

THE HERALD OF HOPE

# THE GLORY OF GOD

THE PROPHECIES OF EZEKIEL EXPLAINED



by John R. Ecob DD

**The Rapture  
of the  
Church**

**The Church at the BEMA Seat of Christ  
for Rewards**

**The Second Coming  
of Christ  
with His Saints**

Gospel of  
the Grace of  
God  
preached by  
the Church

Gospel of the Kingdom  
preached by 144,000 Jews

The Everlasting Gospel  
preached by an Angel

The Law of  
the LORD  
preached by  
Jews

Temple  
built

Temple  
sacrifices  
cease

Israel flees  
to a  
wilderness refuge

Israel  
welcomes  
Messiah

Antichrist confirms a 7-year covenant with many - Dan. 9:27

Tribulation  
martyrs raised

The dead,  
"in Christ"  
raised and  
the  
living saints  
changed

Occupies Egypt,  
many countries, &  
the glorious land

1,260 days

Abomination  
of Desolation

1,260 days

SEALS  
1 2 3 4 5 6

SEVENTH SEAL = SEVEN TRUMPETS

SEVENTH SEAL = SEVEN TRUMPETS

Israel  
converted  
When Russia  
invades  
Ezek. 39:22

Four  
ecological  
judgments

2nd WOE  
200 million  
army  
prepared

SEVENTH TRUMPET = SEVEN VIALS  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

EGYPT, THEN  
RUSSIAN - ISLAMIC  
INVASION OF ISRAEL

3rd WOE - Judgment on Gentile Nations,  
Antichrist, and apostate Christendom  
THE KINGS OF THE EAST AND ALL NATIONS  
GATHER FOR THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

WAR No. 1

WAR No. 2

Church age  
from Pentecost  
to the Rapture

THE GREAT TRIBULATION = THE DAY OF THE LORD =  
ISRAEL'S 70TH "WEEK" = THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE

1,000 years  
reign of Christ  
on the earth

Living saved  
(sheep) of all  
nations enter  
the Kingdom

Living unsaved  
(goats) of all  
nations cast  
into lake of fire

1,000 years to the  
resurrection of all

souls in hades to  
stand before the  
Great White Throne

# The Glory of God

The Prophecies

of

Ezekiel

Explained

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John R Ecob D.D.

for Herald of Hope

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# Chapter 1

## The Theme of the Book

**T**he title of this book, **The Glory of God**, spells out in summary the entire message of the prophecy of Ezekiel. In a nutshell the title encapsulates everything that was given to Ezekiel in 48 chapters, on 13 specific occasions, over a period of 22 years. It is the reason for all of his prophecies.

God chose to dwell among His people when He brought them out of Egypt and He manifested His presence in the pillar of cloud and fire that stood between Pharaoh's chariots and the children of Israel.

At the very outset of Israel's journey to the promised land of Canaan **God's glory** was revealed on Mount Sinai; the people saw it and Moses dwelt in it for 40 days. We read:

*"And the glory of the LORD abode upon Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights" (Exod.24:16-18).*

Again, when the Tabernacle was completed, we read:

*"Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle" (Exod.40:35).*

For 40 years the **glory of God** hovered over the Tabernacle in the wilderness as a cloud by day and as fire by night and the **glory of God** lit the Holy of holies in the Tabernacle where God spoke to Moses from over the mercy seat. When the pillar of cloud rose up above the Tabernacle Israel knew they were to move camp and so they packed and followed the cloud until it stopped and there they set up camp again.

*"And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys" (Exod.40:36-38).*

The ark of the covenant in which was kept the stone tablets of the law was captured by the Philistines in the days when Eli was high priest and

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they placed the ark in the temple of their god Dagon. In the morning, Dagon was fallen before the ark, decapitated, with his hands cut off. The presence of God was revealed to these Philistines and they were plagued, became terrified, and sent the ark back to Israel.

When Solomon prayed at the dedication of the First Temple about 1021BC we read that

*“the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and **the glory of the LORD** filled the house. And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, **because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house**. And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and **the glory of the LORD** upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever” (2Chron.7:1-3).*

The God of Israel was different to the gods of the heathen. The heathen had images, material idols, before which they bowed and prayed. But the Lord forbade Israel to make any graven image. God is a spirit. He is the invisible living God. Paul wrote of

*“the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever” (1Tim.1:17).*

Moses forsook Egypt

*“not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing **him who is invisible**” (Heb.11:27).*

Yet His presence was among His people and His glory was manifested from time to time. God continually spoke to His prophets audibly or by vision and they communicated the message to the people so they were constantly reminded of the Living God.

After the nation divided into 10 northern tribes called Israel or Ephraim, and two southern tribes called Judah, the northern kingdom became idolatrous and worshipped two golden calves from Egypt for 390 years before God sent the Assyrians to destroy Samaria and take the people away captive to the cities of the Medes. Judah continued for a further 135 years before they became idolators and were taken captive to Babylon. During the long reign of King Manasseh and other kings about that time, there was 40 years when Judah became exceedingly wicked even sacrificing their firstborn babies to Molech a Semitic god. It was Judah's sin that brought the destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem after three invasions by Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel was taken captive to Babylon in the first of three invasions. Ezekiel was taken captive in the second invasion and prophesied from the land

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of Chaldea in southern Babylon where he was a slave. He prophesied to the Jews in the captivity and to the Jews that remained in the land of Judah warning them that Nebuchadnezzar would come a third time and destruction would be final.

Back in the land of Judah, Jeremiah an older prophet, was faithfully warning the people of coming judgment.

In the land of Chaldea, Ezekiel was given visions of the glory of God in which he saw the angelic creatures that surround the throne of God and on the throne he saw one *“as the appearance of a man”* (Ezek.3:26). We remember that when God created Adam, He made him *“in His own image”* and that is how Ezekiel described Him (Ezek.1:26).

The visions of the glory of God recorded in Ezekiel chapters 1 to 3 had a profound effect on Ezekiel and he was commissioned to go to his people in the captivity and to give them the Word of God. He was exclusively sent to the *“House of Israel”* and he was made a *“watchman”* to warn the House of Israel (Ezek.3:17).

### *The Glory Departs from the Temple*

After Ezekiel was taken captive in 597BC, Zedekiah reigned as a vassal king and some time after the 4th year of his reign, he revolted and looked to Egypt for help (Jer.51:59). In the 9th year of his reign Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem and in the 11th year, the city was destroyed and the Temple burned. In his prophecies, Ezekiel described **the departure of the glory** of God from the Temple, first from the Holy of holies where the two golden cherubims were located over the mercy seat. Ezekiel foresaw this in vision.

*“And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house”* (Ezek.9:3).

Then the glory rose above the threshold (door) on the right side of the Temple:

*“Now the cherubims stood on the **right side** of the house, ... and the cloud filled the inner court. Then the **glory of the LORD** went up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD’s glory”* (Ezek.10:3-4).

Next, the glory of God was seen moving to the eastern gate that looks over the brook Kidron and Gethsemane, to the Mount of Olives:

*“Then **the glory of the LORD** departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims. And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and*



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*mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also were beside them, and every one stood at the door of **the east gate** of the LORD's house; and **the glory of the God of Israel** was over them above"* (Ezek.10:18-19).

Finally, the glory went up to the Mount of Olives and departed:

*"Then did the cherubims lift up their wings, and the wheels beside them; and **the glory of the God of Israel** was over them above. And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon **the mountain which is on the east side of the city**"* (Ezek.11:22-23).

There is a parallel here. What happened in Ezekiel's day was repeated when Jesus came. Jesus referred to His body as the Temple of God because He was God in the flesh. He told the Jews *"(You) destroy this temple (His body) and in three days I will raise it up"* (John 2:19) The glory of God, the presence of God, dwelt in the body of the Lord Jesus.

During His ministry He came to the Temple but He found the Jews had made His Father's house a *"den of thieves"* (Mark 11:17). Malachi, the last of the Old Testament prophets wrote:

*"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and **the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple**, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts"* (Mal.3:1).

Jesus came to His Temple and He departed; rejected by a sinful nation. The glory of God, the Divine presence of God on earth, indwelling the resurrected man Christ Jesus, finally, after 40 days, **departed from the Mount of Olives** and the glory again left the nation to suffer another destruction but this time at the hands of the Romans in AD70.

### *The Glory Will Return to the Millennial Temple*

In the latter part of Ezekiel's prophecy, in the 25th year of his captivity, 14 years after the first Temple was destroyed, God gave a wonderful vision of a **future Temple** that will surpass anything that has existed in the past. It would be filled with the glory of God. This Temple will be built after Jesus Christ returns to reign over the whole earth. Ezekiel wrote:

*"Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: And, behold, **the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east**: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.... And **the glory of the LORD** came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, **the glory of the LORD filled the house**"* (Ezek.43:1-5).

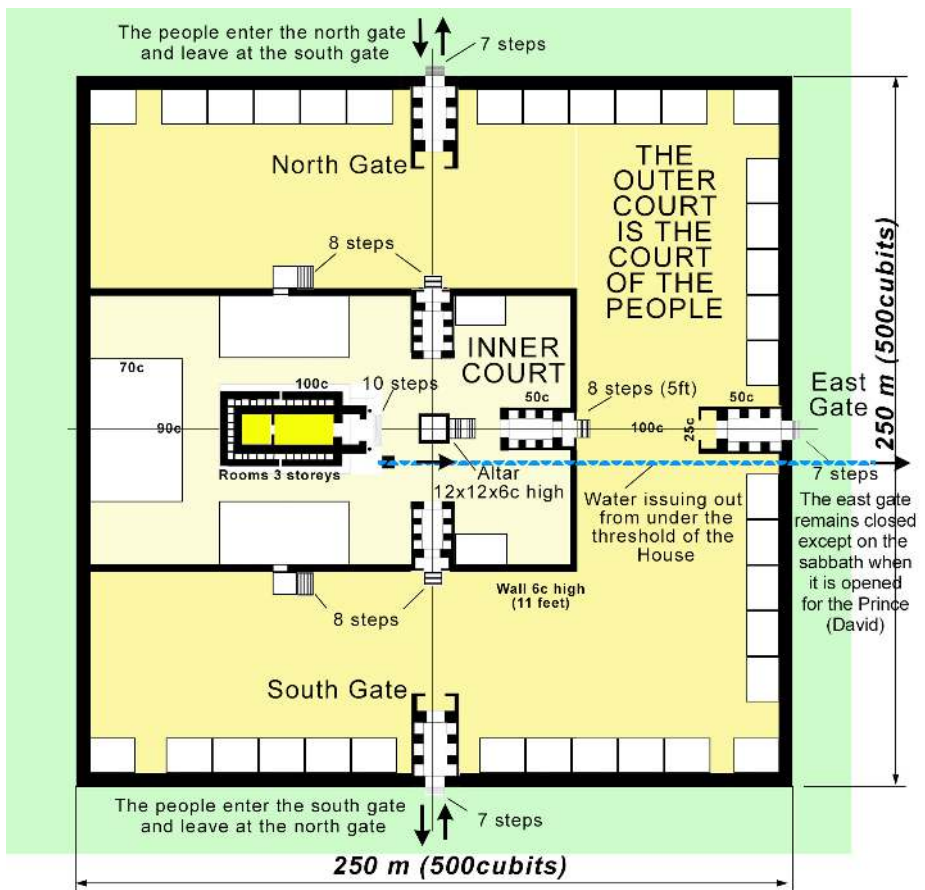


## Theme of the Book

This return of the glory of God will be permanent and will never again depart because the Lord Jesus will be present and His kingdom will know no end. Ezekiel heard that assurance:

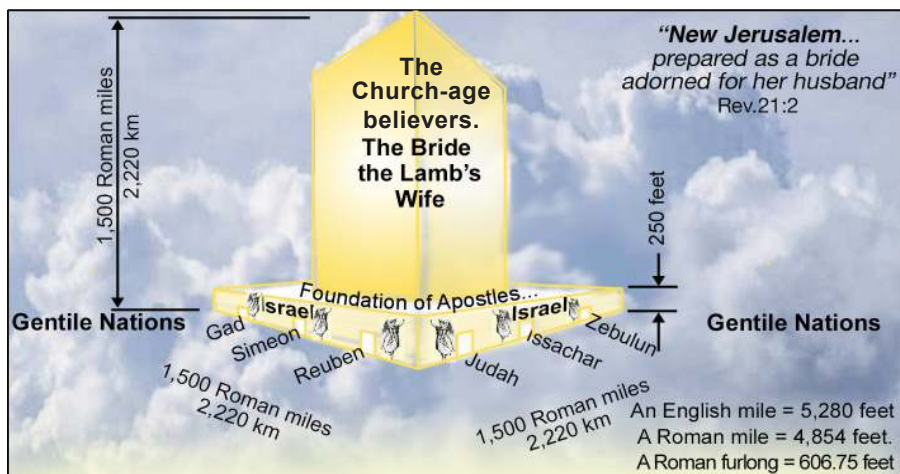
*"And he said unto me, Son of man, the **place of my throne**, and the place of the soles of my feet, where **I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever**, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcases of their kings in their high places" (Ezek.43:7).*

The specifications of that Temple are all there in Ezekiel chapters 40 to 44 together with the priestly service that the Jews will perform.



**EZEKIEL'S MILLENNIAL TEMPLE - Ezek.chs 40 - 42**

## Theme of the Book



When the 1,000 years reign of Christ concludes the earth will be burned and there will be a new heaven and earth where Christ will reign eternally and we will reign with Him in **the New Jerusalem** which He is now preparing for us. John wrote of that eternal city:

*"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, **Having the glory of God:** and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal" (Rev.21:10-11).*

In eternity there will always be the Jew, the Gentile and the Church. The one thing we will all have in common is that we are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ and saved by the grace and mercy of God.

### *The Living Creatures*

The living creatures that Ezekiel saw about the throne of God will remain a mystery until we as redeemed people are in the Lord's presence. They are four angelic creatures around the throne of God and they were created by God before the world was made. The description given of these creatures leaves us wondering. They are described as follows:

1. *"they had the likeness of a man" (Ezek.1:5).*
2. *"every one had four faces, and every one had four wings...As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle." (Ezek.1:6,10).*
3. *"their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the color of burnished brass" (Ezek.1:7).*

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4. “they had the **hands of a man** under their **wings** on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings... two **wings** of every one were **joined** one to another, and two covered their bodies” (Ezek.1:8,11).

5. “Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold **one wheel** upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces... as it were **a wheel in the middle of a wheel**... their rings were full of eyes round about them four... the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels” (Ezek.1:15,16,18,20).

Such is the description of these heavenly creatures that surround the throne of God and on the throne there was one like a man:

*“Above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as **the appearance of a man** above upon it”* (Ezek.1:26).

At various times angels have appeared in different forms. Some have appeared as men when they came to Abraham and later to Lot in Sodom. Others have appeared as chariots and horses as they did to Elisha and his servant at Dothan (2Kings 6:17). And as a “chariot of fire and horses of fire” to Elijah (2Kings 2:11). When the Lord comes in glory and power He will be seen riding upon “a white horse” (Rev.19:11) and we know that He is coming “with His angels” (Matt.16:27).

Ezekiel indicates that these angelic beings have heads of an eagle, an ox, a lion and a man. When **John** saw himself caught up through the open door into heaven he saw these same four beasts that have the same likeness as Ezekiel indicated.

*“And the first beast was like **a lion**, and the second beast like **a calf**, and the third beast had a face as **a man**, and the fourth beast was like **a flying eagle**”* (Rev.4:7).

It is clear that John saw the same angelic living creatures that Ezekiel saw. If some angels have similarity with animals and there are “ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands” (Rev.5:11), might it not be that God created animals in the likeness of some angels and He created man in His own likeness? These **angelic beings were created before the animals were created yet they looked like animals**. Angels are spirit beings and do not have physical bodies although they can appear as men and even eat food. Some have wings. Why would they need wings like birds?

### *The Heathen Worshipped Angels*

Paul warned the Colossian Christians not to worship angels (Col.2:18). The Heathen in ancient times believed their gods were created by God

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and very often they believed that great men, when they died, became gods in the spirit world. The ancient Egyptians frequently depicted their gods as part man and part animal as the illustrations show. The deifying of animals was common in Egypt and the golden calf that the Israelites made while Moses was in the Mount Sinai was one. The same Egyptian calf-god was worshipped in Israel when Jeroboam returned from Egypt to rule the ten northern tribes. They became the national gods of the northern kingdom.



Satan was in heaven **before** he was cast down for his pride. He is described as *"a great red **dragon**, having seven heads and ten horns"* (Rev.12:3). Satan is the **author of idolatry**. It is Satan and his fallen angels who deceived the minds of the Egyptians to create gods with animal likeness and since he, himself, is an angel desiring to be worshipped as God, we might expect that he would put it in the minds of the superstitious Egyptians that their gods had a likeness to the creatures about the throne who had faces of a lion, an eagle, an oxen and a man.



We have shown six of the gods of Egypt but there are many more. When Ezekiel was taken in spirit to Jerusalem and shown the idolatry of the people we read:

*"So I went in and saw; and behold every form of **creeping things**, and **abominable beasts**, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall round about"* (Ezek.8:10).

