentecost AD32 saw the beginning of the Church age and during this age the Bride of Christ is being espoused. When the *"fulness of the Gentiles"* comes into the Church, the Bride will be Raptured to heaven for the marriage of the Lamb and Paul declared,

"So all Israel shall be saved...for this is the covenant unto them (Israel),

when I shall take away their sins" (Rom.11:26-27).

First, there will be 144,000 Jewish men (Rev.7:1-8) who will seek the Lord immediately after the Rapture and these will preach the "*Gospel of the Kingdom*"

"in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt.24:14).

We know they are saved immediately after the Rapture because two of these witnesses testify for 1,260 days at Jerusalem at the rebuilt Temple before being slain by Antichrist (Rev.11:3) at the mid-point of the Tribulation. The 144,000 are already seen as the "*servants of our God*" (Rev.7:3) and are sealed for protection from the Tribulation Judgments **before** the Trumpet judgments begin and we know there are many martyrs during the Seal judgments (Rev.6:9-11) that begin immediately after the Rapture.

These 144,000 witnesses are specifically, 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel; they are the "*firstfruits unto God and the Lamb*" from Israel (Rev.14:4). Their ministry is global and on today's world population would amount to one preacher for every 48,600 people; a reasonable number for each preacher to reach using modern communication over a 42 month period. Every one of the 144,000 will be martyred by the mid-point of the 7-year Tribulation for they are all seen around the throne of heaven before the second half of the Tribulation begins with the Vial Judgments (Rev.14:1-5).

A nation like Egypt with 100 million people would have about 2,000 Jewish preachers proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom and urging men and women to "*Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!*" The first half of the Tribulation will witness amazing evangelism midst intense persecution.

Global population is growing rapidly, mainly in African, Middle Eastern and Asian countries but from the very beginning of the Tribulation, wars, famine, pestilence and other calamities will reduce world population drastically. More than half of the world's population will have perished by the mid-point of the 7 years.

The number 144,000 is to be taken literally. God knows exactly how many preachers He will need to reach the world in 42 months. But the Amillennialists have an aversion to believing the Bible literally and one

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of their teachers, Michael Wilcock, quotes an absurd Amillennialist symbolic interpretation of the 144,000 Jews who witness in the Tribulation. He wrote:

*"The 144,000 represent the whole church of Christ. According to Scripture, they would say, 3 is God's number; 4 stands for creation, or the world; $3 \times 4 = 12$, which means the church, through which God is at work in the world; $12^2 = 144$, the whole church; 10 means completeness; $10^3 = 1,000$, three dimensional completeness; so $12^2 \times 10^3 = 144,000$, the whole church in all its completeness" (*I saw Heaven Opened*, Page 60).*

Augustine of Hippo uses similar foolish reasoning to explain away the literal 1,000 year reign of Christ when He returns.

When will "ALL Israel" be Saved?

In fact the Bible tells us exactly **when** the entire nation of Jews will seek the Lord. Moses said

"When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice...He will not forsake thee" (Deut.4:30-31).

Ezekiel indicates Israel will be restored to the Lord when the Russian/ Islamic invasion takes place:

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

Joel chapter 2 describes the time when the Holy Spirit is poured out on Israel. It is in the *"day of the Lord"*, another name for the Great Tribulation, and it is in the first half of the Tribulation when a *"northern army"* sweeps into the land (Joel 2:20). The northern army of Russia and her Islamic confederates from Turkey, Iran, Libya and Sudan (Biblical Ethiopia) will be destroyed by Divine intervention when Israel calls on the Lord. Only one sixth of the invaders will escape to Siberia (Ezek.39:2; Joel 2:20), the land of Magog (Russia) will be burned as well as those that *"dwell carelessly (confidently) in the isles"* (Ezek.39:6).

During the second half of the 7-year Tribulation Antichrist will gather his forces against Israel culminating in the battle of Armageddon (Joel ch.3) which will be at its peak when Christ comes with the armies of heaven to rescue His redeemed people (Zech.14:1-2).

Three Stages in Israel's Restoration - Ezekiel Chapter 37

Ezekiel was given a prophecy in which he saw Israel as dry bones scattered for a very long time in a great valley. We have no doubt the prophecy is speaking of Israel, in fact the entire 12 tribes because God told him:

"Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel" (Ezek.37:11).

The 10 tribes of the northern kingdom are included and that is made abundantly clear in the same chapter when Ezekiel is told to take two sticks and to write on each the name of Joseph for the northern kingdom of Ephraim and the name of Judah on the other stick. God said He would join the two sticks and He said:

*"I will make them **one nation in the land** upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all" (Ezek.37:22).*

The British Israel theory goes up in a puff of smoke for God knows where the 10 tribes are located in central Asia and scattered among the nations and they will all return with the Jews from the southern kingdom of Judah when the Lord returns.

The first stage of Israel's restoration occurred in 1897 in Basle Switzerland at the First Zionist Congress when the leaders of the Jews came together for the first time to plan a national home for the Jews.

Ezekiel was told to prophesy to the dry bones scattered across the valley and when he did there was *"a shaking and the bones came together, bone to his bone"* (Ezek.37:7).

In 1897 the Jews were shaken by antisemitism and came together to plan a return to the land.

The second stage of Israel's restoration occurred in 1948 when Israel became a nation again in the land God gave to Abraham. When Ezekiel prophesied over the skeletons they were covered with sinews and skin but they had no life. This describes Israel today as a vibrant and powerful nation but she is spiritually dead. The Orthodox Jews are bitterly opposed to Jesus Christ and the secular Jews live a Godless materialistic life. Only a remnant from among the Jews have turned to Jesus Christ and become part of the Body of Christ

The final stage of Israel's restoration was seen by Ezekiel when he was told to prophesy to the dead carcasses. As he prophesied, breath came

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into them and they rose up a living army (Ezek.37:10). The spiritually dead nation will receive the Holy Spirit and *“all Israel shall be saved”* when the Russian/Islamic forces invade the land in the first half of the Tribulation (Ezek.39:22-29).

When Israel seeks the Lord their enemies will be vanquished; a global earthquake, great hailstones, pestilence and every man's sword shall be against his brother to destroy the invading Russian/Islamic confederacy on the mountains of Israel (Ezek.38:18-23). Israel never lost one battle while they followed the Lord.

We have been witness to the first two stages of Israel's restoration and there remains only the third and final stage which we know will occur after the Rapture of the Church.

Today in the year 2019, Russia, Iran and Turkey have their armies positioned to invade the land of Israel. In December 2018 President Trump announced the withdrawal of the last 2,000 US troops from Syria on Israel's northern border. The Hezbollah in Lebanon are being armed by Iran. Russian naval and airforce bases are in Syria.

In 2018 it was estimated Hezbollah had 150,000 missiles aimed at Israel. Some estimates put the number of Iranians in Syria at 70,000.

In a short space of time during 2018 in Israel's south, the Hamas terrorists fired more than 400 missiles into Israel.

Israel claims she has the power to strike anywhere in the Middle East and that any attack by Hezbollah would result in the complete demolition of every fortified position in that land. Israel is God's time piece and the prophetic clock indicates the Rapture of the Church is near. The Tribulation will burst upon an



evil world.

The New Covenant

Israel broke the old Sinaitic covenant that God made with Israel when they came out of Egypt and the Palestinian covenant consequently ensured that they were cast out of the land that God gave to Abraham and his seed. But Israel's conversion and restoration has always been in the mind of God. This is why Reformed theology is such an iniquitous thing.

Almighty God has vowed never to abandon Israel and though they be scattered to the four corners of the earth there is the bright hope that in the last days God will bring them back as a repentant and humbled nation.

Jeremiah 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" (Jer.31:35-36).

The sun must cease to shine before God will abandon the nation of Israel yet these unbelieving amillennialists dare to teach Replacement Theology, that the Church has replaced Israel and that God has forsaken the Jews!

God has declared that He will make a **new Covenant** with Israel in the last days.

"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" (Jer.31:31-33).

The Church partakes of the "root and fatness of the olive tree" (Israel) (Rom.11:17) but the New Covenant will be with Israel in the last days!

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And it is with the whole house of Israel; Israel and Judah!

Thus when Paul declares that *“all Israel shall be saved”* (Rom.11:26) he immediately explains that *“this is my covenant unto them (Israel), when I shall take away their (Israel's) sins”* (Rom.11:27).

Ezekiel prophesied that Israel would return to the land in unbelief, not according to the Palestinian covenant that requires repentance first, for God said:

“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.36:22,32).

But **after they return in unbelief** God says:

*“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...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.”* (Ezek.36:24-27).

These are promises by God to Israel and to deny them is gross error and denial of the Word of God. Israel is already back in the land in unbelief and soon she will be invaded from the north and two thirds of the Jews in the land will perish (Zech.13:8-9). But the remnant will seek the Lord with all their heart and God will hear and deliver them. Moses reminded Israel that their conversion would come *“when thou art in tribulation...in the latter days”* (Deut.4:30).

The world awaits the conversion of Israel for through them, all the nations of the world will be blessed. Paul described it as *“life from the dead”* (Rom.11:15).

Two Returns to the Land

The Bible teaches that there will be two returns to the land by the Jews in the last days. We have already drawn attention to the first return in unbelief and noted that the purpose of this return is in order for God to afflict the nation and bring her to repentance. Russia and Islam will be the tools God will use to humble the nation in the first half of the Tribulation.

The first return to the land is not only while Israel is still in unbelief but it is only a **partial** return. When Israel became a nation in 1948 there

were only about 600,000 Jews in the land but in 2018 there were more than 6.5 million Jews in Israel.

Estimates of the number of Jews worldwide vary but in 2018 it is approximately 14.5 million. Nearly 6 million Jews live in the US and the remainder are scattered across approximately 100 countries.

The 144,000 Jewish men who turn to Christ after the Rapture and who preach the Gospel of the Kingdom in *“all the world”* to *“all nations”* in all probability will come from Jewish communities from around the world and will have all the language skills they need to proclaim the Gospel to their fellow Jews and to the Gentiles.

We know that many Jews in America will be converted and will survive the Tribulation because Isaiah prophesied that

“Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them...” (Isa.60:9).

The *“ships of Tarshish”* is a reference to Britain and the USA where the largest percentage of Jews reside outside of Israel. Much Jewish wealth is located in New York and Isaiah's prophecy indicates that it will be transferred to Israel after the Lord returns to reign.

So when scripture states that *“ALL Israel shall be saved”* it must include Jews living **outside** the land. After the Rapture there will be a day when every Jew on the face of the earth will either perish as an unbeliever or will turn to Christ. Two thirds of all Jews **in the land** will perish according to Zechariah ch.13:8-9. What percentage of Jews will perish outside of Israel we are not told.

However when Christ returns to reign every surviving Jew in the world will be brought back to the land. Matthew indicated this when he wrote that

*“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 (nation) from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other”*** (Matt.24:30-31).

*“Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God,...but I have gathered them unto their own land, and **have left none of them any more there”*** (Ezek.39:28).

There will be many surprises when the Lord brings back His redeemed people to the land at the end of the Tribulation. It may well be that

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the estimates of world Jewry are too small. God knows where He has buried the tribes of Israel which he likens to *"a treasure hid in a field"* (Matt.13:44) and the lost tribes will all be found in that day. Isaiah expresses the surprise of Jews in the land when God brings every redeemed Jew back:

*"Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold: **all these gather themselves together, and come to thee....thy desolate places, and the land of thy destruction, shall even now be too narrow by reason of the inhabitants... Then shalt thou say in thine heart, Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? and who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where had they been?"***

Much of the land of Israel is desert today and unable to support a large population but when God brings His believing people back to the land the rains will return and the desert will flourish:

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice... they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God" (Isa.35:1-2).



The first return of the Jews to the land is in unbelief; it is partial and we have been witnessing it take place ever since the Zionist movement began about 1850, but more so since 1948.

The complete return of every Jew to the land in accordance with the Palestinian Covenant (Deut.30:1-3) awaits Israel's conversion to Christ in the Tribulation. In 2018 Russia, Iran and Turkey are positioned on Israel's northern border so the Rapture may be very close. The Church must be removed before Israel is saved and God makes His new Covenant with Israel.

