

Israel, As Promised

(Note: if you are reading a color copy , for easier reading, blue type refers to Israel, red refers to Messiah)

Israel is suffering. Seeing Israel vilified and threatened from without, and betrayed from within, a Jewish friend despairs. He thinks Israel will not survive.

Were we to undergo what Israelis daily endure, or were we to rely on the secular media, then we would be tempted to give in to such despair. Our hope, however, is in the God of the Jews. Let us look for reasons for our hope then, in the Book handed down to us by the Jews from God Himself.

We begin this little dissertation with **"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:1**

The Creator simply states this to be factual, and we treat it as fact. **"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork." Psalm 19:1** Romans 1:20 tells us that **"the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."** With this understanding we can move on.

Genesis covers nearly half of human history, including our origins, the origin of the universe, the origin of sin and evil, God's purposes (not chance), the family records of the nation He chose to work through (the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob). Already in the book of Genesis, the very first book, God promises a Saviour for fallen man – the Adamic covenant. Speaking to the serpent (representing Satan the fallen angelic being, arch enemy of God, who had in mind to be like God; see Isaiah 14) ... **"I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."** Genesis 3:15 (enmity indicating that we live in a war zone! Do you wonder about that battle that rages in your mind?)

A large percentage of Scripture was prophetic when it was written (almost a third). Genesis 9:18-29, Of Noah's three sons, Noah stated prophetically, regarding his son Shem, **"Blessed be the Lord God of Shem..."** It would be through Shem that the nations would be blessed, as the Saviour would descend through him, and through this Semitic line the nations to this day are blessed via the the Scriptures, the Psalms, Christian hymns, "every authentic narrative of the earliest ages of humanity, the sublime law of Sinai, and the beatitudes and parables of Christ, the visions of prophecy, the teachings of apostles, the testimony of the martyrs, the missions of modern Christianity – all that has lifted our world from ruin and darkness and death, all that has purified and ennobled it and opened to it a door of hope for the future..." (*The Messianic Hope, A Divine*

Solution for the Human Problem, 1975, Arthur W. Kac quoting H. Grattan Guinness, *The Divine Programme of the World's History*, 1889, p109)

While Shem's descendants would be spiritually blessed, Japheth, another son of Noah, was to "be enlarged". The table of nations in Genesis 10 identifies this division of mankind as the isles of the Gentiles (Caucasian/Indo-European) (see Kac). Although not without challenge and "downtime", the Japhethites have dominated world leadership, and may once again do so more fully as we approach the time of the end, as the "revived Roman empire". (How this plays out will be fascinating in light of the Islamization of Europe. Whatever happens, we do know there will be a revival of the Roman empire, and we have already seen some of that with the EU, their monetary unit, and so forth.)

Then there was Ham, the other of the three sons of Noah. His line was cursed (Genesis 9:25). "And Cush begat Nimrod: and he began to be a mighty one in the earth ... And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel ..." If one goes about this synopsis chronologically, then we need take note of Genesis 10:8 at this time, regarding Nimrod, as he began something that we now are revisiting ... the rapidly evolving church of the last days. Let us keep that in the back of our minds as we move on.

ISRAEL

Genesis 12:1-3, the Lord calls Abram apart ... "unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**" This promise was repeated thrice to Abraham, once to Isaac, and once to Jacob. The promise was to all mankind in that "in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed", referring to the coming Redeemer.

Genesis 15:18 gives us some of the dimensions of the land God gives to Israel, "from the river of Egypt to the great river – the River Euphrates", and in Numbers 34:1-15 details are added.

Genesis 17:7-8 establishes the fact that the land given to Abraham and his descendants is theirs by unconditional covenant, "an everlasting covenant". Gen.13:15 promises that the land is theirs "forever". Yes, God promised to judge disobedience, but the land is theirs unconditionally. The Lord was often severely displeased with the Jews, but because of the promises He made to their forefathers, He did not destroy them. (See for example passages such as 2 Kings 8:19 and 13:23) Psalm 89:35-6 " ... **I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before me. It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven.**"

“And God said, **Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac:** and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.” Genesis 17:19 Note that this states the covenant is with Isaac, not Ishmael, Abraham's son with Hagar the Egyptian. The land itself was given to Isaac, even though Abraham had other children; see Genesis 25:5-6 and Genesis 26:3-4. (The promise to Abraham regarding a son was a human impossibility, as this was a son of their old age, with Sara old and barren; but with God, such things are no obstacle. Rather, they are proof that He is who He claims to be, and the promise of the son was kept, like the rest of God's promises.)

Genesis 28:13-15, God addresses Jacob, son of Isaac, grandson of Abraham, giving the land to him, and then in Genesis 35:10-12, the Lord renames Jacob, leaving no doubt to whom the land belongs: “**thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name ... And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed after thee ...**” Jacob tells his son Joseph that the land is an “**everlasting possession**”. Genesis 48:3-4

Joseph evidently believes his father, because as he is dying, he tells his brothers that “**God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob**”. Genesis 50:24-26. Joseph had been sold into slavery in Egypt. His family had come there during the time of famine. Jacob is told by God to “**fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation, I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again ...**” Genesis 46:3-4. In fact, the body of Jacob, according to his last wish, was taken back to the cave at Machpelah for burial; see Genesis 49:29-33, and 50:1-14. Joseph asked that his own bones be taken out of Egypt to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses “took the bones of Joseph with him” (Exodus 13:19) when the children of Israel finally were delivered out of Egypt. These men had faith that God would keep his promises. The Genesis 15:6 account shows that **Abraham “believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.”**

Now look at Genesis 49:10. Jacob gathers his family and tells them what will be in the "last days". “**The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.**” Judah did remain a distinct political entity until Christ came the first time; Israel in 1948 was back at least to some degree in the land. As the signs of the end times are upon us, it is noteworthy that Jews are being regathered into Israel according to passages such as Isaiah 43:1-6, and Ezekiel 37, and that in anticipation of the return of Messiah.