At that time Zedekiah was making an alliance with Egypt. His brother was held hostage there and he had accepted the gods of Egypt!

## Chapter 2

### Historical Context of the Book of Ezekiel

**C**urrent events shape the man and this is true of the prophet Ezekiel. He was a priest in Israel at a time of great distress. He became a part of the history of his time and he stood against the prevailing trends to testify against them.

Ezekiel was born in the reign of good King Josiah; in the 18th year of his reign (621BC). It was a time of great revival when Josiah had reinstated the Passover feast which had not been held in Israel for many years.

The nation of Israel had divided in the days of Rehoboam King of Israel about 992BC when the northern 10 tribes separated from Judah in the south. Jeroboam had fled to Egypt in the days when Solomon reigned and returned after Solomon died. He led the northern 10 tribes into idolatry which he brought from Egypt and every king that followed him perpetuated the worship of two golden calves, one at Bethel on the border of Judah and the other at Dan in his northern border.

Eventually the judgment of God fell on the northern kingdom and in 721BC, Sargon King of Assyria captured Samaria and took 27,290 Jews captive to Media according to records found in the library at Nineveh.

A few years later about 711BC, when Hezekiah reigned in Jerusalem, the southern kingdom of Judah experienced a miraculous deliverance from Sennacherib, King of Assyria when he besieged Jerusalem. The prophet Isaiah and King Hezekiah sought the Lord and in one night the angel of the Lord smote the Assyrian army killing 185,000 soldiers. Sennacherib fled back to Nineveh.

Hezekiah reigned for 29 years and was followed by his son Manasseh who reigned 55 years. Manasseh was the most wicked king ever to reign on the throne of David in Jerusalem, so much so, that God sent another King of Assyria to take Manasseh captive to Babylon.

While in a Babylonian prison, Manasseh repented and turned to the Lord. Amazingly he was released from prison in Babylon and returned to Jerusalem a repentant man. After his death, his evil son Amon reigned for just 2 years and was assassinated by his servants leaving Josiah, his eight-year-old son to reign in his stead.

## Context of the Book

At the age of 16 Josiah sought the Lord and at the age of 24 he held a famous Passover Feast that surpassed every Passover before it. It was in this year of great revival that Ezekiel was born into a priestly family.

Ezekiel's childhood therefore was at a time of great blessing under the Godly reign of young King Josiah who strengthened the nation and restored the Temple worship at Jerusalem.

Josiah reigned for 31 years at a period of history when dark clouds of war were gathering. The great Assyrian Empire with its capital at Nineveh on the Tigris River had fallen in 612BC to the armies of Babylon led by young Nebuchadnezzar, the son of Nabopolassar King of Babylon.

The remnants of the Assyrian army moved to Syria upstream of the Euphrates River and established a new capital city at Haran and in 610BC Pharaoh-necho brought his army north along the coastal plains of Judah on his way to Carchemish near Haran on the Euphrates River to support the Assyrians against an anticipated attack from Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian army.

As Pharaoh-necho's army passed Judah, Josiah led his army out against Pharaoh-necho. A battle was fought on the coastal plains and Josiah was hit by the Egyptian archers and died.

The death of Josiah was a cause of great sorrow and loss in Judah and his son Jehoahaz reigned in his stead for three months.

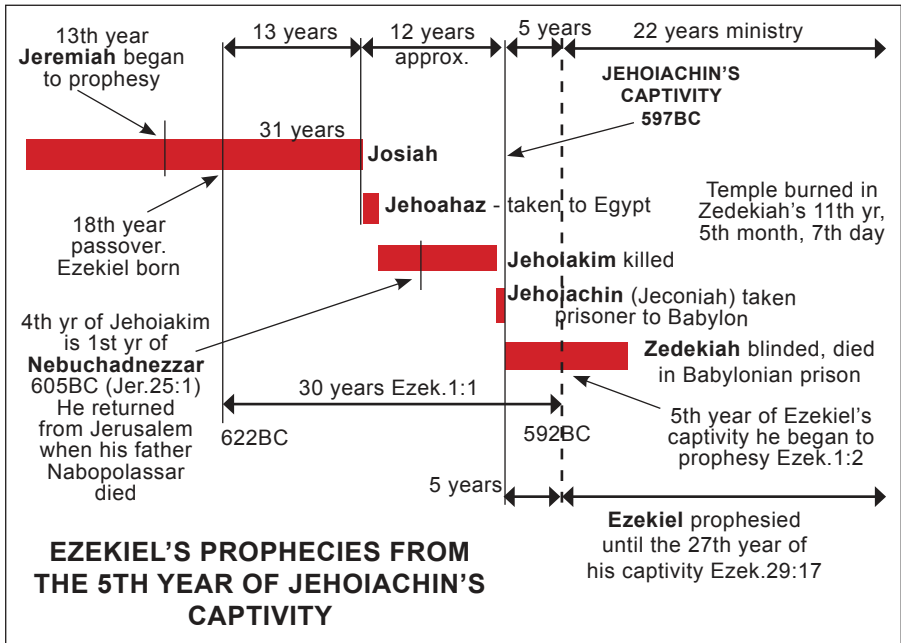
After three months, remnants of Pharaoh's army that had been defeated by the Babylonians at Carchemish came to Jerusalem on the way home to Egypt and Pharaoh took Jehoahaz hostage to Egypt and placed his brother, Jehoiakim on the throne as a vassal king to Egypt. Then in the 4th year of Jehoiakim's reign Nebuchadnezzar came into the land of Judah and took captive many of the princes including Daniel, and Jehoiakim became a vassal king to Babylon.

After a further 3 years, Jehoiakim, expecting to have the support of Egypt, rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar but when Nebuchadnezzar came into Judah the Egyptians failed to defend the Jews and in Jehoiakim's 11th year he was taken captive, bound, and put to death.

After his death Jehoiakim's 18-years-old son Jeconiah (Jehoiachin), was put on the throne and reigned only 3 months before surrendering to the Babylonians. He was taken captive to Babylon and it was at this time, that Ezekiel, a young man from a priestly family, was taken captive to Babylon.



## Context of the Book



The captivity of Jeconiah, also known as Jehoiachin, occurred in 596BC after which Nebuchadnezzar placed his uncle Zedekiah on the throne as a vassal king to Babylon. Jeremiah tells us that Zedekiah, in the 4th year of his reign, **visited Babylon** and returned to Judah (Jer.51:59). He apparently listened to the false prophets and sometime later rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. In the 9th year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem for the third time. Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians in the 11th year of Zedekiah's reign (586BC). On the 7th day of the 5th month, the city was burned.

Zedekiah tried to escape on horseback but was pursued and caught in the plains of Jordan. After his capture, his young sons were slain and Zedekiah's eyes were put out. He was blinded, taken to Babylon in chains and died in a Babylonian prison just as Ezekiel prophesied 5 years before (Ezek.12:8-13).

When Jerusalem was finally burned Ezekiel had been in Babylon for 11 years and must have had considerable freedom for he was able to minister to the Jews of the captivity while the prophet Jeremiah was permitted to remain in the land of Judah.

We should remember that Daniel had been taken captive in the **first of the three captivities** and had risen to a high government position in Babylon. No doubt he was able to assist his fellow countrymen in captivity.



## Context of the Book

Ezekiel received many messages from God for His people while in captivity and Jeremiah likewise in Judea during the last days of Zedekiah's reign in Jerusalem. Both warned the Jews of the coming judgment. Both prophets denounced the wickedness of the Jews in the land of Judah but to no avail. Both foretold the destruction of Jerusalem at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar.

Jeremiah prophesied that the captivity of the Jews in Babylon would last **for 70 years** (Jer.25:11-12; 29:10) and that Jerusalem, with its Temple, would be **desolate 70 years**.

Both Jeremiah and Ezekiel had to contend with false prophets who opposed them and who claimed that the Babylonian Empire would crumble within 2 years. Because God had determined the nation would be in captivity for 70 years, both prophets told the people not to resist their Babylonian masters but to accept the punishment God was placing upon them. The false prophets interpreted this as treachery and to siding with their enemies. The false prophets were judged by God and perished in the captivity.

**Isaiah** was the third of the major prophets in the Old Testament. He prophesied more than 100 years before the destruction of Jerusalem and foretold that the Babylonians would carry the royal line of princes to Babylon with all their riches (Isa.39:5-7). He also prophesied the demise of the city of Tyre and indicated it would be "*forgotten*" for the 70 years of the Babylonian Empire (Isa.23:15-17). Jeremiah and Ezekiel would have known this prophecy of Isaiah and it would have been a great encouragement to them.

### *The Capture of Zedekiah Foretold 5 Years Before*

**Five years before** the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem, Ezekiel prophesied how King Zedekiah would disguise himself, and flee from Jerusalem at night; he would be caught and be blinded before being taken to Babylon to die there:

*"And the prince that is among them (Zedekiah) shall bear upon his shoulder in the twilight, and shall go forth: they shall dig through the wall to carry out thereby: he shall cover his face, that he see not the ground with his eyes. My net also will I spread upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare: and I will bring him to Babylon to the land of the Chaldeans; yet shall he not see it, though he shall die there"* (Ezek.12:12-13; also 17:12-21).

Ezekiel's prophecy was fulfilled exactly in every detail. Zedekiah, broke his oath of allegiance to Nebuchadnezzar and made an alliance with Egypt, escaped at night and was caught in the plains of Jordan. His sons were slain and his eyes were put out. He died in a Babylonian prison.

# Chapter 3

## Summary of the Book of Ezekiel

**T**he prophecy of Ezekiel divides into two parts: **Fulfilled prophecy** and **Future prophecy**. Chapters 1 to 29 are about events occurring in Ezekiel's day.

**Fulfilled prophecy** relates what happened to the Jews in Jerusalem after the 2nd captivity and also what happened to the Jews in Babylonia. It clearly indicates the **reason** for the judgment that was about to take place when Nebuchadnezzar came the third time to destroyed the city of Jerusalem. But it also indicates the fate of Israel's neighbours; Tyre and Sidon, Moab, Ammon, Edom, and the Philistines all of which were desolated by the Babylonians. All of these surrounding nations had rejoiced at Judah's destruction.

Egypt comes in for special mention because she encouraged revolt against the Babylonians when God was using Babylon as His instrument to judge the wickedness of nations. Egypt promised to defend Israel and in so doing caused them to trust in Egypt instead of the Lord. When the Babylonians came, Egypt failed to support Judah and God held them accountable.

Twice, Ezekiel was commissioned as a **watchman** to the House of Israel - first in chapter 3 and verse 17 when he was appointed to warn Israel of coming judgment **from Babylon**. In Chapter 33 and verse 7 he is again appointed a watchman to the House of Israel but for **the last days**.

**Future prophecy** is given in chapters 34 to 48. In **chapter 34** he foretells that the future **evil leaders** of Israel who make a covenant with Antichrist will persecute the 144,000 Jewish witnesses in the Tribulation and will be judged for it. In **chapter 35** Palestinian opposition and hatred will bring awful judgment on them. In **chapter 36** the return of the Jews in **unbelief** that is occurring in our day since the nation was established in 1948 is described. The Zionist movement that began in 1881 and will conclude with Israel's conversion is described in **chapter 37** and the Russian/Islamic invasion that brings Israel to repentance and salvation is described in great detail in **chapters 38 and 39**.

From **chapters 40 to 48** we have a description of the **future** millennial Temple and the blessing of God on all twelve tribes of Israel in the land in fulfilment of the Palestinian Covenant (Deut.chs 28 to 30). The Dead Sea is healed and the desert will become fertile. The glory of God returns and the book concludes with the words, "**The LORD is there!**" (Ezek.48:35).

## Summary of the Book

# EZEKIEL SUMMARIZED

### FULFILLED PROPHECY

#### Chapters 1 to 11

Ezekiel called to prophesy to Israel after seeing visions of the Glory of God & the Throne of God. The glory leaves the Temple and the Mt of Olives. Ezekiel a watchman to warn of imminent judgment.

#### Chapters 12 to 24

Idolatrous Jerusalem to be besieged, burned, & Zedekiah removed to Babylon. The throne of David to be overturned three times & cease till Messiah reigns.

#### Chapter 25

Because Ammon, Moab, Mt Seir (Edom), and the Philistines rejoiced over Jerusalem's downfall they would be judged by Nebuchadnezzar

#### Chapters 26 to 28

Tyre's coastal city and Sidon to be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, and the Island city later by Alexander because she rejoiced over Jerusalem's downfall. Tyre's king possessed by Satan.

#### Chapters 29 to 32

Egypt to be judged by Nebuchadnezzar and desolate 40 years (570-530BC) because they failed to support Jerusalem. Though Pharaoh claimed to be God he would go to hell with kings of other heathen nations.

#### Chapter 30

Ezekiel appointed to be a Watchman to warn Israel about **FUTURE events**

#### Chapters 31 to 36

Unbelieving Israel to return to the land in the **LAST DAYS** midst challenges from Arab neighbours.

#### Chapter 37

Three steps to Israel's restoration in **LAST DAYS**. Zionism (1881), Nationhood (1948), Conversion in the Tribulation (future). No longer 2 kingdoms when converted.

#### Chapters 38 and 39

**The day of Israel's conversion when Islamic armies led by Russia, invade in first half of the Tribulation**

#### Chapters 40 to 48

The Millennial Temple and priestly service specified. The Dead Sea healed and the land divided among the 12 Tribes when the Glory of God returns in the **LAST DAYS**.

### FUTURE PROPHECY

## Summary of the Book

### The 13 occasions when the Word of the Lord came to Ezekiel

#### FULFILLED PROPHECIES

**1) Chapters 1 to 7 - 5th year - (592BC)** Ezekiel's vision of the glory of God and his commission to warn Israel of the coming Babylonian invasion - The sign of the model of Jerusalem on a tile indicating Jerusalem to be besieged; the sign of a haircut and only one third to survive; the end is near.

**2) Chapters 8 to 19 - 6th year - (591BC)** Ezekiel taken to Jerusalem by the hair of his head to witness its idolatry and to see the glory depart from the Temple (chs.8-11) Zedekiah would flee but be caught (ch.12) - the false prophets would be judged ch.13) - not even Noah, Daniel or Job could save the nation (ch.14) - Israel is a vine to be burned. The great eagle of Egypt cannot help (ch.17) - Israel's sin to be exposed and after Zedekiah there will be no more kings to rule.

**3) Chapters 20 to 23 - 7th year - (590BC)** A history lesson for the elders in Babylon (ch.20) - God's sharp sword is the sword of the King of Babylon. The throne to be unoccupied until Christ comes.

**4) Chapters 24 to 25 - 9th year - (588BC)** The day Jerusalem besieged - Ezekiel not to show any sorrow when his wife died - Moab, Ammon, Edom also to perish.

**5) Chapters 26 to 28 - 11th year - (586BC)** Tyre and Zidon to be judged - no more a pricking brier to Israel. The king of Tyre indwelt by Satan.

**6) Chapter 29:1-16 - 10th year - (587BC)** Egypt to be destroyed for failing to support Israel. Egypt to be desolate 40 years.

**7) Chapters 29:17-21; 30:1-19 - 27th year - (570BC)** Egypt's destruction is imminent. It is given to Nebuchadnezzar as wages for his soldiers who besieged Tyre.

**8) Chapter 30:20-26 - 11th year - (586BC)** Pharaoh-hophra to be slain in civil war leaving Egypt easy prey for Nebuchadnezzar.

**9) Chapter 31- 11th year - (586BC)** Speak unto Pharaoh-hophra of his future in hell with the Assyrian kings etc. .

**10) Chapter 32:1-16 - 12th year - (585BC)** Lamentation for Pharaoh when Egypt destroyed.

**11) Chapter 32:17-32 - 12th year - (585BC)** Wail for Pharaoh and other nations "slain with the sword". Pharaoh to join the multitude in hell.

**also in Chapter 33:1-20 - 12th year - (585BC)** Ezekiel commissioned to be a watchman to warn the wicked in the Last Days.

#### FUTURE PROPHECIES

**12) Chapters 33:21 to 33 - 12th year - (585BC)** Persecution of the 144,000 by Israel's evil leaders after the Rapture and their judgment (Ch.34) - The Palestinian Uprising in the Last days (Ch.35) - Israel's partial return in unbelief in 1948 (Ch.36) - Zionism in the Last days from 1881 till Israel's conversion (Ch.37) - The Russian/Islamic invasion and the Day Israel is converted (Chs 38 and 39)

**13) Chapters 40 to 48 - 25th year - (572BC)** Specifications of the Millennial Temple and the glory of God returns, the Dead Sea comes alive and the land is made fruitful and divided for the 12 redeemed tribes.

# Fulfilled Prophecies

## Chapter 4

### The Babylonian Captivity

**E**zekiel was taken captive from Jerusalem in the second of three captivities and was located *“among the captives by the river Chebar”* in the land of Chaldea. Some have thought the river Chebar was the river Khabour, which runs into the Euphrates about 200 miles **north of Babylon** but Scripture states that *Chebar* was *“in the land of the Chaldeans”* which was **south of Babylon** in the marsh lands near the mouth of the Euphrates River. There were many rivers and canals running into the Euphrates.

