



Israel & End-Time Prophecy:

What in the World Is Going On with Israel?

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ISRAEL & END-TIME PROPHECY: *A LOOK AT ISRAEL AS GOD'S TIMEPIECE FOR END-TIME PROPHECY*

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“Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.” Jeremiah 31:10

Introduction

God chose the nation of Israel to be His special people. He did not choose them because they were special, but rather, they became special because He chose them. ***“For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. 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:”*** (Deuteronomy 7:6-7).

God chose Israel to be a “light unto the Gentiles”, but they failed to live up to their calling. Instead, they disobeyed God’s Word and lived according to the flesh. God judged Israel for their sins of idolatry, rebellion, and worldliness and placed them in captivity in Gentile nations.

Has it ever occurred to you that ***“nothing”*** ever occurs to God? Jeremiah prophesied Israel’s entire history in advance. In one verse of Scripture, Jeremiah foretold Israel’s *past, present, and future*. ***“Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock”*** (Jeremiah 31:10).



Jeremiah prophesied three (3) **things** about God’s chosen people:

- 1. God will scatter Israel**
- 2. God will gather Israel**
- 3. God will keep Israel**

❖ God Will Scatter Israel

The first thing Jeremiah prophesied about the nation of Israel was that God would “*scatter Israel*”. In 586 B.C., God allowed the Babylonians to lay siege to Jerusalem. The Solomon Temple was completely destroyed, the sacred vessels removed, and many Jews were murdered or taken captive by the Babylonians. With the Jews dispersed and living in a strange land, God had begun His judgment of scattering His chosen people.



In 539 B.C., the Medes and Persians conquered the Babylonian Empire. God softened the heart of Cyrus the Great, and he allowed a remnant of Jews to return to rebuild Jerusalem. Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah returned with a remnant of Jews to begin rebuilding the city and temple. Though they faced much opposition, they were able to rebuild the city walls and erect a humble house of worship. Over time, the Jewish people would return and improve the construction of both.

Many would argue that this fulfilled the second aspect of the prophecy of Jeremiah 31:10, but this could not be correct. Before Jesus went to the cross, He also gave a prophecy about Israel’s scattering.

“And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (Luke 21:24).

Israel’s rejection of Jesus as their promised Messiah had led to this judgment of God. In 70AD, the Romans attacked Jerusalem under Titus, a Roman general. He laid siege to the city and destroyed the second temple, commonly called the Herodian Temple.

Since that time, the Jewish people have been scattered from their homeland. The prophecy Jesus spoke concerning Jerusalem and the Jews had come to pass. For the past two thousand years Gentiles have had dominion over the Jewish people. More Jewish people live outside of Israel today than live in Israel. As a matter of fact, more Jews live in the United States than live in Israel; however, the number of Jews residing in Israel is rapidly growing in number. Presently, Jews living among Gentile nations outnumber Jews living in Israel at a ratio of nearly 2-1.

Just as Jeremiah prophesied, God has scattered Israel. Paul asked the question, ***“Hath God cast away his people?”*** Paul then answered his own question by declaring, ***“God forbid... God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew”*** (Romans 11:1-2). Though the Jews have been scattered, they have not been forsaken. As we see “*end-time prophecies*” unfold, it is exciting to watch Israel – God’s timepiece to see what is happening on His prophetic calendar. We know that prophetic events will always involve the nation of Israel.

God Will Gather Israel

The second thing that Jeremiah said that God would do is **“gather Israel”**. In 1898, Theodor Herzl, an Austrian journalist, fathered a movement called **Zionism**. A few years earlier in 1894, Herzl covered the trial of a French Jewish soldier charged with treason. The French used Captain Dreyfus as a scapegoat because he was Jewish, and there was much anti-Semitism that existed in France at that time.



Alfred Dreyfus



Theodor Herzl

Herzl was appalled at the corruption of the prosecution of Captain Alfred Dreyfus in what became known as the *Dreyfus Affair*. Dreyfus was convicted of treason and sentenced to life in prison for a crime he had not committed. This prompted Herzl to act. He motivated his Jewish brethren to return to the land of their ancestors. Herzl knew the Jewish people needed a homeland, and since God had promised such a land to Abraham and his descendants, it was time for the Jewish people to claim God’s promise! Theodor Herzl said, **“There is a land without a people, and there is a people without a land. The people without a land should return to the land without a people!”** Thus began the Zionist Movement. Theodor Herzl predicted that

within fifty years, there would be a State of Israel. On May 14, 1948, Israel was recognized as a free and independent state by the U.N. Herzl’s prediction came true, and for the first time in 2,500 years, Israel had a homeland!

God said, **“I will scatter Israel... then I will gather Israel.”** The re-gathering process continues today. There have been five (5) major **“Aliyahs”** (mass movements of Jews returning to Israel) that have occurred since 1891. The following is a brief description of these five (5) historical Aliyahs:

- **First Aliyah (1891-1900).....30,000 Russian Jews immigrate to Israel**
- **Second Aliyah (1904-1914)..... 32,000 Russian Jews immigrate to Israel**
- **Third Aliyah (1924-1929)..... 78,000 Polish Jews immigrate to Israel**
- **Fourth Aliyah (1933-1939)..... 230,000 German & European Jews immigrate to Israel**
- **Fifth Aliyah (1940-1948)..... 95,000 Central European Jews immigrate to Israel**

In 2007 a **sixth Aliyah** began with thousands of North American Jews leaving Canada, Mexico, and the United States and returning to Israel. Rising anti-Semitism has been often cited as the major reason for this latest movement.

During Israel’s modern existence (which began in 1948), America has been Israel’s closest ally. However, recent political events have caused many to wonder whether or not the United States will still stand with Israel. Let us continue to pray and encourage our government to stand with Israel regardless of what the rest of the world may think, say, or do!

God said He would **scatter** Israel, and then He would **gather** Israel. No other prophet addresses this re-gathering of the Jewish people to the land of Israel more than the Prophet Ezekiel.

Ezekiel Chapters 36-37 prophesy that the Jewish people will be re-gathered in the land of Israel during *the latter times*. Ezekiel's vision of the *Valley of Dry Bones* reveals that God will bring His people back during the "*last days*"; however, there will be "*no breath of life in them.*" This means that the returning Jews will not return because of religious reasons, but rather secular reasons. This is exactly what we see occurring today. The vast majority of Jews returning to Israel are **not religious**. Latest statistics indicate that **55%** of Jewish people in Israel and worldwide are "*heloni*" Jews (*secular-minded Jews; not religious*). Though Jews are returning to Israel, there is "*no breath of life in them.*" I believe we are seeing the prophecy of Ezekiel concerning Israel's re-gathering unfolding in our day.

God Will Keep Israel (Jeremiah 31:10c)

The third thing God promised concerning Israel is that He would "*keep Israel.*" The term "*keep*" is a military term that means "*to guard; to garrison*". It is the same term used by Paul when he wrote, "*...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to **KEEP** that which I have committed unto him against that day*" (2 Timothy 1:12).

God promises that once the Jewish people are re-gathered into the land of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, He will "*keep them as a shepherd doth his flock.*" In other words, once re-gathered, Israel will never be scattered again! This prophecy has not yet been fulfilled, but since God has honored His first promise to Israel in Jeremiah's prophecy (scatter Israel), and because God is currently honoring His second promise (re-gather Israel), we can be sure that God will honor His third promise (keep Israel) as well.

Many end-time prophecies fall between God's second and third promises to Israel in Jeremiah 31:10. Let's examine a few of them in this course of study. Remember, the study of *Israel & End-Time Prophecy* is an enormous undertaking and life-long study. Time will permit us to examine only a few in this course. However, it is our prayer that our efforts will encourage you to be more mindful of Israel and end-time prophecy, especially in light of current events.

Israel & End-Time Prophecy: Daniel's Seventy Weeks Prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27)

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” Daniel 9:24-27



the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” Daniel 9:24-27

Introduction

One need only watch the news, listen to the radio, or read the newspaper to realize that things that are going on in our world should cause us to take notice as Believers. Daniel received an incredible revelation of God's prophetic program for Israel in what is commonly called "*Daniel's Seventy Weeks Prophecy*".

This prophecy was given to Daniel in response to his prayer recorded in **Daniel 9:20-23**: "*And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my*

supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God; Yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.”

The **Seventy Weeks Prophecy** reveals God’s program for His chosen people in regard to the last days. We will examine this prophecy by dividing it into five (5) major divisions: **The Period, People, Place, Purpose, and Program.**

The Period of the Prophecy (Daniel 9:24a)

Daniel wrote, **“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people...”** The phrase, **“Seventy weeks”** can be literally interpreted **“seventy sevens”**. This prophecy does not mean seventy weeks of days, but rather seventy weeks of years. Writers of the Tanach (Old Testament) often spoke of *weeks of years* as we speak of *weeks of days*. One example of this is found in **Leviticus 25:8** –

“And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years.”

Daniel’s *Seventy Weeks Prophecy* consists of a period of time covering a total of **490 years**. As we will see, **483** of these years have already come to fruition, and there is one week of years yet to be fulfilled.

The People of the Prophecy (Daniel 9:24b)

Gabriel told Daniel that seventy weeks are determined upon **“Thy people.”** Daniel’s people are the **Jewish people** because Daniel was a Jew! God states that this prophecy deals specifically with the Jewish people – **ISRAEL.**

Israel is *God-ordained, God-decreed, God-conceived, & God-protected!* God chose Israel *“to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth”* (Deuteronomy 7:6). No other people have left a mark on history like the Jewish people. Though the Jewish people make up less than one half of 1% of the world’s population, they have won **33%** of all **Nobel Prizes**. Someone said that the six most influential men of all time are *Jesus, Moses, Paul, Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, & Albert Einstein.* The one thing all of these men have in common is that they are all Jews!



God's Chosen People - The Jews

wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people” (Deuteronomy 4:6-7). Israel was to be the pipeline through which the wisdom and understanding of God was made known to the whole world.

The Place of the Prophecy (Daniel 9:24c)

Daniel wrote, *“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and UPON THY HOLY CITY.”* What is this *“holy city”*? The answer is obvious - **JERUSALEM**. Jerusalem is the most mentioned city in the Bible – mentioned over 800 times. There is no other city on earth like Jerusalem! The name of Jerusalem literally means, *“Foundation of Peace”*, but the city of Jerusalem has been an international *“hot-spot”* throughout its history. It has not known peace; rather, it has known only periods when there has been an absence of war. Many have tried to mediate peace for this city, but none have succeeded.

Zechariah reveals that there is coming a day when the *Beast (Antichrist)* will lead an invasion of Gentile armies against Jerusalem. The Antichrist will desire to make Jerusalem *his ecumenical city*, but his attempt will fail! God’s Word reveals that Jerusalem will become a *“burdensome stone”* for all those that lift their hand against it:

“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness. And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in the LORD of hosts their God” (Zechariah 12:2-5).