As surely as **God promised to return the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt, He kept His promise.** He reiterated to Moses, that the land promised to the forefathers is the heritage of the children of Israel (Exodus 6:5-8) and that they would return to it.

The Israeli exodus out of Egypt was accompanied by the very significant institution of the Passover. When rebel Pharaoh refused to let the children of Israel out of Egypt, the Lord sent plagues. These did not convince the man. The next move of God did convince Pharaoh. The Lord instructed Moses and Aaron on how to conduct the "passover". The death angel would destroy all the firstborn of Egypt, but whoever would obey Divine instructions would be spared. A perfect male lamb was to be killed, no bone was to be broken, and its blood was to be applied to the sides and above the doors of Hebrew homes. There were specific instructions regarding the passover meal. The Lord's promise was, that **"when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt,"** Exodus 12:13. (It happened that way.) This feast was to be **"an ordinance forever,"** and as expected, **it is kept today.** The passover was a picture of things to come. It looked ahead to the sacrifice that the Lord would make on behalf of all who believed. (Isaiah 53, John 1:29 and 19:36). Leviticus 17:11 **"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."**

Israel under Joshua's leadership was told to *take* the land (the Lord said it was not due to any righteousness of theirs, for He called them a "stiff necked people", but because of the wickedness of the nations that He was driving out (Deuteronomy 9:3-5).).

God promised blessings for obedience and punishment for disobedience (Leviticus 26). The covenant regarding the land, however, is permanent and unconditional. The failures, sins, captivities and scattering of the children of Israel did not negate God's promises. Jeremiah 31:35: **"Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The Lord of hosts is his name: If those ordinances depart from me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever."**

For their transgressions and unbelief, Israel (is and) was scattered and suffered severely. Severely. Leviticus 26:16: **"I will even appoint over you terror ... "** Lev 26:32-39: **"I will scatter you among the heathen ... "** As evidenced by events such as the Babylonian captivity (586 – 517 BC), when they underwent 70 years of captivity) (see Jeremiah 25:12, 29:10), the 70 AD Roman dispersal of the Jews across the globe to this day, the endless litany of horror (often in the name of Christ) by the Crusaders in the 10-12th centuries, the Spanish Inquisition, the Russian pogroms, the Holocaust, the terror against Jews in Islamic countries and acts of vile and violent anti-Semitism worldwide, the UN's bizarre vituperation of Israel, history testifies to the veracity of these promises. "Replacement theology", which is becoming prevalent, is a form of anti-Semitism

once again coming from within what calls itself Christianity. The misapplication of the promises God made to Israel as belonging rather to the Church, as though God were through with the Jew, leads to derision of Israel amongst such groups, and causes those who fall into this trap to side with the unbelieving world against Israel.

Since Satan understands perfectly that Israel is the chosen people through whom God works to bring about salvation (Jesus came Jewish), and that Israel is the people that gave us the Bible, God's word to mankind, and since he also knows that the "sceptre has not departed from Judah", and it is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah who will one day rule, it is perfectly clear to us if we will but see, that the rampant anti-Semitism we see today is satanic in origin. If Satan could destroy the nation Israel, he could discredit the Messiah. Let's keep this in mind when we study the prophecies and their fulfillment. It will help us to understand the satanic fury directed towards the Jews.

2 Samuel 7:12-16, God uses Nathan to tell David that He would "stablish the throne of his kingdom forever." He would chasten iniquity, but His "mercy shall not depart from him ..." "And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee; thy throne shall be established for ever." If we claim to believe the God of the Bible, then we must agree that the line of David, descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, will abide for ever.

Israel will not be fully restored until Messiah comes (Ezekiel 39:25-29). Since the past, present, and future of the nation Israel are inextricably intertwined with the the promise of the coming Messiah, we need to look at the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies. When we say "coming of Messiah", we must consider that in the first coming, He came in human form – very God, very man – to take upon Himself the sins of mankind. He will come again in what Christians call "the Rapture", or the catching away of His followers, in the "twinkling of an eye"; then, He will come again in judgment at Armageddon. (In other words, the Second Coming is in two stages.) We shall look at just a few of the many prophecies and their fulfillment. Recall the old saying regarding the Old and New Testaments: "The New is in the Old concealed, the Old is in the New revealed."

MESSIAH

Micah 5:2 "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth are from everlasting to everlasting."

Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Isaiah 9:6-7 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the

government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice and henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. The underlined is still future. In prophetic Bible passages it is not unusual for large time gaps between near and far prophecies to be sometimes separated only by punctuation.

Daniel 9:26 “And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.”

Zechariah 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass ... ”

Jeremiah 31:31 “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 ... ”

Zechariah 11:12 “ ... So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prized at of them.”