#### Prophecies in the 5th year of Captivity 592BC - chs.1-7

Ezekiel was from a priestly family and was a prophet to whom God communicated His Word. Priests normally began service in the Temple at age 30 years (Num.4:3,23,29) but Ezekiel had been taken captive at 25 years. It was in the 5th year of the second captivity; the captivity of King Jeconiah, otherwise known as Jehoiachin, that the Lord first spoke to Ezekiel. Ezekiel's prophetic ministry began with visions of the throne of God. When he saw the Cherubims beneath the throne and the Lord upon it, he was overcome with awe at the sight. He fell on his face before the Lord and it was then that God spoke to him.

Ezekiel was told to go to his people who had turned away from God. He was not to fear their looks or what they might do to him. He was not sent to the Gentiles but *“to the house of Israel”* ie. to his own nation - those in captivity (Ezek.3:5). It is important that we remember this when interpreting this prophecy.

When God gave Ezekiel a message to give to Israel He sometimes gave him signs to enact in their presence and each sign communicated a message. When the people asked him the meaning of the sign, he would tell them.

#### *The Sign of the Clay Tile Model of Jerusalem - Ch.4*

In the first sign that Ezekiel was asked to act out he was to take a tile and make a model of the city of Jerusalem upon it. Then he was to place siege structures around the city. Each day he was to lie on his side and eat a ration of very basic food such as would be eaten by people besieged in a city. He was to do this each day for 390 days lying on his **left** side and then to repeat it lying on his **right** side for 40 days.

## **Jerusalem Destroyed 586BC**

The message was clear. Jerusalem was to be besieged and destroyed because the ten tribes had turned away from God for 390 years and the two tribes of Judah had turned away for 40 years. Therefore Jerusalem was to be besieged and taken captive. God said *"I have appointed thee each day for a year"* (Ezek.4:6). The total time that this sign was enacted would be 430 days and the period between the first and second message was exactly 18 months, or 540 days. The sign therefore occupied much of the time before the Lord spoke to him again. It was a daily reminder to the Jews in the captivity that Jerusalem would be besieged and destroyed.

Some of the cults such as Jehovah's Witnesses and the Seventh Day Adventists (SDAs) have used this scripture to claim that it is a principle of prophetic interpretation known as the "year-day theory". When prophecies of Scripture speak of "days" they change the days into years resulting in monumental blunders and false predictions. Using this system the SDAs claimed that Christ would come in 1843 and when He did not come they changed it to 1844. When Christ did not come in 1844 the leader, a Pastor Miller, admitted he was wrong, but Mrs E. G. White concocted false theories to justify the error.

When God speaks of days He means days and when He speaks of years He means years. The "year-day" theory is gross error.

### ***The Sign of Shaven Hair and Beard -Ch.5***

In the next sign Ezekiel was to take a razor and shave both his head and beard. He was to cut the hair into three parts; burn one third; cut one third with a razor and throw the other third into the wind.

The sign was to teach that one third of the people at Jerusalem would die in the famine and be burned; one third would die by the sword and one third would be taken away as captives.

### ***The Sign of Stamping with His Foot and Smiting with His Hand - Ch.6***

The anger of the Lord at Israel's idolatrous behaviour was to be seen in Ezekiel's demeanour, by stamping with his foot and smiting with his hand. The nation would be smitten with the sword, pestilence and famine but a remnant would remember the Lord. God's anger would be revealed against their sin.

### ***The End is Come - Ch.7***

God had already sent the Babylonians twice to judge Jerusalem and some had been taken captive to Babylon but in 4 years Nebuchadnezzar would

## Fulfilled Prophecy

return and there would be total destruction. The king would mourn (the loss of his sons (v.27) who would be slain before his eyes were put out).

### Prophecies in the 6th year of Captivity 591BC - chs.8-19

#### *Ezekiel Shown the Idolatry in Jerusalem - Ch.8*

In vision, Ezekiel saw himself lifted up by his hair and taken to Jerusalem where he was shown all the idolatry practiced in the Temple. He saw paintings of Egyptian animals that were worshipped on the walls of the Temple. He saw 70 elders of Israel burning incense to gods, women "*weeping for Tammuz*", a heathen deity, and 25 men with their backs to the Temple worshipping the sun. Therefore God would have no pity.

#### *The Man With the Inkhorn - Ch.9*

Next, Ezekiel saw **the glory** of God that was in the most Holy Place of the Temple where the Ark of the Covenant was with the golden Cherubims overshadowing it. He saw the glory of God rise up from the Cherubims and move to the door of the Temple.

Then six men appeared. One man had an inkhorn and he went through the city putting a mark on the forehead of **all the Godly** people that remained in the city - all "*that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done.*" Finally the other five were told to go through the city and slay those who did not have the protective mark. God was saying that He was departing and would not spare the wicked in the coming judgment.

#### *The Glory of God Leaves the Temple -Ch.10*

Ezekiel again sees the glory of God as it leaves the threshold of the Temple and moves to the eastern gate.

#### *The Glory of God Departs from the Mount of Olives - Ch.11*

Finally the glory moves to the Mount of Olives and departs (Ezek.11:23). Israel is to be scattered among the nations but the Lord promises to preserve a remnant in the heathen lands and bring them again into the land of Israel in the last days when they will have a "*new spirit within them*".

There is a parallel message here, for 600 years later Israel again turned away from God, and Christ, in whom dwelt "*all the fulness of the Godhead bodily*" (Col.2:9) departed from the Temple. After He rose from the dead He ascended from the Mount of Olives after which the nation was judged and the Jews were scattered among the nations.



## **Jerusalem Destroyed 586BC**

Ezekiel sees himself returned in vision to Chaldea where he told those of the captivity what God had showed him.

### *The Sign of a Hole in the Wall - Ch.12*

Now back in Chaldea, Ezekiel was to dig a hole in the wall of his house and crawl through it taking a few possessions in the twilight as a sign. When the Jews of the captivity asked him what it meant he was to tell them that the “prince” (King Zedekiah) would try to escape from the siege of Jerusalem but he would be caught in the net of his pursuers. He would be taken to Babylon though **he would not see it. He would be blinded.**

This was fulfilled 5 years later when King Zedekiah fled at night from Jerusalem on horseback and was caught in the plains of Jericho. He was taken before Nebuchadnezzar and had his eyes put out and went bound in chains to Babylon.

### *The False Prophets will Perish - Ch.13*

The false prophets had prophesied, “*Peace and there was no peace*” (vs10) when God spoke of judgment and they would perish.

The women also who did divinations (fortune telling etc) would perish “*because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad*”(vs22).

### *Ezekiel has a Visit from the Elders - Ch.14*

When the Jewish elders came to Ezekiel he was to tell them that unless the people repented they would be judged and even if Noah, Daniel and Job were in the city, God would not be able to spare the city.

*“Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness. For thus saith the Lord GOD; How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?” (Ezek.14:20-21).*

Nevertheless God would preserve a small remnant.

### *The Sign of Israel as God’s Vine - Ch.15*

The nations are likened to trees and Jerusalem to a vine that does not have fruit and is taken and burned because it is useless.

### *The Sign of a Whorish Woman - Ch.16*

God describes how Israel was married to Him but had been unfaithful, committing spiritual adultery by loving idols. God would judge them as “*women that break wedlock*”. Nevertheless God will remember His

## Fulfilled Prophecy

covenant with Israel and establish a **new covenant** with them after they had been punished. The Book of Hosea also sees Israel as an unfaithful wife to God.

### *The Sign of a Riddle of Two Eagles - Ch.17*

Ezekiel is told to speak a riddle of two eagles. One eagle represented Egypt and the other Babylon. The Egyptian eagle *"came into Lebanon and cropped off the highest branch"* (Josiah was killed). He also took of the *"seed of the land"*: his son Jehoahaz was taken to Egypt.

Another great eagle (Babylon) came and Jehoiakim *"did bend her roots toward him"*. Jehoiakim became a vassal to Babylon. He shot forth branches toward him. i.e. his son Jeconiah was taken to Babylon.

The King of Babylon *"took of the King's seed and made a covenant with him"* and also took *"the mighty of the land"* to Babylon. But Zedekiah broke the covenant and turned to the other eagle (Egypt) for protection but God said that Pharaoh with his great army would not be able to deliver them. Zedekiah trusted in Egypt to defend Israel but when Nebuchadnezzar came Pharaoh did not help.

Nevertheless a *"tender branch"* would flourish. Jeconiah was only 18 years (tender) and was released from prison after 37 years and flourished in the court of King Evilmerodach. (2Kings 25:27). It would be from his seed Messiah (Christ) will come, *"a goodly cedar: and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing"* (nation) (vs23).

### *A False Proverb - Ch.18*

The Jews were saying *"The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge"* v.2. i.e. we are judged for what our fathers did! But God said that every man will bear his own sin.

### *Sign 8 - The Sign of the Lion's Whelps -Ch.19*

Josiah, king of Judah is seen as having sons who are likened to a lion's whelps. Before he died, Jacob blessed his sons and when he came to Judah he said:

*"Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah...until Shiloh (Christ) come and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be"* (Gen.49:9-10).

Josiah's eldest son, Jehoahaz (the first lion's whelp) was taken to Egypt as hostage. Jehoiakim another, was slain by the Babylonians, and Josiah's grandson, Jeconiah was taken captive to Babylon. The last of the lion's

## Jerusalem Destroyed 586BC

whelps (Josiah's sons) was Zedekiah and he would be taken to a far off land by Nebuchadnezzar who took him blinded to Babylon in chains.

There would be **no more lion's whelps** to reign on the throne of David in Jerusalem until Messiah comes.

*"And fire is gone out of a rod of her branches, which hath devoured her fruit, so that **she hath no strong rod to be a sceptre to rule**"(Ezek.19:14).*

Jesus Christ will one day reign on David's throne as the *"lion of the Tribe of Judah"*(Rev.5:5).

## Prophecies in 7th Year of Captivity 590BC - Chs.20-23

### *Certain Elders Enquire of the Lord - Ch.20*

Certain elders came to Ezekiel to enquire of the Lord but the Lord told Ezekiel He would not be enquired of by them. Israel's history from the time they were in Egypt is reviewed and demonstrates that they are passed redemption and judgment awaited them. God will purge out the rebels among them and only then will they know the Lord. Only then will they be returned to their own land.

### *The Sword of the Lord is About to Fall - Ch.21*

Ezekiel is to set his face against Jerusalem to warn them that the **sword of the Lord** is sharpened and won't be returned to the sheath until judgment is executed. The King of Babylon will seek divination to determine which way he will approach Jerusalem. He will choose to approach east of the Jordan through Ammonite country.

King Zedekiah is described as a

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

**Three times** the throne of David is to be overturned before it ceases to exist until Messiah comes and the throne of David will be given to Him. This relates to the three invasions of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar after which the throne of David ceased and has never been revived. It will remain unoccupied until Jesus Christ comes again and reigns on David's throne at Jerusalem. The promise to Mary will be fulfilled:

*"Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.*

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*He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke1:30-33).*

The chapter concludes with a message to the Ammonites who dwelt on the east side of the Jordan. Because the Ammonites had reproached Israel, they would be judged by the Babylonians. This is the reason for Nebuchadnezzar approaching Jerusalem on the east of the Jordan River.

Not only did God send Nebuchadnezzar to Jerusalem but He even directed the way he should travel. We know that the siege of the coastal city of Tyre was continuing at this time but he chose not to go down the coastal road. God is in control!

### *The Sign of Dross in a Silver Smelter - Ch.22*

The sins of Jerusalem are described. Murders, immorality, bribery, and dishonesty. To God they were like the dross when silver is smelted. As silver is smelted so God would purge Jerusalem. The sins of the nation are enumerated: the **princes** shed blood, commit adultery, oppress the poor, despise holy things, receive bribes etc. The **prophets** have conspired together and divined lies and the **priests** have profaned the sacrifices and the holy feast days. The **people** rob and oppress the poor. God had looked for a man to turn the tide but found none and judgment was inevitable. All classes were corrupt.

### *The Sign of Aholah and Aholibah Two Sisters - Ch.23*

Samaria and Jerusalem are likened to two sisters, Aholah and Aholibah who are grossly immoral. They played the harlot with the idolatrous Assyrians. Aholah (Samaria) means “*her tent*” and was delivered into the hands of the Assyrians in 721BC. “*Her tent*” refers to the great Temple of Baal in Samaria and the worship of the two golden calves brought from Egypt.

Aholibah (Jerusalem) means “*My tent*” and refers to God’s Temple in Jerusalem. Aholibah did worse than her sister Aholah by committing spiritual whoredom with both Assyrians and the Babylonians. Also she engaged in the terrible idolatry of the Egyptians. After they dwelt in the Promised Land the people of Judah became more idolatrous than Samaria (the northern kingdom) and even burned their firstborn alive as a sacrifice to Molech, the god of the Moabites. Then the same day, they would come into the Temple of the Lord!

## Jerusalem Destroyed 586BC

The Temple in Jerusalem had been used for the worship of the idols of Egypt and Babylon especially in the time of Manasseh and Amon. The Jews in Jerusalem had defiled God's sanctuary and profaned God's sabbaths.

### Prophecies in 9th Year of Captivity 588BC- Chs.24-25

#### *The Sign of Jerusalem as Scum in a Pot of Meat - Ch.24:1-14*

Ezekiel was told to take a brass pot and fill it with animal parts, pour water on it and burn bones under it. The scum on the surface was how God saw Jerusalem. Wood was to be heaped around the pot and when it was boiled dry the scum left in the brass pot was to be heated and burned. All this was a description of the spiritual condition of the nation and what God was about to do to it.

This prophecy was given **the very day** that Nebuchadnezzar **began the siege of the city**. Either God revealed this to Ezekiel or he recorded his prophecy after he received information back from Jerusalem. We know that one who escaped from Jerusalem arrived in Chaldea and **reported the fall of Jerusalem** to Ezekiel in the 10th month of the 12th year of the captivity of Jeconiah (Ezek.33:21) which was 585BC.

#### *The Sign of the Death of Ezekiel's Wife - Ch.24:15-27*

Ezekiel was told that his wife would die suddenly and that he was not to mourn as was the normal custom. This was to indicate that though God was married to Israel He would not mourn when they were judged. The Temple would be destroyed and their sons and daughters taken away but they were not to mourn because they were getting their just deserts.

# Chapter 5

## Israel's Neighbours to be Judged

### The Prophecy Against Ammon, Moab, Edom and Philistia - Ch.25

When Israel's neighbours, the Ammonites, Moabites, Edomites and Philistines saw Jerusalem besieged by the Babylonians they rejoiced. The city of Jerusalem was an important trading centre from the time of Solomon and was competition for the trading port of Tyre. The Tyrians were delighted when Jerusalem could no longer trade with the nations for she saw all that trade diverted to Tyre.

Because God's people were being judged was no

excuse for their neighbours to rejoice or afflict them. They had "*clapped their hands ...stamped their feet and ... rejoiced*", saying that Israel was no different to the heathen i.e not God's special people. They took vengeance against Israel even when Israel was being judged and slew the Jews when they fled from the Babylonians. Therefore, they themselves would be judged. The judgment was imminent because Nebuchadnezzar was at the gates of Jerusalem. God's promise to Abraham that those who curse Abraham's seed are cursed by God (Gen.12:3) held true whether Israel was obedient or not. To curse God's people showed their attitude to God!



# Chapter 6

## The City of Tyre Judged

### Prophecies in 11th Year of Captivity 586BC - Chs.26-28

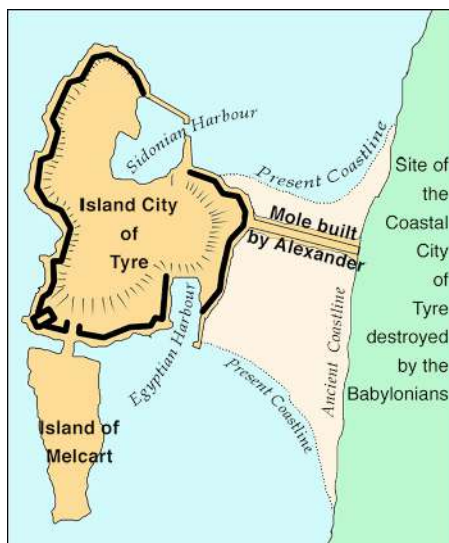
**W**hen the King of Tyre saw the Babylonians besiege Jerusalem he rejoiced that Jerusalem would be destroyed and said,  
*"Aha, she is broken that was the gates of the people: she is turned unto me: I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste"* (Ezek.26:2).

Also, in chapter 28 we read that the King of Tyre would be judged because he said, *"I am a God, I sit in the seat of God"* (Ezek.28:2).

In David's day, (1032BC) Hiram King of Tyre was *"ever a lover of David"* (1Kings 5:1) and assisted Solomon with materials and skills needed to build the first Temple at Jerusalem. But the King of Tyre in Ezekiel's day, about 400 years later, was quite different; he claimed to be God and acted as a priest over a pagan religion. He was bitterly opposed to the Lord God of Israel and His people.