Chapter 3 - God's "70-weeks" Plan for Jews and Jerusalem

Foreknowledge is an attribute of Deity. Only God knows the future and can communicate it to His prophets. Isaiah wrote:

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure" (Isa.46:9-10).

God revealed to Jeremiah that Israel would be captive in Babylon for 70 years and after that the Jews would be restored to the land. Daniel was an old man living in Babylon at this stage and while he was praying and confessing the sins of his people the angel Gabriel came to give him understanding about the future of his people and the future of Jerusalem. Gabriel said:

*"Seventy weeks (sevens) are determined upon **thy people and upon thy holy city**, (1)to finish the transgression, and (2) to make an end of sins, and (3)to make reconciliation for iniquity, and (4)to bring in everlasting righteousness, and (5)to seal up the vision and prophecy, and (6)to anoint the most Holy" (Dan.9:24).*

In just five verses we have recorded the prophecy that outlines the whole of Israel's history **from 445BC to the time when the Jews and Jerusalem will be blessed in the Kingdom of God**. The final goal to which Israel travels through time is described under six headings. Israel will finally experience the mercy of God, her sins will be forgiven, she will cease to transgress God's laws and for evermore will be a righteous nation. All prophecies concerning Jerusalem will reach fulfilment and God will dwell in her midst.

Christendom and the cults have terminated this prophecy at the first advent of Christ and preached Replacement Theology; assuming that the Church is now "spiritual Israel" and that God has finished with the Jews as His chosen nation. To arrive at these conclusions the text of scripture is twisted to accommodate the Amillennial denial and the facts of history are conveniently ignored.

If words mean anything this prophecy of Daniel will reach its conclusion in the eternal blessing of the Jews and Jerusalem.

The Start Date of the Prophecy

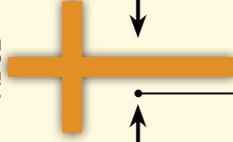
The 70 "Weeks" Prophecy – Daniel 9:24-27

SEVEN EVENTS FORETOLD AFTER THE END OF THE 69TH WEEK

1. Messiah cut off 32AD
2. The city and sanctuary destroyed 70AD
3. A future Roman prince confirms a 7 year treaty
4. Temple built and sacrifices begin
5. Sacrifices cease and idol set up
6. Desolations until the end of week
7. The desolator destroyed

Decree to Rebuild Jerusalem - The month Nisan in the 20th year of Artaxerxes - Neh. 2:1-8 445BC

AD32



"Blindness in part is happened to Israel, UNTIL the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved" Rom. 11:25-26

Temple burned - Israel blinded

The "mystery" Church age

AD70 Eph.3:10; Acts 28:25-28

Israel scattered
Luke 21:20-24

"God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name...AFTER THIS I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David"
Acts 15:14-16.

PALM SUNDAY

"Behold your king..." Zech. 9:9; Luke 19:42-44

SIX BLESSINGS ON JEWS AND JERUSALEM AT THE END OF 70 WEEKS

1. Finish the transgression
2. Make an end of sins
3. Make reconciliation for iniquity
4. Bring in everlasting righteousness
5. Seal up the vision and prophecy
6. Anoint the most holy (place)

4 days

To Messiah the Prince

62 weeks

62 x 7 = 434 yrs

City rebuilt

7 weeks

7 x 7 = 49 yrs

7 + 62 = 69 weeks

69 weeks = 483 prophetic years

360 x 69 = 173,880 days

Temple defiled

1260 days

1260 days

"beginning of sorrows"

1 week = 7 years

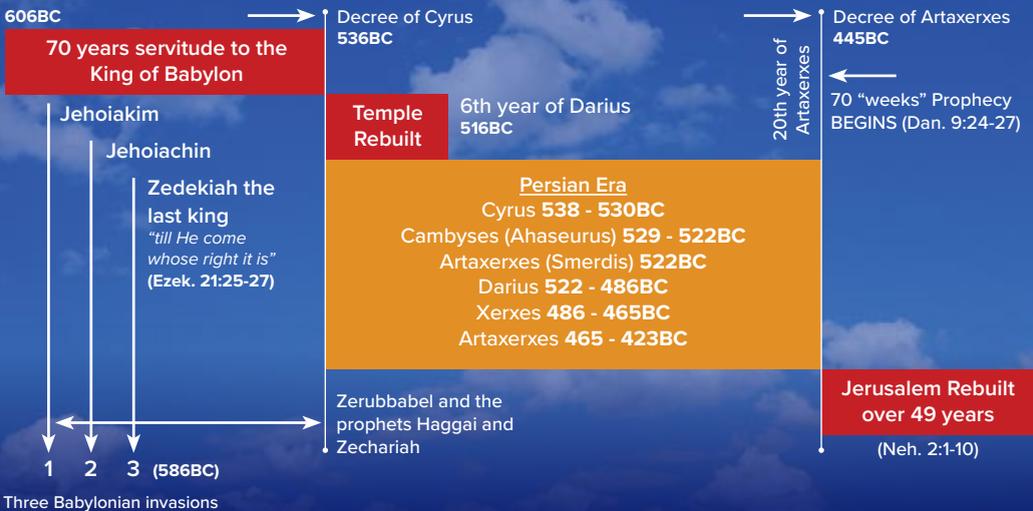
"great tribulation"

God's Plan for Jews and Jerusalem

*"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**" (Dan.9:25).*

Daniel was prophesying about 538BC in the first year of Darius the Mede. In 536BC Cyrus wrote a decree authorizing Zerubbabel to return to Jerusalem and **rebuild the Temple**. When Zerubbabel returned he faced opposition from the Samaritans who obstructed the work and it was not until 20 years later that the Temple was completed under a another decree from Darius the Great in 522BC.

We know that the city of Jerusalem was **not** rebuilt at this time because



70 years later, Nehemiah, the cup-bearer to King Artaxerxes was sad in the presence of the king. When asked why he was sad he replied, *"Why should not my countenance be sad, when **the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire**?" (Neh.2:3).*

We know exactly when this incident occurred because the Bible states it was in the month Nisan, Passover month, in the 20th year of Artaxerxes (445BC). Artaxerxes then gave a decree that Nehemiah could return to **rebuild the city of Jerusalem** and that fixes the start date of the "seventy weeks" prophecy.

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Some cults have placed the start date of the prophecy in the 7th year of Artaxerxes ie. 457BC when Ezra returned to teach the law at the Temple which had already been rebuilt. However when Nehemiah returned **13 years later** his first task was to rebuild the wall of the city for the protection of the workers and he stated:

*"Now the city was large and great: but the people were few therein, and **the houses were not builded**" (Neh.7:4).*

So desolate was the city that Nehemiah had to dismount from the beast he rode upon because *"there was no place for the beast that was under me to pass"* (Neh.2:14).

The decree of Artaxerxes written in the month Nisan 445BC is without any doubt the beginning of the seventy "weeks" determined by God on **Jerusalem and the Jews** in order to bring that nation to blessing in the eternal kingdom of Christ.

There Would be 69 "weeks" to Messiah the Prince

The word translated "weeks" means "sevens" in the Hebrew and the 70 sevens are divided into three parts; Seven sevens (49) **plus** sixty two sevens (434) making 69 sevens (483) plus **one future seven**. Sixty-nine sevens must be fulfilled before Messiah would appear at Jerusalem as her Prince or as the King of the Jews.

In Daniel chapter 10:2-3 Daniel was mourning *"three whole weeks"* which was 21 days and the Hebrew here reads *"three sevens of days"*. The words *"of days"* does not appear in Daniel 9:24 to 27; it simply reads *"seventy sevens"*, and the seven *"sevens"* (49years) required to build the city in troublous times makes it clear that it is sevens of years. It would have taken 49 years for the city to be rebuilt in difficult circumstances.

The second phase of the prophecy; a further 434 years, would bring us to *"Messiah the Prince"* and Sir Robert Anderson has provided the calculations. Prophetic years are 360-day years and 483 prophetic years amount to 173,880 days.

The Jews used the lunar calendar and the month Nisan was the first month on the lunar calendar while the year 445BC is on the Gregorian solar calendar. From the 10th day of Nisan occurring in 445BC to the 10th day of Nisan AD32 is exactly 173,880 days to Palm Sunday when Christ presented Himself to the nation of Israel at Jerusalem **as their king** in fulfilment of Zechariah's prophecy:

"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).

At no time in the Lord's ministry did He offer Himself to Israel as her king until that Sunday, the 10th day of Nisan at the beginning of Passover week. Amazingly, while the leaders of the nation were plotting Jesus' death the people acclaimed Him as King saying,

*"Blessed be **the King** that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest"* (Luke 19:38).



So 69 "sevens" were fulfilled on Palm Sunday and the prophecy indicates that certain other events would follow.

*"And **after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself...**"* (Dan.9:26).

Some seek to place the end of the 69th week at the baptism of Jesus but this is an error of exposition and an error of history. Jesus did not present Himself to the nation as Messiah the Prince but as the Lamb of God at His baptism and the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 clearly indicates that the time when Jesus came riding on the colt of an ass into Jerusalem as **King of the Jews** was on Palm Sunday.

Jesus ministered in Jerusalem on the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of Passion week. On the Wednesday Jesus remained in Bethany and attended the house of Simon the Leper where He was anointed for His burial by a woman who broke an alabaster box of precious ointment. Late on the Wednesday the Lord sent two disciples into Jerusalem to prepare a room so that He could keep the feast of Passover with the disciples.

The day of the Passover, when the Lambs were slain, was the 14th of Nisan and it **began at sundown on Wednesday**. The Last Supper was held on Wednesday evening and the Lord was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane after He retired from the Passover Feast. The Lord was tried before the High Priests, Pilate, Herod and again by Pilate before He was crucified at 9am Thursday morning and died about 3 pm on the Thursday afternoon as the lambs were being sacrificed in the Temple. He was buried before sundown on Thursday and three days and three nights later counting inclusively, He rose before daylight on the first day of the week.

Israel's Covenants and Kingdom

After Messiah was “cut off”, the next event prophesied by Daniel was the destruction of Jerusalem that occurred as the civil war raged from AD66 to AD70 culminating in the capture of Jerusalem in AD70 by Titus the Roman General.

After Jerusalem’s destruction in AD70 “desolations are determined” (Dan.9:26) and the history of Jerusalem has seen a fulfilment of this prophecy. The desolations determined by God on Jerusalem have included the following:

- Jerusalem was torn apart by a civil war that began in AD66 and was finally destroyed by the Romans in AD70.
- In AD135 the Roman Emperor Hadrian conquered the forces of Simon bar Kokhba who claimed to be the Messiah and Hadrian slew 580,000 Jews. Bar Kokhba died when the Jewish fortress at Bethar near Jerusalem was overthrown.
- The Temple mount was ploughed over by the Roman commander Turnus Rufus in fulfilment of Micah’s prophecy (Micah 3:12) and a Roman city Aelia Capitolinus was built on the site for the Roman legions, dedicated to the Roman god Jupiter. Jews were only permitted to enter Capitoline one day each year; on 9th day of the month Av which was the day the Temple was destroyed.
- The history of Jerusalem since is exactly as Daniel prophesied; continual desolations. *Encyclopedia Wikipedia* states:
“Jerusalem has been destroyed twice, besieged 23 times, attacked 52 times, and captured and recaptured 44 times.”

In 2018 Jews are still scattered across the globe and the final 7 years before Jerusalem is blessed will begin when a Roman prince **confirms a covenant** with the nation of Israel for her final “week”.

Daniel’s last “week” of years cannot begin until a covenant is confirmed by a future prince whose people destroyed “the city and the sanctuary” in AD70 (Dan.9:26); not a Muslim but a Roman prince.

A Gap Between the 69th and 70th “Week”

The above sequence of events makes it perfectly clear that there is a Divinely appointed **time gap between the 69th and 70th “week”**. The 70th “week” has not yet begun but when it does, sacrifices will recommence in a rebuilt Temple at Jerusalem and halfway through the final 7 years, the future Roman prince, whose people destroyed the city and sanctuary in AD70, will “cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate” (Dan.9:27).

Amillennials apply this scripture to Christ's sacrifice on the cross but the reason given for causing the sacrifice to cease is "*for the overspreading of abominations*" and Jesus certainly did not put an end to Jewish sacrifices for the "*overspreading of abominations*"!