Psalms 41:9 “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.”

Isaiah 50:6 “I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.”

Isaiah 53:5-6 “ ... He was wounded for our transgression, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.” “And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

Psalms 22:18 “They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.”

Psalms 22:7-8 “ ... They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 'He trusted on the Lord that He would deliver Him; Let Him deliver Him, seeing He delighted in Him'.”

Isaiah 53:9,12 “ ... and He was numbered with the transgressors ... ”

Psalms 22:1 “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

Psalms 31:5 “Into Thine hand I commit My spirit: Thou has redeemed Me, O Lord

God of truth.”

(Read all of Psalm 2):6-8 “Yet have I set my King upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.” verses 11-12 “Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish from the way ... ”

Psalm 110:1 “The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”

Now lets examine what became of these prophetic statements. To do so we will go to the "New Testament" books.

Matthew 1:18-25 “ ... the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet ... they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us ... and he called his name JESUS.”

Matthew 2:2 “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea ... ”

Daniel 9:24-27, Daniel was given a vision. “Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem, unto Messiah the Prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks Messiah shall be cut off but not for himself ... ”

The prophetic year is not the Julian calender; rather, it is the ancient calender of 360 days. “It says we can calculate the time from the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, and it will be 490 years. The 490 years begins with with a command to begin rebuilding Jerusalem, and ends when Christ begins to rule in the Millennium (thousand years of peace under Messiah's reign, which we will look at later). Of that 490 years, the Bible says that 69 periods of seven will take place between the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem and when (Messiah) is cut off.” (from Rob Lindsted's *Can You Really Know Your Future?*)

It was **exactly 69 sevens of years (483) to the day**, from March 14, 445 B.C. when King Artaxerxes decreed that Jerusalem should be rebuilt, to April 6, 32 A.D., that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the foal of an ass, presenting Himself as King of Israel. This would lead to his crucifixion. (from Alva McClain's *Daniel's*

Prophecy of the 70 Weeks, and Sir Robert Anderson's *The Coming Prince*. See this excellent book for an analysis of the timing involved.) We are now in a gap of time leading up to the day when the rest of this prophetic passage in Daniel will be fulfilled. (The 70th week begins with Antichrist confirming a false peace treaty with Israel, and ends with God fulfilling His promises of restoration and blessings to Judah/Israel. We will deal with it again when we look at the references to Israel's place in God's plan.)

Matthew 26:27-8 “And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

Luke 22:21 “... behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table.” Luke 22:48 “Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?”

Matthew 26:15 “And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.”

Matthew 27:3-10 “... and he brought again the thirty pieces of silver ... and the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field ... ”

Matthew 27:26-30 “... when (Pilate) had scourged Jesus ... the soldiers ... stripped him, and put on Him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand ... And they spit upon Him, and took the reed, and smote his head.”

Matthew 27:33 “And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots”.

1 Peter 3:26 “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree ... by whose stripes we were healed.”

Matthew 27:39-44 “And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself ... He trusted God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he has said, I am the Son of God.”

Mark 15:27-28 “And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on the right hand, and the other on the left. And the Scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.”

Matthew 27:46 “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice ... My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

Luke 23:46 “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit ... ”

Acts 2:34-36 "For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, 'the Lord said unto my Lord, Sit Thou on my right hand, until I make Thy foes Thy foot-stool'. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Messiah. And we declare unto you the glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that He hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second Psalm, "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten Thee".

There are about 333 prophecies relating to Christ's coming. There are 109 prophetic details in the Old Testament, regarding the first coming of Christ; these were all fulfilled. The chances of **even 11 (not 109)** of these predictions being accurate, if one were counting on coincidence, would be one out of an octillion; or a 1 followed by 27 zeros; or, to put it another way: make a box with a volume of 80 cubic **MILES**, fill it with dimes, with one marked dime amongst them, and have a blind folded person reach in and retrieve it on the first try ... this would stand a better chance than the Biblical predictions being fulfilled by chance (this data from Rob Lindsted's *Future* book). As Scotland Yard's Sir Robert Anderson states in *The Coming Prince*, re the "cutting off" of Messiah at exactly 69 weeks of years **to the day**, "**To believe that the facts and figures here detailed amount to nothing more than happy coincidences involves a greater exercise of faith than that of the Christian who accepts the book of Daniel as Divine. There is a point beyond which unbelief is impossible, and the mind in refusing truth must needs take refuge in a misbelief which is sheer credulity.**" (page 129)

Let us now have a look at just a few of God's promises to and regarding Israel. We had initially looked at some of the Genesis, Leviticus, and Jeremiah passages that promise the preservation of Israel. There are numerous "empires in the dust" barely remembered now, who persecuted Israel. Israel is very much alive.

I am looking at a Jewish calender, month of March. The picture is one of little Jewish children dressed in colorful festive costumes. They are celebrating the feast of Purim. This goes back to the book of Esther. During her reign as Queen Esther, the wicked Haman the Agagite (likely **an** Amalakite), prime minister to King Ahasuerus of the Persian empire, devised a plot to annihilate the Jews. Between Mordechai and Esther, Haman did not succeed. Mordechai must have understood that God would preserve Israel, for he told Esther that if she would not take a stand, she would be punished, and **God would provide salvation** from another source. When Haman was hanged from the gallows he had constructed to hang Mordechai, and the Jews were victorious in the battle they were obliged to fight, it was ordained that "**these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation ... that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from among their seed.**" **Esther 9:28** The time frame these events occurred was between 486-465 B.C.