It is significant that, after a period of 70 years in which Tyre would be *"forgotten"*, Scripture states Tyre shall *"sing like a harlot"*. Tyre was a grossly immoral city accomodating sailors arriving at her ports. The heathen god worshipped at Tyre was Asherah, sometimes called Ashtaroth, a pagan goddess known as the *"lady of the sea"*. The King of Tyre was the High Priest. Roman Catholics give the same title to the virgin Mary when blessing their fishing fleets.

In the Old Testament Asherah appears alongside Baal; a male god. Baal was usually a stone image while Asherah was a wooden carving of a nude woman astride a lion with a lily in one hand and a serpent in the other. Evidently the sons of Eli, the High Priest of Israel, in the days of Samuel(1Sam.2:22)(1124BC) had introduced the sexual rites associated with the worship of Asherah into the Temple. Eli, their father rebuked them but was powerless to stop them. Later, Samuel told the people,





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*"If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods **and Ashtaroth from among you**, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines" (1Sam.7:3).*

The city of Tyre was the industrial, maritime, and trade centre for the Middle East in Ezekiel's day. In chapter 27 of his prophecy all the products traded in Tyre's markets are identified with their location of origin. There was no city like it in the world. Ships came from as far as Britain, which was then known as Tarshish or the "tin isles". The ships of Tarshish were the largest ships of the time.

Tyre, along with her sister city Zidon, were famous for boat building. They were Phoenicians and used the Cedars of Lebanon as their source of materials to build boats.

### *Two Cities of Tyre*

The story of Tyre is a tale of two cities; Tyre on the coast and Tyre on a rocky island located one kilometer off the coast. The name Tyre means *"the rock"*. The island city had strong walls and harbours for ships to bring goods from far off lands while the coastal city received goods brought by land eg. livestock etc. It also was a walled city. Ezekiel's prophecy declares the judgment of God on both cities; the coastal city would be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586BC and the Island city by Alexander the Great in 332BC.

According to Josephus, the Jewish historian, Nebuchadnezzar besieged Tyre from the 7th to the 20th year of his reign (599 to 586BC). It was a difficult city to defeat because it was well armed with thousands of professional mercenary soldiers and the **Phoenician fleet** could supply the cities. During the 13-years siege many of their people were taken to safety in North Africa by ship. The long siege prevented Tyre from trading by land and sea for 70 years in **fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy**. Isaiah had prophesied over one hundred years before that Tyre would be *"forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king: after the end of seventy years shall Tyre sing as an harlot"* (Isa.23:15).

The Babylonian kingdom lasted 70 years and because they had no navy, were only able to conquer the coastal city. Nebuchadnezzar did however prevent the island city of Tyre from trading and she was therefore *"forgotten 70 years"* (599 to 529BC).

When Nebuchadnezzar finally captured the coastal city after a 13-year siege, he found that all the riches stored in the temples had been shifted

## **Tyre Besieged Till 586BC**

to the island city. The capture of the coastal city of Tyre occurred the same year that Jerusalem was destroyed; 586BC.

After Cyrus King of Persia overthrew the Babylonians in 538BC, the island city of Tyre was able to revive and *“sing like a harlot”*. The Phoenician navy served the Persians and assisted them in their battles against the ships of the Greek navy. The Phoenicians and the Greeks were both seafaring people and had trading colonies all around the Mediterranean.

In 332BC Alexander the Great pushed the debris from the coastal city of Tyre into the sea and made a causeway to the island. He broke down the walls and fulfilled the prophecy of Ezekiel that men would

*“scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea”* (Ezek.26:4-5).

# Chapter 7

## Egypt and Pharaoh-hophra Judged

**Prophecy in the 27th Year (570BC) - Ch.29:17-21**

*Egypt Given as Wages for Nebuchadnezzar's Army*

**B**ecause the men of Tyre had removed all the riches of the coastal city onto the island city there were no spoils of battle to pay wages to Nebuchadnezzar's army so God promised to give him all the riches of Egypt *"for the service that he had served against it (Tyre)"* (Ezek.29:18). This prophecy was on the 1st day of the 1st month of **570BC** and it was that year that Nebuchadnezzar conquered Egypt in fulfilment of other prophecies by Ezekiel. The prophecies of the destruction of Egypt are recorded in chapters 29:1 to chapter 31.

**Prophecies in 10th (587BC) and 11th (586BC) Years of Jeconiah's Captivity - Ch.29:1-16; to 31**

*God's judgment on Egypt and Upon Pharaoh-hophra*

Egypt was judged because she promised to defend Israel but had failed to do so when the Babylonians came against her.

*"When they took hold of thee by thy hand, thou didst break, and rend all their shoulder: and **when they leaned upon thee, thou brakest**, and madest all their loins to be at a stand. Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will bring a sword upon thee, and cut off man and beast out of thee. And the land of Egypt shall be desolate and waste" (Ezek.29:7-9).*

We should remember that Pharaoh-necho had taken King Jehoahaz hostage to Egypt and Jehoiakim and Zedekiah were his brothers. It is most likely that communication was maintained with their brother in Egypt and Pharaoh had assured the kings in Jerusalem that he would defend Jerusalem.

Isaiah, more than a hundred years before had warned Israel not to trust in Egypt and had prophesied that the Assyrians would lead the Egyptians away captive which they did in the days of Ashurbanipal (663BC). God had warned the Jews not to trust in Egypt. He said,

*"they shall be afraid and ashamed of Ethiopia their expectation, and of Egypt their glory" (Isa.20:5).*

Isaiah warned,

*"Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many" (Isa.31:1).*

## Egypt Destroyed 570BC

Yet the Jews constantly turned to Egypt for protection from Assyria and Babylon. Even after Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, the remnant of the Jews fled to Egypt and forcibly took Jeremiah with them in spite of his prophecies that Nebuchadnezzar would destroy Egypt.

The Egyptians had encouraged the Jews to revolt against the Babylonians when God had determined that they should serve the King of Babylon for 70 years as punishment for their sin and idolatry. But when the Babylonians came, the Egyptians failed to defend Jerusalem. Egypt was therefore to be judged.

Three Pharaoh's reigned in Egypt in Ezekiel's day. When Ezekiel was a 13-year-old lad, Pharaoh-necho had come up the coastal plains on his way to Carchemish located on the Euphrates River in Syria. King Josiah had gone out to fight with him and had lost his life in the battle. Pharaoh-necho lost his battle with Nebuchadnezzar at Carchemish and returned to Egypt. When he died his son Psamtik II reigned until 569BC when his son, Pharaoh-hophra reigned. Ezekiel prophesied that, in the days of Pharaoh-hophra Egypt would be **weakened by a civil war** and Nebuchadnezzar would destroy Egypt - Pharaoh-hophra would perish. **The land would be desolate 40 years.** Nebuchadnezzar's Egyptian campaign in 570BC was his last military campaign and made him the first sole ruler of the world.

### *Daniel's Prophecy of the Tree Cut Down Indicates When Egypt was Destroyed*

Just before Nebuchadnezzar went to Egypt in 570BC he had a dream in which he saw a tree cut down by the "*watchers*" from heaven. The stump of the tree was preserved "*until seven times pass over him*" (Dan.4:23).

Daniel interpreted the dream for Nebuchadnezzar and told him that the God of heaven would take away his kingdom, symbolized as the great tree, for seven years but after seven years it would be restored to him.

Nebuchadnezzar had this dream in 570BC and **twelve months later** he returned victorious from his Egyptian campaign. While boasting of his victory in the palace he was struck with madness and driven out to live like a wild beast for 7 years. After seven years his reason returned and he glorified God and was given his kingdom back for the last year of his life.

Ezekiel's prophecy on new-year's day 570BC foretold Nebuchadnezzar's Egyptian campaign and indicated that God had given Nebuchadnezzar all of the riches of Egypt as **wages for his army** for his service to God when

## Fulfilled Prophecy

he besieged Tyre. Since Daniel was close to Nebuchadnezzar it is most unlikely that the King would be unaware of Ezekiel's prophecies.

If Nebuchadnezzar knew about this prophecy he had good reason to conduct his Egyptian campaign knowing what the outcome would be. So there was no problem with his becoming the undivided ruler of the world in his day for Daniel had told him he would be when he interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the Image made of gold, silver, brass and iron (Dan.ch.2). The problem was that when he knew the victory over Egypt was from God, he did not give God the glory but took the glory to himself.

The dream of the tree cut down tells us that Egypt was destroyed in the twelve months campaign just before Nebuchadnezzar was struck with madness and places it at 570BC.

### *Egypt's 40 Years of Desolation*

Isaiah had prophesied that Tyre would be "*forgotten*" 70 years (Isa.23:15-17) and Ezekiel prophesied that Egypt would be "*desolate 40 years*" (Ezek.29:12). The Babylonians had besieged and shut down the trading city of Tyre in 599BC and Nebuchadnezzar captured Egypt in 570BC. Both periods would expire about 530BC and that corresponds with the Persian era when the Persians allowed captive nations to return. Cyrus King of Persia had captured Babylon in 538BC and in 536BC had allowed the Jews to return to rebuild the Temple. The Cyrus Cylinder in the British Museum is the record of Cyrus' decree to all nations, previously taken captive by the Babylonians, granting them permission to return to their homelands.



Ezekiel's prophecy also states that Egypt would never again rise to be a powerful nation and in fact it would be the "*basest of the kingdoms*" (Ezek.29:15). History has shown this to be the case. Egypt became a part of the Greek and Roman Empires. It finally was overthrown by Islamic forces in AD641 and has never risen to the glory of ancient times.

After the Persians allowed the Egyptians to return in 530BC they revolted in 525BC and King Ahaseurus (Cambyses), the son of Cyrus, spent 12 months in Egypt destroying all opposition.

## Egypt Destroyed 570BC

### *Civil War in Egypt - Ch.30*

God gave the wealth of Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar and He made it easy for Nebuchadnezzar to conquer Egypt. Ezekiel prophesied that God would not only give Nebuchadnezzar the victory but He would cause a civil war in Egypt to weaken the military might of Egypt. We read:

*“Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and **will break his arms**, the strong, and that which was broken; and **I will cause the sword to fall out of his hand**. And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries. And I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and put my sword in his hand” (Ezek.30:23-24).*

Herodotus (450BC) the Greek historian records that, at this time, Amasis was the General of the Egyptian army and Pharaoh-hophra had sent him to fight against enemies in Cyrene but had sent him ill-prepared and he was defeated. Pharaoh-hophra had 30,000 Greek mercenary troops under his control and Amasis led the Egyptian troops. The Egyptian troops urged Amasis to revolt and made him king. When the two armies met, Pharaoh-hophra was taken captive and killed and Amasis ruled.

It was into this scene of disunity that Nebuchadnezzar came. God had broken the arm of Pharaoh-hophra and caused *“the sword to fall out of his hand”* (Ezek.30:22) and the nation was at war with itself. The Egyptians were weakened and the land was desolated for 40 years.

### *The Example of the King of Assyria - Ch.31*

God had a message for Pharaoh-hophra and He used the former King of Assyria to do it. In chapter 31 the kings of the earth are likened to trees in a garden and the King of Assyria was likened to a cedar in Lebanon. Assyria had ruled much of the world for centuries yet God had brought Nineveh to ruin in 612BC in fulfilment of Nahum’s prophecy; the river Tigris flooded and the wall of the city collapsed (Nahum 2:8). The King burned the palace down over himself (Nahum 2:6) while the queen and her maids were captured (Nahum 2:7). Pharaoh was told:

*“**Behold, the Assyrian** was a cedar in Lebanon with fair branches, and with a shadowing shroud, and of an high stature; and his top was among the thick boughs” (Ezek.31:3).*

But it was God who made him great:

*“The cedars in the garden of God could not hide him: the fir trees were not like his boughs, and the chestnut trees were not like his branches; nor any tree in the garden of God was like unto him in his beauty. **I have made him fair by the multitude of his branches**: so that all the trees of Eden, that were in the garden of God, envied him” (Ezek.31:8-9).*

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We know how Sennacherib King of Assyria boasted that he had conquered many people and that Israel could not escape. He said the gods of other countries could not deliver them from his army therefore the Lord would not be able to deliver them (Isa.36:15). But when Isaiah reported this boasting, God sent the angel of the Lord who in one night slew 185,000 Assyrian soldiers.

Pharaoh-hophra would have known about the destruction of the Assyrians and so God reminded him:

*“To whom art thou thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? yet shalt thou be brought down with the trees of Eden unto the nether parts of the earth: thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD” (Ezek.31:18).*

## Prophecies in 12th year (585BC) of Jeconiah’s Captivity

### *Lamentation for Pharaoh-hophra - Ch.32*

Some of the Pharaoh’s of Egypt claimed to be God. The river Nile was used by them to claim Diety. Every year the River Nile flooded its banks spreading much needed silt over agricultural land. The fields were watered by pumping from the Nile into canals.

The Nile flooded because snow melted on the mountains of Ethiopia far to the south east of Egypt’s southern border and flowed down the Blue Nile into Egypt. The people didn’t know that was why it flooded.

The flooding of the Nile could be predicted and the priests cooperated in letting Pharaoh know when the waters were rising so that he could deceive the people into thinking he was sending the much needed water for their farms. God would show who was really God and would bring Pharaoh-hophra down to hell where he would meet all the rulers of kingdoms before him who likewise had claimed to be God. Asshur (Assyria), Elam (Persia), Meshech and Tubal (Scythians), Edom and Zidon all had been slain before Pharaoh-hophra died and he would see them in hell when he was slain. Ezekiel concludes:

*“Pharaoh shall see them, and shall be comforted over all his multitude, even Pharaoh and all his army slain by the sword, saith the Lord GOD. For I have caused my terror in the land of the living: and he shall be laid in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that are slain with the sword, even Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD” (Ezek.32:31-32).*



# Future Prophecies

## Chapter 8

### Ezekiel a Watchman for the Last Days

**T**hus far in the first 32 chapters, we have seen Ezekiel's testimony as "*a watchman unto the house of Israel*" (Ezek.3:17) warning the nation of judgments that occurred **in his day**. These prophecies have been fulfilled: Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians and the Jews were taken captive to Babylon. The surrounding nations also were destroyed by the Babylonians. The two great powers adjoining Israel, Tyre and Egypt received special attention and were destroyed exactly as foretold.

For centuries there had been two great nations vying for power; Assyria and Egypt, but these had been conquered by one power; Babylon. This began what Jesus called "*the Times of the Gentiles*" which is defined as the time that the holy city of Jerusalem is "*trodden down of the Gentiles*" (Luke21:24).

In the days of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, Jerusalem was occupied by the Gentiles and the throne of David ceased and this will continue until Christ returns to reign over the earth (Ezek.21:27). Since then, the Persians, Greeks and Romans have held power over Jerusalem and the final Roman prince who will sit in a rebuilt temple at Jerusalem will be the Antichrist. Only then will "*the times of the Gentiles*" end.

The battle of Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation will occur when Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords and He will then reign from David's throne at Jerusalem. **Chapter 33 is therefore a watershed in Ezekiel's prophecy between fulfilled and future prophecy.**

Chapters 34 to 48 of this prophecy are all **future prophecy**. They describe the return of the Jews to the land in the last days, the conversion of Israel and the New Covenant that God will make with His people. From chapters 40 to 48 God gives us a detailed description of Israel in the kingdom over which Christ will reign. The Millennial Temple and its services, the location of the tribes in the land and the amazing changes to the Dead Sea are all described in detail.

Chapter 33 is the second time God commissioned Ezekiel to be a "*watchman to the house of Israel*" (Ezek.33:7). First, He commissioned him as **a watchman in his day** (Ezek.3:17) and Ezekiel received those messages for Israel in

## Israel's Last-Days Warning

chapters 1 to 32. Those prophecies have been fulfilled and Jerusalem was judged in 586BC. Jerusalem was occupied by Gentiles and the “*times of the Gentiles*” ushered in. Ezekiel also was a **watchman to Israel in the last days** and we are today beginning to see these prophecies fulfilled. The time when the Lord will return and reign from David’s throne is fast approaching and the “*times of the Gentiles*” will be finished.

When Jerusalem was captured the Babylonian captain of the guard, Nebuzaradan, was aware that the Lord God of the Jews had sent the Babylonians to punish the Jews for their wickedness. Perhaps he had been in contact with Daniel or Ezekiel but it seems that the prophecies were common knowledge among the Babylonians. He said to Jeremiah, *“The LORD thy God hath pronounced this evil upon this place. Now the LORD hath brought it, and done according as he hath said: because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed his voice, therefore this thing is come upon you”* (Jer.40:2-3).

The Babylonians must also have been aware that Jeremiah had been prophesying the destruction of Jerusalem because before the captives were taken to Babylon, the captain of the guard came and released him and gave him the choice of going with him and being well treated in Babylon or of remaining in the land under the care of Gedaliah whom Nebuchadnezzar had made Governor over the remnant left in the land with a small garrison of Chaldeans (Jer.41:3). Jeremiah chose to remain in the land and went to Mizpah and dwelt with Gedaliah.