The Hebrew word translated "*abominations*" relates to idolatry and we know that the Roman prince "*that shall come*" to confirm a covenant for 7 years is the "*man of sin*", the Antichrist, who will set up his image in the Temple and will claim to be God according to 2Thessalonians 2:4. That is the "*overspreading of abominations*" and it is blasphemy to suggest that Jesus died to spread such evil.

The Jews are right now preparing to rebuild the Temple. In 2019 the Temple Institute has all the instruments prepared for Temple worship and on 10th December 2018 the Jewish Sanhedrin invited 70 nations to Jerusalem to witness the dedication of the altar of burnt sacrifice which was erected and dedicated next to the wailing wall outside the Temple Mount.

Amillennialists and cults ignore this obvious gap in time between the 69th and 70th "week" and interpret the 70th week as fulfilled immediately following Christ' death. Preterists claim the kingdom of God was established in AD70; others think it was established at Pentecost. Amillennialists teach we now live in the millennial kingdom and at the same time we are in the Tribulation!

Amillennialists conveniently forget that the entire prophecy is "*determined upon thy (Daniel's) people, and upon thy (Daniel's) holy city*" (Dan.9:24) Jerusalem and has nothing to do with the Church.

The consequence of this confusion is that all the promises to Israel - and the Old Testament is full of them - may no longer be taken literally and must be "spiritualized" and applied to the Church which is supposed to be "spiritual Israel" based on one verse in Galatians where Paul's benediction pronounces peace and mercy "*upon the Israel of God*" referring to those in Israel who are "*of God*" or **believing Jews** as distinct from **believing Gentiles**.

The hypocrisy of Amillennial teaching becomes evident when they spiritualize the **blessings** on Israel and apply them to the Church but apply the **curses on Israel** literally to Jews!

The Apostle Paul made it perfectly clear that there was a gap in Israel's history. The natural branches of the olive tree, have been plucked off and the Gentiles, as a wild olive tree, are grafted into the olive tree. He

Israel's Covenants and Kingdom

indicated that God was able to **graft the natural branches back into the olive tree** (Rom.11:23) and that Israel's "*blindness in part*" would only continue "**UNTIL the fulness of the Gentiles be come in**" (Rom.11:25).

It is obvious that there is a **period of time** when Israel, as the "*natural olive branch*" (Israel) is broken off and the "*wild olive tree*" (Gentiles), is grafted in. This is borne out by the fact that **after** the "*fulness of the Gentiles*" comes in, "*all Israel shall be saved*" (Rom.11:26). Then under a New Covenant, Israel will have her sins forgiven (Rom.11:27).

That gap in Israel's history is known as the Church age. Paul described the Church as the "*mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God*" (Eph.3:9) but "*is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body...*" (Eph.3:5-6). The Church is "*neither Jew nor Greek,*" but "*all one in Christ Jesus*" (Gal.3:28).

The Six Millennial Blessings on Jews and Jerusalem

The 70th "week" will conclude with the blessing of God poured out on Jerusalem and the Jews. All the blessings promised in the Palestinian Covenant, both spiritual and material, will become a reality upon Israel's repentance.

Not only will Israel be blessed but the Gentiles also will experience peace and abundance such as has never been known. The Abrahamic covenant promised that "*in thy seed shall **all the nations** of the earth be blessed*" (Gen.22:18).

Joel described the conversion of Israel when a "*northern army*" (led by Gog the leader of Russia) will invade the land. He wrote about it in chapter 2 of his prophecy and indicated that Gentiles would also be blessed.

*"And it shall come to pass **AFTERWARD**, that I will pour out my spirit upon **all flesh**; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit"* (Joel 2:28-29).

After Israel is repentant, restored and rescued at the coming of the Lord, the Gentiles who are saved in the Tribulation will be blessed in the Millennial kingdom. These are the "*sheep*" nations who stand before the Lord at His coming to reign; to whom the Lord will say,

*"Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world"* (Matt.25:34).

Chapter 4 - Roman Dispersion Foretold by Isaiah

After the Jews returned from Babylon under the leadership of Zerubbabel in 536BC **the Temple** was rebuilt in 516BC. During the reign of Xerxes (486 -465BC), there had been a plan by Haman to wipe out the Jews throughout the Persian Empire. This attempted genocide throughout the 127 provinces of the empire from India to Ethiopia was thwarted by Mordecai and Esther.

Ezra the scribe returned in 457BC and there was a revival but when Nehemiah arrived 13 years later (445BC), spiritual standards were slipping. There was another spiritual revival under Nehemiah's ministry as he set about to rebuilt **the city** of Jerusalem.

The reconstruction of Jerusalem continued for 49 years until the days of Malachi, the last of the Old Testament prophets, who prophesied about 400BC at a time when the Jews had again lapsed into apathy and formal religion.

Between the Old and New Testament there were 400 silent years when there was no prophet. During this time the nation struggled under Gentile governments.

The Jews under Greece

Alexander the Great (333-323BC) showed special favours to the Jews largely because of a dream he had in Macedonia before he began his campaign against the Persians. When he came to Jerusalem, intent on taking vengeance for the failure of the Jews to supply his troops during the siege of Tyre, the High Priest opened the gates of Jerusalem and led the priests out to meet Alexander who immediately recognized the High Priest as the one who had appeared to him in the dream telling him that God would give him the victory over the Persians. Instead of destroying Jerusalem Alexander passed by and gave special privileges to the Jews fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah who wrote:

*"And I will encamp about mine house because of the army, because of **him that passeth by**, and because of him that returneth: and no oppressor shall pass through them any more: for now have I seen with mine eyes" (Zech.9:8).*

After the death of Alexander at Babylon in 323BC the Jews suffered terribly, due partly to their geographic location during the wars between

Israel's Covenants and Kingdom

the Ptolemies in Egypt and the Seleucids in Syria. Antiochus Epiphanes (175-163BC) was particularly vicious. The Book of II Maccabees V:14 records of Antiochus:

"He went into the sanctuary, uttering blasphemous language, took away all the gold and silver vessels...and collected 1,800 talents of gold...He then sacrificed a swine on the altar, boiled a piece of the flesh, and sprinkled the whole Temple with the broth"(*Barnes' Notes page 234*). Finally, he called the Temple by the name Jupiter Olympius.

The Maccabees were priests rose up and finally cleansed the Temple in 165BC. The Jews remember the cleansing of the Temple at the Feast of Dedication about December each year. Jesus attended the Feast of Dedication as indicated in John 10:22.

The sects of the Pharisees and Sadducees began some time after the re-dedication of the Temple in 165BC; the Sadducees accepted only the written law but the Pharisees added the oral law. Both sects established a religion that was mere observance of rituals without a heart relationship with God and this was why they hated the Lord Jesus. Jesus told His disciples,

*"If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but **now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father**"* (John 15:22-23).

Religion is not the way to God. A broken and a contrite heart God will not despise and salvation is by grace through faith in Christ.

The Roman Dispersion and Israel's Blindness

Isaiah prophesied the Roman dispersion of Israel when He saw the Lord as recorded in Isaiah ch.6; he was told to go and tell Israel,

*"Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. Then said I, **Lord, how long?** And he answered, **Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant**"* (Isa.6:9-11).

Jesus said this prophecy was fulfilled when He came and that the land would be desolate for **a long time!** It has lasted 2,000 years.

Jesus quoted this prophecy of Isaiah and said that it **was fulfilled in His day**. He stated:

"In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias" (Matt.13:14; John 12:37).

Paul also recognised the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy when the Jews at Rome rejected the Gospel of Christ. Paul said

*"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 ... 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).

When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem they slew more than a million Jews and sold 95,000 captives on the slave market. God has **temporarily put Israel aside** until the nation will repent of rejecting Jesus Christ as Messiah and Saviour.

The period of Israel's dispersion is **the gap between the 69th and 70th "weeks" in the 70 "weeks" prophecy**. It is also the Church age which was *"kept secret since the world began"* (Rom.16:25). Israel is seen as the *"natural olive branch"* broken off and the Gentiles as the *"wild olive tree"* grafted into their place in the olive tree. Israel's blindness will continue until *"the fulness of the Gentiles be come in"* (Rom.11:25). The Gentile Bride of Christ will soon be Raptured and the 70th "week" determined on the Jews and Jerusalem will immediately begin.

Immediately after the Rapture 144,000 Jewish men will turn to Christ. They will preach *"the Gospel of the Kingdom"* in all the world, *"for a witness unto all nations"* (Matt.24:14). They will be bitterly opposed **by fellow Jews** who *"will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues"* Jesus said, *"Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come"* (Matt.10:17-23).

The 144,000 will suffer martyrdom by the mid-point of the 7 years Tribulation and during **the first half** of the Tribulation the land will be invaded by Gog (the leader of Russia) and his Islamic allies (Ezek.38/39); two thirds of the Jews in the land will perish but the remaining third will seek the Lord and *"so all Israel shall be saved"* (Rom.11:26). When Christ returns every Jew in the world will be returned to the land (Matt.24:31; Ezek.39:28; Isa.49:18-23; 60:9).

Chapter 5 - The Cost of Rejecting Messiah

Jesus told the Jews that Jerusalem would be trodden down and the Temple destroyed because, *"Thou knewest not the time of thy visitation"* (Luke 19:44). He said:

*"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, **how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!** Behold, your house is left unto you desolate"* (Matt. 23:37-38).

The Jews declared, *"We have no king but Caesar!"* (John 19:15) and when Pilate washed his hands of any responsibility, the Jews cried, *"His blood be on us, and on our children"* (Matt. 27:25). It has.

For 2,000 years Jews have suffered as foretold in the Palestinian Covenant:

"Ye shall be left few in number... and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it. And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other... And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life." (Deut. 28:62-66).

Persecution and Dispersion under Pagan Rome

In AD66 the Jews revolted, and Nero ordered Vespasian to put down the rebellion with 60,000 troops. When Emperor Nero committed suicide Vespasian hastened back to Rome to contend for the emperor's crown. His army was increased to 80,000 and left in the capable hands of his son Titus, who led a five-month siege of Jerusalem in fulfilment of the words of the Lord Jesus (Matt. 22:7; 23:38; Luke 19:43-44; Luke 20:16; cp. Dan. 9:26).

In AD70 Jerusalem fell. Within the city three factions fought a civil war and Josephus records that 1,100,000 Jews died while 97,000 were taken captive (*Wars of the Jews*, Book VI, Ch. IX).

Following the destruction of Jerusalem Jews were scattered, and many were taken to Egypt to work in mines (*Wars of the Jews* Book VI, Ch. IX) just as Moses prophesied:

"And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships...and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen" (Deut. 28:68).

The last southern Jewish stronghold to be captured was Masada which the Zealots, a Jewish sect, had taken from the Romans in AD66. Masada

occupied the entire top of an isolated mountain near the Dead Sea. The 18 acre mountain towers 434 metres above the level of the Dead Sea and had palaces built by Herod the Great (d. 1BC).

It took a 15,000 strong Roman Legion led by Flavius Silva nearly two years to overcome a defending force of less than 1,000, including women and children. The Romans built a ramp and breached the defences on 15April, AD73 but found the Zealots had taken their own lives. Only two women and five children survived to tell the tale.

Masada is a symbol of Jewish national heroism and a popular tourist attraction. However others see the story of Masada as a foreshadowing of a future occasion described in the Book of the Revelation when Israel will *“fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent...And the dragon (Satan) was wroth with the woman (Israel), and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”* (Rev.12:13-17).

Pagan Rome continued to suppress the Jews from AD70 to AD313. For a brief time there was an uprising led by the self-styled Messiah, Bar Kokhba (AD122-135) but the rebellion was ruthlessly overthrown by Emperor Hadrian in AD135, and Jerusalem was ploughed over (Micah 3:12). More than half a million Jews were slaughtered and immense numbers sold into slavery.

Persecution by the Byzantine Christian Church

When Constantine became emperor of Rome and head of the Church (after AD324), Christendom took up where pagan Rome left off and persecution of Jews continued. The Byzantine Empire had no sympathy for Jews and forbade them to go to Jerusalem. Jews lost most of their civil rights, and if one married a non-Jew the death penalty was applied. The Sanhedrin was forbidden to meet.