As in 2007, I look at this calendar picture, and see March 1 as Esther's fast, and March 4 as Purim, being celebrated today, it is a reminder of the veracity of God's Word, and of His faithfulness to literally preserve the literal Israel.

[Ezekiel 25](#). The [Ammonites](#) who "rejoiced in heart with all thy despite against the land of Israel" were told "I will cause thee to perish out of the countries: I will destroy thee ... " "the Ammonites may [not be remembered](#) among the nations." For their treatment of Israel, the Moabites were told "[I will execute judgment](#)". "[Edom](#) hath dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance ... I will make it [desolate ...](#) " Do we find these people on the globe today?

A remarkable judgment against [Tyre](#) for her treatment of Jerusalem is found in [Ezekiel 26](#): " ... it shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God ... " Ezekiel predicted that Nebuchadnezzar would destroy Tyre, that many nations would come against Tyre, that "[I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be like a place to spread nets upon ...](#) " "in the midst of the sea ... " and would not be rebuilt on the same site. Seventeen years after Ezekiel under Divine inspiration spoke it, it happened that Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city leaving only a few people on the island colony. 240 years later, Alexander the Great used the rubble from the city to build a causeway to the island, and invaded it that way, and did what God said would happen: "[scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock ...](#) " where fishermen spread their nets. Apparently the Tyre that exists today is not on the same location.

There is ample evidence in Scripture that when the Lord said He would bless them that bless Israel, and curse them that curse her, He meant it. The sun at one time did not set on the British empire. Then, post World War II, Great Britain blockaded the entrance of European Jews fleeing for their lives to Israel. Now, an emasculated England is being terrorized from within by "extremists" from the growing Muslim population. Germany, which allowed Hitler's Holocaust, is nearing a Muslim majority. Paul Belien in an article (online, 2007) on "[The Rape of Europe](#)", quotes German author Henryk Broder urging young people to get out and emigrate to Australia or New Zealand "if they want to avoid the plagues that will turn the old continent uninhabitable." "Europe is turning Muslim."

Author Bill Koenig in his book "[Eye to Eye: Facing the Consequences of Dividing Israel](#)" documents some of the "natural" disasters that happen in North America whenever the United States makes moves that are in direct opposition to God's plans for Israel. For instance, while Jewish settlers who had built up Gaza were forced to leave their homes and all their years of hard work went for naught, Hurricane Katrina hit with full force in the USA. [Zechariah 2:8](#) states that [he who touches Israel, touches "the apple of his eye."](#) How often do we think we can blithely poke God in the eye and not incite His wrath?

From [Jeremiah 30](#): " ... I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee: though I

make a full end of all the nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished ... all they that devour thee shall be devoured ... I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thy wounds ... I will multiply them ... I will punish all that oppress them.”

Jeremiah 31:10 “He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.” v.13, “I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them.”

Isaiah 43:3-6 “For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour ... thou wast precious in my sight ... I have loved thee ... Fear not; for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth ... ” Since 1948 we have seen this come to pass. Israel has become a nation. The Jews have arrived home from all directions, from Russia, Europe, Yemen, Ethiopia, and elsewhere, in many dramatic rescues. Now Nefesh b' Nefesh, an organization that enables North American Jews to make Aliyah, has instituted monthly flights for this purpose, despite the bleak outlook in Israel. In **Ezekiel 37** the prophet was given a vision of a valley of dry bones. He was to prophesy to these dry bones. He was to tell the dry bones that God would put breath into them, and they would live. He was told that the bones were "the whole house of Israel" which God would bring into the land of Israel and place His Spirit in them, in their own land. “...then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord.” While Israel is back in the land at least physically, the spiritual part of this prophecy is still to be fulfilled as assuredly as the actual physical return.

Before we say too much more about the regathering and preservation of Israel, we need to look at the third segment of the human populace. We have looked at the Jew, and will return to that topic.

The CHURCH

The Church is comprised of saved (believing) Jews and Gentiles. Biblically defined CHRISTIANS are given the name of SAINT by the Lord in His Word. He sets the standard for who is a saint! Many would find this quite surprising, in a day when people pray to saints (who if they would be aware of such a practice, if indeed they WERE saints, would recoil in horror at such a concept). The church age began at Calvary, when the Lord Jesus Christ gave Himself as the sacrificial lamb. For Israel there began a "down time" after the 69th week of Daniel, when she was set aside, but not forgotten. We still live in this AGE OF GRACE, the church age. The church age will end when the RAPTURE happens and Christians are removed, caught up by the Lord to heaven, safely out of the way of the coming tribulation. From 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 “ ... For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven ... and the dead in Christ shall rise first ...

Then we (true believers) which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air ... Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (Then the Lord will once again work with and through Israel, during the tribulation period, and when the "fullness of the time of the Gentiles" has occurred, the Lord will intervene on Israel's behalf.) We also looked at the church when we dealt with the Messianic texts, for in Messiah we "live and have our being". The mandate of the CHURCH is to "go ...into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". (Mark 16:15) (This will only partially be accomplished: the Jews were initially given the task of being God's ambassadors to the world. Then in the closing moments of history, God will use the 144,000 Jewish evangelists of Revelation 7 to complete the task of reaching the lost.)