God promised that Jerusalem has a future! God says that 490 years are determined upon the holy city of Jerusalem. The Psalmist David writes, *“Yet have I set my King upon thy holy hill of Zion”* (Psalm 2:6). God’s *“holy hill”* is Jerusalem! Out of the vastness of God’s great creation, God chose one galaxy – the Milky Way; Out of the Milky Way, He chose our solar system; Out of our solar system, He chose one

small, insignificant planet – Earth; Out of Earth, God chose one tiny strip of land – Israel; and out of all of Israel, God chose the hill of Zion, Jerusalem, to be His “*holy hill*.”

We as Believers are exhorted to be “*watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem.*” Isaiah 62:6-7 challenges us to watch on Israel’s behalf.

“For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.” (Isaiah 62:1; 6-7).

Christians should pray for the Jewish people. The Psalmist David admonished us to “***Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee***” (Psalm 122:6). But we should do more than just pray for the Jews; we need to evangelize the Jews too! Paul wrote,

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16).

The Purpose of the Prophecy (Daniel 9:24d)

We have learned that the ***Period*** of Daniel’s *Seventy Weeks Prophecy* is **490 years**; the ***People*** of the prophecy are the **Jews**; and the ***Place*** of the prophecy is **Jerusalem**. Let us now look at the ***Purpose*** of the prophecy:

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy” (Daniel 9:24).

In this one verse of Scripture, Daniel reveals **6 Major Reasons** for the *Seventy Weeks Prophecy*:

➤ **FIRST – “TO FINISH THE TRANSGRESSION”**

The “*transgression of Israel*” is their “**Rejection of Jesus as Messiah**”. At the conclusion of this prophecy, Israel will ultimately say, “*Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord*” (Matthew 23:39).

➤ **SECOND – “TO MAKE AN END OF SINS”**

There can be no end of sin without a Messiah. Jesus first came into the world to “**take away the sins.**” Notice what John the Baptist said upon seeing Jesus. “*The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” (John 1:29). When Jesus comes the second time, He will make an end of sin when He rules and reigns with a rod of iron upon this earth. Three (3) times in the book of Revelation John makes mention of Jesus “*ruling with a rod of iron*” (Revelation 2:27; 12:5; 19:15).

➤ **THIRD – “TO MAKE RECONCILIATION FOR INIQUITY”**

When Messiah came the first time, He made it possible for all men to be reconciled to God. Paul wrote, *“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation”* (2 Corinthians 5:19). When Messiah comes the second time, then Israel will be reconciled - *“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins”* (Romans 11:25-27).

➤ **FOURTH – “TO BRING IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS”**

Paul taught the difference between true and false righteousness. He said, *“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth”* (Romans 10:1-4). Isaiah also alluded to the righteous rule of Messiah - *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this”* (Isaiah 9:6-7). When Jesus the Messiah rules and reigns, He will do so in complete righteousness as only the Son of God can do.

➤ **FIFTH – “TO SEAL UP THE VISION AND PROPHECY”**

Through the *Seventy Weeks* program, we will see how God will ultimately put the last *period* at the *end* of the last *sentence* of the last *paragraph* on the last *page* in the last *chapter* of *world history*. Jesus the Messiah, the *Last Adam*, will finally restore all that the first Adam lost in the Garden of Eden. You will notice that the first two chapters and the last two chapters of God's Word are similar. In both we see God and man living in perfect fellowship, without sin, sickness, death, in perfect harmony, and there is NO Devil!

➤ **SIXTH – “TO ANOINT THE MOST HOLY”**

The LAST purpose listed is the *anointing of the Most Holy*. Does this refer to a *“holy place”* or a *“holy Person”*? It is difficult to be certain, but I believe it could refer to both – God's holy Person, His Son Jesus Christ, will be anointed in God's holy city, Jerusalem. At that time, the prophecy of Habakkuk will be fulfilled - *“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea”* (Habakkuk 2:14).

The Program of the Prophecy (Daniel 9:25-27)

Daniel 9:25-27 now provides us a **6-fold Program** in the *Seventy Weeks Prophecy*. Seventy weeks of seven years equals 490 years. This is the number of years that will transpire before the **Second Coming**

of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are **3 divisions of years** that are mentioned in the **6-fold Program** of the *Seventy Weeks Prophecy*. Let us look at the **Program** by dividing it into **6 Parts**:

➤ **THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE COUNTDOWN (Dan. 9:25a)**

The “*commencement of the countdown*” is revealed in Daniel 9:25:

“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...” (Daniel 9:25)

God’s prophetic clock for His program dealing with Israel began to tick on the day the Jews were permitted to return and rebuild Jerusalem. Nehemiah reveals the date this occurred.

“And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence. Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid, And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: 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? Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it” (Nehemiah 2:1-5).

The month Nisan is the first month of the Jewish religious calendar. The twentieth (20th) year of the reign of Artaxerxes, King of Persia was 445 B.C. The exact date can be determined by the Passover moon that regulated their calendar as March 14, 445 B.C.

➤ **THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CITY (Dan. 9:25b)**

Daniel revealed that the time allotted to rebuild Jerusalem would be **seven weeks (49 years)** from the commencement to go and to restore and rebuild 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...” (Daniel 9:25)

Seven weeks means **7 X 7 years** or **49 years**. A study of the books of Ezra and Nehemiah reveals how Satan did all that he could to hinder the construction of Jerusalem, but it was rebuilt right on time in accordance to Daniel’s *Seventy Weeks Prophecy*.

➤ **THE COMING OF CHRIST (Dan. 9:25c)**

Daniel revealed that the first “*Coming of Messiah*” would occur after the city of Jerusalem was rebuilt (**7 weeks or 49 years**) and another **62 Weeks (62 x 7 or 434 years)** had transpired.

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.” (Daniel 9:25)

If we add the **7 weeks (49 years)** that it took **“to rebuild the city of Jerusalem”** and the **62 weeks (434 years)** unto the **“Coming of Messiah the Prince”** we come up with a total number of **69 weeks or 483 years**. Daniel’s prophecy predicted that Messiah would come **483 years** after the commencement of the prophecy.

A prophetic year contains **360 days**, not **365 days** like our Julian calendar. The Jewish calendar is a **“lunar”** calendar. Their day actually begins at sunset because Genesis Chapter 1 states that **“evening and the morning were the first day”** and so on. Who is right? I suspect the Jews are right because a circle contains 360 degrees, not 365 degrees. Revelation 11:3 states that half of the Tribulation Period (3 ½ years) will consist of **1,260 days**, revealing that a prophetic year is **360 days**.

With this understood, let’s do the math – From the **commencement of the prophecy** to the **Coming of Messiah** would be **69 Weeks (483 years)**. We get this number by multiplying **69 weeks x 7 years** for a total of **483 years**. If we multiply **483 years x 360 days (per prophetic year)** we come up with a total of **173,880 days**.



NOW GET READY FOR A BLESSING!

According to **Luke 3:1**, Jesus began His public ministry in the **“fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar.”** History bears record that this was the year **AD 29**. Jesus observed three (3) Passovers after He began His public ministry. We know that Jesus made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem on the **10th of Nisan**. This was in keeping with Exodus 12, where Israel was commanded to select a lamb on the 10th day of the first month (Nisan) and then observe it until the 14th day of Nisan. On the 14th day of Nisan, they were to kill the Passover

lamb. Jesus is the Lamb of God, and He presented Himself to Israel as the Lamb of God on the **10th day of Nisan** for all to observe. On this day, Messiah Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the foal of an ass showing that He was indeed Messiah. This date was **April 6, 32 A.D.** Now, from **March 14, 445 B.C. (the commencement to rebuild)** until **April 6, 32 A.D. (the Coming of Messiah)** is exactly **173,880 days!** Jesus made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem according to Daniel’s *Seventy Weeks Prophecy* **“RIGHT ON TIME!”**

➤ **THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST (Dan. 9:26a)**

Jesus departed Jerusalem in tears. He looked at God’s *Holy City* and said, **“If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace!”** (Luke 19:42).

Israel should have recognized Jesus as the prophesied Messiah, but, alas, they did not! This exact day had also been prophesied by Daniel:

“And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself...” (Daniel 9:26a)

To be ***“cut off”*** speaks of **death**. Isaiah had prophesied that Messiah would be cut off from the land of living, *“He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken”* (Isaiah 53:8).



WHY did Messiah DIE? Why would Israel allow their Messiah to be crucified? It certainly was ***NOT for Himself!*** Jesus tasted death for you, me, and all mankind! The writer of Hebrews reveals that Jesus tasted death for all men. *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”* (Hebrews 2:9). Daniel prophesied the crucifixion of Christ many years before it occurred.

➤ **THE COLLAPSE OF THE CITY (Dan. 9:26b)**

Daniel’s Seventy Weeks Prophecy has revealed *“The Commencement of the Countdown; The Construction of the City; The Coming of Christ the Messiah; and The Crucifixion of the Christ!”* Now let’s look at a fifth aspect of this end-time prophecy.

After the crucifixion of Christ, the prophecy predicted of the ***“Collapse of the City”***:

“...and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood” (Daniel 9:26b).

Like the prophet Daniel, the Lord Jesus also prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple -

“And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.” (Luke 21:24).

Daniel speaks of the *“people of the prince that shall come”*. Who is *the prince that shall come*? Who are *the people of the prince that shall come*? Actually, the latter reveals the former. History bears record that the *people* that destroyed Jerusalem and the Herodian Temple in AD 70 were the **Romans**.

The *“prince that shall come”* refers to the **Antichrist** (Revelation 13:1-8). According to Daniel 9:26, the *“prince that shall come”* will lead the *“people”* that destroyed the city of Jerusalem and Temple in AD 70. This reveals that the **Beast** will become the leader of a **Revived Roman Empire**. Of course, many today believe that the current European Union (formerly the Common Market) could well be such a Revived Roman Empire. We cannot be certain, but it is quite possible.

What does *“unto the end of the war desolations are determined”* mean? This phrase can be translated, *“until the end, wars and desolations are determined.”* After Israel rejected Messiah, God called a “time-out” on His 70 Weeks prophecy. Sixty-nine weeks of years or 483 years have been fulfilled and one more week is yet to be fulfilled. This last week of years is called the **70th Week of Daniel** or *The Tribulation*.

An intermediate period between the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and the beginning of the Tribulation is commonly referred to as the **Church Age**. Because Israel rejected Messiah, *“Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in”* (Romans 11:25). During this present, intermediate Church Age, God is calling out a people unto Himself from among the Jews and Gentiles (1 Corinthians 12:13).

How long will the Church Age last? It will end when Jesus Christ returns for His Bride, the Church. According to Daniel’s *Seventy Weeks Prophecy*, when the Antichrist enters into a *covenant relationship* with the nation of Israel, the **70th Week of Daniel** or *Tribulation* will begin (Daniel 9:27).