Jews Inferior under Islam

When the Muslims captured Jerusalem in AD 638 they allowed the Jews to have access to the Temple Mount. At first Jews were not forced to convert to Islam but were subject to a code of law which gave them inferior status. A Jew could not stand higher than a Muslim and had to step down into the gutter when passing in the street; Synagogues could not be higher than a mosque and a Jew could not testify in court

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against a Muslim.

Jewish skills in tanning, metalwork, medicine, and jewellery, were often highly regarded by the Muslims, and a Jew could act as “middle-man” when Muslim and Christian had dealings. The greatest persecution of Jews came from Christendom at this time.

Spain came under Muslim control from AD 711 and in the 12th century Jews were given three choices:

a) convert to Islam, b) leave the country , or c) die.

When the Muslims were driven out of Spain in 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella ordered all Jews out of the country and confiscated their considerable wealth. In 1492 Columbus sailed to America as Jews were fleeing from Spain. The expulsion of Jews began on 2 August 1492 (**9th of Av** on the Jewish calendar), the same day that the first and second Temples were destroyed.

The Spanish Inquisition began with a Papal Bull on 1 November 1478 aimed at “insincere” Jews who claimed to convert to Christianity but still practiced Judaism. It was later extended to all “heretics”, which included Christians who refused to bow to papal power. Approximately 200,000 Jews fled at this time, leaving great wealth for the Spanish royal family and Catholic Church. Portugal later gave the same ultimatum to her Jews.

Ghettos in Europe

From the 11th century to the 16th century Jews were segregated from society and made to live in ghettos. The word ghetto means “foundry or iron works”, and was usually a dirty place separated by hedges or moats. The only way out of living in a ghetto was by conversion to Christianity.

Expulsions of Jews

The following countries expelled all Jews:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) England 1290 | 5) Austria 1421 |
| 2) France 1306 and 1394 | 6) Lithuania 1445 and 1495 |
| 3) Hungary 1349 and 1360 | 7) Spain 1492 |
| 4) Germany 1348 and 1498 | 8) Portugal 1497. |

Blood Libel

In 1144 in Norwich, England, Jews were accused of kidnapping a baby and draining its blood so that Jewish men could drink it. The rumour spread throughout the Continent and Jews were persecuted. An entire

Jewish community at Berlitz, near Berlin, were burned alive on this charge. At Damascus in 1840 Jews were accused of murdering a priest and his assistant to obtain blood to make matza (unleavened bread) for Pesach (Passover). In 1991, according to a report in *Jerusalem Post* 11 October 2002, one of the Israeli negotiators at the Madrid Peace Conference displayed a book authored by the Syrian minister of defence called, *The Matza of Zion*,

“The cover showed a picture of two ugly gloating Jews in the process of cutting the throat of a man, his blood dripping into a pot, to be used for the baking of matza for Pesach”.

The blood libel lie persists.

The Black Death Blamed on Jews

The bubonic plague that struck Europe in 1348-1349 is estimated to have killed 25 to 40 million: half the population of Europe. Jews were blamed when in fact it was caused by flea-infested rats brought by ship from the Far East. Ships carried the infection from port to port and lack of hygiene assisted the plague to spread. Rumours were circulated that Jews were releasing something into the air or that they poisoned wells, and thousands of Jews were killed.

Protection and Persecution in Poland and Ukraine

While Jews were being persecuted in western Europe, Poland opened its doors to large numbers of them. About the year 1000 Poland had been Christianized and needed administrators so in 1264 King Boleslav invited Jews to live in his country and gave protection and equality at law.

By 1650 Poland had 30% of total world Jewry, then estimated at about 1,550,000. Jews were permitted to run Yeshivas (colleges) for the study of the Torah (the Law), and had their own governing-body composed of Rabbis.

In 1569 Ukraine, Lithuania, and Belorussia became vassal states of Poland and Jewish expertise was required to administer these countries.

Poland was Roman Catholic and Ukraine was Orthodox (following the Great Schism of 1054). When the Orthodox Christian Ukrainians threw out the Catholic Poles, their leader Chmielnicki, a Cossack, carried out a holocaust on the Jews, and **in 1635, 100,000 Jews died and 300 of their communities were destroyed in the most gruesome fashion.**

The Reformation Brings No Relief

The Reformation began in 1517 when Luther nailed his ninety-five theses to the church door at Wittenburg. Luther knew the shameful way the Catholic Church had treated the Jews and thought that Jews would turn to the Lord but Luther saw the Church as the continuance of the nation of Israel in a "spiritual" sense. The Jews saw themselves as the literal seed of Abraham, and found no reason to become a part of any "spiritual" Israel. Luther then adopted the same anti-Semitic bitterness of the Catholic Church.

In his book, "*Concerning the Jews and their Lies*", Luther gives his "honest advice", which is frightening to read; burn synagogues, destroy Jewish books, seize Jewish property, etc. Hitler used Luther's writings in his anti-Jewish propaganda.

Napoleon's Sympathy for Jews

Wherever Napoleon (1769-1821) conquered, he released the Jews from ghettos and allowed them to rise to the top. When he passed by a synagogue and heard the sound of people weeping he turned to his assistant and asked, "What's going on in there?" "Today is *Tisha B'Av*", was the reply, "and the Jews are mourning the loss of their Temple."

Napoleon said, "If the Jews are still crying after so many hundreds of years, then I am certain the Temple will one day be rebuilt!"

When Napoleon marched on Palestine in 1799 he encouraged the Jews to rally under his flag and offered the city of Jerusalem to them as their capital. He made the following proclamation:

"Ye exiled, arise! Hasten! Now is the moment which may not return for thousands of years, to claim the restoration of civil rights among the population of the universe."

The Jewish Reform Movement

The "Dark Ages" passed, and the Renaissance (enlightenment) appeared between 1350 and 1650. The power of the Church was questioned however, much of what was called "faith" at this time, was superstition and ignorance. When the Bible became available in the native tongue of the people, the ignorance of the Church became apparent to ordinary people.

Higher Criticism however renounced the belief in an inspired Bible and

fanciful explanations were tendered as to the authorship and origins of the Scriptures. This rational and humanistic approach to religion rubbed off on the Jewish community, and there were Jews in Germany who introduced German songs, and a nationalistic spirit. Some questioned whether it was necessary to circumcise their sons and even changed from Sabbath worship to Sunday worship. The Reform Movement did not attract much support in eastern Europe, but in Germany conferences were held in Brunswick (1844) and Frankfurt (1845). Some Reformed Jews migrated to America in the 1830s. Their aim was to “not appear too Jewish”, and thus integrate.

Russian Jewry under the Czars

At this time the Russian Empire stretched across Poland and the Ukraine. In eastern Europe during the 18th and 19th centuries (1791-1915); from the time of Catherine the Great of Russia, Jews were confined to regions known as the “Pale of Settlement”, or “Borders of Settlement”. Jews were expelled from Moscow and St Petersburg into the Pale Settlements, and later were even expelled from rural areas inside the Pale areas. They were forced to live in “shtetls” (towns). Unemployment was high; between 14% and 22%.

Inside the Jewish settlements charitable organizations flourished, and many non-Jews wanted to convert to Judaism to benefit from Jewish charitable organizations so conversions were restricted. During the reign of Czar Nicholas I (1825-1855) all Jewish boys between the ages of 12 and 18 were conscripted into the army for a term of 25 years. Every effort was made to convert them to Christianity while in military service. Some parents removed their son’s index finger so that he could not pull a trigger.

Pogroms were common in Czarist Russia. **A pogrom was an uprising to massacre Jews**, and could be spontaneous or organized by the Government or Church.

Czar Alexander III (1881-1894) organized many pogroms and Czar Nicholas II organized a major pogrom in 1903 and 284 more over the next four years. So intense was the persecution that 2,500,000 emigrated between 1881 and 1914; about 50,000 each year. The US absorbed most of these, however, the population of Jews in Russia remained static at 5,000,000 due to a high birth rate.

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion

The document known as *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* claims to be the minutes of meetings of Jewish leaders who are supposed to confer each one hundred years to plan world conquest. The document is, in fact, a forgery produced by the Russian secret police prior to the Communist Revolution of 1917. It originated in France, purporting to be a French plan to take over the French financial system. The document had French names changed, and the scope expanded to global proportions. The purpose was to blame all of Russia's economic woes on the Jews prior to the Bolshevik Revolution. The *Protocols* is still circulated by anti-Semitic organizations.

In America, Henry Ford was deceived by the document and gave it wide international circulation. His factory in Dearborn, Michigan, displayed a sign with the words, "JEWS ARE TRAITORS TO AMERICA".

World War I and the Russian Revolution

The 1914-18 war and the 1917 Russian Revolution had an impact on Jewry. In most cases Jews fought on behalf of their host country, and 1.5 million took up arms. The number of deaths reached 140,000.

In Russia secular Jews opposed religion, including Judaism, and huge numbers of Jews perished. Karl Marx, the founder of Communism, a Jew, converted to Christianity and then abandoned religion entirely. Leon Trotsky (Lev Davidovich Bronstein), who engineered the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, was a secular Jew. The Communist Government maintained a course of forced secularization.

Stalin initiated a series of purges that saw 25 million people die and planned the deportation of up to **three million Jews to Siberia**, where they would most certainly have died. Stalin died mysteriously before he could execute the plan.

Chapter 6 - The Zionist Movement

The prophecy of Ezekiel chapter 36 clearly states that in the last days the Jews will return to the land **in unbelief**; it will not be because they have turned to the Lord but in order that they will turn to the Lord. God said:

*“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...***

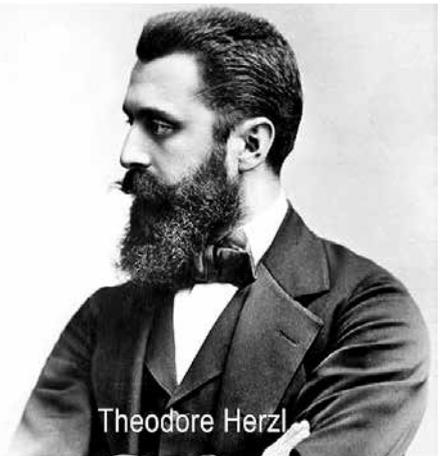
*And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the **cities shall be inhabited**, and the wastes shall be builded...*

*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...*

*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...Thus saith the Lord GOD; **I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them**; I will increase them with men like a flock” (Ezek.36:8-37).*

This return in unbelief began with the Zionist Movement in 1881 when Jews began to seek a national home in Palestine as a refuge from centuries of persecution.

Theodore Herzl (1869-1904), a Hungarian Jew, was trained as a lawyer. After attending the trial in 1893-1894 of Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish artillery captain in the French army, who was court-martialled falsely for supposedly giving secrets to the Germans. Herzl realized that Jews would never be justly treated and resolved to work for the establishment of a state which Jews could call their own. He played a leading role in the Zionist movement which encourages Jews of the Diaspora to return to the land that God gave to Abraham. He organized the First Zionist Congress in Basle, Switzerland, in 1897. The Congress declared its goal to establish a national home for the Jews in Palestine.



Theodore Herzl

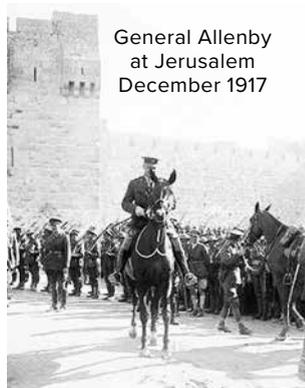
Five Aliyahs - 1882-1932

In line with the goals of the newly formed Zionist movement, there were five waves of Jewish migration (Aliyahs) before the founding of the State of Israel. They were:

- 1) First Aliyah -1882-1903 - 25,000 Jews migrated.
- 2) Second Aliyah - 1903-14 - 30,000 migrated.
- 3) Third Aliyah - 1919-23 - 37,000 migrated.
- 4) Fourth Aliyah - 1924-29 - 8,000 migrated.
- 5) Fifth Aliyah - 1930-39 - in excess of 200,000 migrated largely due to growing persecution by the Nazi regime in Germany.