The WORLD & The ONE WORLD TRILOGY OF The LAST DAYS

The WORLD is the Gentile remainder, the Christ rejecting world.

The one world trilogy of the last days consists of global government, global economic system, and a global religious entity. This trilogy will be characterized by what the world has always been characterized – a hatred for God and whoever or whatever represents Him. Christians and Jews will be reviled, and much of the energy this world will expend will be directed towards elimination of these two groups, and of any remembrance of the God of the Bible.

In Daniel 2, King Nebuchadnezzar is given a dream. The Jewish prophet Daniel is called upon to interpret the dream. Not only does he tell the king what the dream was, but he explains what it means. It is a prophetic dream that describes human history in the form of a man. The head is of gold, the chest and arms of silver, the belly and thighs of brass, the legs of iron, and the feet part iron and part clay. Nebuchadnezzar is the head of gold, representing the Babylonian empire. The chest of silver represents the Medo-Persian empire that followed. Next is the third kingdom, of brass, representing the Grecian empire, and after this, the Roman empire of iron. The kingdoms that were foretold occurred as prophesied, as is amply documented by secular historians.

The final kingdom would be part strong and part weak, would be divided, and would one day be revived. That is the end of the human kingdoms. There are no more. However, Daniel 2:44 says " ... in the days of these kings (of part iron, part clay) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." " ... the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."

In 1957, with the Treaty of Rome, the European empire began to revive. There is now a Euro dollar, a common currency. As we speak, the balance of power is

shifting away from the USA, and the Roman empire/European Union is reviving, part weak, part strong! Moves toward globalism via trading partnerships, etc., are forging ahead and make the headlines daily. To what extent this will proceed before the Lord intervenes, remains to be seen. What part Islam is to play in all this **also** remains to be seen.

Globalists have long prepared this world for global governance through a carefully orchestrated agenda, by use of "multiculturalism", by replacing education with indoctrination, manipulation of national debt, etc. Coupled with mankind's natural greed, pride, and laziness, globalists are well able to use threats of global warming (though unsubstantiated and not supported by many within the scientific community), weird weather, war, violence, terrorism, epidemics, etc., to their advantage as they maximize on fear to manipulate the masses. Disarming the populace is likely already largely accomplished. For relatively minor perks, such as reward cards, we have become quite accustomed to giving up our privacy – how much more so in the interest of national and personal peace and safety, especially since 9/11? We have all become acclimatized to looking at the world from space, a little earth, "we're all in this together", against huge threats to mankind, from tsunamis, asteroids, and other real or perceived woes that should cause us to unite. **“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; and the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken ...” Luke 21:25-26.** This world is about ready for a powerful and charismatic dictator. There is such a person waiting in the wings. Daniel describes how ten kings (world rulers) will acquiesce to this man, whom the Bible calls the Antichrist. One world, under Antichrist.

All in all, we are basically ready for **the coming one world trilogy**. The Bible foretells of a coming **one world political system** under the control of the Antichrist. This will be coupled with a **one world monetary system**. To make all this work, a **one world religious system** will evolve under the leadership of "the false prophet", who will give his allegiance to the Antichrist. These concepts are taught largely in the books Daniel and Revelation. Whatever portion of the populace that will not go willingly into the new world order, will either be converted to Christ, and lose their lives as a result (providing they have not understood the gospel and rejected it prior to the Rapture – such people God will send a strong delusion that they will be incapable of believing the truth (II Thessalonians 2:11)) or will be convinced at the Rapture by the sheer terror of multitudes of missing people, that the world must unite against the cosmic evil that caused this mass disappearance. The Rapture will bring about the final unity of the world against God.

The use of cash has largely given way to cards, which can be lost or stolen. We have all heard how pets, people in nursing homes, military personnel, etc can be identified with computer chips, for personal or national safety. One British

company at first paid their employees to accept a computer chip ID system, and when these employees saw how useful it was, they no longer had to be enticed with monetary reward, but accepted the system willingly. To go cashless makes complete sense from a pragmatic, worldly perspective. However, **Revelation 13:16-18** describes how a **global monetary system** will be used by Antichrist to obtain and maintain power over all inhabitants of the earth. **“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six (666).”** Now whether this personal identification system will be a computer chip or if it will involve the use of DNA, remains unclear, at least to me. What is crystal clear is that most of the world is primed and ready for such a system. What looks so good, will however become the system that will starve or otherwise cause the death of those that are non-compliant (Revelation 13:15). **According to Revelation 20:4**, refusing to fall in line will cost the ultimate price: **“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had they received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”** So we see that beheadings will be re-instituted on a large scale. Are we not already getting accustomed to this from Islam? Does it sound far fetched? Not any more. The alternative is to take the mark, and be forever branded as an enemy of Christ, with no further hope of salvation. Taking the mark will mean giving oneself heart and soul to the godless Antichrist system. Is it making sense to trust the Lord while He may be found, as in NOW, before you read the next paragraph?