➤ **THE CONSUMMATION OR SECOND COMING OF CHRIST (Dan. 9:27)**

“And he (the prince that shall come) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate” (Daniel 9:27).

After the Rapture, the last week or **70th Week of Daniel** will be fulfilled. This seven year period will be a terrible time of tribulation and the wrath of God. The *“prince that shall come”* (Antichrist), will become a world leader and establish an ecumenical government. He will enter into a covenant relationship with Israel, no doubt hailed as a great “peacemaker.” During this time, Israel will reinstitute sacrificial worship and enjoy a newly built temple as the Jewish center of worship.

In the *“middle of the week”* (3 ½ years; 42 months; or 1,260 days), something devastating to Israel will happen! The Antichrist, *“the prince that shall come,”* will break his covenant with

Israel and will begin to persecute the Jewish people. Jesus prophesied this event specifically in **Matthew 24:15-16**:

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:” (Matthew 24:15-16).

Jesus told Israel to flee for the mountains when they see this occur. The Antichrist will cause Jewish worship, sacrifices, and oblations to cease, and he will cause everyone to worship him as God! Paul wrote, *“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God, sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God”* (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

According to **Revelation 12:7-17**, a war will take place in Heaven:

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our



God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might 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 serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Michael, the archangel, will cast Satan (the Dragon) and his demons out of Heaven. A warning is issued to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea, for Satan is cast down to the earth, having great wrath, because he has but a short time. Actually, at the end of the 7-year period, the devil will be cast into a bottomless pit for the duration of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

The Antichrist, empowered by Satan, will attempt to wipe out the Jewish race! He will assemble his armies at Armageddon, and lead them against Jerusalem. Listen to what the prophet Zechariah writes:

“Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.” (Zechariah 14:1; 2)

Zechariah also reveals that 2/3 of the Jews living in Israel will perish:

“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.” (Zechariah 13:8)

It will look like the end of the Jewish people once and for all, but according to **Revelation 19:11-16** the Messiah will return a Second time to save His chosen people:

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

The Lord Jesus Christ will come a second time; not as a meek, mild Lamb, but as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah! Christ will come riding a white horse, with all His saints, and with the sword of His mouth He will destroy the Beast, the False Prophet, and all of the armies opposing Israel.



Finally, the scales of unbelief will be removed from the eyes of the Jewish remnant, and a nation will be born in a day (Isaiah 66:8). God’s plan for Israel will be complete, and Jesus will rule and reign for a thousand years in His Holy City, Jerusalem!

Is every detail of these events revealed in Daniel’s 70 Weeks prophecy? NO...but as one preacher aptly said, ***“I’m not on the program committee; I’m on the welcoming committee!”***

I know this for certain – The Lord Jesus is Coming AGAIN! First, He will come for His Bride, the Church, and then He will come to rule and reign upon this earth for a thousand years.

Israel & End-Time Prophecy: End-Time Invasion of Israel (Ezekiel 38:1-16)



“And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with

bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee. Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee. Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy

mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company



to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? And thou shalt come from

thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.” (Ezekiel 38:1-16)

Introduction

Jesus addressed the religious leaders of Israel, “***And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is. And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass. Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?***” (Luke 12:54-56)



There are many “***signs of the times***” that deserve our attention. With recent world events, people have become more and more aware of biblical significance of what is going on in the world. As Believers, it is imperative that we understand and be able to communicate the importance of these events to others.

The book of Ezekiel provides us with an intriguing study of end-time prophecy. This book reveals that the Jewish people will be re-gathered to the land of Israel during the last days (Ezekiel 36-37). It reveals that the Jewish people will dwell in the land in a sense of peace and safety. It reveals that there will be a movement against the Jewish state. Ezekiel provides us “***specific, predictive prophecy***” about an end-time invasion of Israel that will occur shortly after the re-gathering of the Jewish people. This invasion will be spearheaded by a Russian leader named *Gog*.

Ezekiel’s prophecy is perhaps one of the most relevant end-time prophecies of our day. Since the turn of the 20th Century, several events in direct correlation to Ezekiel’s prophecy have transpired. Three of the most important entities of end-time prophecy have come into existence in the last century alone.

In 1922, the Arabs received a mandate from Great Britain, to settle in Mesopotamia. In 1932, statehood was granted to Iraq. The Zionist Movement, fathered by Theodor Herzl, began in 1898. Five major Aliyahs followed with Jewish people migrating to Israel from all around the world. Israel was granted statehood on May 14, 1948. Nine years after Israel won its statehood, the Common Market was established in 1957. Many believe the Common Market, now called the *European Union*, is perhaps a Revived Roman Empire predicted by Daniel. While no one knows for sure, there are several reasons to imagine the possibility of this being true.

Ezekiel’s prophecy of an end-time invasion of Israel led by *Gog of Magog*, the chief prince of Meshach and Tubal, is certainly taking shape as never before in the history of the world. Ezekiel provides specific names of countries involved in this invasion. In Ezekiel’s day, these countries had little in

common, and Russia was not even yet established, but in our generation, we see interesting events bringing these countries together. Let's take a closer look at Ezekiel's prophecy and see how his predictions are shaping up in our day and age.

Israel's End-Time Invaders

Ezekiel 38 specifically predicts the names of those that will take part in this end-time coalition. *Magog*, *Meshach*, *Tubal*, *Persia*, *Ethiopia*, *Sudan*, *Libya*, *Gomer*, *Togarmah*, *Sheba*, and *Dedan* are all specifically named by Ezekiel. *Gog*, as we will see, refers to the leader of this coalition. *Magog* is an ancient reference to Russia. *Persia* refers to modern-day *Iran*. It is the first country specifically identified as a future ally of Russia. It is relevant that we see Russia today building military partnerships with Iran and other countries mentioned in Ezekiel's prophecy. Let's look at each of the countries named by Ezekiel.

➤ GOG OF MAGOG (RUSSIA)



The leader, *Gog of Magog*, is called the *chief prince of Meshach and Tubal*. No doubt this individual will be the head of modern-day Russia. If you draw a line directly north of Jerusalem, you will dissect the city of modern-day Moscow. Ezekiel specifically states that Gog will be from the *northern parts*.

Russia (Magog) will organize an end-time coalition of nations from the North, South, East, and West completely surrounding the tiny nation of Jews known today as Israel. In the days of Ezekiel, Russia was not yet established, and the nations named had little or nothing in common, but in the 21st Century, we know there is a common bond – **ISLAM**.

Today, Russia is **30% Muslim**, and this number is growing rapidly. It is difficult for us to remember that this former Communist power rivaled the USA only three decades ago. Today it is largely Islamic and Russian Orthodox. This former self-proclaimed “godless” country is now being manipulated by Muslims.

Former Russian President and later Prime Minister, Vladimir Putin, has recently mandated an “*Islamic Initiative*”.



Due to the influx of Muslims in Russia, he has largely succumbed to the pressures of Islamic Fundamentalism within his own country. Putin’s “Islamic Initiative” states that cooperation and joint-efforts with Muslim states is the “Top Priority” of Russia. We will further examine Putin’s “Islamic Initiative” later in our study.

➤ PERSIA (IRAN)

The country of *Persia* is today known as *Iran*. The language spoken in Iran is Persian or Farsi. Iran is a Muslim state that sponsors worldwide terrorism. The President of Iran is a madman named *Mahmoud Ahmadinejad*. During his term in office, Ahmadinejad has spewed anti-Semitic rhetoric repeatedly. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is a Shiite that believes his calling is to pave the way for the coming of *Mahdi*, a Muslim Messiah, also called the *Hidden* or *Twelfth Imam*.



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

In simple terms, Shiite theology concludes that a *Hidden Imam* or *Mahdi* will come when there is a *world war* or *Holy Jihad*. It is taught by Shiite clerics that Mahdi will deliver the nation of Islam. Ahmadinejad has stated several times that Israel ought to be wiped off the map! He has conducted Holocaust denial conferences, insulted the nation of Israel continually, thumbed his nose at the civilized free world, and armed terrorist groups that conduct attacks against Israel and the United States.

The most powerful person in Iran, however, is not Ahmadinejad; it is *Ayatollah Ali Khamenei*. In 2009 Iran’s supreme religious leader warned Western governments of the “negative impact” over what he called “meddling” in the affairs of Iranian elections. This was a direct result of the riots that occurred when the 2009 Iranian presidential elections were thought to be unfairly conducted. Iranians rioted because the results of the elections gave Mahmoud Ahmadinejad another term in office. The Ayatollah accused Western governments, especially the USA and Great Britain, of encouraging these riots.



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

Today, Iran is enriching uranium, building secret nuclear plants, and aspiring to obtain nuclear weapons. To make matters worse, Russia and North Korea are involved in assisting Iran to attain their goals. Tensions are high worldwide because many realize that if a rogue nation like Iran obtains such technology, then

they will make it available to other terrorist states. Iran is radical enough to use it against Israel, the USA, and any other nation that opposes their lofty ambitions.

➤ ETHIOPIA (CUSH)

The first Biblical mention of the people of Cush is in Genesis 10:6, “*And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan.*” The sons of Cush settled in Arabia, Mesopotamia, and Assyria (Genesis 10:6-11). The Scriptures identify the Cushites as geographically centered in Africa. Our KJV Bible translates *Cush* as “Ethiopia” (Ezekiel 38:5). The ancient historian, Josephus, traced the Cushites (he called them Chusites) to the land of Ethiopia. But the land once known as ancient Ethiopia encompassed far more territory than does the country we know today by the same name. It likely included the modern-day country of Sudan and possibly modern-day Eritrea as well.



Sudan and Ethiopia have become enormous hotspots in the world arena. People in these areas have suffered terribly because of the fighting and genocide that has transpired in the last several years. Darfur has become a public outcry for human rights activists, and rightly so. The genocide in Sudan and the famine of Ethiopia have prompted activists, but yet, problems remain.

Ezekiel could not have known that these two nations of the world would be so news worthy in the 21st Century. However, we are inundated daily with news photos and reports on the travesties that occur in these areas of Africa. Often we see photos of young boys and men dressed in military uniforms and toting machine guns, rocket launchers, and ammo belts.



The Sudan Tribune reports the Sudanese government received a party of Russian MIG-29 combat fighter jets in violation of UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution 1591. A source close to the Sudanese army reported that combat fighters were shipped discreetly from Belarus. UNSC resolution 1591 prohibits selling arms to Sudan government or Darfur rebels.



The source close to the Sudan army stated that a dozen MIG-29 combat fighters were shipped discreetly from Belarus. However, it is unknown whether the fighters were actually sold by Belarus or they simply came through the Eastern European country. A military cooperation protocol on military cooperation is signed between Belarus and Sudan, under which Belarusian instructors train Sudanese military men, exchange military experiences, and scientists of the two countries work out joint military projects.