Britain and the Balfour Declaration

Palestine was so named by the Romans after the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70 because they considered it to be the land of the Philistines however Philistine country was called Palestina by Isaiah (Isa.14:29,31). It has nothing to do with the Palestinians as we know them today. Palestine was occupied by Jews and Arabs within the Ottoman Turk Empire until 1917, and Palestinians are no different from the Arabs of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Egypt. These were the descendants of Abraham through Hagar and Keturah. The Arabs spread through the aforementioned countries during the Muslim conquests which followed the death of Muhammed in AD632.



General Allenby
at Jerusalem
December 1917

World War I changed the political landscape of the world. Russia became a Socialist Republic; Poland became a nation again; Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire disintegrated, and the Middle East was freed from the Ottoman Turks. The Middle East was given to Britain and France to rule under Mandates from the League of Nations.

Vladimir Jabotinsky was a Russian Jewish journalist during WWI who sought to mobilize Jewish support against Germany. When the Ottoman Empire entered the war on the side of the Central Powers (Germany) he saw the possibility of the Turks being driven out of Palestine and of a homeland for Jews being established under a British Mandate.

Many Orthodox Jews in Russia opposed Jabotinsky for fear of reprisals

from the Tsarist regime and from the Turks in Palestine. Jabotinsky moved to London where he received a similar reception from London Jewry but he was able to convince a number of influential Jews, such as Aarosoohn who was in touch with members of the British War Cabinet and whose family were early settlers in the land. Through connections with the Jewish spy network, he was able to provide Britain with information on Turkish military movements in Palestine and thus assist General Allenby's drive against the Ottoman Empire from Egypt. The spy network was known as NILI, so named from the initials of its Hebrew password, "Nezach Yisrael Lo Y'shaker" meaning, "The Eternal One of Israel Will Not Lie"(See *A History of Israel* by Sachar page 104).

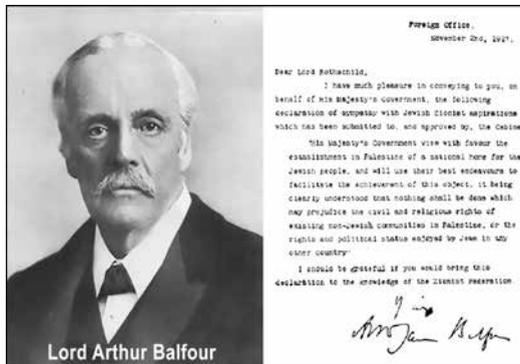
Among the Jews, Zionists were promoting the return to the land, based on promises made during WWI and when Britain signed the *Balfour Declaration* on 2 November 1917. This stated:

"His Majesty's government looks with favour upon the establishment in Palestine of a national homeland for the Jewish people."

Earl Arthur Balfour was the British Foreign Secretary during WWI when the British Admiralty was experiencing a shortage of acetone, which was an ingredient in the explosive, cordite. A Jewish chemist, Chaim Weizmann, devised a special fermentation process which enabled Britain to manufacture explosives and thus win the war.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann was a Russian-born Jew who had received his university education in Germany and Switzerland and was fluent in Russian, Hebrew and English. He is described in Howard Sachar's book *History of Israel*, as

"a brilliant talker with an unrivalled gift for lucid exposition...a speaker almost frighteningly convincing".



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Weizmann had become acquainted with a number of the members of the British War Cabinet and had been asked to find a solution to the shortage of acetone which was hindering the war effort.

Originally the entire British Mandate on both sides of the Jordan River was to be set aside as a national homeland for the Jews, but Britain's relationship with the Arabs was at risk, so she formed the nation of Iraq in 1921 and established an Arab monarchy under King Faisal ibn Hussein. In 1927 his brother Abdullah ibn Hussein was made king of Transjordan, between Iraq and the Jordan River. Their father, Hussein Sherif, was the keeper of the city of Mecca.

Ibn Saud was given much of the Arabian Peninsula and his kingdom became known as Saudi Arabia. Britain favoured the Arabs in order to secure oil supplies.

As persecution became more intense prior to WWII Jews began to return to the land in larger numbers and Britain fixed a limit of 12,000 per year, but 115,000 were able to avoid the road and sea blockades set up by the British and arrive as illegal immigrants. By 1945 there were 565,000 Jews settled in the land.

With the return of Jews to Palestine industries were established and the standard of living rose substantially. This attracted many non-Jews, and Arab immigrants flooded into Palestine. Usually they were poor, and settled in the cities.

Arab Rebellion against British

The year 1929 was important, for it saw a rebellion by the Arabs in Palestine against the British. Arabs attacked Jewish settlements and the Jews were forced to establish a defence force for their protection. The British broke promise after promise to the Jews and it became evident that they were siding with the Arabs. The Jewish Agency, headed up by David Ben Gurion, was the official Jewish organization recognized by the British. It established an underground resistance movement called Haganah. There were other organizations including the "Stern Gang" of which Yitzchak Shamir was a leader, and the Irgun movement which was led by Menachem Begin, who later became Prime Minister of Israel.

During this 1929 revolt Jews were slaughtered and in Hebron; 133 died with their throats cut. The British used great force to put down the rebellion and shelled Arab villages resulting in 3,000 deaths. The main

instigators of the riots were the Muslim clerics. The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin Husseini, fled the country and arrived in Europe where he became an ally of Hitler and organized a Bosnian S.S. unit to kill Jews in the Balkans.

The British failed to assist millions of Jews to escape from Hitler's Holocaust while the Jews organized several thousand factories to supply the Allied forces. The Jews wanted to form a Jewish battalion to fight alongside British troops, but the British feared it would inflame the Arabs. A Jewish force was organized toward the end of the war and fought in the campaign in Italy. Churchill was a firm supporter of the Jews, but was overruled.

After the war Britain incarcerated poor Jewish refugees in prison camps in Cyprus or returned them to displaced persons (DP) camps in Germany as in the case of the ship *S.S.Exodus*.

The *Exodus* arrived in the eastern Mediterranean in 1947 with 4,500 Jews on board. The Royal Navy intercepted it and escorted it into Haifa harbour where these survivors of the Holocaust were forcibly transferred to another ship and sent back to Germany. The brutality of British troops made even U.N. observers sick.

If it had not been for British intransigence millions of Jews would have been saved from Hitler's gas chambers. The Mufti of Jerusalem was aligned with Hitler and had been promised that he would be the spokesman for the Arab peoples if, and when, Hitler conquered the Middle East. Britain, however, weighed up the odds of winning the war with or without Arab oil, and chose to side with the Arabs. After WWII Britain was economically destitute and needed continued support from oil-producing nations; the Jews were the losers. **If it had not been for American support the whole of Israel's future might have been quite different.**

Britain had 100,000 troops in Palestine and wanted to get out, so she handed the problem to the UN who partitioned the land on 29 November 1947. The Arabs refused to accept partitioning and rioted. This gave the signal for Arab nations to mobilize their armies against the Jews.

American Support for the Jews

The American nation is unique in its beginnings. The first settlers were Bible-believing Christians who fled England and the Continent due

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to religious persecution. The first Thanksgiving Day was held in 1621, one year after the *Mayflower* landed. During the Puritan revolution in England (1642-1648) they had tried without success to replace common law with Biblical laws. When the New Haven legislators produced the first legal code it had 79 statutes, and half of these were supported by a verse of Scripture. Bible study and the Hebrew language were compulsory subjects in early educational institutions.

The first Jewish refugees to America arrived in 1654. They came from Brazil where the Catholic Church was persecuting Jews.

The number of Jews increased slowly. At the time of the American War of Independence (1776) there were about 2,000 Jews in America and by 1820 there were 6,000; by 1850 there were 17,000, and in 1880 the number had grown to 270,000 due to a large influx of Reformed Jews from western Europe.

The great migration of eastern European Jews from the Russian Empire began about 1882. At that time eastern European Jews made up 40% of world Jewry and had reached about 12,500,000 by the end of the 19th century. Between 1881 and 1914, 2,500,000 Russian Jews emigrated from eastern Europe. **Most settled in America.**

At the beginning of WWII it was estimated that there were 18,000,000 Jews in the world, but in 2001 the estimate was only 13.7 million; 42% were located in the US and 37% in the land of Israel. **Jews have found a safe haven in the US** and have considerable



influence in the political and business world. America was the first nation to recognize the State of Israel in 1948, and has supported the nation with massive amounts of aid ever since. At the United Nations Assembly, America has again and again used its veto in the Security Council when legislation condemning Israel was proposed.

The reason for the strong support for Israel may be traced to America's Biblical roots. Non-conformist evangelical Christians make up between 20% and 25% of all Americans. Many of these believe in a future for the nation of Israel in God's prophetic plan. They believe the re-establishment of the nation of Israel is in fulfilment of clear Biblical prophecies, and to oppose Israel would therefore be contrary to the Word of God.

Chapter 7 - The Holocaust

Hitler was a brilliant public speaker but had a pathological hatred for Jews. Soon after being democratically elected to office in 1932, he turned Germany into a totalitarian state. He built Dachau prison camp for his political opponents but later used it for Jews.

In 1935 Hitler passed the Nuremberg Laws, which stated that Jews could not be citizens of the Reich; could not vote; could not marry someone with German blood; could not hold public office.



Violence erupted on 9 November 1938 which is known as *Kristallnacht*, (the “night of broken glass”), when 171 synagogues were destroyed and 91 Jews killed. Then, to rub salt into the wounds, Hitler arrested 30,000 wealthy Jews and fined them a billion marks (US\$400 million) for the damage caused by the Germans.

When Jews tried to escape, other countries did not want to accept them. America took 200,000 out of a total of 800,000 who escaped from Germany at this time.

World War II commenced on 1 September 1939 with the invasion of Poland. Hitler broke his non-aggression pact and invaded Russia, where large numbers of Jews were located. On 22 June 1940 France surrendered and French Jews were exposed. Special units were formed called *Einsatzgruppen*, which began executing Jews; 1.5 million perished.

Hitler wanted a more efficient way to kill Jews so he decided on the “Final Solution” at a conference in Wannsee, near Berlin, on 20 January 1942. Jews were to be deported to the east for the final solution - death in the gas chambers. Of the 24 death camps that were set up, the following death counts from six camps demonstrate the enormity of his crimes:

- Auschwitz - 2 million (12,000/day),
- Sobibor - 250,000
- Chelmno - 360,000
- Maidenek - 200,000
- Treblinka - 840,000
- Belzec - 600,000

Many did not reach the death camps but died in the cattle trains where they were herded without food, toilet facilities, or adequate clothing. In the middle of winter, trains were shunted into sidings and left.

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Medical experiments were carried out without anaesthetics, and before entering the gas chambers people were stripped of clothing. If they were strong enough they were sent to slave labour camps, pushed to the limit of their endurance until they became too weak, and then killed. If Jews escaped, reprisals could be expected in revenge. On one occasion in Ukraine on 14 March 1942, 900 Jews were herded into a building and burned alive.

Hitler's hatred against Jews is evidenced by the fact that he even diverted trains that could have been used to transport troops to the Russian front in order to take as many Jews as possible to the death camps. Some of his final words urged the leaders of the nation to "oppose mercilessly" international Jewry. A conservative estimate puts the number of Jews that perished in the Holocaust at 5,950,000.

Escaping the Holocaust

In 1941, WWII had already been in progress for two years. Jews all over Europe were trapped and relentlessly hunted by Nazi murderers. The German troops had scored whirlwind victories throughout Europe and marched eastward toward Russia, forcing the Jews to leave Poland, Austria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. These fled down the Danube on riverboats and barges to the Romanian port city of Constanta. Their destination was Palestine, via the only route open, the Black Sea and Turkey.

During the war the "Arab factor" was a sensitive issue for both the Allied and the Axis blocs. Hitler coveted the rich oilfields in the Middle East and aggressively sought an Arab alliance. He made a pledge to the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem (the highest religious figure of the Palestinian Arabs) that no Jews would be allowed to escape to Palestine. Hitler's anti-Semitism won him enormous sympathy in the Arab world.

At that time Palestine was a British mandate administered by a governor. Under the circumstances, the British policy was not to offend the Arabs. They were afraid that even a perception of leaning towards the Jews could provoke a widespread Arab revolt. Furthermore, admitting any Jewish refugees to Palestine would have triggered a rush of Jewish migration to Palestine from all over Europe and the Balkans, which would lead to a settlement and relief problem. For these reasons the British blockaded Palestine to prevent any clandestine entry by the Jews. Their excuse was that German spies, under the guise of Jewish refugees, might infiltrate.