### Prophecies in 12th Year of Captivity 585BC - Chs.33:21- Ch.39

In the 12th year of Jeconiah’s captivity and in the 9th month, the year after Jerusalem was destroyed, **a person who escaped from Jerusalem arrived in Chaldea** where Ezekiel was living and reported; *“The city is smitten”* (Ezek.33:21). All that Ezekiel had prophesied had come to pass.

It took **fifteen months** for Ezekiel to receive details of his fulfilled prophecies. Either the large number of captives had not arrived in Babylon after fifteen months or had been scattered elsewhere in Babylonia. Their departure from Judah could have been delayed until their health improved after a long siege and starvation.

The night **before** this escapee from Jerusalem arrived in Chaldea, God spoke to Ezekiel and informed him that the Jews who had escaped from the Babylonians and were dwelling in the fields of Judah were talking about reviving the nation. The Lord told him:

*“Son of man, they that inhabit those wastes of the land of Israel speak, saying,*

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*Abraham was one, and he inherited the land: but we are many; the land is given us for inheritance” (Ezek.33:24).*

Ezekiel had a message for those who wanted to revive the nation when God had said **they were to be exiled 70 years**. God charged them with their wickedness and said,

*“I will lay the land most desolate, and the pomp of her strength shall cease; and **the mountains of Israel shall be desolate**, that none shall pass through. Then shall they know that I am the LORD, when I have laid the land most desolate because of all their abominations which they have committed” (Ezek.33:28-29).*

After the Babylonians had departed from Judea, **some renegade Jews** attacked and killed the Governor Gedaliah and the men that were with him including the Chaldean garrison. The Jews that remained then became fearful that the Babylonians would blame them and decided to go to Egypt.

We don’t know how long these Jews remained in the land before they went to Egypt but we know they moved south from Mizpah to a place near Bethlehem before departing (Jer.41:17). If they were still planning to revive the nation 15 months after Jerusalem was smitten, we can assume they had not gone to Egypt at that time and their departure for Egypt must have been later than 15 months after the fall of Jerusalem.

These renegade Jews took Jeremiah forcibly to Egypt after he told them the Lord had said they were to remain in the land. In Egypt, Jeremiah prophesied the complete destruction of Egypt by Nebuchadnezzar together with the death of all the Jews who fled to Egypt (Jer.43:8-13; 44:1-30).

Sadly the Jews in Babylon were covetous and criticized Ezekiel. They refused to obey the Word of God spoken by him and treated him as

*“a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for **they hear thy words, but they do them not**. And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them” (Ezek.33:32-33).*

The prophecies of Ezekiel in Babylon, and Jeremiah in Egypt, are in perfect agreement. Only the false prophets were in disagreement. Thus we have evidence that

*“no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2Peter 1:20-21).*

There can be no contradiction in Biblical prophecies because they are the words of the Holy Spirit given to *“holy men of God”*.

# Chapter 9

## Ungodly Shepherds will be Judged

*The Evil Shepherds of Israel Will be Replaced - Ch.34*

**F**rom chapter 34 to the end of Ezekiel's prophecy we have Ezekiel's testimony to the future. In Chapter 33 he is commissioned a second time but this time as a watchman to warn the nation of **future events that will occur in the last days**. We know this because he speaks of a future time when the nation...

- 1) Has returned to the land after being scattered among the nations (Ezek.34:13).
- 2) Is truly repentant and Godly (Ezek.34:31)
- 3) Is dwelling safely in the land (Ezek.34:22).
- 4) Is ruled by David who will be a Prince over them (Ezek.34:23).
- 5) Has a New Covenant of Peace made with God (Ezek.34:25).
- 6) Will have the rains restored to the land and become fruitful instead of a wilderness. (Ezek.34:26).
- 7) Has the Lord as its Shepherd (Ezek.34:11-12).

None of the above have been or could have been fulfilled in the past but all will be fulfilled **in the last days** when Christ returns.

However before Israel is blessed by God her ungodly leaders must be removed. Any missionary in Israel will testify to how hard it is to get Jews to acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Messiah and Saviour. We hear reports of Orthodox Jews stoning a Christian missionary's home and of bitter opposition to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Ezekiel foretold that this would be the case in the last days and Jesus indicated that Jews who turn to Christ immediately after the Rapture will encounter fierce and cruel persecution from their fellow Jews. Jesus warned:

*"Brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and **cause them to be put to death**. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, **till the Son of man be come**" (Matt.10:21-23).*

John tells us in the Book of Revelation that immediately after the Rapture of the Christians there will be 144,000 Jewish men who will be converted to Christ and these will bear testimony for Christ during the first half of

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the 7-year Tribulation. Jesus said in the Olivet Discourse before He went to the cross, that during the first half of the Tribulation, **the Gospel of the Kingdom** would be “*preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come*” (Matt.24:14). The 144,000 must therefore be the ones who will take this message to the world after the Rapture.

The impact of the Rapture on these 144,000 Jewish men must be very great and they must be aware of it beforehand. Which shows how important it is to get the pre-Tribulation-Rapture message to Jewish people in this Church age. When suddenly these Jewish men realize that the Church age has finished and the 70th week of Daniel’s prophecy (Dan.9:24-27) has begun they will be convinced that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came from heaven and paid the price for their sin on the cross. They will fearlessly go into all the world knowing that they only have a very short time to warn the world and urge men to seek the Lord.

But some of these Jewish witnesses will have fierce opposition from their own people and Jesus warned them about it. Their fellow Jews will cause those who respond to the Gospel to be put to death with official approval from the ungodly “shepherds” in the nation. Ezekiel wrote:

*“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD unto them; Behold, I, even I, will judge between the fat cattle and between the lean cattle. **Because ye have thrust with side and with shoulder**, and pushed all the diseased with your horns, till ye have scattered them abroad; **Therefore will I save my flock**, and they shall no more be a prey; and I will judge between cattle and cattle. And I will **set up one shepherd** over them, and he shall feed them, **even my servant David**; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd”* (Ezek.34:20-23).

How will God remove the evil shepherds of Israel? He will send the Russian/Islamic confederacy armies into the land and Zechariah tells us that two thirds of the nation will perish.

*“Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones. 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. And I will bring the third part through the fire**, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God”* (Zech.13:7-9).

In Joel chapter 2 we have a vivid description of the Russian/Islamic invasion when the surviving one third will seek the Lord Jesus Christ and God will pour out His Spirit upon the nation. We will discuss this conflict when we come to chapters 38 and 39 of Ezekiel’s prophecy

# Chapter 10

## The Palestinian Conflict

*Israel's Neighbours Will Hate Them and Will be Judged - Ch.35*

**W**hen Jews began to return to the land after nearly 2,000 years of dispersion among the nations they were not welcomed by the Arabs. Jewish settlements were attacked and they were forced to defend themselves. Palestine was a British Mandate after WWI and the British army trained and equipped the Arab League army. Jewish settlers were helped by a British officer Orde Wingate, who trained and armed the settlers to defend themselves between 1936 and 1939. During WWI the 1917 *Balfour Declaration* promised that Britain would view favourably the establishment of a national home for the Jews.

After WWII Jewish refugees flooded back to Palestine and in 1947 the war of liberation began. The British Mandate finished and David Ben Gurion organized the Haganah to defend the Jews who were being attacked by Arabs. Jerusalem was besieged and food supplies were cut off. Arms were sought from many sources. The siege of Jerusalem was lifted.

On 14 May 1948 David Ben Gurion declared Israel to be a sovereign state and it was recognized by the US and Russia. When Israel declared herself to be a nation the Arab League sent its armies into Israel and 250,000 Arabs left Palestine hoping the Jews would be driven into the sea but the Arab armies were defeated. The Arabs who left have not returned and continue in refugee camps. The War of Liberation concluded in 1949.

Since then Israel's neighbours have conducted wars, rocket attacks, interfadas and terror against the Jews. There has been the Suez Crisis (1956), the Six-Day War (1967), the War of Attrition (1967-1970), Yom Kippur War (1973), Lebanon War (1982), 1st Intifada 1987-93), 2nd Intifada (2000-2005), Lebanon War (2006), Gaza War (2008), etc. etc.

Ezekiel chapter 35 describes this conflict which has continued and still threatens the nation of Israel. The prophecy indicates that the Arabs would continually turn to violence and God will respond to this hatred. These nations will be desolated.

*"Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will prepare thee unto blood, and blood shall pursue thee: since thou hast not hated blood, even blood shall pursue thee" (Ezek.35:6).*

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The ownership of the Lord's land would be contested:

*"Because thou hast said, **These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess it**; whereas the LORD was there: therefore...I will make myself known among them, **when I have judged thee**" (Ezek.35:11).*

Jerusalem has been contested by the Palestinians exactly as Ezekiel prophesied:

*"Also, thou son of man, prophesy unto the **mountains** of Israel, and say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD: Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because the enemy hath said against you, **Aha, even the ancient high places are ours in possession**" (Ezek.36:1-2).*

The ancient **high** places are Samaria, Jerusalem and Hebron. These are the mountain places contested by the Palestinians.

This prophecy is addressed to Mount Seir which was Edom (Ezek.35:2) but the Edomites were driven out of Mt Seir by the Nabataeans, an Arabian people, about 550BC and they relocated in southern Israel, later converting to Judaism. The Edomites became known as Idumeans and Herod the Great, the King of the Jews, was one of them. There were 20,000 Idumeans who fought alongside one faction of the Jews in the siege of Jerusalem in AD70. Herod's hatred for the Jews is well known.

All attempts to negotiate a peace with the Palestinian Liberation Movement (PLO) have failed and the PLO, Hamas and Hezbollah have one aim; the eradication of the State of Israel. God says that He will judge them and they will be desolate:

*"When the **whole earth rejoiceth**, I will make thee desolate" (Ezek.35:14).*

There is only one time when the **whole earth can rejoice** and that will be after Christ returns and there is universal peace. Isaiah describes that day when

*"many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and **they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more**" (Isa.2:3-4).*

The future for the Palestinians looks very bleak but it is of their own making. In the Tribulation and in the Kingdom they will be desolated.



# Chapter 11

## Israel's Return in Unbelief

*Israel to Return in Unbelief Before They are Converted - Ch.36*

**I**n Chapter 36 Ezekiel prophesies to the land of Israel and indicates that God will return the land to the Jews in the last days. This initial return will **not** be because they have repented and will be **partial**. Its purpose is to bring them to repentance. The ungodly nation must be back in the land for God to deal with them as a nation in the last days. Twice God said:

*"I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went" (Ezek.36:22 also verse 32).*

This chapter is devoted to the **land** of Israel. The Lord says:

*"O **mountains of Israel**, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come. For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and **ye shall be tilled and sown**: And I will **multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it**: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded" (Ezek.36:8-10).*

The return of the Jews to the land after the Lord returns however will be a **complete** return of every Jew on the face of the earth. This will be possible after there is real repentance and conversion. After the Tribulation the Lord will

*"send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together **his elect (nation)** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matt.24:31).*

Isaiah states they will *"be gathered one by one"* (Isa.27:12) and Ezekiel states:

*"Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have **left none of them any more there**" (Ezek.39:28).*

But the prophecy in Ezekiel chapter 36 is about a **partial** return that occurs **before** the nation repents.

Under the Palestinian Covenant (Deut.chs.28 to 30) God said the nation would be scattered if they turned away from the Lord but **if they repented** after they had been scattered, God would restore them to the land. The return to the land described in Ezekiel 36 however has no such

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precondition but is entirely for God's "holy name's sake".

*"Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went" (Ezek.36:22).*

In 1948 there was a **partial** return of the Jews to re-established the nation of Israel after nearly 2,000 years of dispersion. For centuries they had been expelled from countries, persecuted and hated. They had suffered inquisitions, pogroms, ghettos and the holocaust. On their return to the land that God gave to Abraham as an everlasting possession, the Jews had to fight for survival against the Arabs. At that time they faced the Arab League, a well-trained and well-armed Arab military force established by the British and yet they were victorious in the 1947/1949 War of Independence.

The return to the land that we have witnessed since 1948 is therefore **not** the fulfilment of the many prophecies that speak of Israel being brought back to the land when Christ returns. What we have witnessed is a restoration to the land **so that** God can deal with them as a nation in order to bring the nation to repentance.

Many of the Jews returning after WWII were atheists but the nation was reborn **politically**. However God has promised that the time will come when the nation will be reborn **spiritually** and cleansed. God said:

*"THEN will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye (plural) shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye (all of you) shall be my people, and I will be your God" (Ezek.36:25-28).*

That promise is for the future. It hasn't happened yet. The Jews are still either secular or orthodox and most reject Jesus Christ their Messiah, Saviour and King. But the time will come after the Church Age concludes with the Rapture of the Christians, that Israel will enter "*the time of Jacob's trouble*" (Jer.30:7) and be invaded by the armies of Russia and Islam as foretold in chapters 38 and 39 of Ezekiel's prophecy. Only then will the **entire nation** return to the land under the terms of the Palestinian Covenant (Deut.28 to 30). Every last Jew will be returned to the land (Ezek.39:28) and Christ will reign as King of kings.

# Chapter 12

## The Zionist Movement

### *Three Stages in Israel's Restoration Foretold - Ch.37: 1-14*

**I**n chapter 37 Ezekiel had a vision of dry bones scattered throughout a great valley and he is told to prophesy to the bones. The bones were very dry and very many which indicated they had been there for a long time. God asked, “*Can these bones live?*” Ezekiel replied, “*O Lord GOD, thou knowest*” (Ezek.37:3).

Ezekiel was told to prophesy to the bones and say,

*“O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause **breath to enter** into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay **sinews** upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and **put breath in you**, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD”* (Ezek.37:34-36).



The interpretation of Ezekiel's prophecy is given: “*These bones are the whole house of Israel*”. They describe the nation of Israel scattered among the nations. The prophecy indicates that there is a day coming when Israel will be restored to the land **and to the Lord**. God said He would bring them out of their graves “*And shall **put my spirit in you**, and ye shall live, and I shall place you **in your own land**: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it*” (Ezek.37:14).

It is important to note that the bones represent “*the whole house of Israel*”. The Jews were divided into two nations after the reign of Solomon and

## Last-Days Prophecies

the northern ten tribes were taken captive to “the cities of the Medes” in 721BC by the Assyrians while the southern two tribes were scattered in 606/586BC by the Babylonians. In 536BC, in fulfilment of prophecy, remnants of all twelve tribes were invited to return by Cyrus King of Persia but in AD70, again all tribes were scattered throughout the world by the Romans. Jesus said:

*“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).*

Three times Ezekiel prophesied and at first he saw “a great shaking” and the bones came together “bone to his bone”. Then sinews and skin came upon the bones. When he prophesied the third time, breath came into the corpses and they stood up, “an exceeding great army”(Ezek.37:10).

It took “a great shaking” to bring these bones together and this is precisely what God did. The reason for the establishment of the Zionist movement beginning in 1881 was antisemitism. The Jews realized that unless they established their own nation in the land they could not defend themselves. At the end of the 19th century there was a famous case in France that highlighted the plight of the Jews. It was known as the Dreyfus Affair.

### *The Dreyfus Affair*



Wikipedia Encyclopedia records the incident as follows:

“The scandal began in December 1894 when Captain Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason. Dreyfus was a 35-year-old Alsatian French artillery officer of Jewish descent. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for allegedly communicating French military secrets to the Germans and was imprisoned in Devil’s Island in French Guiana, where he spent nearly five years.

In 1896, evidence came to light...that charges against Dreyfus, were based on forged documents...and the government reopened the case. In 1899, Dreyfus was returned to France for another trial...In 1906, Dreyfus was exonerated and reinstated as a major in the French Army. He served during the whole of World War I, ending his service with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He died in 1935.”

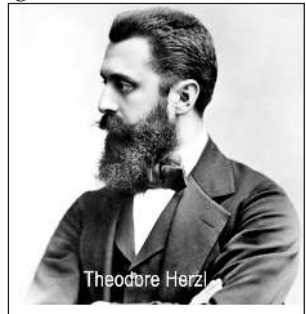
It was this incident that caused Jewish leaders led by Theodore Herzl, to gather at Basle in Switzerland in 1897 to discuss a national home for the Jews.

## The Zionist Movement

Today we are seeing a partial return to the land. Only half of the Jews worldwide had returned by 2022. The final return will involve “*the WHOLE house of Israel*” including **all twelve tribes** and not just the two tribes of the southern kingdom as some affirm today.

### *The Dry Bones Came Together*

The first stage in the fulfilment of this prophecy began in 1881 with the rise of the Zionist Movement which culminated in the First Zionist Congress at Basle, Switzerland, in 1897. For the first time on 29 August 1897 Theodore Herzl brought 208 Jewish leaders together to discuss a national home for the Jewish people. For centuries Jews had been scattered among the nations suffering persecution with no power to defend themselves. It was decided to seek a national home for the nation. The bones had come together!