As to the **one world religious order**, one crisis after the other has people calling on "the human spirit" to work together. There is much talk of spirituality. We are called upon to be tolerant in the interest of human rights. **What is not tolerated is God's narrow way.** **“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the father but by me.” John 14:6** Incredibly, this is considered much more dangerous than the Muslim cry to do away with first the “Saturday people, and then the Sunday people”, or than the terrorist cry to do away with the great Satan USA. And yet, the worlds religious leaders are working fast and effectively at a global religious unity. This is happening so fast, it makes you shake your head in disbelief! Think back for a moment to Nimrod. We mentioned him earlier in relation to the tower of Babel. (Genesis 10:8) The religious system he started is alive and well, never doing better than now. The mother-child worship system that started with him has manifested in different cultures with different names, but it is becoming more prevalent, and largely under Rome. Islam shares with Rome, their infatuation with Mary – that may be the unifying factor, as unlikely as that may look at the moment. Catholics are not

the only ones who are seeing apparitions of Mary, or the "queen of heaven". Muslims have been affected by such visions as well, validated in their minds likely by the Koran, surah 23:49, which states "We (Allah) made the son of Mary and his mother a sign to mankind ... "

Now before we proceed, what do I or other Bible-believing Christians have against Mary? Not a single thing have we against the historical virgin Mary who gave birth to the Lord Jesus Christ. From Scripture we can see that she was a humble and faithful personality whom the Lord could use. But Mary was a sinner like the rest of us, and acknowledged her need for a savior. **Luke 1: 46-56** "Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior." She then goes on to praise the Lord for His goodness to her and to Israel. "And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation ... He hath holpen His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy; As He spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever." After the birth of Jesus, she went on to have other children, something which seems to surprise Catholics. She was NOT a perpetual virgin. She was also not the mother of God, but yes, she is called the mother of Jesus. (Acts 1:14, John 2:1) At the wedding feast where Jesus turned the water into wine, Mary instructs, "**Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.**" There is certainly no indication that she ever taught anything contrary to what Jesus would have taught!

The Mary (mother - child worship) of Catholicism was incorporated into "Christianity" by Constantine, to satisfy the pagan culture of the time, while mandating Christianity. The Mary of Catholicism and of the Koran has absolutely nothing in common with the Mary of the Bible. The Marian apparitions do however have a startling resemblance to the Old Testament references to the Queen of Heaven, a demonic apparition worshiped by the pagans, and an abomination to the Almighty. The many worldwide Marian apparitions that are appearing in increasing frequency always teach contrary to Scripture. For instance, the "Mother of the Eucharist" appearing in Rome states: "All the messages come from God and everywhere that I am appearing, I am speaking about the same things, because through the triumph of the Eucharist the Mother wants all the Churches to be united, so that there will be only one Church for all the people." (Quoted in *Queen of Rome, Queen of Islam, Queen of All*, by Tetlow, Oakland, and Myers.)

Some churches interchange the use of the words communion, passover, and eucharist. These concepts are not interchangeable. The Biblical concept of Communion **looks back at the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary**; there the Lord paid the penalty for our sins, for as many as would believe and repent, accepting his substitutionary death as atonement for our own sin. The passover on the other hand, **looked forward to** what the Lord would do as **the Lamb of God, the sacrifice for our sins, at Calvary**. In both cases, the means of salvation was and is faith in what God did for us, not by any works that we must do. "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for

righteousness.” (Romans 4:3)

The Eucharist is something altogether different. Catholicism teaches that the bread and the wine are by "transubstantiation" the ACTUAL body and blood of Jesus. (The Bible makes it clear that in the Christian communion, these are but symbols.) The Catholic teaching includes a belief that a bloodless sacrifice is done each time Eucharist is partaken of; in other words, Christ is sacrificed afresh over and over again. (The Bible teaches clearly that Christ died ONCE for all. (Hebrews 9:28)) The Eucharist is just one of a number of things that Catholicism teaches must be done to be saved. It is a works salvation, which is clearly not Biblical teaching. More and more, Rome is calling for adoration of the Eucharistic Christ, one that is clearly not the Biblical Lord Jesus Christ, but "another Jesus", and as such, idolatrous.

It may seem as though I am telling this tale backwards. BUT WE ARE THERE NOW! We are now at the point where Mary is becoming significant to not just Catholics, but to people who claim to be evangelical Christians. Remember Nimrod. We are going back there.

While there has always been an attack on God's Word and on His people, and many have been martyred for the cause of Christ, preparing mainstream Christianity for the coming one world religious system really took off in earnest with the rise of "neo-evangelicalism", a term coined by Dr Harold Ockenga, first president of the National Association of Evangelicals. He stated in a 1976 book by Harold Lindsell: "Neo-evangelicalism was born in 1948 ... While affirming the theological view of fundamentalism, this address repudiated its ecclesiology and its social theory ... **It differed from fundamentalism in its repudiation of separation** and its determination to engage itself in the theological dialogue of the day ... " (Quoted in *New Neutralism 2* by John Ashbrook.) **The new emphasis was no longer the fundamentals of the faith, no more "be ye separate" (II Corinthians 6:17-18)**, but rather on the social, political, and economic. Along with this came the popularizing of skewed Bible versions based on the works of the apostate Marian sympathizers Westcott and Hort, and their kind, and the infallibility of Scripture went by the wayside. Billy Graham, who hardly needs introduction, is credited for being the spokesperson of the new evangelicals. To me, that the year 1948 is given as the year that this movement is born is almost startling, and in no way looks coincidental. 1948 is the year that Israel "became a nation". It would seem to me that things would have to speed up with Israel back in the land. There is now a time line. We do not know the precise timing, but we do have **Matthew 24:32-35 ... "Now learn a parable of the fig tree (in the Bible this refers to Israel); When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."** This passage is written in the context of the return of Christ, and is

generally understood as referring to Israel's return to the land.