Turkey, as a neutral country in a global war, was already flooded with refugees escaping the German invasion in central Europe, and the pressure from the British, Germans, and Arabs not to admit any Jewish refugees to Turkey was enormous.

Before World War II Romania's Jewish population was about 900,000; half a million perished during the war, but persecution of Jews in Romania had begun long before it commenced. Under the oppression of the Romanian Iron Guards (the equivalent of the German SS) Jews had begun fleeing the country from the port of Constanta to Palestine in 1938. By 1939 Constanta had become a huge refugee camp, and this inaugurated an era of the so-called "coffin ships", as all the vessels chartered for this purpose were unseaworthy, devoid of amenities, and crammed with five to ten times their normal capacity. The Romanian authorities cashed in on this situation as passengers had to ransom their way out of the country illegally.

Early in December 1940 a ship called *S.S. Salvador*, capable of carrying 30-40 passengers but with 327 refugees on board, miraculously reached Istanbul; however, after it left port a severe storm raged across the Marmara Sea and the dilapidated ship sank on 15 December 1940. Only 123 survived, picked up by another refugee ship, the *S.S. Darien II*, bound for Palestine with 723 passengers on board. The *S.S. Darien II* almost reached its destination, but the British captured the ship near the coast of Palestine on 19 March 1941 and interned all on board.

The Turks anticipated more refugee ships would be arriving in Istanbul harbour, and in an effort to solve this problem approached the United States government with a plan for an orderly transportation of 300,000 Romanian Jews through Turkey to Palestine, with the cooperation of the British. The Turkish proposal was rejected on the grounds that there were not sufficient ships available, and it was contrary to the British White Paper published in 1939 allowing only 75,000 Jewish immigrants into Palestine within the next five years. About that time a shipping agency began advertising a voyage to Palestine on a luxury liner. The posters and brochures even featured a picture of the *Queen Mary*.

The Germans had requisitioned all ships, but had rejected a ramshackle riverboat called *SS Macedonia* which had been abandoned in a dock. It was 74 years old and measured only 50 feet long and 20 feet wide.

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After minimal repairs the boat was registered under the Panamanian flag as the *S.S.Struma*. Soon 769 Jews responded, and were told that as the advertised luxury ship carried an American flag she had to remain outside the territorial waters of Romania; the *S.S.Struma* would transport them to the liner.

On 12 December 1941 the *S.S. Struma* sailed from Constanta, but when it reached the open sea the passengers faced the harsh reality; there was no luxury liner waiting for them. They arrived in Istanbul on 15 December 1941, with a malfunctioning engine and leaky hull.

The captain of the ship requested a permit to stay in the harbour until repairs were completed, and Turkish authorities gave them permission to stay beyond the provisions of the transit regulations. They even allowed passengers to disembark while the ship was being repaired. When it became known that none of the passengers had entry visas to Palestine, the Turkish Foreign Office requested an assurance from the British ambassador in Ankara that all the passengers would be issued with visas; the British refused.

The *S.S. Struma* stayed in Istanbul harbour for 71 days, during which time the 769 refugees were supported by local organizations while the Turkish Government conducted intense negotiations with the British, reminding them that the yearly quota for 1942 of 10,000 migrants was still unfilled. The British dismissed this initiative asserting that the quota was not applicable to persons travelling under immigrant status prior to the announcement of this quota. An attempt to obtain visas for the 70 children on board, so as to enable them to travel to Palestine via the land route, also failed.

Finally the Turkish Government became convinced that nothing could overcome the British intransigence and on 23 February 1942 the captain of *S.S. Struma* was ordered to leave the harbour and a tugboat towed the ship to sea. The following day, 24 February, at 9:00 AM, the tragic news came through: an explosion had torn the ship apart while she was about four to five miles from Cape Igne Ada and, with the exception of a 21-year-old Romanian Jew, David Stoliar, all had perished.

There was speculation about the cause of the explosion. It may have been caused by a torpedo from a submarine.

At this stage the Romanian authorities figured that instead of



exterminating Jews they could let them buy their freedom. This option had been exercised in the case of *S.S.Struma* and had proved very lucrative. In any case, the possibility of them arriving in Palestine was quite remote.

The World Jewish Congress appealed to the U.S. State Department to allow money to be transferred through Switzerland to ransom Jews out of Europe, especially from Romania. The State Department agreed, on condition that those freed would be admitted to Palestine by the British. Jews in the U.S. launched a fund-raising campaign to buy freedom for their brethren.



An American Jewish organization ran the following full-page advertisement in the *New York Times* on 16 February 1943:

“For sale to humanity, 70,000 Jews!
Guaranteed human beings at \$50 a piece.”

Again the British refused to cooperate, and the venture fell through. The loss of the *S.S.Struma* caused outrage and entry to Palestine was thereafter considerably relaxed; the land route via Syria, which was under Allied occupation at that time, was opened. Refugees needed only to travel by sea between Romania and Istanbul, and this allowed smaller ships to be used. In the British Parliament there were heated debates, and the High Commissioner for Palestine was transferred to Malaysia for deliberately delaying admittance of the 70 children from the *S.S.Struma* to Palestine.

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Records in the U.S. Presidential Archives in Hyde Park, N.Y., reveal an initiative by President Roosevelt in early 1944 to rescue 50,000 Jews from Nazi-occupied southern Europe. The plan was to transport them in Turkish boats to Istanbul, and then on to Palestine via the land route. President Roosevelt sent Mr. Ira Hirschmann to Turkey with \$5 million in gold sovereigns to make a deal with the Romanian ambassador to Turkey. If the Romanian Ambassador to Turkey helped to get the Jews out of Romania on Turkish boats, he and his family would be granted visas to the United States. The deal worked, and eight ships carried 2,936 Jewish refugees from Romania to Istanbul. The Turks then provided transit visas and trains to transport the Jewish refugees to Syria.

Some boats were shipwrecked or ran aground near the Turkish coast, but all passengers were rescued by the Turkish coast-guards without loss of life. They were cared for and sent to Palestine.

This operation ran successfully until August 1944, at which time a Turkish ship, *S.S.Mefkure*, was chartered to carry 350 Jews from Romania to Istanbul. The ship flew a Turkish flag and also a Red-Cross banner. Unfortunately the *S.S.Mefkure* was torpedoed in the Black Sea by an unidentified warship, and all the survivors were machine-gunned as they struggled in the water. Only five passengers survived the carnage. This incident closed the only escape route for the Jews from Europe, leaving behind thousands more, abandoned to their grim fate.

God is preserving a remnant, as Isaiah wrote: *“Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a **very small remnant**, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah”* (Isa.1:9). Joel wrote of the last days: *“In mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in **the remnant** whom the LORD shall call”* (Joel 2:32).

The Jewish National Fund

The Fifth Zionist Congress established the Jewish National Fund (JNF) on 28 December 1901 in Basle, Switzerland. JNF was given the task of fund-raising in Jewish communities for the purpose of purchasing land in Eretz Yisrael (the land of Israel). In AD2001 it was the **largest owner of land in Israel (12.5% of all land)**, second only to the State. Since its inception, the JNF says it has planted over 240 million trees in Israel, built 180 dams and reservoirs, developed 250,000 acres (1,000 km²) of land and established more than 1,000 parks. A bank clerk named Haim Kleinman placed a Blue Box marked “Keren Le’umit” (National Fund)

in his office upon the establishment of the JNF, and suggested that every Jewish home follow his example.

The first Blue Boxes were produced in 1904. One of these was placed by Theodor Herzl in his study, and can still be seen in “Herzl’s Room” in Jerusalem. For dozens of years the “Blue Box”, so called because of its blue and white colours, could be found in almost every Jewish home and institution in the Diaspora (Dispersed Jews). The very act of collecting funds in a special box aroused in Jews everywhere a longing for the land of Israel

Isaiah prophesied that the waste places of the land of Israel would be planted with trees in the last days. God said:

“I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: That they may see, and know,... and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this” (Isa.41:19-20).

Tree-planting is part of God’s program of reforestation for the land of Israel, and undoubtedly will have its ultimate fulfilment after Christ returns to a repentant nation. The amazing progress is but a foretaste of much greater things to come. Ezekiel prophesied:

*“In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded. And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, **This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden**” (Ezek.36:33-35).*



Chapter 8 - The Struggle for Independence

In 1948 the British moved out of Palestine, but before doing so they disarmed Jewish police officers and handed control to the Arab Legion. The Jews proclaimed themselves a nation on 14 May and within hours of David Ben Gurion's announcement President Truman recognized the state. Soon Russia followed and the Israeli flag was raised among the nations of the world.

The Declaration of Independence was read by David Ben Gurion over the radio as follows:

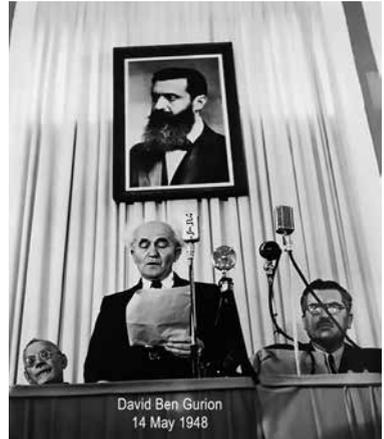
"The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here the spiritual, religious and national identity was formed. Here they achieved independence and created a culture of national and universal significance. Here they wrote and gave the Bible to the world...Exiled from Palestine, the Jewish people remained faithful to it in all the countries of the dispersion, never ceasing to pray and hope for their return and restoration of their national freedom.

Accordingly we, the members of the National Council, met together in solemn assembly today, and by virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish people and with the support of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, hereby proclaim the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine to be called Israel.

We offer peace and amity to all neighbouring states and their peoples and invite them to cooperate with the independent Jewish nation for the common good of all...

With trust in the Rock of Israel, we set our hands to this declaration at this session of the Provisional State Council in the city of Tel Aviv on Sabbath Eve, 5th Lyar 5708, 14th day of May 1948."

The land allocated to Jews under the Balfour Declaration had been whittled down to a sliver of country along a coastal strip, another portion in the north around the Sea of Galilee, and the Negev Desert. The Arabs rejected the partition plan and threatened war. The day after Israel declared her independence on 14 May 1948, Israel's neighbours massed



their armies on the border ready to wipe out all Jews. The fledgling nation faced the military might of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Egypt and the British-trained Arab Legion from Jordan. The War of Independence had begun. Arab leaders urged their people to leave areas where there were large numbers of Jews and to take a holiday until the conflict was over. By 11 June, 250,000 Arabs had left Jewish-occupied areas.

Fighting was fierce, and several UN truces were negotiated with the first on 11 June; these allowed Israel time to rearm her forces. Military supplies and men were flown in from overseas. Even non-Jewish mercenaries joined their ranks. By July the Arab forces in the West Bank numbered 45,000 and Egypt had a large force in the Negev.

Israel frantically trained new soldiers and by October their personnel numbered 90,000, armed largely from America and Czechoslovakia, although aided by a local defence industry that had been active during WWII. By December 1948 Israel had more than 100,000 troops armed with heavy weapons, frigates, and an airforce.

Notwithstanding the enormous odds, Israel was victorious and her boundaries were enlarged. Jordanian troops, however, had occupied the West Bank and Jerusalem remained a divided city until the 1967 Six-Day War when the Jordanians, were driven back across the Jordan River and the West Bank became known as "the occupied territories".

The Rhodes Armstice Agreement signed on 3 April 1949 gave Israel about 8,000 sq.miles, or 21% more than had been allocated in the UN partitioning. Israel's application for membership of the UN was approved on 11 March 1949 and became effective in May 1950.

After hostilities ended the UN placed the number of Arab "fugitives" at 720,000, but the Jews claimed there were only 538,000; about 240,000 simply crossed into the West Bank area which was occupied and annexed by Jordan, 60,000 crossed the Jordan river, 180,000 went to Gaza which was Egyptian territory, nearly 100,000 fled to Lebanon, 70,000 to Syria and smaller numbers to Egypt and Iraq.

After the war Ben Gurion stated that Arab refugees would not be permitted to return. "War is war," he said, "those who declared war on us will have to bear the consequences after they have been defeated".