### *Sinews Appear on the Skeletons*

In WWI Britain lacked explosives and Chaim Wiseman, a Jewish bio-chemist developed the acetone-butanol-ethanol process that enabled Britain to win the war. Chaim Wiseman was later elected the first President of Israel. In appreciation, the *Balfour Declaration* was issued by the British Government in 1917, announcing support for the establishment of a “national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine. After WWI and WWII the Jews began to return and on 14 May 1948 David Ben-Gurion declared Israel to be a nation among the nations of the world. The announcement was quickly ratified by Russia and America and a nation was born. The sinews had come on the bones but there was no spiritual life.



## Last-Days Prophecies

The Nazi Holocaust drove 115,000 Jews out of Germany and 6 million died. After WWII Jews fled back to the land from Displaced Persons camps in Europe. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 opened the doors for Jews to escape and today Russian Jews make up a large part of the population.

*Encyclopedia Wikipedia* records:

“Between 1989 and 2006, about 1.6 million Soviet Jews and their non-Jewish relatives and spouses, as defined by the Law of Return, emigrated from the former Soviet Union. About 979,000, or 61%, migrated to Israel. Another 325,000 migrated to the United States, and 219,000 migrated to Germany. ... The majority of the immigrant wave were Ashkenazi Jews; however, a significant proportion were Mizrahi groups such as the Mountain Jews, Georgian Jews, and Bukharan Jews.”

In 2021 there were 6.74 million (74.8%) Jews and 1.879 million Arabs (20.9%) in Israel. There has been a constant stream of Jewish migration as persecution continues. Places like France which has a violent Muslim population are becoming unsafe for Jews and this is causing them to migrate.

In 2021 Israel is a thriving nation with new off-shore gas fields that have made her a major player in the supply of energy with exports to Egypt. A major pipeline is planned to the EU. Israel's Defense industry is exporting to many nations and she has her own nuclear weapons. Israel has been supported by the US Government and shares defense projects with America. High Tech industries such as computer chips are manufactured in Israel and they are leaders in desalination plant design. But they have not yet turned to Jesus Christ their Messiah and Saviour.

### *The Nation Will Receive Spiritual Life in the Tribulation*

The third restoration is yet to come when Israel will turn to the Lord in the future Tribulation. The nation will receive **spiritual life** and acknowledge her Messiah and King, Jesus Christ. The time and manner of this conversion are foretold in chapters 38 and 39. It will take the Russian/Islamic invasion to humble the Jews to the point where they will cry out to God and repent of their rejection of Jesus Christ. The prophet Joel described the day of Israel's repentance and conversion in chapter 2 of his prophecy and the Revelation speaks of 144,000 Jews from the 12 tribes of Israel who will bear testimony in the first half of the Tribulation. No doubt their testimony will have a profound effect on the nation. Jesus said:

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



## The Zionist Movement

### *Two Sticks Become One in Ezekiel's Hand - Ch.37:15-28*

Ezekiel is told to take two sticks and to write on one "For Judah" and the other "For Ephraim". Ephraim was a name for the ten tribes of the northern kingdom that separated from Judah. God said,

*"Make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand" (Ezek.37:19).*

The "lost 10 Tribes" were taken to Central Asia; to the cities of the Medes, and there is evidence that they are today the Pathan tribes of Afghanistan / Pakistan. There are about 15 million of these tribesmen and they are fiercely Islamic but they have Jewish customs and some have Jewish names. The Taliban were identified by the military because they wear a *kippah* (skull cap) like the Orthodox Jews. In the past they have claimed to be descended from the Jews of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

If they really are the remnant of Jews from the 10 lost tribes then they will be converted to Jesus Christ in the Tribulation and when Christ returns, will be gathered back to the land. It is significant that Isaiah prophesied that there will be many who will return that were formerly not thought to be Jews. There will be some surprises and Isaiah expresses that:

*"For thy waste and thy desolate places, and the land of thy destruction, shall even now be **too narrow** by reason of the inhabitants, and they that swallowed thee up shall be far away. The children which thou shalt have, after thou hast lost the other, shall say again in thine ears, The place is too strait for me: give place to me that I may dwell. **Then shalt thou say in thine heart, Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? and who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where had they been?**"(Isa.49:19-21).*

The message is clear. In the last days all twelve tribes will be reunited and **become one nation again**. Jews from all over the world will return to the Lord and to the land when Christ returns. David, who was raised with Christ, will reign over Israel and the Lord Jesus Christ will reign over the whole earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. Then God says:

*"Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an **everlasting covenant** with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set **my sanctuary in the midst of them** for evermore. **My tabernacle** also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Ezek.37:26-27).*

This glorious Temple will be built at Jerusalem after Christ returns and the glory of God will be seen; it will glow over Jerusalem continually (Isa.60:19-20). We will discuss the specifications of that Tabernacle when we come to chapters 40-44.



# Chapter 13

## The Day Israel is Saved

*Israel's Conversion at the Russian/Islamic Invasion - Chs. 38/39*

**T**hus far we have seen prophecies that Israel would return to the land in unbelief and that the land would be contested by the Arabs. The purpose of this partial return in unbelief is to re-establish the Jews as a nation in the land **so that** the nation could be brought to repentance during the Tribulation. God's ultimate plan is to restore Israel to the Lord and to make a New Covenant with them as foretold by Jeremiah (Jer.31:31-34).

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

Chapters 38 and 39 provide prophecies of the events that will bring the nation to repentance and thus prepare the nation for the second coming of Christ and His millennial reign.

Israel's conversion must occur in the **first half** of the Tribulation for the following reasons:

1) The conversion of the Jews must be of **every** Jew. Paul wrote, "**so ALL Israel shall be saved**" (Rom.11:26) and Jeremiah states, "**for they shall ALL know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them**, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more" (Jer.31:34). The 144,000 Jews who are saved immediately after the Rapture are only "**the firstfruits unto God and the Lamb**" (Rev.14:4) but these are instrumental in the nation turning to the Lord.

2) The conversion of the Jews **can't happen before the Rapture**. If it did all the Jews would be raptured and there would be no Jews here for their role in the Tribulation and there would be no Jews here to welcome their Messiah at His return.

## The Day Israel is Saved

3) The conversion of the Jews must occur **before the mid-point** of the Tribulation because when Antichrist takes global control at the mid-point of the Tribulation, the Jews are described as those who *“keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”* (Rev.12:17). Those who teach that Israel turns to the Lord when they see Him coming in clouds at His second advent are wrong. Jesus is not coming as the Saviour but as the Judge, *“in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God”* (2Thess.1:8). It will be too late for anybody to repent when Christ returns.

4) During the second half of the Tribulation Antichrist will persecute the *“seed of the woman”* i.e. Israel, and God will provide a safe place of refuge for them as indicated in Revelation chapter 12 and verse 14 *“And to the woman (Israel) 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 (Satan).”*

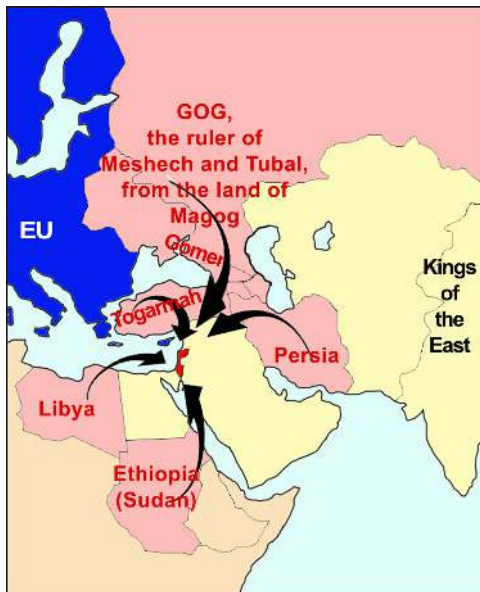
If Israel was still a Christ-rejecting nation during the second half of the Tribulation then they would be working with Antichrist and not be pursued by him. Antichrist’s reason for persecuting Israel in the second half of the Tribulation is because they have believed on Jesus Christ.

### *The Invasion of Israel by Russia and Islamic Armies*

The nations that God will use to bring Israel to repentance are all clearly identified in Ezekiel chapter 38 and verses 1 to 7. We are even told who the leader will be; his name is Gog. Gog may well be **a title** such as President or King rather than a personal name. But he rules **the land of Magog** which is defined as **Meshech and Tubal**.

Magog was a son of Japheth the eldest son of Noah and after the Flood his family was allocated lands by God according to their languages:

*“By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations”* (Gen.10:5).



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Josephus the Jewish historian of the first century states that “the Magogites were by the Greeks called Scythians” and we know from history that the **Scythians lived north of the Black Sea** and across Central Asia. Russia is north of the Black Sea.

Russia is divided into two parts: European Russia lies west of the Ural Mountains and Asian Russia or Siberia, lies east of the Ural Mountains. In ancient times **Tobolsk** was the capital of Siberian Russia and it is located on the **Tobol River**. Meschech identifies with **Moscow** as the capital of European Russia.

Other nations that will join in the invasion of Israel in the Tribulation are: *“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”* (Ezek.38:5-6).

It is easy to identify some of these names. Ancient **Persia** included Iran and Afghanistan. **Libya** is located in North Africa and Josephus tells us that the descendants of **Gomer**, the brother of Magog, dwelt in Galatia in central Turkey. **Togarmah was a son of Gomer and his** descendants dwelt in Cappadocia next to Galatia in Turkey. **Ethiopia** in Biblical times was all the land south of Egypt, or **Sudan**, as we know it today.

So we have a clearly defined consortium of nations led by Russia. Russia will lead the invasion of Israel and her Islamic associates today are bitter enemies of Israel. Iran is threatening almost daily to wipe Israel off the map and is proceeding to obtain nuclear weapons with which to threaten Israel. Iran has her proxy army, Hezbollah, in Lebanon and it is reported that she has supplied them with 150,000 missiles in preparation for the invasion of Israel. Hamas in the Gaza Strip has been armed by Iran with a large number of missiles. Furthermore Iran has her troops in Iraq and Syria on Israel’s border while the civil war in Syria has brought Turkey into Syria.

In Libya there has been a civil war raging with Egypt supporting one faction and Russia supporting the other.

Life expectancy in Russia is a little more than 60 years and Russia’s population is about 14% Muslim. Polls in Russia indicate that many Russians want to migrate to the West. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 there was a mass exodus of 1.6 million Jews who left for the West or for Israel. In order to satisfy the labour market in an aging population, Russia will need to import labour from Islamic countries and this will swing the pedulum further toward the Islamic nations.

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### *Communist and Islamic Nations are Coming Together*

Globally we are seeing Communist nations aligning with Islamic nations. Egypt now manufactures Russian tanks; Turkey has a Russian-built nuclear power plant and plans two more; she has purchased the Russian S-400 missile defense system and is now co-operating with Russia in the production of submarines, jet engines and in space programs. Russia and China are building bases in African nations such as Somalia.

In the east, Pakistan is working with Russia and China and China is co-operating with Iran in the development of missiles.

The crisis in Taiwan has brought together a coalition of non-Communist nations to meet the challenge posed by Communist China. India, Japan, South Korea, Australia, America and Britain have joined forces and are arming to respond to any conflict with China and North Korea.

### *Gog is Not Antichrist*

Ezekiel's invasion is not Armageddon for Armageddon will be fought at the **end** of the Tribulation and will be in progress when Christ returns. Also at Armageddon **all nations** (Rev.19:19) will come against Jerusalem, led by Antichrist. Gog is not Antichrist because Antichrist comes as a Roman prince from the revived Roman Empire (Dan.9:26) which is Europe, whereas Gog comes from the land of Magog north of Israel.

Also, one sixth of Gog's army escape to Siberia after God judges them but at Armageddon, none will escape the Lord at His coming. There are clearly two great wars in Israel during the Tribulation; The Russian/ Islamic invasion is led by Gog and occurs in the first half of the 7 years and this brings the nation of Israel to repentance while Armageddon is led by Antichrist and occurs at the end of the second half of the Tribulation when Christ returns.

### *When Will Israel be Invaded?*

Ezekiel tells us when the invasion of Israel 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*



Security fence on Egypt's border

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*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” (Ezek.38:8).*

Ezekiel prophesied in 585BC so it is already “*many days*” since he wrote. We are undoubtedly living in the “*latter years*” for so many prophecies are being fulfilled. Israel has been “*gathered out of many nations*” and is still gathering Jews from the four corners of the earth after 2,000 years of dispersion. Israel, in 70 years has developed into a powerful military nation with its own defense industry and nuclear weapons. Israel exports computer chips and military hardware. She has her own space program and leads the world in desalination technology.

With security fences around the borders it can be said that they are “*dwelling safely*”. Furthermore Israel has had the support of the US and has received \$2 billion annually for defence equipment. Under the Trump Administration the US recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and the Abraham Accords Agreement has brought peace between Israel and the Gulf States and Morocco.

Though Israel is threatened by Iran she has the capability of destroying Iran’s nuclear program and in 2021 the Knesset (Parliament) budgeted \$2 billion shekels to do just that. They are obtaining deep penetration bombs that can destroy underground facilities used to produce enriched uranium for the manufacture of nuclear devices.

**It only requires Israel to sign a covenant with Europe and for the Rapture to occur and the Tribulation will begin.** We know from the Book of Revelation (Rev.11:1-2) and Paul’s second epistle to the Thessalonians (2Thess.2:4) that the Jews will build a Temple and the *Temple Institute* in Jerusalem has already prepared all the furniture and priests garments for the Temple. Immediately after the Rapture when the Temple is built, the Islamic nations will be furious and will invade the land of Israel in the **first half** of the seven-year Tribulation. Then possibly about the 2nd year, just before the feast of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, when Israel will repent and be pardoned.

The three main Jewish feasts are prophetic in Israel’s history. The Jews religious year began with the feast of **Passover** and Jesus, the Lamb of God, was sacrificed at the very moment the Passover lambs were slain in the Temple. **Pentecost** saw the Holy Spirit outpoured, Israel was put aside and the Church established, on the exact date. So we must expect



## The Day Israel is Saved

that the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, will coincide with Israel's repentance and pardon on the grounds of Christ's sacrifice.

### Why Will Israel be Invaded?

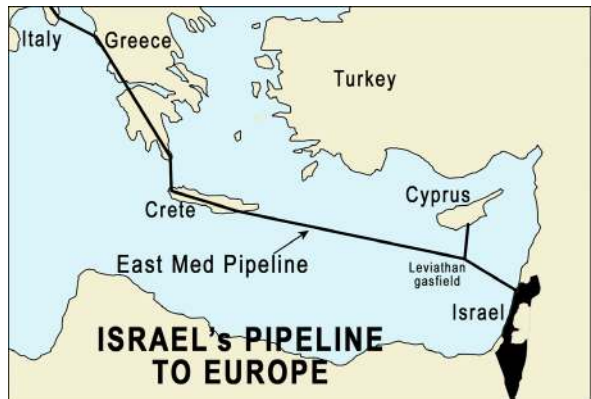
There are many reasons for the

Russian/Islamic invasion. The Islamists have fanatical religious reasons for an invasion of Israel. They believe that Jerusalem is the second most holy place on earth after Mecca and they teach that Mohammed ascended to heaven from the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

The sight of Jewish priests conducting services next to the Dome of the Rock no doubt will infuriate them.

The Russians have economic reasons for invading Israel. The Bible states that Gog will say:

*"I will go up to the land of unwall'd 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"* (Ezek.38:11-12).



Until recent times an invasion of Israel would have been of little economic value to Russia apart from the chemical wealth of the Dead Sea. But the discovery of vast amounts of natural gas off the coast of Israel has

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changed that. Israel is now a **major exporter of energy** and is piping gas to Egypt and Jordan. It is estimated that Israel's Leviathan Oil and Gas Field contains 1.7 billion barrels of recoverable oil and 122 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas. A new pipeline is being built to Europe and this will provide Europe with an alternative supply to Russian gas piped the Europe under the Baltic Sea.

Under the Trump Administration in America, Europe was receiving gas from the US but President Biden shut down America's pipe line projects and again made America an importer of energy. The second Russian pipeline under the Baltic Sea, which had previously been suspended, was able to proceed. The EU receives more than 40% of its natural gas from Russia. However when Israel's pipeline is completed Russia will not be able to blackmail the EU and politically it becomes important for Russia to invade Israel and take over Israel's oil and gas fields. **Israel's pipeline is due for completion in 2027.**

### *Israel's Amazing Conversion*

Over the past few centuries Christians have longed to see a gracious work of the Spirit of God and have prayed for revival. From time to time God has graciously visited His people with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that has seen thousands won to Christ. The Irish Evangelist, Billy Nicholson preached in Belfast, Ireland, for 10 months and 35,000 souls were won to Christ in a genuine revival. The Belfast shipyards had to build galvanized sheds to house the stolen tools returned when employees were converted.

When Evangelist D.L.Moody preached in America and England multitudes turned to Christ in genuine repentance and faith in Christ. In London, Atheist Societies closed down. Earlier, John Wesley went up and down England preaching in the fields to crowds of up to 10,000. Methodist Churches sprang up all over the country and about the same time on the Continent, Count Zinzendorf and the Moravian Brethren witnessed a mighty movement of the Spirit of God. Missionaries were sent out to the ends of the earth.