Last year Russia was accused by Amnesty International (AI) supplying arms to Sudan for use in Darfur, but the Russian foreign ministry denied the charge. In May 2008, a MIG-29 was shot down over the Sudanese city of Omdurman and its Russian pilot was killed. At least 400,000 people were killed during the war and genocide in Darfur. Five million people had to flee for refuge.

Not only is Russia arming the fighters in Sudan and Ethiopia, but so are Islamic Fundamentalists. Muslim terror groups are recruiting poverty-stricken factions in Sudan and Ethiopia, and they are turning the continent into a Muslim recruitment and training arena. All of this is supports Ezekiel’s prophecy recorded in Chapters 38 and 39.

➤ LIBYA (PUT)

Our KJV Bible translates *Put* as *Libya*. Jewish historian, Josephus, wrote, “*Phut... was the founder of Libya, and called the inhabitants Phutites.*” Ancient Libya actually encompassed more territory than does the country we know by that name today. Thus, it is reasonable to believe that Ezekiel’s *Put* also included the modern-day countries of Algeria and Tunisia, though it may not have extended as far as Morocco. The



Muammar al-Gaddafi

Modern-day Islamic State of Libya has been led for over forty years by an anti-Semitic, anti-American radical named Muammar al-Gaddafi. Gaddafi has made no secret of his hatred for America and the Jewish people.

Only because of political pressure has Libya's leader, Muammar al-Gaddafi, been reined in by the Free World, but there is little doubt that he is a radical Muslim that would love to cause Israel and America much troubles.

On August 20, 2009, Gaddafi negotiated the release of the Libyan terrorist Abdel Baset al-Megrahi who was convicted of bombing Pan Am Flight 103, on which 270 people died over Lockerbie, Scotland more than two decades ago.



Abdel Baset al-Megrahi Returns to Libya



Russian SU-30 Fighter Jet

Gaddafi has also made deals with Russia for the purchase of SU-30 fighter jets, T-90 battle tanks, and other military arms. The newly formed relationship between Libya's Gaddafi and Russia's Putin is part of Russia's Islamic Initiative.

➤ GOMER & TOGRAMAH (TURKEY)

There is no clear historical consensus on the present-day location of *Gomer* or “*all its bands*,” though the most widely accepted belief is that of modern-day *Turkey*. Some theologians hold to the possibility that Gomer could refer to Germany. We know from Genesis 10 that Gomer, like Magog, Meshech, and Tubal, was a son of Japheth, which puts them all into one large, violent clan. From there the information gets somewhat murky.



Josephus, for example, wrote, “*Gomer founded those whom the Greeks now call Galatians, but were then called Gomerites.*” The Galatians of the New Testament lived in the region of Turkey to which the Apostle Paul wrote the book of Galatians and from which the Ottoman Empire emerged to take over much of the Middle East.



The question is whether the Gomerites drifted from what we now call Turkey to other countries over the centuries. Voltaire wrote, “*It is incontestable that*

the inhabitants of Gaul (France) and Spain are descended from Gomer.” Other sources say the Gomerites and their relatives are Ashkenazim. Today, Israelis describe Jews from Germany, Austria, and Poland as “Ashkenazi” Jews.

Dr. Arno Gaebelin argued in his 1918 book, *The Prophet Ezekiel*, that “*valuable information is given in the Talmud; Gomer is there stated to be the Gemani, the Germans. That the descendents of Gomer moved northward and established themselves in parts of Germany seems to be an established fact.*” However, there are many that place little or no confidence in the Talmud (an extra-biblical book written by rabbis). Most Bible scholars seem to lean toward *Turkey* more than *Germany*.

The House of Togarmah (Hebrew translation – Beth-Togarmah), is also considered by most to refer to modern-day Turkey. Josephus identified the people of Togarmah as “*the Thrugrammeans, who as the Greeks resolved, were named Phrygians.*” Phrygia was a western kingdom in Asia Minor, what is now called modern-day Turkey, from around 1200 to 600 BC. The Apostle Paul traveled “*throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia,*” in Turkey on his second missionary journey, according to Acts 16:6.

Greek historian, Herodotus, wrote that the people of Armenia were originally from Phrygia before they crossed into the territory we now call Armenia – the area of the Caucasus, eastern Anatolia, and southern Russia – around 700 BC. Thus, Bible scholars generally believe that Togarmah refers to the people of Turkey and Armenia and the Turkic-speaking peoples who spread out over time across central Asia, including those in modern-day countries of *Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.*

This means that *Gomer* and “*all his bands*” and *Togarmah* refer to the region between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea – commonly called modern-day Turkey today. In the past, Turkey has maintained good relations with the United States even with a mixture of Islam and Democracy. In 2009, however, there has been a push by surging Islamic Fundamentalists in the area to return to Sharia Law. Muslims are choosing sides, and many are becoming increasingly anti-American and anti-Semitic. According to Ezekiel’s prophecy, Turkey will join Russia, Libya, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Iran in a coalition against Israel.



➤ OTHER ALLIES

Beyond these countries mentioned specifically, Ezekiel indicates there will be other members in the Russian-led coalition. In Ezekiel 38:2 the prophet cites *Magog*, which not only includes *Russia*, but also the territories where the Scythians spread out over time, namely the former republics of the Soviet Union, particularly those in central Asia.

In Ezekiel 38:6, after naming Gomer and Togarmah (likely areas between the Black and Caspian Seas) as part of the Russian coalition, the prophet adds that “*many others*” will be part of the coalition. This could simply mean that many troops will amass for the end-time invasion against Israel. It could mean that other specific countries besides the ones already mentioned will join in the attack against Israel. However, it could mean that the armed forces of the nations that have been mentioned will be comprised of multiple ethnicities (which are currently the case with the former Soviet republics).

In Ezekiel 38:13, the prophet refers to four specific people groups: “*Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof...*” It is widely agreed that *Sheba* and *Dedan* refer to the peoples of the *Arabian Peninsula*, including modern-day *Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman*, and the Gulf countries of *Kuwait* and the *United Arab Emirates*.

Tarshish, meanwhile, was the region encompassing what we now call southern Spain, but the term was also used in ancient times to describe the most western part of human civilization. Thus, many Bible scholars believe that “*the merchants of Tarshish with all the young lions thereof*” refer to the market-based economies of Western Europe and perhaps even the United States. Clearly, the United States and most western European nations will not likely be part of any coalition that would attack Israel, and in the passage they are not described as part of the Russian-led coalition. They are, however, likely to question the motives and objectives of Russia and her allies, especially if they are weakened by some economic reason before that time. Whether the *Arab countries of the Gulf* will actively participate in the Russian alliance or remain neutral with the Western powers is simply not clear.

Ezekiel 38:8 says. “*After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.*” Ezekiel 39:2 states, “*And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north part, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel.*”



The Golan Heights

Ezekiel 39:4 says, “*Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.*”

The *mountains of Israel* are located mainly on the country’s northern borders with modern-day Syria, Lebanon, and Northern Jordan. Most notably are the strategically important mountains of the *Golan Heights*. Since the Russian-led coalition is described by the prophet as coming primarily from the north, therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that *Syria* and *Lebanon* will be participants in the coalition. *Jordan* may participate as well, though this is not entirely clear. Currently, Jordan and Israel have a manageable relationship.

➤ SUMMARY

In summary, Ezekiel describes specific nations that will form a future anti-Semitic coalition. Russia will spearhead this alliance and an end-time invasion of the Jewish State of Israel. *Iran, Libya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia*, and several *former Soviet Union republics* will participate in the coalition. During the days of Ezekiel, these countries had nothing in common. However, in our day and age, we see what is bringing these countries together. It is most definitely **ISLAM**.

Islam is the one thing that all of these nations have in common. It is important to note that Iran is mentioned first as an ally to Russia. Nearly all of Russia’s allies described by Ezekiel are nations that are predominantly Islamic or have a high percentage of Muslim citizens. It is not clear if all of the former Soviet republics will participate, but it is likely that a significant number of them will, particularly those in central Asia since they are included as Magog and Togarmah citations. Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states are mentioned in the prophecy too, but it is not clear if they are participants or observers. Notably missing from this coalition, however, are any references to the Muslim nations of *Egypt* and *Iraq*. This is very important, as we will see later.

What about Modern Invasions of Israel?

Many have suggested that many of the modern invasions of Israel have fulfilled Ezekiel’s prophecy of an end-time invasion of Israel. Israel has been outnumbered by its enemies on five occasions, but each time Israel has prevailed. On the very day that Israel gained its independence, May 14, 1948, seven (7) Arab armies – *Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia*, and *Yemen* – attacked



the newly established Jewish State of Israel. Many point out that like Ezekiel's prophecy; Israel was attacked from the North, South, East, and West.

However, there are distinct differences from the invasion described by Ezekiel. It is important to notice that **Russia** and **Iran did not** participate in the invasion. Russia and Iran will be the two most prominent nations in Ezekiel's prophesied invasion. In addition, you will notice that both **Egypt** and **Iraq did** participate in the 1948 invasion of Israel. Ezekiel's prophecy **does not** include *Egypt* or *Iraq*.

Another modern invasion of Israel occurred in June of 1967. It was called the **Six Days' War** because the fighting was quickly repelled by the Jewish military in only six days. Like the war in 1948, Israel was again surrounded by hostile Arab forces, but Israel swiftly repelled these invading armies and in addition won back the Biblical lands of Judaea and Samaria (the West Bank), the ancient Philistine territory of the Gaza Strip, and the strategic "mountains of Israel" to the north (*Golan Heights*). The City of Jerusalem was reunified at this time.



Again, like the attack of Israel in 1948, the Six Days' War could not be the one invasion prophesied in



Ezekiel 38. While **Russia** (formerly the USSR) did support the invading Arabs by providing military arms, **Russia did not** directly participate in the fighting, nor did **Iran** take part in the war in this 1967 conflict. On the other hand, **Egypt** and **Iraq did** take leading roles in the fighting, contrary to Ezekiel's prophecy that does not include these two nations. Of all of the modern wars against Israel, the *Yom Kippur War* of October 1973 resembled Ezekiel's prophecy the most, but it too included crucial

differences. Israel was surrounded by a Muslim coalition led by *Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq*. *Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Sudan, and Pakistan* all played supporting roles by providing varying degrees of financial aid, ground troops, combat pilots, and military equipment. Even *Cuba* and *Uganda* deployed forces to help defeat the Jewish State of Israel.



Once again, Israel prevailed even as the outlook seemed hopeless. However, just as the previous invasions, this war did not fulfill Ezekiel's prophecy because of the following discrepancies. The **Soviet Union (Russia)**, though a major sponsor of the invasion, **did not** send soldiers to participate in the fighting. **Neither** did **Iran** and **Turkey** take part in the coalition. Once again, **Egypt** and **Iraq did** play key roles, and as already stated, neither *Iraq* nor *Egypt* will participate in the invasion led by Gog of Magog.