Jewish Refugees

Persecution of Jews in Arab countries became intense, and between 1948

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and 1957, 467,000 Jews were compelled to leave their homes in Muslim lands. The largest proportion settled in Israel.

A report in the *Jerusalem Post* January 12, 2001 states:

“850,000 once lived in Arab countries. Many were stripped of their assets and expelled in the aftermath of Israel’s establishment in 1948, or in the wake of other periods of Arab nationalistic upheaval during the twentieth century.

In all, some 600,000 Jews emigrated from Arab countries, mostly to Israel. It is estimated Jews who emigrated from Arab countries between 1922 and 1952 left behind an estimated total of US\$30 billion in assets.”

Israel's Wars

Since the 1948-49 War of Independence, Israel has been called on to defend herself against enormous odds during the Suez Crisis (1956), the Six-Day War (1967), the Yom Kippur War (1973), the Lebanese War (1982), the first Intifada (1987) and the second Intifada (2000). The Gaza Strip is a constant annoyance.

Collapse of the U.S.S.R. (1989)

In 1989 the Soviet Union (U.S.S.R.) suddenly collapsed as the east European Warsaw Pact nations boldly declared their independence and the Cold War was over. International Communism disintegrated and the doors to the West were flung open, and the mighty Russian army didn’t lift a finger. On 16 April 1989 the Communist government of **Poland** lifted the ban on the opposition *Solidarity Movement*. **Hungary, East Germany, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Romania followed.** Immediately Jewish agencies went to work arranging for the emigration of Jews from former U.S.S.R. countries, and over the next decade a million Jews were brought to Israel. Many of these were scientists, engineers, and academics involved in research. Israel had scooped the brain-pool of the old Soviet Union to enhance her position as a high-tech nation.

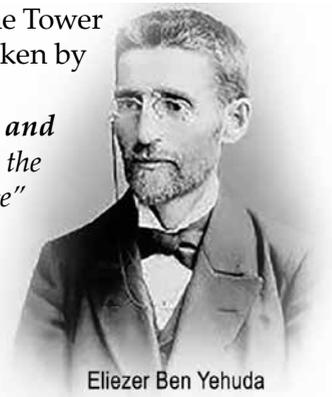
Chapter 9 - Hebrew Revived

From the time of Adam up to the time of the Tower of Babel there was only one language spoken by the human race. We read:

*"And the whole earth was of **one language, and of one speech**...And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language" (Gen.11:1, 6-8).*

The building of the Tower of Babel was an act of defiance against God. Josephus, the first century historian, wrote:

"Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God... to esteem it a piece of cowardice to submit to God; and they built a tower." (Book 1, Ch. IV, Antiquities of the Jews).



Eliezer Ben Yehuda

Josephus' writings are not to be considered inspired, however, we note the Bible's own record.

"Nimrod...began to be a mighty one in the earth. He was a mighty hunter before (ie against) the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel ..." (Gen.10:8-10).

It seems that after the Flood the ungodly descendants of Ham rose up in rebellion but the godly line of Shem would not have participated in the construction of the Tower of Babel and would not have **their language** confused by Divine intervention.

"And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided." (Gen.10:25).

Abram was called *"the Hebrew"* (Gen.14:13), as was Joseph (Gen.39:14,17; 41:12) and the children of Israel (Exod.1:15-19). Hebrews were the descendants of **Eber**, who lived one generation before the confusion of languages. On the day of Pentecost God indicated His disfavour with Israel by allowing them to hear the Word of God preached, not in Hebrew, but in many Gentile languages.

Isaiah prophesied:

"For with stammering lips and another tongue (Gentile) will he speak to this people (Israel)...yet they would not hear." (Isa.28:11-12).

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Paul quotes this prophecy in 1 Cor.14:21, *"Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not"* (1Cor.14:22).

Gentile languages were given to Israel as a sign of judgment for rejecting their Messiah and Hebrew became a dead language. Soon after Israel's dispersion (AD 70) Hebrew ceased to be spoken; Jews spoke and taught largely in Aramaic and Greek, but about AD1000 Yiddish, a mixture of German, Slavic and Hebrew began to be used. The Hebrew Old Testament Scriptures continued to be read, but Hebrew had disappeared as a spoken language.

In 1881, at the time of the revival of Zionism, a 23-year-old Russian Jew, Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, took his young bride to settle in Palestine. They vowed never to converse together in any language other than Hebrew from the moment they set foot on board ship.

Upon arrival in Israel Ben-Yehuda began to teach spoken Hebrew, and printed a Hebrew newspaper which sold only 200 copies.

Opposition came from Orthodox schools that taught Yiddish. His office was stoned. He was denounced by the Turkish authorities for "treason", excommunicated by the Rabbis, and when his wife died from tuberculosis in 1891 the Orthodox Jews refused her burial in the Jewish cemetery.

However, when Ben-Yehuda died in 1922, about half of the Jews in Palestine **spoke Hebrew**, 30,000 attended his funeral, and Palestine Jewry observed three days of mourning for him. The Hebrew language, which had been dead for 1800 years, had been reborn and in 1948, Hebrew became Israel's official language.

The prophet Isaiah told of a future day when *"five cities in the land of Egypt (will) speak **the language of Canaan**, and swear to the LORD of hosts"* (Isa.19:18). This will be when Egyptians repent during the first half of the Tribulation (Dan.11:40-45). Zephaniah prophesied that in the Tribulation the pure original language spoken by God in the garden of Eden would again be spoken

"For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent" (Zeph.3:9).

The Tribulation and the time of Israel's repentance must be near!

Chapter 10 - *The Battle for the Temple Mount*

Gershon Gorenberg, in his book *The End of Days*, gives details of Jewish attempts to identify the foundations of the Second Temple which was destroyed in AD70. Two locations have been suggested; one to the north of the Dome of the Rock, and the other to the south between the two mosques.

The northern location was proposed by Asher Kaufman, and the southern one by Tuvia Sagiv. It seems that Sagiv was motivated politically as he tried to diffuse Arab concerns about Jewish plans to rebuild the Temple, whereas Kaufman's location was based on genuine research and is credible.

Asher Kaufman, a Scottish Jew from a Zionist Orthodox family, migrated to Israel in 1960 when he was in his thirties. He had a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Edinburgh. In Israel he became a professor at the Hebrew University, researching fusion and the spectroscopy of ionized gases. He was a man given to detail and very precise.

Kaufman also studied early Jewish writings in order to verify the measurements of the Temple. It was clear from these that the Temple had been sited in an east/west orientation, with the entrance facing the eastern gate of the wall surrounding the court of the Temple. If the eastern gate could be located, then it was only a matter of drawing a line due west to fix the position of the Temple.

In addition, he found that the red heifer had been sacrificed on the Mount of Olives at an elevated location where the Temple could be sighted above the walls of Jerusalem, and by standing on this high point it was only a matter of looking beyond the eastern gate (or Golden Gate) to fix the position of the Temple.

Underground drains used to carry blood to the Kidron Valley from the altar which stood in front of the Temple had already been located by a British surveyor, Captain Warren, in the 19th century, and his findings had been reported in the *Biblical Archaeological Review*.

Gershon Gorenberg wrote:

"He (Kaufman) studied the charts, drawn by the nineteenth-century explorers, of the ancient cisterns on the north side of the Mount; they line up just outside where he says the walls were."

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Kaufman's conclusions conflicted with popular opinion that the Dome of the Rock was located where the old Temple once stood. If it wasn't there, why did the Muslims build the mosque in the wrong location?

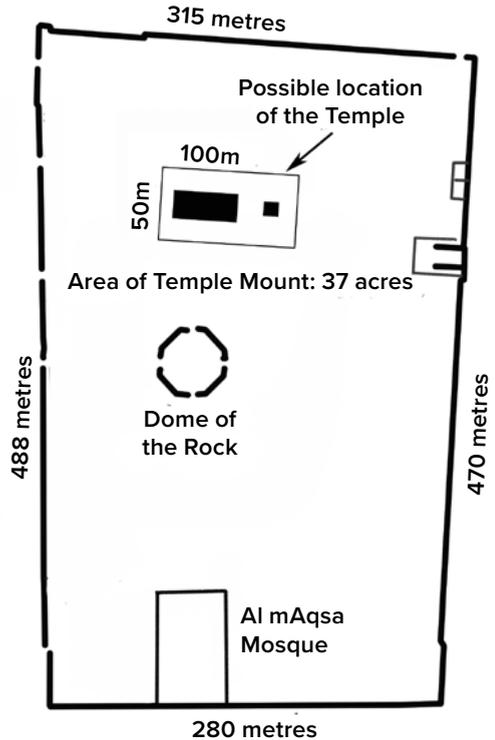
One view is that when the Dome of the Rock was built in AD691, the Jews deliberately misled the Muslims and directed them to the only other location where the bedrock came to the surface. It appears that the Temple Mount area had been greatly expanded by Herod the Great, and retaining walls were built to provide a much larger level courtyard around the Temple. The Wailing Wall is just a part of that retaining structure.

The location of the Second Temple can fairly confidently be sited on one of the two areas where the bedrock rises to the surface, rather than on areas of filled material. The northern-most of these is 100 meters to the north of the Dome of the Rock, where a small gazebo known as the Dome of the Spirits is positioned. By 28 December 1974 Kaufman had enough evidence to assert that he had found the site of the Second Temple; one hundred meters north of the Dome of the Rock!

We know from Scripture that the Temple was built where the rock came to the surface because it was originally the *"threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite"* (2Sam.24:18-25) where David built an altar. Threshing floors were flat rock where the wheat was threshed.

Another reason given for the Muslim's choice of location for the Dome of the Rock is that a Jewish convert to Islam directed them to south of the Temple site so that when the Muslims prayed, facing Mecca, they would have their backs to the site of the old Jewish Temple.

Comparing aerial photographs with information gleaned from Josephus'



The Battle for the Temple Mount

description of Herod's Temple, Kaufman was confirmed in his view that the Dome of the Spirits marked the spot where the Holy of Holies once stood. In 1983 he argued his case in an article in the *Biblical Archaeological Review*, claiming that he had found traces of foundation-work in the same rock.

When Hal Lindsey stood on the Temple Mount with Kaufman that same year, he stepped out the dimensions of the Temple in the location which Kaufman indicated. Later he wrote:

"As I was measuring those things, I believe the Holy Spirit just thundered in my ear Rev.11:1-2, where the angel commanded John to measure out the Temple and the inner court, saying, 'But the court which is without (outside) 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'"(Rev 11:1-2).

"With no outer court," he explained, "You could build the Third Temple at Kaufman's location, and have enough room to leave the Dome of the Rock in place. In the last days, they both could stand here at the same time".

In December 2018 the Jewish Sanhedrin invited 70 nations to witness the erection of the altar of burnt sacrifice and already the Temple Institute has prepared the instruments for Temple worship. Priests from the line of Aaron have been identified and training for Temple service organized.



Muslim Claim to the Temple Mount

The Muslim claim to Jerusalem is based on what is written in the Koran, which, although Jerusalem is not mentioned even once, nevertheless talks (in Sura 17:1) of the "Furthest Mosque":

"Glory be unto Allah who did take his servant for a journey at night from the Sacred Mosque to the Furthest Mosque."

But is there any foundation for the Moslem argument that this "**Furthest Mosque**" (Al-Masujidi al-Aqtza) refers to what is today called the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem? The answer is, None whatsoever.

In the days of Mohammed, who died in AD632, Jerusalem was a Christian city within the Byzantine Empire. Jerusalem was captured by Khalif Omar in AD638, **six years after Mohammed's death**. At this time there were only churches in Jerusalem, and a church stood on the Temple Mount, called the Church of Saint Mary of Justinian, built in the Byzantine architectural style.

The al-Aqsa Mosque was erected 20 years after the Dome of the Rock, which was built in AD691-692 by Khalif Abd El Malik. The name "Omar Mosque" is therefore false. In or around AD711, about 80 years after Mohammed died, Malik's son, Abd El-Wahd, who ruled from AD705-715, reconstructed the Christian-Byzantine Church of St. Mary and converted it into a mosque. He left the structure as it was, a typical Byzantine "basilica" structure with a row of pillars on either side of the rectangular "ship" in the centre; all he added was an onion-like dome on top of the building to make it look like a mosque. He then named it al-Aqsa, so it would sound like the one mentioned in the Koran (Al-Masujidi **al-Aqtza**).