But those days are passed and we are living in the Last Days like the days of Noah. Scripture indicates Christendom will end in awful apostasy. Most major denominations today have abandoned a verbally inspired Bible and preach a social Gospel. They have embraced the immoral standards of the world, condoning homosexual behaviour and Gay Marriage. The political policies of the Greens have also been made a part of Christendom's theology, encouraging their members to agitate for Climate Change action and preaching Global warming as a result of



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human activity. Jesus warned us:

*"When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"*

Paul warned us about the last days

*"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...**" (2Tim.3:1-3) and,*

*"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" (1Tim.4:1-2).*

The Charismatic, tongues-talking movement is undoubtedly *"seducing spirits and doctrines of devils"* and their false prophets speak *"lies in hypocrisy"*. They preach a world-wide revival when the Bible teaches apostasy.

There will be no revival in the last days of this Church age. We may see showers of blessing but certainly no revival. The three measures of meal are fully leavened! (Matt.13:33). But there will be a gracious outpouring of the Spirit of God **during the first half of the Tribulation** beginning immediately after the Rapture of the Christians. The Rapture is the great sign to Israel that the *"end of the age"* has come and this will cause many to seek the Lord. Jesus said:

*"In that night there shall be two in one bed; the **one shall be taken, and the other shall be left**. Two shall be grinding together; the **one shall be taken, and the other left**. Two shall be in the field; the **one shall be taken, and the other left**." (Matt.24:40-41 and Luke 17:34-37).*

Jews today know about the Rapture and when, the same day that Israel signs a seven-year covenant with Antichrist as the head of Europe, millions suddenly disappear from all over the earth, there will be 144,000 Jewish men who will turn to Jesus Christ; two will be prophets located at Jerusalem who will encourage the construction of a Temple on the Temple Mount (Rev.11:3-12). **The Jews already have the furniture for this Temple made.** The two prophets will be like Haggai and Zechariah who encouraged the Jews to build the second Temple and are described as **two olive trees** through whom the oil of the Holy Spirit flows to light the candlesticks of testimony during the Tribulation (Zech.4 and Rev.11:4). There will be about one preacher for every 50,000 people on the Globe.

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These Jewish preachers will go throughout the world and proclaim the **Gospel of the Kingdom (Matt.24:14)**; that Christ will soon come to establish His universal Kingdom. Multitudes will respond to the Gospel from “*all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues*” (Rev.7:9) but persecution will be extreme and multitudes will be martyred for Christ. Even the 144,000 Jewish preachers will die as martyrs. **This is the “last days” revival but it will come after the Rapture of the Church.**

### *When Does the Nation of Israel Believe in Christ?*

As we have already pointed out, the **leaders** of Israel will be bitter opponents of the 144,000 and those who believe through their testimony. These evil “*shepherds*” of the nation will be destroyed as described in Ezekiel chapter 34. God will send the armies of Gog and his associates into the land and according to Zechariah’s prophecy, two thirds of the nation will perish (Zech.13:7-9). The one third that survive will all turn to Jesus Christ **on one day - probably a day of Atonement - Yom Kippur**. Isaiah prophesied of this. Amidst persecution from their fellow Jews the Lord will intervene. The nation that brought Christ into the world will be reborn in the first half of the Tribulation.

*“Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; **Your brethren that hated you**, that cast you out for my name’s sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies. **Before she (Israel) travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child**” (Isa.66:5-7).*

The first half of the Tribulation is called by Jesus “*the beginning of sorrows*” or “*beginning of travail*” (Matt.24:8). Jeremiah called it “*the time of Jacob’s trouble*” (Jer.30:7). Travail occurs at the time of birth and Israel is “born again” in the first half of the Tribulation. But **before the Tribulation**, Israel gave birth to a “*man child*” - Jesus Christ. That was 2,000 years ago - Israel’s travail is yet future - after the Rapture. So Isaiah says:

*“Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to **bring forth in one day?** or shall a nation be born **at once?** for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God” (Isa.66:8-9).*

Israel’s travail pain is caused by a Russian and Islamic invasion and the prophet Joel gives a vivid description of it in chapter 2 of his prophecy as

## The Day Israel is Saved

he describes a “northern army” sweeping into the land. He says:

*“The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining”* (Joel 2:10).

Ezekiel describes the invasion of the land as “a cloud to cover the land”. Whether this means a paratroop drop of enormous proportions or whether it simply indicates the vast number of soldiers covering the land is of no consequence. It is a massive invasion.

### *The Merchants of Tarshish and Young Lions*

When this invasion begins we read of a protest by “the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof” together with “Sheba and Dedan” who ask, “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? (Ezek.38:13).

Tarshish in Scripture is Britain and the **young lions** can only be her colonies; USA, Australia and New Zealand. Sheba and Dedan are Arabian states who align with Israel such as the Abraham Accords have achieved. For evidence of this see the book *Britain and USA* by the author.

However when the nation of Israel repents and trusts in Jesus Christ on that one day, the Lord will fight for His people and we read:

*“And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and **who can abide it?**”* (Joel 2:11).



## Last-Days Prophecies

The 6th seal judgment in the Tribulation relates to the Russian invasion. The kings of the earth will say to the rocks and mountains

*"Fall on us, and hide us ... from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and **who shall be able to stand?**" (Rev.6:16-17).*

Ezekiel describes this conflict and indicates that when Israel repents, God will send an earthquake of global proportions, hailstones, pestilence (disease) and *"every man's sword shall be against his brother"* (Ezek.38:19-23). Shiite will turn on Sunni and both will turn on the Russians until only one sixth of the invading army is left (Ezek.39:2) and Joel tells us where they go:

*"I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a **land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost (north) sea**" (Siberia) (Joel 2:20).*

### *The Black Sea a Powder Keg*

Why does the Russian army withdraw to Siberia? Why do they not return to Russia? The land of Russia (Magog) will be burned. How is Russia burned? Ezekiel tells us that God

*"**will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly (confidently) in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD**" (Ezek.39:6).*

Tarshish and the young lions inhabit the *"isles of the Gentiles"* (Gen.10:5) so it is clear that this conflict will bring judgment on Russia **and** Britain and America. That judgment will be *"a fire"*. Whether this fire is the 1st Trumpet judgment when one third of the trees and grass are burned or whether it indicates a shoot out between Russia and the West remains to be seen. It may be another fire entirely. We know that Russia has a serious problem with the Black Sea that stretches along her southern border.

Professor Lance Endersbee former Pro-Vice Chancellor of Melbourne's Monash University has written a book entitled, *A Voyage of Discovery* in which he devotes one chapter to the Black Sea that laps the southern shores of Russia.

This author indicates that the Black Sea is very deep, (2,200m) and the waters flowing into it are from rivers in surrounding countries. The only **outlet** for the Black Sea is a very narrow shallow channel through the Dardanelles. This leaves the deep waters of the Black Sea undisturbed and only surface waters are replaced. He states that there are "100 mud volcanoes on the shores of the Black Sea" and about "1,000 (methane) seepages have been recorded from the bottom of the Black Sea." The methane gas is mostly absorbed into solution in the deep waters. Professor

## The Day Israel is Saved

Endersbee states:

“Occasionally, huge outburst of gas reach the surface of the Black Sea accompanied by fire flashes and explosions. During thunderstorms, lightning may cause the sea to burn. These methane seepages have caused all of the deeper waters of the Black Sea, below 650m, to become saturated with methane” (page 166).

From time to time the methane gas rises to the surface and with the reduction in water pressure, expands to return to a gas and is released into the atmosphere. During storms these gases ignite and burn if struck by lightening.

The danger is that the strong concentration of methane gas in the waters of the Black Sea might be disturbed by earthquake action which is common in the region. It could rise to the surface, be released as gas, and catch fire. The EU is so concerned about this that it is funding a team of international scientists to monitor the situation.

Earthquakes are common in the region and the possibility of the deep water being disturbed causing the high concentration of methane gas to come to the surface is very real. The *North Anatolian Fault Line* runs right along the north of Turkey and we know that at the time of the Russian invasion, there will be a global earthquake. Ezekiel wrote:

*“Surely **in that day** there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; So that the fishes of the sea, ... 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”* (Ezek.38:19-20).

With such a shaking the methane gas would be released and the Black Sea become an inferno. According to Ezekiel this global earthquake will impact on the oceans for it will affect *“the fishes of the sea”*.

Once the saturated solution comes to the surface it will only need a southerly wind to blow the gas over Russia and the land of Magog (Russia) could not fail to be burned. A weather report states:

*“In winter an intense high-pressure system causes winds to blow from the south and the southwest in all but the Pacific region of the Russian landmass.”*

### *The Day Israel is Saved*

*“And I will set my glory among the heathen, and **all the heathen shall see my judgment** that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God **FROM THAT DAY AND FORWARD**”* (Ezek.39:21-22).

## Last-Days Prophecies

Ezekiel leaves us in no doubt about **when** Israel's conversion will take place. It will coincide with the judgment of God on the Russian/Islamic armies invading Israel. Therefore the Russian invasion cannot be before the Rapture and we know it must occur before the mid-point of the seven-year Tribulation.

We cannot be dogmatic about the exact time of Israel's conversion but the typical teaching concerning Joseph and his brethren would indicate it could be **two years into the Tribulation**.

In Scripture, Joseph is a "type" of Christ; beloved of his father, rejected by his brethren, sold to the Gentiles for 20 pieces of silver, raised from the dungeon to the throne and when his brethren came to him because of a 7-year dearth, and in the second year of that dearth, Joseph was reunited with his brethren. If this type is a shadow of future prophecy then we might well expect the Lord to be reunited with Israel **after two years** of the Tribulation and that would place the Russian invasion in the second year of the Tribulation which fits in with the sixth Seal Judgment in the Book of Revelation.

When Joseph was reconciled to his brethren he said:

*"For **these two years** hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest" (Gen.45:6).*

Joseph declared to them:

*"So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and Lord of all his house, and **a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt**" (Gen.45:8).*

At the conclusion of the 7 years of dearth Joseph ruled over all of Egypt and at the conclusion of the 7 years of Tribulation Christ will rule over all the earth.

### *The Impact of Israel's Conversion*

The whole world will be watching as events unfold in Israel. Humanly speaking, the forces arrayed against Israel leave no chance of survival. The protest from the US and Britain is obviously reduced to a whimper and the EU gets not even a mention. Since Russia is supplying more than 40% of the EU's energy and other Muslim countries are supplying some, it will be easy for Russia to blackmail the EU into not contributing to the defense of Israel.

But when Israel is truly repentant and calls on the Lord, believing in Jesus Christ as Messiah and Saviour, the invading army will be halted by



## The Day Israel is Saved

a global **earthquake**, mighty **hailstones** and **pestilence** that strike down the soldiers; and when all, instead of fighting Israel, **turn on each other**, Muslim against Muslim and Muslim against Communist, the whole world will suddenly become aware of the reason why the Jews have been scattered among the nations for 2,000 years. Jerusalem was destroyed in **AD 70 after they rejected Jesus Christ** and God scattered them, but now, when they seek the Lord and accept Jesus Christ as Messiah and King, God fights for them! **This will be one of the greatest object lessons of all time.**

*“And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, **therefore hid I my face from them**, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword” (Ezek.39:23).*

God will use the elements to show His power against Gog’s army just as He destroyed Napoleon’s army with snow in Russia and Hitler’s army also with snow, in Russia. The Greens think that man can change the weather. The world is spending billions of dollars to reduce global warming but they are fools. Men have no power to influence the weather in even the slightest way. God can order hailstones, meteorites, storms, earthquakes and viruses whenever He chooses. He can send droughts or floods because He is the Creator and puny proud man can do nothing. So great will be the devastation of the invading armies that Israel will be 7 months burying the dead and it will take 7 years to dispose of the debris. (Ezek.39:9-12).

When God shows His power against Gog’s army the nations will admit that Jesus Christ whom the Jews rejected 2,000 years ago, is Lord. They will fear greatly because they will know, and the 144,000 Jewish preachers will tell them, that the day of the Lord, the day of God’s wrath, has come. John describes this occasion:

*“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: **For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?**” (Rev.6:15-17).*

God will make a New Covenant with Israel but redeemed Israel will still have to endure the second half of the Tribulation. However they will have the Lord fighting for them. Antichrist will seek to destroy them but God has a special place prepared where He will protect them (Rev.12:6, 14-16).



# Chapter 14

## The Millennial Temple

### Prophecies in 25th Year of Captivity 572BC - Chs.40 - Ch.48

**T**he Tribulation will end with the appearance of Christ in the heavens. He will smite Antichrist and his armies and will immediately *“send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together **his elect** (nation) from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other”* (Matt.24:31).

The Lord’s reign will begin with the marriage supper of the Lamb on earth (Rev.19:9; Matt.22:11). The Bride of Christ, the Church, will **come with Christ** and **Israel will be guests**. Then all nations that survive the Tribulation will be gathered to Jerusalem to stand before the *“throne of His glory”* (Matt.25:31). The nations will be divided into two groups; the *sheep* and the *goats*. The sheep are the saved who believed the message of the 144,000 Jewish preachers and the goats are those who followed Antichrist. The saved are blessed in the Kingdom (Matt.25:34) and the lost go to the lake of fire (Matt.25:41).

Thus the Kingdom of Christ will begin with only saved people and Israel will all be located in the land that God gave to Abraham. God will dwell among His people in **a new Temple** as He promised.

*“Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set **my sanctuary** in the midst of them for evermore. **My tabernacle** also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when **my sanctuary** shall be in the midst of them for evermore”* (Ezek.37:26-28).

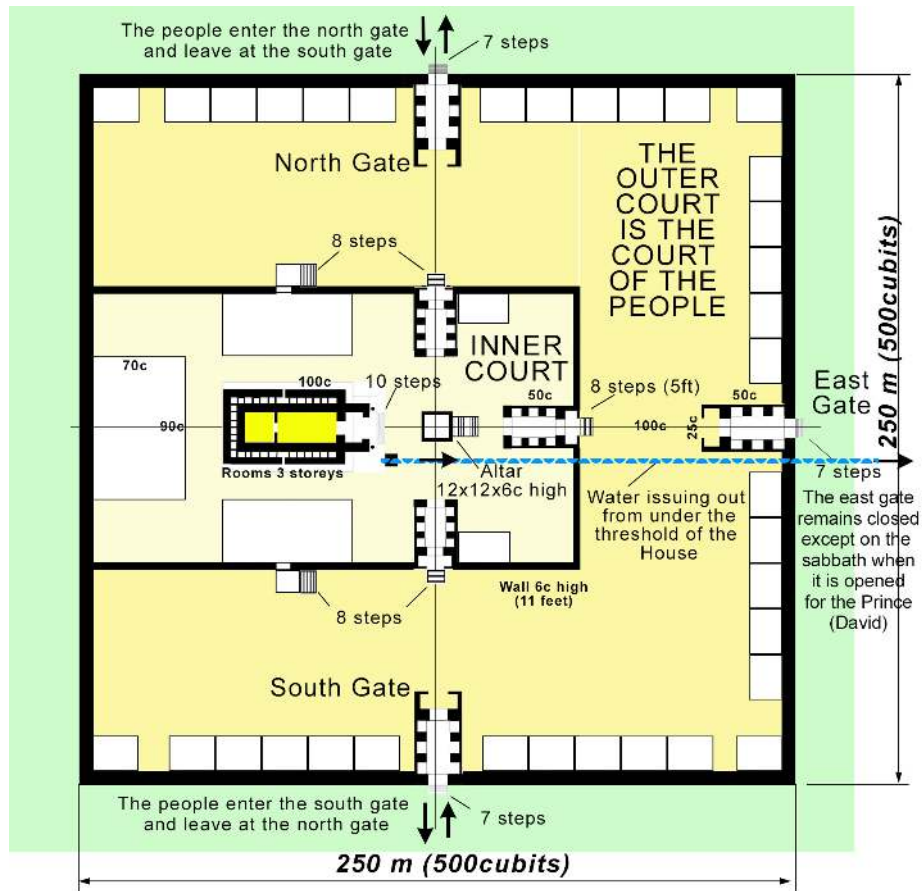
When Christ returns there will be a great earthquake that will change the topography in Israel. Zechariah tells us that

*“all the land shall be **turned as a plain** from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be **lifted up**, and inhabited in her place”* (Zech.14:10).

The Tribulation Temple and Muslim mosques will be demolished. There will be no Muslims to worship. A Temple will be built where the glory of God will shine continually. Specifications for the Temple are given in Ezekiel chapters 40 to 43. David, who rose with Christ, will appear to lead the nation and the presence of Christ will be there continually.

Jewish priests will serve in the Temple. Sacrifices will be offered and all the feast days kept **in memorial** of Christ and His work on the cross.