One aspect of the Yom Kippur War that is interesting, in light of Ezekiel’s prophecy, is that this war set into motion a *peace process* that has neutralized Egypt as a direct combatant against Israel. After the Yom Kippur War, Egypt realized that Russia was not a reliable ally. Egypt also realized it could never win back the Sinai Peninsula from Israel through military means. Therefore, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat decided to bring the conflict to an end through peaceful negotiations. President Sadat made a historic visit to Jerusalem, met with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, spoke directly to the Israeli people and before the Israeli parliament, and signed a peace treaty with Israel known as the *Camp David Accords*.



Egypt’s involvement in all of the major conflicts with Israel since 1948 is one of the main reasons none of those conflicts could have fulfilled the end-time invasion predicted by Ezekiel.

Conversely, the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel (1979) actually brought the prophesied invasion a step closer. No such peace process has ensued with *Syria*, Israel’s primary enemy to the north. The *Golan Heights* (“the mountains of Israel”) remain a hotly contested land and will eventually become ground zero in the war described by Ezekiel.

Are We Seeing the Rise of Gog?

Many people like to speculate about the identity of the Antichrist. There has been a litany of predictions made over the centuries, but all have proven to be wrong. Many speculators believed Antiochus Epiphanes, who ruled the Seleucid Empire from 175-164 BC, was the Antichrist. Others thought that Adolf Hitler was the Antichrist because he murdered 6 million Jews during the Holocaust of WWII. Some even speculated that Henry Kissinger was the Antichrist because, as they said, the numerical value of his name equaled 666, the number of the Beast. All of these speculations have proven to be wrong. Only God knows who the Antichrist will be or when he will be revealed.

In similar fashion, many have speculated about the identity of *Gog*, the leader of the end-time invasion of Israel. While we do not believe that anyone can be certain about the identity of *Gog*, we can know something about his character by studying God’s Word. With this thought in mind, let us look at Vladimir Putin of modern-day Russia. We are *not* suggesting that Putin *IS* *Gog*, but we are suggesting that he is *Gogesque*! Let’s examine the actions of Vladimir Putin and see why we make such a bold statement concerning this Russian leader today.

Putin's Islamic Initiative



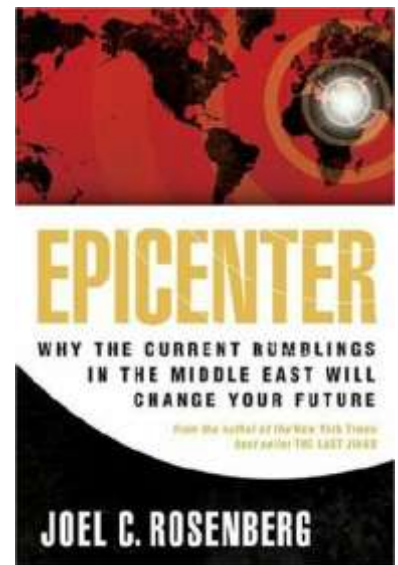
Russia is resurging under the leadership of Vladimir Putin. He is a former KGB agent, spy, loyalist, and two-term President of Russia. It is apparent that his main goal, Putin wants to advance his personal agenda and resurrect Russia to its former prominence on as the USSR on the world stage. One aspect of Ezekiel's prophecy that stands out is Russia's willingness to align itself with radical Islamic rogue states. Vladimir Putin is doing exactly this by aligning Russia with the likes of Iran, Libya, Syria, and several former Russian republics that are now radical Muslim States.

One explanation for this political trend is revealed in Putin's *Islamic Initiative*. In 2006, Russia held a Strategic Outlook Conference in which Vladimir Putin declared that cooperation and joint-efforts with the Muslim community was Russia's "top priority." Why would Putin make such a radical statement? The reason is crystal clear – Russia is now 30% Muslim! With such an influx of Muslim population, Putin is now yielding to the Islamic community of Russia as a matter of survival. Russia has extended their hand to a number of rogue Muslim states, many of which sponsor terrorism. Putin is striking arms deals with many Muslim nations worth billions of dollars. Russia is selling fighter jets, tanks, weapons, and even technology to radical Muslim countries, especially those who oppose Israel and the United States. Vladimir Putin's underlying motive is money and military muscle. Clearly, Putin's main objective is to make Russia a world power capable of rivaling the USA and NATO, as it was in the Cold War.

I want to acknowledge Jewish-Christian author, Joel C. Rosenberg for much of the following excerpts taken from his book entitled, *Epicenter*: I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in Israel and end-time prophecy.

“As Vladimir Putin settled into office in 2000, rebuilding Russia's tattered alliances in the Middle East became an increasingly top priority. In August of 2000, Putin welcomed Yasser Arafat to Moscow, just shortly after Arafat's visit to Tehran. Arafat pointedly asked Putin to get Russia more actively and aggressively involved in the Middle East than either of his predecessors Gorbachev or Yeltsin had been. Putin agreed!

By the spring of 2001, Putin welcomed Iranian president Mohammed Khatami to Moscow – the first visit by an Iranian leader since the Islamic Revolution of 1979. Their discussion included increasing arms sales, nuclear cooperation, and





Putin & Mohammed Khatami

other trade deals. As if Putin were working his way through the list of countries prophesied by Ezekiel, Putin then expanded his Islamic Initiative beyond Iran.

In December 2001, Vladimir Putin welcomed Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi to the Kremlin and signed the first major treaty between Moscow and Addis Ababa. Putin agreed to sell more Russian military arms, including fighter jets and other combat aircraft, to Ethiopia. Putin also agreed to write off \$5 billion in debt to the Ethiopian government in return for new trade deals and the opportunity for Russian petroleum companies to develop oil and gas fields in Ethiopia.

In September of 2003, Putin welcomed Saudi Arabia's crown prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz to Moscow. This was the first visit of such a high ranking Saudi leader since 1932. One reason for the tattered relationship between Russia and Saudi Arabia was that the Saudis channeled billions of dollars to the Mujahedin of Afghanistan to defeat the USSR after their 1979 invasion. Another reason was because the United States had military bases in Saudi Arabia at the time. This meeting between Russia and Saudi Arabia was, therefore, historic. They signed new trade deals and discussed regional security and future arms agreements.



Putin & Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz

The crown prince stated, *“Russia occupies a special position in our interests and hearts as it was the first country to recognize the new Saudi state in 1926.”*

In October 2003, Putin traveled to Malaysia to address the *Organization of the Islamic Conference* and to call on the OIC to accept Russia as a member, given that about one in seven Russian citizens (about 20 million people) were Muslims. Putin stated, *“For centuries, Russia as a Eurasian country has been intertwined with the Islamic world. The last decade was a time of revival of the spiritual life of Russia's Muslims.”* He further noted that in 1991, Russia had only 870 mosques, but in 2003, Russia had more than 7,000. Putin's appeal to the OIC was widely praised throughout the Muslim world. Russia was accepted into the OIC with “observer status”, and since then, many new doors of opportunity have been opened to Putin and Russia in the Middle East region.



Putin at OIC Conference

In 2004, Putin accepted an invitation to visit Tehran, further signaling the seriousness of the emerging Russian-Iranian alliance. Though Putin did not actually visit Iran, both sides agreed that the visit would take place in the near future.

In September 2004, Putin was scheduled to visit Turkey, but he had to postpone his visit because of a terrorist attack on an elementary school in Beslan. When the trip eventually took place later in December 2004, it was understandably big news in both countries. Putin became the first Russian leader to ever visit modern-day Turkey, a long-time regional rival and member of NATO. In Ankara, Putin discussed ways to build economic and security ties with Turkey. Russia offered to sell Turkey more Russian gas and oil.

In February 2005, Putin sent Russian troops to Sudan. Russia's express purpose was to support "peacekeeping" efforts, but this was hardly truthful since Russia had been arming the radical Islamic regime in Khartoum for many years, as had the Iranians.



Putin & Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak

In April 2005, Putin became the first Russian leader in more than forty years to visit Egypt. He not only met with President Hosni Mubarak, but he also visited the headquarters of the Arab league. While there, Putin held talks with Secretary-General Amr Musa and addressed the permanent representatives of Arab countries in what *Aljazeera* called "Russia's wider bid to restore its Soviet-era influence in the Middle East."

On Putin's same trip in April 2005, he became the first leader of Russia or the former Soviet Union to visit Israel and the Palestinian Authority. He met in Jerusalem with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and other top Israeli officials. In the West Bank town of Ramallah, he met with Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority. He defended recent Russian missile sales to Syria and nuclear cooperation with Iran, laid a wreath at the grave of Yasser Arafat, and pledged to sell new arms to the Palestinians.

In January 2006, Putin extended an invitation for the newly elected Hamas leadership to visit Moscow for high-level talks and again offered to sell the Palestinians new military arms. During a trip to Spain, Putin explained that he did not see Hamas as a terrorist organization. He further stated that he viewed the Hamas electoral victory as *"a big setback, an important setback for American efforts in the Middle East, a very serious setback,"* using the word setback three times and almost appearing to relish the development. It should be noted



that Russian President Vladimir Putin made these moves despite international efforts to isolate Hamas diplomatically and to cut off the group's funding until it renounced violence and accepted Israel's right to exist. Several days after Putin made the invitation, Hamas leader, Khaled Mash'al, delivered a

sermon at a mosque in Damascus, directly threatening the national security of the United States, the European Union, and Israel. Yet Putin did not rescind his invitation to Hamas. Instead, the Kremlin welcomed Hamas leaders to Moscow only weeks later.

In March 2006, Putin became the first leader since the collapse of the Soviet Union to visit Algeria. There he signed a \$7.5 billion deal to sell arms to the North African nation, a deal that one Russian military analyst called “the biggest military contract signed by post-Soviet Russia.”



In 2007, Russia delivered billions of dollars worth of Russian fighter jets to Syria. In 2007, Russia threatened to aim nukes at major European cities if NATO installed America missile defense systems in Europe. In 2007 Russia further flexed its military muscle by test firing sea-based ballistic missiles with a range of 6,200 miles. Russia has boasted of their new “vacuum bomb” more powerful than anything the USA possesses. Russia had angered the West by claiming to own both the North Pole and Arctic Circle in June 2007. In August 2007, Russia struck a deal with Syria to sell them several Sukhoi-30 Russian fighter jets. These jets are extremely effective and are well-able to maneuver against American F-18 jets. In addition, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin became the first Russian leader to visit Libya (specifically named by Ezekiel) and has agreed to sell military weapons to this rogue state led by Muammar al-Gaddafi.

One of the most significant recent events to occur is the joint-military exercises involving *Russian, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and China*. Ezekiel’s prophecy, written thousands of years ago, is actually materializing in our day!