Therefore it is crystal clear that Mohammed could never have had this mosque in mind when he compiled the Koran, since it did not exist for another three generations after his death. Rather, as many scholars long ago established, it is logical that Mohammed intended the mosque in Mecca as the "Sacred Mosque," and the mosque in Medina as the "Furthest Mosque." So much for the Moslem claim based on the al-Aqsa Mosque.

Chapter 11 - *Israel's Future Prospects*

Israel has few friends. Peace Treaties with Egypt (1978) and Jordan (1994) are being tested, and relations between Israel and Turkey took a downturn during the term of Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The *Islamic Justice and Development Party* (JDP) won 363 out of 550 seats in the Turkish Parliament at elections held in November 2002, and continue to hold power in 2018. This is a matter of grave concern to Israel.

After the downfall of the Sunni Saddam Hussein in Iraq, a Shiite Government has been elected and it has welcomed military assistance from Iran. In Syria the Shiite Government has welcomed Iranian troops in the fight against Sunni rebels. Hezbollah forces in Lebanon are being supplied by Iran and Iran now has a landbridge to Lebanon and Israel through Iraq and Syria.

Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States have military and economic alliances with America and will not threaten Israel. At a conference on Middle East security held in Poland in February 2019 Arab leaders agreed with Israel that Iran was the real threat to peace. At the same time **Russia, Turkey, and Iran** did not attend but held a counter conference on Middle East security!

Iran is determined to wipe Israel off the face of the earth and is developing weapons to do it. Russia and Iran are now in Syria and the coalition foretold in Ezekiel 38 is forming on Israel's border.

Israel is now one of the most technically advanced nations on the face of the earth and in recent years has developed vast oil and gas reserves off the Israeli coast. A contract was signed in 2018 to build a gas pipeline from Israel's Leviathan gas field through Crete, Greece and Italy to the European Union. This pipeline makes Israel a competitor with Russia who supplies about 40% of Europe's energy; Israel's gas may be the "spoil" (Ezek.38:13) Russia will hope to get from the invasion of Israel.

Israel's Conversion

Immediately after the Rapture of the Church there will be 144,000 Jewish men who will turn to Jesus Christ and will preach the Gospel of the Kingdom world wide (Matt.24:14). When the Russian Islamic invasion foretold by Ezekiel (Ezek.38/39) and by Joel (Joel 2) takes place two thirds of the Jews in the land will perish but the remaining third will turn to Christ and God will destroy the invading Russian and

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Islamic armies from Turkey, Iran, Libya and Sudan. He will do this by a global earthquake, great hailstones, pestilence and by sending disunity among the invading forces. Sunni Muslim will turn on Shiite Muslim and *“every man’s sword shall be against his brother”* (Ezek.38:21). So we read:

*“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...Now will I ... have mercy upon **the whole house of Israel**”* (Ezek.39:22-25).

Israel’s conversion in the first half of the Tribulation will not end her suffering. By the mid-point of the 7 years half the world will have perished, Russia, Islam and Asia, will be broken and Europe will take over. World famine will drive people to give allegiance to Antichrist and his mark will be a food ration ticket. He will move into Jerusalem at the mid-point of the seven years, set up his idol; the abomination of desolation, and establish himself as God in the Temple (2Thess.2:4). At that point the Jews will flee from Jerusalem (Matt.24:16-20) to *“a place prepared of God”* where they will be *“nourished”* and protected for the final 1,260 days of the Tribulation (Rev.12:6,14). The second half of the Tribulation will see Israel fighting for survival (Zech.12:1-9; 14:14) but the Lord will fight for them.

When the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory He will rescue His redeemed people just as the Beast is closing in on them at Jerusalem and as the battle of Armageddon rages across the land. Zechariah states:

“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” (Zech.14:3-4).

Every Jew will be returned to the land (Ezek.39:28) and *“the ships of Tarshish”* will be the first to bring them; *“their silver and their gold with them”* (Isa.60:9). David will be Israel’s Prince (Ezek.34:23; Jer.30:9) and the 12 Apostles will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Matt.19:28). The glory of God will shine so brightly over Jerusalem they will not need the light of sun (Isa.60:19-20). Christ will reign just as Gabriel indicated to Mary:

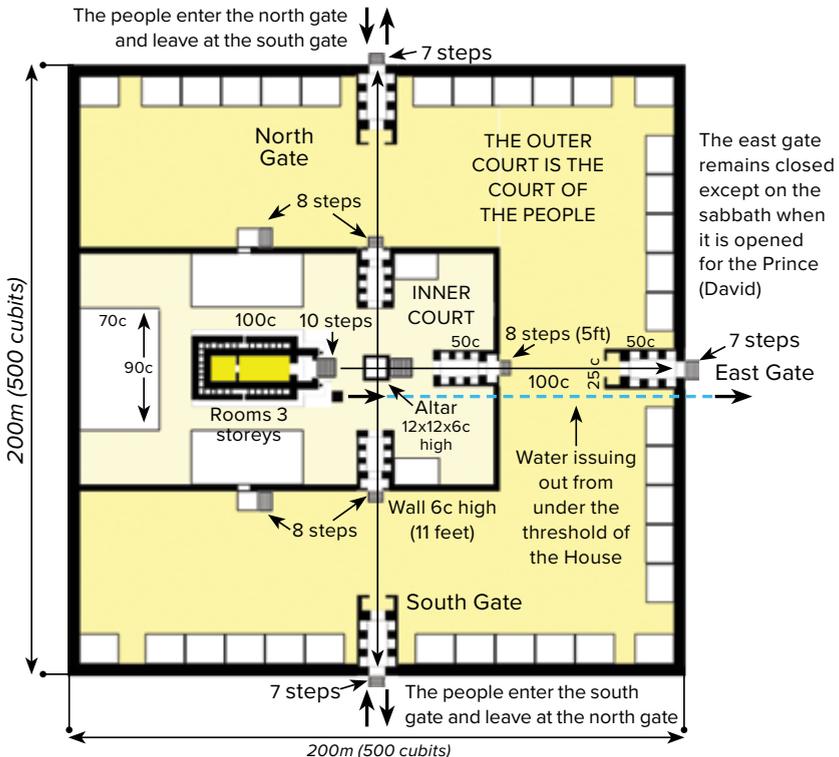
“Thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest:

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 1:31-33).

The land of Israel will be blessed with rain and the desert will blossom as the rose (Isa.27:6; 35:1). Wars will cease and men will *“beat their swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks”* (Isa.2:4). The animal creation will be at peace and

“the wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent’s meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD” (Isa.65:25).

A glorious millennial Temple will be built to the specifications given in Ezekiel chapters 40 to 44 and a stream will flow from the threshold of the Temple through a great valley (Ezek.47) that will form when the Mount of Olives splits from east to west. The volume of water will increase all the way to the Dead Sea in such quantities that men will catch fish in the Dead Sea all the way from Galilee to the Gulf of Aqaba.



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Anti-Semitism will cease and

"many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD...ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you" (Zech.8:22-23).

"The nation and kingdom that will not serve thee (Israel) shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted" (Isa.60:12).



Jerusalem will be the world centre for the worship of God; all nations will keep the annual feast of Tabernacles (Zech.14:16) and Jewish preachers will go out to all nations to teach God's law (Isa.2:2:3; 66:19); men will call them *"the Priests of the LORD"* and *"the Ministers of our God"* (Isa.61:6).

Earth's Golden Age awaits the repentance of Israel. When Israel rises from the ashes she will reign with Christ for 1,000 years (Isa.60:12; Ps.46:1-11; Rev.20:4). *"The LORD shall be King over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and His name one"* (Zech.14:9).

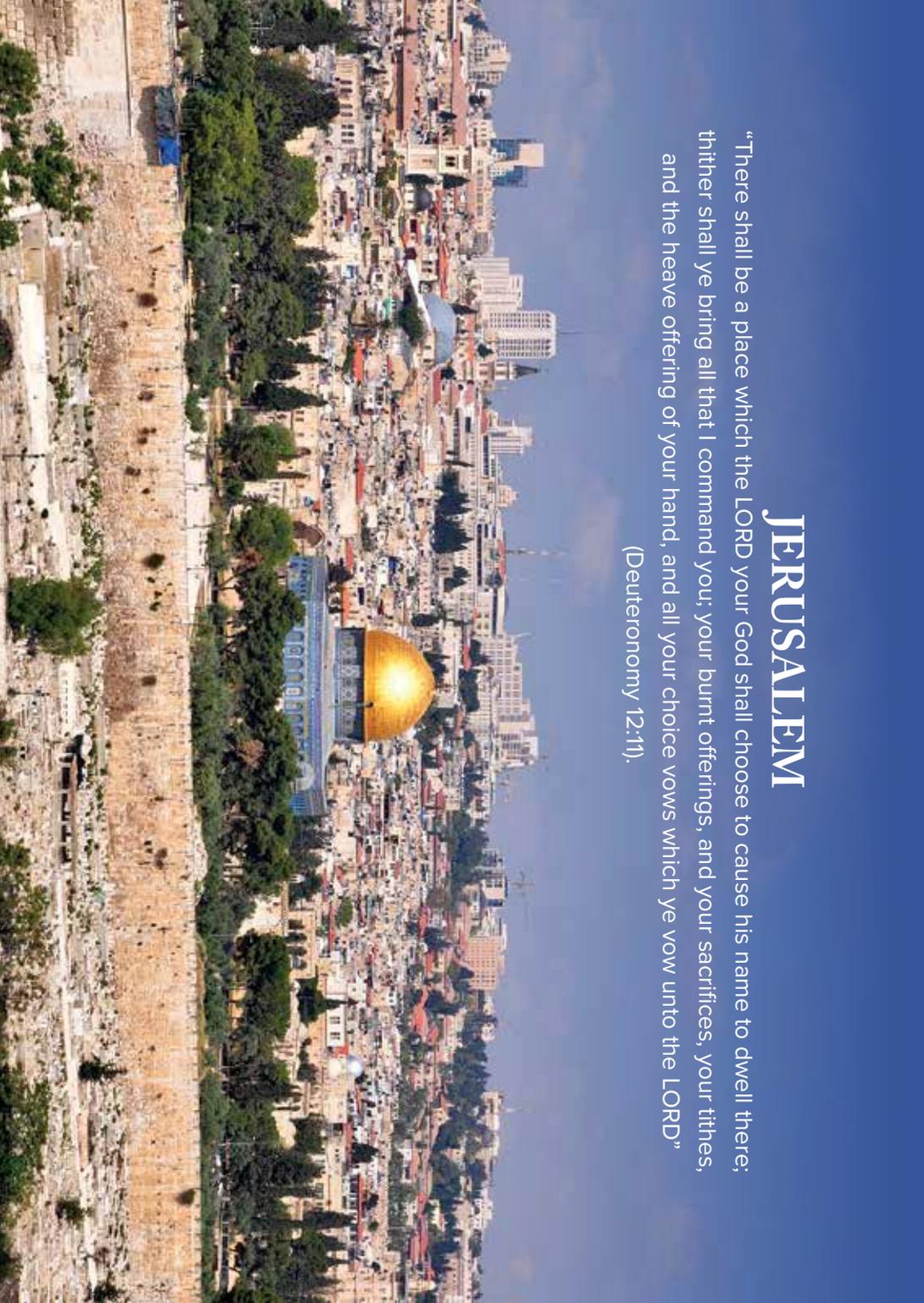
At the end of the 1,000 years the earth will be renovated by fire and there will be a *"new heaven and new earth"* (Rev.21:1); the new Jerusalem, the eternal abode of Christ and His Church, will descend from heaven to earth and the names of the 12 tribes will be inscribed on 12 gates to eternally remind us that the way of salvation that gives us access to the throne of God was through Israel. For those who know Christ as their Saviour in this Church Age, it is reassuring that Israel's 70th "week"; the Great Tribulation, will not occur until **AFTER** the Rapture has taken place, and thus we can watch the development of these events with anticipation as the hour of our departure approaches.

*"For God hath not appointed us to wrath (of the Day of the Lord), 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.5:9-10).

JERUSALEM

“There shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD”

(Deuteronomy 12:11).



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