## The Millennial Temple



### EZEKIEL'S MILLENNIAL TEMPLE - Ezek.chs 40 - 42

When all has been completed God's glory will return for we read:

*"And, behold, **the glory of the God** of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the **earth shined with his glory**. And it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. And the **glory of the LORD** came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. So the Spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, **the glory of the LORD filled the house**" (Ezek.43:2-5).*

*"The name of the city from that day shall be, **The LORD is there.**" (Ezek.48:35).*

# Chapter 15

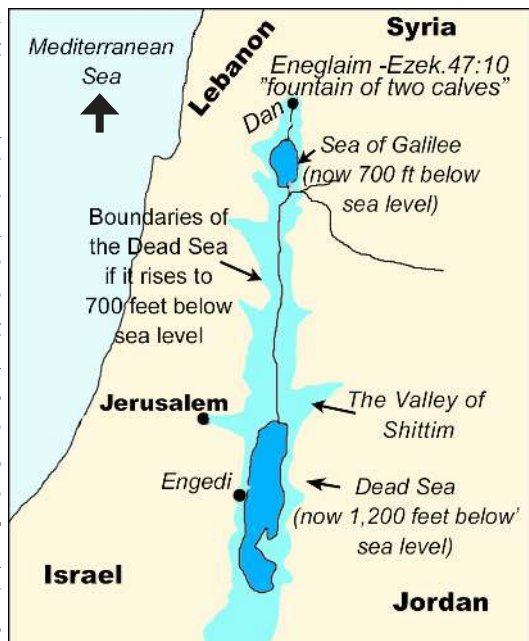
## The Dead Sea Blessed

**I**n chapter 47:1 we read that Ezekiel was shown waters that “*came down from under, from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.*” Then he was taken to “*the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward*” where he saw a man with a measuring line who measured 1,000 cubits (0.5km) and the depth of the water was ankle deep. He measured another 1,000 cubits (0.5km) and the water came up to the knees. Yet another 1,000 cubits (0.5km) and the water was to the loins. When he measured another 1,000 cubits (0.5km) the water was so deep Ezekiel said it was “*a river that I could not pass over*” (Ezek.47:1-5).

Within 2 kilometers of the Temple the water that came from the aquifer was a gushing stream flowing east from the Temple down through the Judean wilderness to the Dead Sea.

Zechariah also tells us that when Christ returns, the Mount of Olives which is on the east of Jerusalem, will split and become a great valley running east-west (Zech.14:4) and that “*living waters shall go out from Jerusalem*” (Zech.14:8). It will be through this valley that these waters will flow.

Israel already has a mountain aquifer and until recently it supplied **one third** of the nation’s water. This is a remarkable aquifer because Jerusalem and Hebron are the highest mountains in Israel yet the water is rushing through what is known as Hezekiah’s tunnel, sometimes knee deep. It is thought the waters bubbling up at Jerusalem are fed from melting snows as far away as eastern Turkey. Much of Israel is limestone country and there are many caves



## The Dead Sea Blessed

through which the waters might flow. The earthquake that splits the Mount of Olives when Christ returns will no doubt intersect this aquifer and supply the fresh waters that will increase all the way through the Judean wilderness for 33 km down to the Dead Sea. So great will the flow of water become that the salt in the Dead Sea will be reduced and rise all the way up the Jordan Valley to the Sea of Galilee.

Israel and Jordan have had problems with their supply of fresh water. As the population has grown and the demands of agriculture increased Israel has needed to construct several water desalination plants. The Dead Sea receives water that flows from the Sea of Galilee down the Jordan valley. However when droughts occur, the levels of fresh water in the Sea of Galilee are lowered.

The Jordan Valley is known as the Jordan Rift Valley which runs from the Hula valley north of Galilee, south along the Jordan River and down to the Gulf of Aqaba. When Abram arrived in the land of Canaan it was a “well watered plain” and his nephew, Lot, chose to separate from Abram to live in the city of Sodom. The entire valley sank when God judged the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone.

The Sea of Galilee is **225m (700 ft) below sea level** and the Dead Sea is much lower at **387m (1,200 ft) below sea level**. The Dead Sea is about **323m (1,000 ft) deep** and is the deepest lake in the world. It is nearly 10 times as salty as the oceans. No fish can survive in the waters of the Dead Sea and if humans drink it they will die. Yet the volume of water that will flow from the Temple at Jerusalem after Christ returns will be so great that it will sweeten the waters of the Dead Sea to the extent that men will catch fish there. The Jordan valley will become an inland lake from **Engedi to Eneglaim** North of the Sea of Galilee.

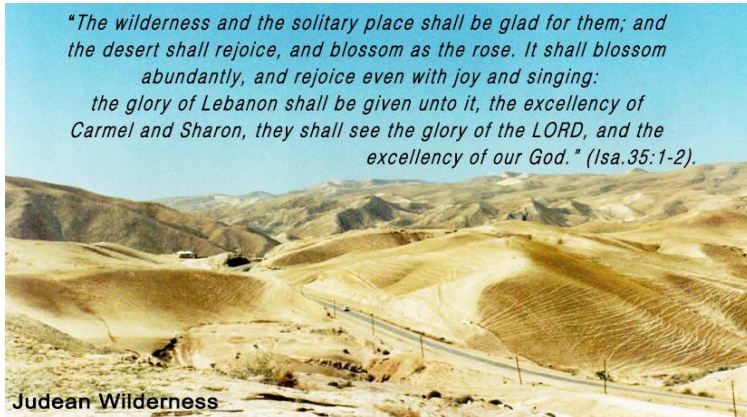
*“And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many” (Ezek.47:10).*

We know where Engedi is located on the western shores of the Dead Sea. At Engedi there is a waterfall of fresh water that flows out from beneath the Judean desert; from Israel’s mountain aquifer; the water source that Ezekiel saw is already there. It just needs the Mount of Olives to split!



Fresh water from the desert

## Last-Days Prophecies



Eneglaim is only mentioned once in the Bible and its location cannot be fixed with certainty but *Eneglaim* means in the Hebrew language, "*fountain of two calves*". Two golden calves, Egyptian gods, were introduced into the northern kingdom of Israel by Jeroboam about 992BC when the nation was divided. He placed one golden calf at Bethel in the south of the northern kingdom on the border of Judah and Israel, and he placed the other North of Galilee, at Dan. The tribe of Dan was the northernmost tribe of Israel and Eneglaim may be at the fountain.

The stream of fresh water that flows from the Temple through the Judean wilderness will bring new life to the land of Israel. Ezekiel states:

*"And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, **shall grow all trees for meat (food), whose leaf shall not fade**, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat (food), and the leaf thereof for medicine"* (Ezek.47:12).

In addition, God will send rain upon the land in season. Joel prophesied: *"All the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth **out of the house of the LORD**, and shall water the valley of Shittim"* (Joel 3:18).

God told Ezekiel:

*"I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause **the shower to come down in his season**; there shall be showers of blessing. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase"* (Ezek.34:26-27).



# Chapter 16

## Israel in the Kingdom

**G**od has bound Himself with a covenant to bring every redeemed Jew who survives the Tribulation, back to the land. This covenant is known as the Palestinian Covenant (Deut.30:3-5; Ezek.39:28) which God made with Israel just before they entered the land of Canaan. There are Jewish communities in most countries of the world but the largest numbers appear to be in USA. In 2020 there were 5.8 million Jews in America and during the Tribulation many of these will turn to Christ and will survive to the coming of the Lord. Isaiah tells us that US planes and ships will be the first to carry them back. He says:

*"Who are these **that fly as a cloud**, and as the doves to their windows? Surely the isles shall wait for me, and **the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far**, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee."* (Isa.60:8-9).

Long before the Jews returned to Palestine and even before the Zionist movement began in 1881, Bishop J.C.Ryle wrote:

*"It is high time for Christians to interpret unfulfilled prophecy by the light of prophecies already fulfilled. The curses on the Jews were brought to pass literally: so also will be the blessings. The scattering was literal: so also will be the gathering. The pulling down of Zion was literal: so also will be the building up. The rejection of Israel was literal: so also will be the restoration."* J.C. Ryle - Prophecy, Page 65.

Anyone who believes the Bible literally can come to no other conclusion but that the Jews must turn to the Lord and return to the land in the last days. The land was promised to Abraham and his seed as an *"everlasting possession"* (Gen.17:8). That promise was confirmed to Jacob (Gen.28:13) and to Israel as a nation. The prophets have all been in agreement that the nation of Israel will be restored to the land that God gave to Abraham in the last days.

We have already seen from chapter 36 the return to the land would begin while the Jews were still rejecting Christ and that the purpose of this return is to bring the nation to repentance. The Divine process has already begun. The nation is established and Gog with his armies are poised on Israel's northern border. It just needs Israel to sign a 7-year covenant with Antichrist from the revived Roman Empire (EU), for the Christians to be raptured, and the final 7 years of the Tribulation will

## Last-Days Prophecies

begin. When Christ returns Israel will welcome Him as Messiah, Saviour and the King of Israel. Christ will sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem and Jerusalem will become the centre of government for the whole world. Isaiah wrote:

*"And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation" (Isa.25:9).*

After Christ comes the world will have a different attitude to Israel. At the present time the nations are opposed to God's people but when Christ is reigning only saved Gentiles will enter the Kingdom and so we read:

*"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you" (Zech.8:23).*

Furthermore, the Gentile nations will assist the Jews to return:

*"Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders... and all flesh shall know that I the LORD am thy Savior and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob" (Isa.49:23-26).*

Just as Joshua divided the land of Canaan for each of the tribes of Israel, so the Lord has divided the land for each of the tribes of Israel.

Not only will Israel and Judah be reunited but each of the twelve tribes will be given their own territory. The map shows the order in which the land is divided. The boundaries may vary somewhat but they will be located in this general order.

The British-Israel theorists who claim that the "lost 10 tribes" are the British people will be shown to be wrong.





## Israel in the Kingdom

Many Jews know from which tribe they come and DNA testing is assisting but God knows where the 12 tribes are located and will reveal to the Jews at that time to which tribe they belong. We recall how that, when Zerubbabel returned with the Jews after the 70 years captivity in Babylon, there were some who could not prove they were from the priestly line and because there was doubt about their parentage Zerubbabel said

*“that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim” (Ezra 2:63).*

The Urim and Thummim were two onyx stones located in the ephod that was on the High Priest’s shoulders. On these stones were engraved the names of the 12 tribes of Israel; six on each stone. We know that these two stones were used **to enquire of the Lord** and God was able to communicate His will possibly by lighting up one or other of the stones to give a positive or negative answer. When King Saul enquired of the Lord we read:

*“The LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets” (1Sam.28:6).*

There has not been a high priest with Urim and Thummim since the Babylonian captivity in 586BC but when Christ returns and the Millennial Temple is built there will be a High Priest from the line of Zadok with Urim and Thummim (Ezek.43:19) and God will be able to communicate His will where there is uncertainty about which tribe Jews came from. In fact the 144,000 Jewish preachers who are saved immediately after the Rapture will know their tribal heritage. There will be 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes (Rev.7:3-8).

### *Israel Will Teach God’s Law and Administer Justice*

God always intended that Israel would be *“a light to the Gentiles”* (Isa.42:6; 49:6). In Old Testament times when Gentiles left their idolatrous worship and heathen gods, they came and lived in Israel. These converted Gentiles were protected and blessed in Israel. They were equal to Jews in all things except the inheritance of the land which belonged to the tribes of Israel.

After Christ returns to reign, the nation of Israel will continue to be a light to the Gentile nations and will send out her preachers to the utmost part of the earth. Isaiah wrote:

*“And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles. And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out*

## Last-Days Prophecies

*of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD. And I will also **take of them for priests and for Levites**, saith the LORD” (Isa.66:19-21).*

Not only will Israel provide spiritual help to the Gentile nations in the Millennial Kingdom but they will exercise Government authority and there will be one world Government under the King of kings and Lord of lords; Jesus Christ. All nations will obey Him and if any reject His rule and authority they will be judged. Isaiah wrote:

*“For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee (i.e. the nation of Israel) shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted” (Isa.60:12).*

Justice will be administered by Christ

*“The LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and **I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.** Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling” (Ps.2:7-11).*

Zechariah states:

*“the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one” (Zech.14:9).*

During the Tribulation the Beast (Antichrist) will achieve “one world government”. It will be Satan’s attempt to take over the world because he knows that when Christ comes the Lord Jesus will be King of kings and Israel His servants. But the Antichrist’s reign will be short-lived. He only exercises global authority for 42 months (Rev.13:5) but Christ will reign for ever and ever.

*“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (Hab. 2:14).*

## Dear Reader:

**T**he message of Ezekiel's prophecy is abundantly clear. Israel is the great sign that God has given us that we are approaching "*the end of the age*" (Matt.24:3) otherwise known as **the Great Tribulation**. The invasion of Israel is imminent and the nations are moving into position. Turkey is joining with Russia, and Iran is in Syria arming Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza in preparation for the invasion of Israel. But **this invasion occurs after the Rapture** of the Christians, possibly in the second year of the 7-year Tribulation. That means that the Rapture could happen any time. You need to be prepared.

Two thousand years ago God sent His beloved Son into the world to live a perfect life among men and to go to a cross outside Jerusalem where He willingly lay down His life and shed His blood to make atonement for the sins of the world. He was buried and on the third day He rose again and appeared to His disciples. God took on human flesh and became man in order to redeem us.

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should **not perish, but have everlasting life**. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. **He that believeth on him is not condemned**: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:16-18).*

Salvation from sin and guilt has been purchased by Christ and is offered free to all. You cannot merit salvation it is a **free gift** in the mercy and grace of God who can now forgive us for Christ's sake. He has taken the wrath of God that we deserve for our sin. All God requires is that we acknowledge our sinfulness and by simple faith place our trust in Jesus Christ and God will freely forgive us.

*"For by grace are ye saved **through faith**; and that **not of yourselves**: it is the **gift of God: Not of works**, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works" (Eph.2:8-10)*

When we take that simple step of faith and call upon the Lord to save us He gives us His Holy Spirit to permanently indwell us and to change us into the likeness of Christ. He can break the power of sin and liberate us.

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2Cor.5:17).*

If you call on the Lord, and the Rapture happened today, you will be caught up and not be left for the Tribulation. The decision is yours.

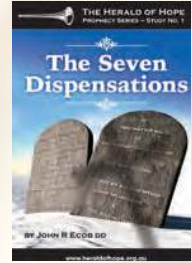
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A simple, literal interpretation of the Book of Revelation



The imminent, premillennial, pretribulation rapture of the Church



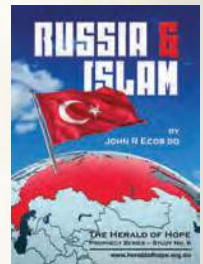
The 7 dispensations: Vital to "rightly dividing the Word of truth"



Israel and the Covenants are the Key to Prophecy



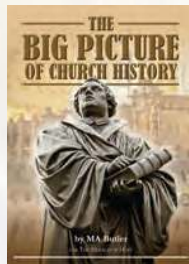
The prophecies of Daniel from Babylon to the Beast



The conversion of Israel in the first half of the Tribulation



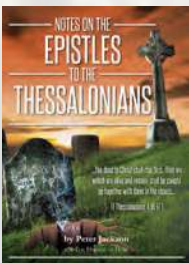
Tarshish and the young lions in the last days



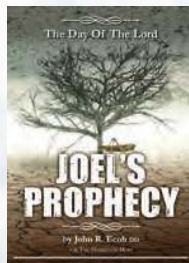
The prophetic history of Christendom from Pentecost to the Rapture



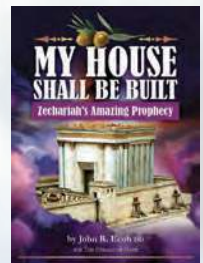
Death, and resurrection under the old and new covenant



Paul's message of the blessed hope and the glorious appearing



Two invasions of Israel in the Day of the Lord



Zechariah's prophecy from the 2nd Temple to the Kingdom

THE HERALD OF HOPE IS A 36 PAGE BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE  
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Ezekiel prophesied from the land of Chaldea where he was taken prisoner in the captivity of Jehoiachin in 597BC. He ministered to the Jews in captivity and his message is essentially about the departure and return of the glory of God to His Temple. Ezekiel records the reasons for the departure of the glory of God and declares the imminent destruction of the Temple in 586BC.

Twice Ezekiel is commissioned to be a watchman to the house of Israel. The first is to warn of coming judgment from Babylon and to foretell associated events (Ch.3:17).

**These prophecies have all been fulfilled.**

But Israel is not the only nation that was to be judged. Tyre, Ammon, Moab, Edom, the Philistines and Egypt all were judged by the Chaldeans exactly as prophesied because of their attitude to God's people.

Ezekiel's second commission was to warn Israel of events in the last days (Ch.33:7) when the nation will be brought to repentance. From chapter 34 to the end, the prophecy is all about Israel's repentance and restoration to the land.

The prophecies of Ezekiel conclude with specifications of a glorious Temple to be built in Jerusalem, faithful priests serving in the Temple, the 12 tribes restored to the land and the glory of God permanently restored to the Temple. The name of Jerusalem is finally changed to *Jehovah-Shammah*, The Lord is there.

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