Anders Fogh Rasmussen
NATO CHIEF

Russia continues to provide *Iran* with nuclear technology, especially enrichment of weapons-grade uranium. In response to all of these atrocities committed by Putin of Russia, it seems ludicrous that anyone would want to appease Russia, but that is exactly what has happened. On September 18, 2009, in Brussels, Belgium during his speech at the Concert Nobles, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen proposed NATO to establish closer ties with Russian defenses. Vladimir Putin’s “*Islamic Initiative*” seems to be moving forward in full-force. He has made no secrets that Russia’s *top priority* is the *joint-efforts and cooperation with Muslim states*. With 50,000 Muslims currently living in Moscow and 50 million Muslims in six former Soviet republics, Russia is well on its way to fulfilling the prophecies of Ezekiel. Whether or not Vladimir Putin is *Gog* (as prophesied by Ezekiel) is yet

to be seen, but we **have no difficulty in stating that Putin is certainly “Goguesque in his actions!** He is definitely moving Russia in the direction prophesied by Ezekiel.

In Russia “The Sword Is Mightier Than the Pen”

Since 1991, 220 Russian journalists have been murdered or died suspiciously. Of the 220 deaths, only five have been properly investigated according to Russian sources. Since 2000, when Vladimir Putin took office as President of Russia, 101 Russian journalists have been killed. Most of these journalists were opposed to the policies and procedures of Vladimir Putin.



Russian Journalist Anna Politkovskaya Murdered

Among the 101 Russian journalists was Anna Politkovskaya. Politkovskaya was involved in her own investigation of Putin’s secret arms negotiations with Syria, a terror sponsoring state. One month after she exposed the Putin’s deal with Syria, said to be worth billions of dollars, Anna Politkovskaya was shot to death in the lobby of her apartment complex on October 7, 2006. Shortly after her death, which was never solved, Russia made its arms deal with Syria public.

Another prominent Russian who opposed Putin was former KGB agent and Russian spy, Alexander Litvinenko. After defecting to Great Britain, Alexander Litvinenko was outraged by the death of Russian journalist, Anna Politkovskaya. Litvinenko an author too, became very vocal of his opposition of Russian President Vladimir Putin and the direction that his beloved Russia was heading.

For his troubles, Alexander Litvinenko was poisoned with Polonium 210, used by Russian scientists in their nuclear development program.

Alexander Litvinenko converted to Islam on his deathbed. However, before he died, he publically criticized Vladimir Putin on television, in the press, and on radio and internet for his responsibility in his death. Here is an excerpt of his deathbed statement:

“You may succeed in silencing me but that silence comes at a price. You have shown yourself to be as barbaric and ruthless as your most hostile critics have claimed. You have shown yourself to have no respect for life, liberty or any civilized value. You have shown yourself to be unworthy of your office, to be unworthy of the trust of civilized men and women. You may succeed in silencing one man but the howl of protest from around the world will reverberate, Mr. Putin, in your ears for the rest of your life. May God forgive you for what you have done, not only to me but to beloved Russia and its people.”



**Alexander Litvinenko
AFTER**



**Alexander Litvinenko
BEFORE**

WHEN Will the End-Time Invasion Occur?

Now we return to Ezekiel 38-39. A question that merits answering is **WHEN** will this invasion occur? Ezekiel is clear about when this invasion will occur:

“After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee. Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates” (Ezekiel 38:8-11).

“And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes” (Ezekiel 38:16).

There are two phrases that jump out in these verses. *First*, Ezekiel says that the invasion will occur in the *“latter years”* or *“latter days”*. God’s Word speaks much about the *latter times* and the *last days*:

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth” (1 Timothy 4:1-3).

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Timothy 3:1-5; 7).

The *second* thing that stands out in Ezekiel 38:8-11 and 16 is that Israel is will *“dwell in safety; without bars or gates.”* It has been aptly stated, *“Israel has never known peace; only periods when there has been an absence of war.”* There are two times when Israel will dwell safely. Israel will dwell safely during the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ when He *“rules with a rod of iron.”* Of course, no invasion by Gog and his allies will befall the people of Israel during this time.

The only other time that Israel will dwell safely is during the first half of the Tribulation. Daniel's *Seventieth Week* (also called the *Time of Jacob's Trouble*) is characterized when the Antichrist rises to power on a platform of peace (Revelation 6:1-2) and enters into a covenant with Israel. He will be viewed as a great peace-maker and become the leader of a Revived Roman Empire. The Antichrist's covenant relationship with the nation of Israel (Daniel 9:27) will cause the Jewish people to have a sense of peace and safety. However, this will be only a "false security." Paul warned of a coming day in Israel when men would speak of peace and safety:



“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

After a lifetime of dealing with terrorism in the land of Israel, Israelis will welcome the opportunity to experience real peace and safety. Jewish people living in Israel will be convinced that they have no need of bars and gates. They will misplace their confidence in the Antichrist instead of Jesus Christ. Men will speak of “*peace and safety*” as predicted by Paul, and at that time “*sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape*” (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

It will be during this time that Gog will lead Russia and its allies against Israel. Some Bible scholars believe the invasion will occur prior to the Rapture, but I respectfully disagree. Without the covenant between the Antichrist and Israel, Israel will not dwell in a sense of peace or safety.

WHERE Will the End-Time Invasion Occur?

Another question that demands to be answered is **WHERE** will this invasion take place? Again, we find the answer in Ezekiel's prophecy.

“After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them” (Ezekiel 38:8).

“And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face” (Ezekiel 38:18).

Notice that Ezekiel calls the location - “*the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel*”. Ezekiel makes it even clearer when he states, “*against the land of Israel*”. The invasion will take place initially in the “*mountains of Israel*” (**Golan Heights**), and then spread throughout the land of Israel proper.

HOW Will Israel Survive the End-Time Invasion?

Faced with what will look like certain disaster, Israel's deliverance will seem impossible. The Antichrist will not deliver Israel. Israel's IDF will be no match for the invading forces. Nations located in the West will be mere spectators. How will Israel survive? Without bars and gates, with men celebrating peace and safety, it is obvious that Israel will be taken completely by surprise!

Let's read **HOW** Israel will be delivered from these invading forces:



“For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone” (Ezekiel 38:19-22).

“Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal... Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD. And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 39:1; 4-6).

GOD DEFEATS GOG! Only God could defeat Israel's enemies in such a manner as this! Like so many times in Israel's history, God will miraculously deliver His people. Let us not forget what Jeremiah 31:10 declares, *“God will SCATTER Israel; God will GATHER Israel; God will KEEP Israel.”* Here, God reveals how He will **KEEP** Israel.

Notice **HOW** God defeats Gog:

- **EARTHQUAKE** (Ezekiel 38:19-20)
- **FRIENDLY FIRE** (Ezekiel 38:21)
- **DISEASE** (Ezekiel 38:22)
- **NATURAL DISASTERS** (Ezekiel 38:22)

WHY Will God Allow This End-Time Invasion?

The answer to this question is found in **Ezekiel 39:7** –

“So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.”

There are two reasons revealed in Ezekiel in verse 7 **WHY** God will allow this invasion. *First*, God says, ***“I will make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel.”*** God will make it known to Israel that HE delivered them from the invading armies. God wants Israel to know that HE brought them back into the land. God wants Israel to know that HE delivered them when all seemed to be lost! God wants His people to awaken from their slumber and put their trust in Him.

Isaiah wrote, *“Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else”* (Isaiah 45:21-22).

Secondly, God says, ***“...the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.”*** Not only does God want His chosen people to realize **HE** delivered them, but God also wants the heathen to know! The world has long sought a leader who would bring world peace. Now the Lord reveals that He alone is able! God will open the eyes of the both the Jews and the Gentiles that **HE** alone is mighty to save!

The Sovereignty and Omniscience of Almighty God is clearly revealed as Ezekiel writes, ***“Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this is the day whereof I have spoken”*** (Ezekiel 39:8). As far as God is concerned, the defeat of this end-time invasion is as good as ***“come and done”***. My friend, we ought to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We ought to get the Gospel to God’s chosen people. How can we continue to say we love the Lord and have no burden for the souls of His chosen people?

Paul writes, ***“For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him”*** (Romans 10:12). Jews need Jesus as much as Gentiles need Jesus, and no one will ever come to Jesus without someone preaching the Gospel to them (Romans 10:17).

Paul wrote, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”* (Romans 10:13-15)

Israel & End-Time Prophecy: Israel's End-Time Troubles (Revelation 12:1-5)

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.” Revelation 12:1-5

Introduction

This prophecy reveals three characters vital to understanding its meaning. We have examined Daniel's *Seventy Weeks Prophecy* that identifies a seven year period called the Tribulation. We have looked at Ezekiel's prophecy of an *End-Time Invasion of Israel* that will occur during the first half of the Tribulation. Now we will look at events will occur during the second half of Daniel's Seventieth Week.

Jeremiah speaks of the re-gathering of the Jewish people in the land of Israel and of the time of trouble that will ensue. *“For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. And these are the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it”* (Jeremiah 30:3-7).



Jeremiah predicts great troubles for the nation of Jews during this time. *“The Time of Jacob’s Troubles”* will be so severe that Jeremiah describes it by saying, *“...wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?”* As a man, it is difficult to imagine how painful delivering a child truly is, but Jeremiah describes the pain of Jacob’s trouble as a “man giving birth!”

Matthew describes the severity of the second half of the *Seventieth Week of Daniel* in a different way. Matthew writes, *“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be”* (Matthew 24:15-21).

Jesus warned the Jewish people of this terrible time to come. He told them to run for the mountains when they see the *“abomination of desolation”* committed by the Antichrist in the temple. The Beast (Antichrist) will desecrate the temple; he will declare himself to be God and begin his persecution of Israel. The persecution of the Jews will be so great that Jesus said that they should pray that it be not in the winter months. He warned them not to return home for their clothes, and that it would be especially difficult for those who were pregnant or had just given birth.

Because of the severity of the next 3 ½ years of persecution, the second half of the Tribulation is called the **“Great Tribulation”**. The increase in the intensity will cause much death, much chaos, and much suffering. Jesus declares that it will be the greatest time of tribulation the world has ever known or ever will know.

The Tribulation is the third most mentioned doctrine in the Word of God. Only the Doctrines of Salvation and the Second Coming are mentioned more. The Tribulation is mentioned 45 times in the Old Testament and 15 times in the New Testament, and by over 30 different names throughout. Let us now examine some of the end-time troubles revealed in Revelation 12.

A Woman, a Child, and a Dragon

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which

was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.” Revelation 12:1-5

The theme of this chapter is the final conflict between Israel and Satan. Today, Satan still has access to the throne of God, but Revelation Chapter 12 reveals that Satan will eventually be cast out of heaven. Seven different personalities are introduced to us by the blowing of this seventh trumpet. Beginning in Revelation Chapter 12, the seven prominent personages that play a dominant role in the Great Tribulation are revealed.

When the seven *vial (bowl)* judgments of God’s wrath are poured out upon the earth, they will culminate in the final destruction of Babylon (reference. - Revelation 17-18) and usher in the Second Coming of Messiah (Revelation 19).

In Revelation 12 we find the first three personages revealed. It is crucial to identify these personalities in order to have a proper understanding of the events leading up to the Second Coming of Messiah.