Since at the time of the return of Christ we expect not revival, but apostasy (a falling away from the faith) by many who looked as though they were believers (but were in fact "make believers" who understood the truth but rejected it), it makes perfect sense that there would be such an association that would blur the lines between believers and unbelievers. This is not remotely to say that the NAE was wholly responsible for the mess Christianity finds itself in, but it surely did a large part of the damage. Looking back down memory lane amongst my own people, the Mennonites, it is fairly obvious that Billy Graham played a huge role in blurring the distinctions, with his promotion of inaccurate dynamic equivalency "bibles" (where the gist of a sentence is given, rather than being accurately translated – when God clearly warned that the text was NOT to be tampered with), and his involving churches which embraced questionable doctrine, particularly the Catholic church which in no way meets biblical criteria for being Christian in the first place. Now, Catholics who came forward at crusades were assigned to Catholic counselors, rather than actually being led to the Lord. When hosts of "evangelicals" hugely embraced Mel Gibson's Catholic movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, it became ever more obvious that the "church" at this point hardly knows the difference between Catholicism and Christianity.

Ecumenism refers to the coming together of the churches of the last days to form the false church of the end times. It has been generally understood from Scripture that this coming together will take place under the headship of Rome. Time is bearing this out at lightning speed. Fundamental Christianity is simply a term for those who believe the Bible is God's Word, plain! **Fundamental** refers to "foundation". If one builds, one needs a foundation. **Evangelicals** are often said to be the children of fundamentals ... but as explained earlier, they have taken a step away from the foundations and asked questions as to what is to be kept or added, and what is to be discarded, of Scripture. (God's Word warns not to add, nor to remove as much as a "jot" or a "tittle".) The Fundamental has no such problem. You simply seek, do, and teach what the Bible teaches. The road from evangelicalism to ecumenism has been short and fast. One ecumenical wave after another – Promise Keepers, Alpha, Perspectives, the massive Charismatic movement (for which we were primed by Pentecostalism, itself of occult background), one popular book after the other from the *Prayer of Jabez* to the latest "christianized" psychology, the "emergent church" with its return to ancient mysticism, and Rick Warren and his purpose-driven global agenda under the guise of Christianity ... this world is very ready for the "false prophet" of the book of the Revelation, that sidekick to the Antichrist, who when once he has done with the "whore", for that is what the Bible calls the false religious conglomerate (under Rome) of the last days, will discard her, just as is done with prostitutes when once they have fulfilled their role. **Revelation 17:5-6 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw a woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of**

the martyrs of Jesus.

There are other elements to the end time religious movement. One, greatly enhanced and advanced by media hype and fear, is environmentalism, which is taking us straight back to ancient paganism. This fits the picture of Romans 1 exactly – worshipping the creature rather than the Creator. This inevitably leads to a distortion of God's natural order, as seen in sexual perversion, a loss of natural affection, and a litany of horrors that fill the headlines daily. Environmentalism lends itself well to hatred of Biblical "fundamentalists", with sin being redefined as crime against the environment.

The other is the world's collective hatred for Israel. While hating each other, countries can actually agree on one thing – their disdain for Israel. God warned us about this in Zechariah 12, "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem." Is Israel a concern to the nations? How often is Israel in the news? Compare the size of Israel to other countries, and tell me if this makes sense! **It does not**, unless you take into consideration God's prophetic plan and purpose. "And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it." Zechariah 12:3

So there we have a synopsis of the 3rd division of mankind, the "world", and here we thought we were talking about Christianity? No – remember that the Lord divided mankind into three divisions – the Jew, the Church (comprising believing Jews and Gentiles), and the world. The world which so prided itself in its self-sufficiency and its agnosticism and its atheism, will after all not be able to resist the new spirituality, and will become absorbed in the blasphemous religion of the last days ... and reap its reward. What we tolerate we will eventually embrace.

The West did have something. We had a Godly heritage, and we prospered. Where Israel had failed to act as God's representatives on earth, (remember the "gap" of silence about Israel between the 69th and 70th weeks of Daniel), Christians in the West did take the gospel to the nations. This godly heritage has been squandered with a vengeance, and we will now reap the rewards. We may not actually take to worshipping cows, but it looks like we will follow the proponents of self-deification, like lemmings right over the cliff. I am speaking now of small "c" "christians", not pagans! The latter are already so deluded that Satan doesn't have to bother much with them, except for the occasional "sic'm" to heat up the hatred for (by Biblical definition) Christians and Jews.

Since we have now looked briefly at the history of Israel, the Church, and the world, and we have looked at the rapidly forming one world trilogy of governance, economics, and religion, we can now go back and look at what our friend who inspired this little dissertation, is so concerned about. Let us look again at Israel, this time at her future.

That there is "something in the wind" must be evident to almost anyone. The stage is set. The next **item** on God's prophetic agenda could very well be 1 Corinthians 15:51-58, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, and 2 Thessalonians 2:1, "the Rapture", or the catching away of the "saints" (born again believers in Christ Jesus, or the "Church") to be with the Lord in heaven. This cataclysmic event will so terrify earth dwellers that the remaining prophetic events can fall into place. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:8, at this time the "son of perdition", the "wicked" one, the Antichrist, can be revealed (Christians, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, have to be gone from this world before the Lord allows this to happen). The Antichrist will confirm an existing covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:27) with Israel expecting that at long last she will have peace. Alas, it will be a false peace, and it will lead to what is called "the time of Jacob's trouble".