Upon reading Revelation 12:1-5, we must answer the following questions:

- ❖ **Who is the woman?**
- ❖ **Who is the child?**
- ❖ **Who is the dragon?**
- ❖ **Why does the dragon try to devour the child?**
- ❖ **Why does the dragon persecute the woman?**

THE WOMAN - ISRAEL

There are some who claim that the **WOMAN** represents the **Roman Catholic Church**. They are wrong! There are some that claim that the **WOMAN** represents the true **Church**. They too are wrong! The identifying marks of the **Woman** in Revelation 12 are found in the very first verse – *“the sun, the moon, and the stars.”*

These marks belong to **ISRAEL**. In Genesis 37, Joseph had a dream: *“And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his*

brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?"

Jacob interpreted the **sun**, **moon**, and the **stars** to mean himself, Rachel, and Joseph's brothers. They ultimately bowed down before Joseph (although Rachel had died by that time). John says that the **Woman** is a sign in heaven, although her career is here on earth. She is **not** a **literal woman**, but **symbolic** of **Israel**. The woman corresponds to Israel because Israel gave birth to Jesus the Child.

At Christmas we all have read Isaiah 9:6. This verse speaks of the birth of Jesus Christ, but it is not directed to the Church. Rather, it is directed to the nation of Israel - "***For unto us (Israel) a child is born, unto us (Israel) a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace***" (Isaiah 9:6).

The next verse clarifies this truth - "***Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this***" (Isaiah 9:7).

"*Unto us*" refers to **Israel**; not the *Church*! It is obvious that Isaiah is speaking to the nation of Israel, and he is speaking not relative to a Saviour, but to a Governor, a Ruler, a King, One Who will come and rule over them. "*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given*" is interesting in that as a child Jesus was *born* in His humanity; but as a Son from eternity, Jesus was *given*. "*And the government shall be upon his shoulder*" is not talking about the Saviour, but rather, the One Who will come as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Many verses of Scripture speak of how Jesus the Messiah came from Israel. Hebrews 7:14 states, "*For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda...*" Romans 9:4-5 says, "*Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.*" The Samaritan woman at the well identified Jesus as a Jew, "*Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.*"

Even the phrase, "*travailing in birth,*" is used primarily as a Jewish association. Isaiah wrote, "*Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children*" Isaiah 66:7-8.

We identify the **woman** as **Israel**. No woman that has ever lived, including the Virgin Mary that fits this prophecy. It is the nation of Israel and **NOT** the Church of all ages. We must keep in mind that this is the **Time of Jacob's Trouble**, and therefore, is relevant to **Israel** and **NOT** the Church. The Church has

been removed (Revelation 3:10) BEFORE the Tribulation, and for the past 3 ½ years has been in Heaven with her Groom – Jesus Christ.

THE DRAGON - SATAN

“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born” Revelation 12:3-4

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” Revelation 12:9

The **Woman** is **Israel**, and the **Dragon** is **Satan**. There can be no mistake about the identification of the **Dragon**, for God specifically identifies the **Dragon** for us. In these verses we find that the **Dragon** is called “**great**” because of his vast power. He is given control over the nations of the world and previously offered them to Jesus (Matthew 4:8-9). Satan’s ultimate goal is to receive worship of mankind and angels, and today, is called “*the god of this world*” – “*In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them*” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

The **Dragon** is called “**red**” because he was a murderer from the beginning. “*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it*” (John 8:44). He has no regard for human life. It really makes one wonder why so many are willing to serve him, but they do.

Satan is called the **Dragon** because of his vicious character. He was originally created Lucifer, son of the morning (Ezekiel 28:12-19), but now he is the epitome of evil and the depth of degradation. He is the most dangerous being in all of God’s creation. He is the enemy of God and all believers who are now the children of God.

Why does the **Dragon** desire to devour the **Child**? Maybe the best answer to this question is because the first Messianic prophecy revealed that the **Child** would one day destroy Satan. “*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel*” (Genesis 3:15).

We could spend a great deal of time discussing how that the **Dragon** (Satan) has tried to devour the **Child**, the Lord Jesus Christ. After Mary gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem, the **Dragon** tried to devour Him. King Herod made a decree that all Hebrew babies two years old and younger should be killed in an attempt to kill the King of Kings. However, to preserve His life, God instructed Joseph and Mary to take their newborn child to Egypt to escape certain death.

Upon the return of Mary, Joseph, and the **Child** to Israel, Jesus was reared in Nazareth. When Jesus began His public ministry, the Jewish religious leaders were angered by the message of Jesus. Jesus exposed their sins and rebuked them on several occasions. As a result, these religious leaders sought to put Jesus to death. No doubt the **Dragon** was behind their attempts to devour the **Child**.

On the night before He was crucified, Jesus was betrayed by Judas, one of His disciples. For a mere thirty pieces of silver, Judas sold Jesus out to the Jewish religious leadership. Soldiers arrested Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, gave Him a mock trial, sentenced Him to death, and crucified Him. All of this was motivated by Satan to devour the **Child**. However, Satan did not realize that this was God's master plan of redemption for mankind. Jesus had come into the world as the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8).

No doubt Satan rejoiced, thinking that he had finally succeeded in devouring Jesus! He must have been sorely disappointed when Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, conquering death and hell! When the **Dragon** was unsuccessful in devouring the **Child**, he sought to devour the **Woman** (Israel) that had brought forth the Child. Throughout history, the Jewish people have been hated and persecuted more than any other people on earth. Many kings and leaders have tried to wipe the nation of Israel from off the face of the earth, but all have failed! God has promised that Israel will be a nation as long as the sun, the moon, and the stars exist. Listen to the own words of the prophet Jeremiah:

“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.” (Jeremiah 31:35-36)

THE CHILD - JESUS

“And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.” Revelation 12:5-6

The *“man child”* can only be **Jesus Christ**. He is easy to identify. The **Child IS NOT the Church**. The Church and the Child are not the same! No more evidence is necessary than that found in verse 5 – *“...who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron”*. There is only ONE that fits this description – The

Lord Jesus Christ. The psalmist wrote, *“Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”* (Psalm 2:9).

In the very next half of the Revelation 12:5, John has fast forwarded through the earthly life and ministry of Jesus Christ to His ascension from the Mount of Olives – *“and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.”* The New Testament account of this event is found in **Acts 1:9-11** –

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:9-11).

It is interesting to note that the entire 1st Advent of Jesus Christ is contained in Revelation 12:5. It begins with the birth of Jesus Christ and ends with His ascension into heaven. What is not revealed in this verse is everything that occurred between those two events - His life, ministry, His miracles, and His death, burial, resurrection. All of these events can be seen in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

In Revelation 12:6, we find that Israel is fleeing from the **Dragon** in the second half of the Tribulation, called the Great Tribulation. Between Revelation 12:5 and 12:6, John omits the entire “Church Age.” Let us read these two verses to see this truth.

“And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.” (**Revelation 12:5**)

“And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.” (**Revelation 12:6**)

We are currently living between **Revelation 12:5** and **Revelation 12:6**. For the past 2,000 years, God has set Israel aside, and is currently calling out a people unto Himself. Both Jews and Gentiles that trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour, saved by grace through faith making up the New Testament Church (1 Corinthians 12:13). The Church was a *mystery* hidden in God throughout the Old Testament economy. The Old Testament prophets did not realize there would be a dispensation that would exist between Messiah’s 1st Coming and the 70th Week of Daniel (The Tribulation).

Now, in Revelation 12:6 we see the **Woman (Israel)** fleeing into the wilderness because the **Dragon** (Satan) is pursuing her. What caused such persecution at this particular time? John reveals that a **WAR** takes place in Heaven. Let’s read the story in Revelation 12:7-12.

A WAR IN HEAVEN

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come



salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused used them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” Revelation 12:7-12

In this passage, we find ourselves near the middle of Daniel’s *Seventieth Week*. Something extraordinary happens at the mid-point of the Tribulation (the Time of Jacob’s Trouble). A war breaks out in heaven! What an incredible event... a **WAR** in Heaven!

It is difficult for us to comprehend, but Satan actually has access to the throne of God. A quick glance at the book of Job reveals this truth. In Job Chapters 1 and 2, we read about a conversation between God and Satan concerning the faithfulness of Job. Satan accused God of placing a hedge around Job, so God allowed Satan to send a wave of tribulation to test his resolve. You know the story. Job lost his family, his wealth, and his health, only to be rebuked by his wife and three back-slidden *Baptist preachers!* They said, “*You’ve sinned, you’ve sinned, you know you’ve sinned!*” Well, Job had not sinned, and he was not responsible for his trials. My friend, sometimes bad things happen to good people, but this does not mean they have done something wrong. God is still on the throne. Satan cannot touch a believer without God’s permission. Job’s statement serves as a great example to us, “*And (Job) said, Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD*” (Job 1:21).

Zechariah 3:1-2 also reveals that Satan has access to the throne of God – *“And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?”* Satan is an accuser of the brethren! (Revelation 12:10).

We are told in the book of Jude that there is an archangel named Michael. *“Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.”* (Jude 9). Michael’s ministry is a unique ministry. Daniel 10:13 reveals that Michael is one of the “chief princes” - *“But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.”* Michael and Gabriel are the only two angels named in Scripture, except for *Lucifer*, a fallen angel, that is now called Satan, the devil, the dragon, that old serpent.

Daniel writes, *“But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince”* (Daniel 10:21). Since the people of Daniel were Jews, it is apparent that Michael is the prince assigned to the nation of Israel. This is further supported in Daniel 12:1 – *“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.”* Michael is the defender of the Jewish people, the nation of Israel.

Jude reveals a time when Michael did not dare contend with Satan. Jude wrote, *“Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee”* (Jude 9). In the midst of the Tribulation that changes. Michael is given permission to cast the **Dragon**, out of heaven! No doubt there will be a fierce struggle because John refers to the struggle as a “war”. Michael and his angels will prevail, and Satan and his angels (fallen angels/demons) will be cast out of the presence of God to the earth.



It is interesting to examine all of the names assigned to the **Dragon**. *First*, he is called *“the old serpent.”* This refers us back to the Garden of Eden. Jesus said, *“... he was a murderer from the*

beginning...” (John 8:44). The words *old* and *beginning* are akin. Satan is the *old serpent*, the *one who was at the beginning* in the Garden of Eden.” He is also called the *Devil*. This name comes from the Greek *diabolos* meaning “*slanderer or accuser.*”

Secondly, the **Dragon** is called “*the accuser of our brethren*” in Revelation 12:10. This is the reason we need an Advocate with the Father. We as believers have an adversary that is not only causing us problems here on earth, but also is causing us problems in Heaven. Satan, the accuser of our brethren, loves to remind God how imperfect we are. However, God lets us know in His Word that we have One Who advocates on our behalf – “***My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous***” (1 John 2:1).

Thirdly, the **Dragon** is also called “*Satan*”. The word *Satan* means “*adversary.*” He is the adversary of God and every child of God. Peter exhorts us to “***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour***” (1 Peter 5:8). As believers, we should be mindful that we have an *adversary*, but he is not our brethren – he is the ***Dragon, Satan, the Devil, the accuser of the brethren!***

Fourthly, we see that the **Dragon** is also called “*he that deceiveth the whole world.*” Satan is a liar; make no mistake about it! He lied in the Garden to Eve, and he has lied to everyone since. He is a deceiver and through deception, he has been able to convince people to rebel against God. It is the purpose and goal of Satan to deceive men into rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul wrote, “***In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.***” (2 Corinthians 4:4). Someone said, “*Satan is to be dreaded as a lion; more to be dreaded as a serpent; and most to be dreaded as an angel.*”

When Satan is cast out by Michael, there will be great celebration in Heaven. It is not clear whether the “*great voice in heaven*” refers to Old Testament saints, the Bride of Christ, martyred Tribulation saints now in the presence of the Lord, or all of them collectively. I suspect it refers to all of the above because there is one thing that all saints have in common – **Our Adversary – the Devil!**

THE DRAGON PERSECUTES THE WOMAN

“And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might 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 serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her

mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”
Revelation 12:13-17

This will be the **LAST** time that the Jewish people will ever suffer anti-Semitism. As soon as the **Dragon** is cast to the earth, he will unleash a wave of great wrath and anti-Semitism. John wrote, “...*Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.*” How much time does the **Dragon** have? He will have 3 ½ years, 42 months, 1260 days, or as Revelation 12:14 states, “*a time, and times, and half a time.*” He will have the second half of the Tribulation (called the Great Tribulation) to persecute “*the woman which brought forth the man child*” (Revelation 12:13).

The reason the first and second halves of the Tribulation are called by different names is because of the intensity of the second half brought about by Satan being cast down to earth. Satan will infuse the Beast and cause him to break his covenant with Israel. The Antichrist will seek to devour the **Woman (Israel)** that brought forth the **Child (Jesus)**. Since the **Dragon** knows his days are numbered, the intensity of his wrath will be severe.

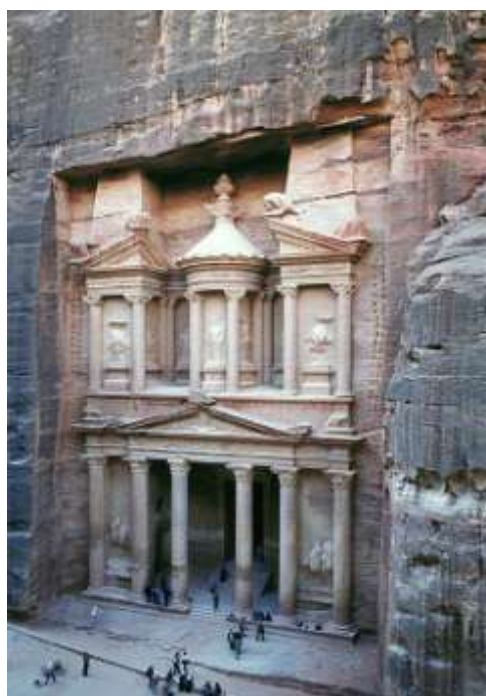
Satan has always hated Israel because Jesus came from the Jewish nation. Some rejoice in the fact that the Jewish people are being re-gathered in the land of Israel because it fulfills end-time prophecies. Many believe the re-gathering of the Jews means that the Millennial Kingdom is near. Actually, we should understand that the return of the Jewish people means that their end-time troubles are growing nearer and nearer with every Jew that enters the land. It means that our redemption draweth nigh, but it also means that the Tribulation will follow for all who are left behind. This 7-year period will be a time of trouble of which the world has never seen, nor ever will. During this time, the Jewish people will suffer more than they have ever suffered in history.

Zechariah 13:8 reveals just how severe this time of trouble will be for the Jews. Many Jews will suffer and die during this terrible time. “*And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.*” Two-thirds of the Jews will be killed by the Beast. During the Holocaust, 1/3 of all Jews were massacred by the Nazi Germans. That means three out of ten Jews were murdered. During the Great Tribulation, 2/3 of the Jews in the land will die. That means seven out of ten Jews will taste death during the second half of the Daniel’s Seventieth Week. Some Bible scholars believe that as many as 9 out of 10 Jews outside the land of Israel will perish.

Ezekiel 20:37-38 states, *“And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.”*

If this occurred today, nearly 4 million Jewish people would perish in the land of Israel and approximately 10.8 million Jews would die outside of Israel. This would be a total of 14.8 million Jews that would perish at the hands of the Antichrist as he serves as Satan’s vehicle of persecuting the **Woman (Israel)**.

Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers, *“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him”* (1 Corinthians 2:9). Just as God hath prepared a place for those that love him today, God has promised to provide a place to protect the remnant of Israel during this last wave of persecution by the **Dragon**.



Ancient Rock Fortress of Petra

Twice John says that there is a place prepared for the Jewish remnant that survives this onslaught of persecution. John wrote, *“And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days”* (Revelation 12:6). In verse 14, John records, *“And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might 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.”*

God has always had a remnant, and during the second half of the Great Tribulation He will still have a remnant. In Revelation 7, we read that 144,000 Jews will be saved and sealed by God. These sealed Jews will proclaim the Gospel during the Tribulation, and a multitude of Jews and Gentiles will be saved by their witness. However, when the Beast attacks Jerusalem, he kills 2/3 of the Jewish population, the remnant of Jews flee to this place God has prepared for them.

Where is this place that God will prepare for His remnant? According to God’s Word, the place will be located in the ancient land of *Edom*, near the city of *Bozrah*. The ancient Edomites dwelled in modern-day southern Jordan. There was an ancient city in that area called *Bozrah*. Today, there is a rock fortress located there called the Rose-Red City of *Petra*. Many Bible scholars believe this could be the place where God will preserve the Jewish remnant during the Battle of Armageddon. No one is certain, but all agree that this place fits the Biblical criteria and would provide good security for the remnant of Jews that will one day flee the armies of Antichrist!



The Narrow Entrance of Petra

HOW WILL THE JEWS SURVIVE?

With two-thirds of the Jews killed at the hands of the Antichrist and the remnant pinned down somewhere in southern Jordan, it will look like the end of the Jewish people. How can they possibly survive? What can they possibly do to survive? Hosea 5:15 provides the answer. Hosea penned the two things that God will require before He will deliver His chosen people.

“I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early” Hosea 5:15

God declares that He would go and return to His place **UNTIL... ISRAEL DOES TWO THINGS:**

- ❖ **ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR OFFENCE**
- ❖ **SEEK HIS FACE**

THERE CAN BE NO REGENERATION WITHOUT REPENTANCE! Too many preachers today preach another Gospel – a Gospel that **does not** include *Repentance*. Throughout Scriptures we find that man must *repent* before he can be saved! Repentance means *to agree with God*. Repentance means to be willing to acknowledge that God is right and you are not. Repentance means to turn 180 degrees; turning away from sin and turning to faith toward Jesus Christ.

Paul wrote, ***“Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ”*** (Acts 20:21).

In Luke 13:3, Jesus stated, ***“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”*** Two verses later we read the same instruction by the Lord, ***“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”*** (Luke 13:5). Peter also stressed the importance of *repentance*.

Peter wrote, *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9).

ALL MEN (whether Jew or Gentile) must *repent* of their sin and place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is why God told Israel, *“I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence...”* What will cause Israel to repent – to acknowledge their offence? I believe that the second half of the Tribulation, called the Great Tribulation, will ultimately cause Israel to acknowledge their offence in heartfelt *repentance*.

What is their offence? Besides the fact that they were born in sin as all men are born in sin, the major offense of the Jewish people as a nation occurred 2,000 years ago. The Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah. Because of their rejection of Messiah, God judicially judged His chosen people. God placed the nation under the spirit of *“slumber”*. Listen to what Paul wrote in Romans, *“(According as it is*



written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.” (Romans 11:8). This same rejection is the main cause of their end-time troubles. The purpose of the Tribulation is to ultimately cause Israel to realize their sin of rejection, repent of their sin, and receive Jesus as Messiah.

With two-thirds of their brethren dead, the capture of their beloved city, Jerusalem, and with the armies of the Antichrist surrounding them, the nation of Israel will finally come to the end of themselves.

The second thing that God demands of Israel is that they seek His face. Before Messiah delivers Israel from their end-time troubles, they will not only *confess their sin*, but they will also *call out to God*. What will it take for Israel to actually do this? Hosea says, *“in their affliction they will seek me early.”*

What affliction? I believe Hosea refers to the affliction of the Great Tribulation. Nothing drives a man to his knees like adversity! The Jews will be the object of the *Dragon’s* wrath. Because Satan knows he has but a short time, he will intensify his persecution of the Israel. In their affliction, the Jews will cry out to God to deliver them. This is similar to the prayer recorded in Psalm 83:1-4 -

“Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance” (Psalm 83:1-4).

What shall Israel say in their prayer? I believe Isaiah offers his brethren a perfect prayer. It is recorded in **Isaiah 53**:

“Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth” (Isaiah 53:1-9).



Ancient Text of Isaiah 53

THE SECOND COMING OF MESSIAH

Upon fulfilling these two prerequisites stated in Hosea 5:15, Messiah will deliver His people Israel! Right on time Jesus Christ will come as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and defeat the armies of the Antichrist, the Beast and the False Prophet, and after trampling upon those who stand opposed to Him, He ascends upon the Mt. of Olives in victory!

Positioned on a mountain in Israel, Isaiah witnesses the Second Coming of Messiah. Listen to what Isaiah writes –

“Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with



me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.” (Isaiah 63:1-4)

This rider coming up from southern Jordan, traveling in the greatness of his strength will come up to Jerusalem having delivered Israel. Who is this rider? The rider identifies himself, **“I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”** Only one person fits this description. This rider is the Lord Jesus Christ!

John also describes the Second Coming of Messiah:

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Revelation 19:11-16)



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When Jesus Christ returns, He not only will defeat the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and the Gentile armies that sought to destroy the Jews, but He will also cast the Beast and the False Prophet alive into the Lake of Fire.

“And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh” (Revelation 19:17-21).

CONCLUSION

My friend, do **YOU** know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour? **IF NOT**, would **YOU** consider receiving Jesus Christ right now? The clock is ticking on God's prophetic calendar. Time is quickly running out to accept the Lord. As a matter of fact, this may be **YOUR** last opportunity to come to Jesus for salvation. No one has the promise of another day or another heartbeat.

The Word of God clearly explains how **YOU** can be saved. Listen to what God's Word says:

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:9-13)

If you have trusted Jesus Christ, will you ask God to stir your heart for lost Jews, as well as the Gentiles? Paul says there is **“NO DIFFERENCE”** between the Jew and the Greek. Jews need Jesus as much as Gentiles need Jesus. However, someone must preach the Gospel before either will be saved.

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:14-17)