It is during the 7 years of "tribulation" that the Lord once again deals with the nation Israel. Jewish faithfuls would like to re-institute temple worship, but they are not at liberty to do so. That has not stopped them from preparing for this to happen. The vessels and implements for sacrificial service, the priestly garments, and musical instruments, are apparently ready for use. Temple priests are being taught. What is needed is restoration of the temple. Scripture indicates that the temple will in fact be rebuilt, and that Mosaic sacrifices will be re-instituted. No doubt, when Israel signs the confirmation with Antichrist, it will include the freedom to worship in a rebuilt temple. Half way through the 7 year tribulation period, Antichrist will install himself into the temple, demanding to be worshiped. At that time, fury towards Israel will be unleashed as never before. **"And he (Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of the abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." Daniel 9:27.**

So virulent will be the antisemitism that God will limit the time of Jacob's trouble to 1260 days, or "no flesh should be saved", Matthew 24:22. However, at this time the Lord will divinely protect and preserve 144,000 Jewish men who will have come to a saving faith in the Lord, who will evangelize **those in the** world who have not heard the gospel. Many Gentiles will at this time come to the Lord (but only those who have not heard the gospel before – as those who heard and rejected will be in a state of delusion and will believe Antichrist's lies (II Thessalonians 2:11)). Those who come to faith in Christ at that time will be martyred ... however, **their reward** will be in heaven.

When Messiah comes with the saints (believers) to rescue Israel from the armies of the world at Armageddon, all Israel who are alive at that time will be redeemed. The following passage is a very difficult one, and many Christians hesitate to point it out to Jews, but my Bible says that "faithful are the wounds of a friend". Jews, like Gentiles, can enter heaven only via the redemptive work of

Messiah. We all need to know ALL of Scripture. Those who heed it can be spared the Tribulation period and be safe in heaven during that time. Zechariah 13:8-9 "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 try them as gold ... I will hear them: I will say, It is my people ... " "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins." Romans 11:26-27 Think back to Daniel 9:24 ... "seventy weeks are determined ... to make an end of sins ... and to bring in everlasting righteousness ... " Now we can begin to look at the promises God made to Israel. Finally, a most pleasant task:

"In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before them. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, thy spirit of grace and of supplications: **and they shall look upon me whom they pierced, and they shall mourn for him ...** " Zechariah 12:8-10.

Zechariah 10:5-8 "And they shall be as mighty men ... the Lord is with them ... And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph ... for I have mercy upon them: and they shall be as though I had not cast them off ... I have redeemed them ... they shall increase ... " The Lord will regather Israel into the land. See Zechariah 9-12.

"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David ... for sin and for uncleanness ... " Zechariah 13:1 There will be forgiveness, and the God of Israel will rule over the whole earth. "**And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.**" Zechariah 14:9 "**And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations ... shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.**" Zechariah 14:16

Ezekiel 39:27-29 "When I have brought them again ... and gathered them ... Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity ... Neither will I hide my face any more from them ... "

"Zechariah 14:20-21 "In that day, shall there be upon the bells of the horses, **HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD** ... Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the Lord of hosts ... "

Zechariah 8:21-23 "Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord. 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.”

There are many more promises, both fearful and wonderful. **Isaiah 17:1 is one of those prophetic statements that could at any time be fulfilled – “The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap.”** Syria is constantly poking at Israel. One of these days God's judgment will fall. There are other specific prophetic passages, some relating to specific countries, that have yet to be fulfilled. Then we have these comforting words from **John 14:27-29 – “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth ... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid ... And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.”**

Paul taught the Corinthians (I Corinthians 15:3-4) “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures: and that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain ... ” (to the time that Paul wrote this). (In other words, this was a well documented historical event, not just Biblically but by secular history as well.)

Romans 3:10 “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.” v.23 “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Ephesians 2:8 “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.”

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Acts 4:19 “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out ... ”

Romans 10:9 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” v.13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Mark 9:24 “ ... Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”

If we want an “Old” Testament example as to how to live out these last perilous

days, we can look at Ezra's example. Ezra 7:10 "For Ezra had prepared his heart **to seek** the law of the LORD, and **to do** it, and **to teach** in Israel statutes and judgments."

Psalm 95:6-8 "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God ... Today, if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart ..."

In the Jewish Messiah, there is then no more Jew nor Gentile, for when we are "in Him", we are one.

As for me, "My faith has found a resting place, not in device nor creed ... I serve the Ever Living One, His wounds for me shall plead. I need no other argument, I need no other plea, It is enough that Jesus died, And that He died for me." (Hymn, "No Other Plea, 19th century, L.H.Edmunds). I would that my Father were your Father too. Could it be the reason He has not returned yet, is that He is waiting for YOU?

Is there hope for Israel? Will Israel survive? Will you? What say you?

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*For an understanding of how Islam may fit into the above scenario, please read Dave Hunt's book, **Judgment Day! Islam, Israel, and the Nations**. Check the Berean Call (see links) to order.*