

THE COMING CONFLICT

By
Roland Pletts

“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord.” Psalm 27:4.

Psalm 24:3-10, Rev 21:21-22:5. This is our Promise, the everlasting consolation of God’s people. Luke 2:45

This book can be ordered from www.lulu.com
umfundi@hotmail.com

Copyright protected

THE COMING CONFLICT

Introduction : The Cleansing of the Temple - 4

Preface – The Coming Desolation. - Page 7

Chapter 1 - The Coming Conflict in Jerusalem - Page 12

Chapter 2 - The First Abomination of Desolation - Page 26

Chapter 3 - The Second Abomination of Desolation. - Page 41

Chapter 4 -Events through History. - Page 47

Chapter 5 - The Future Abomination of Desolation. - Page 69

Chapter 6 - The Last Three and a Half years. - Page 89

Charts - Page 105 - End Note: Daniel 9:24-27. - Page 109

Other Books

The Covenant of Glory

The Covenant the Lord established during his three and a half year ministry and to be confirmed at his return.

The War for the World

A review of history and present events as foretold in Revelation.

When Messiah Comes – A support book to this book with some repetition and further explanation; my most important book with more information about the times and events.

The Crown of Thorns - The last week of the earthly life of Jesus

The Miracle of Israel -

A study of the everlasting Covenant God made with Israel.



The Temple Mount

Introduction *The Cleansing of the Temple*

I was in mission and church work in Africa for many years. I was often in the front line of spiritual activity. I saw both angels and demons. I saw people saved and filled with the Holy Spirit and demons coming out of people and healings and even miracles. For many years we were blessed but slowly I found that things crept into church life that really had no place there. We were spiritually attacked again and again and I knew of others who were as well. We prayed, rebuked, repented but the attacks on God's people continued and I was constantly fighting my own rearguard action. I found the adversary constantly brought disunity, condemnation and division to God's people. The devil targets every true believer. Luke 22:31.

Like many others I found myself isolated and even found that some of my "brothers" were in fact my opponents. Instead of standing

together God's people were in disarray and consequently weakened. There are things which the enemy increasingly uses in demonic power to attack our walk in the Spirit. The forces of darkness are often too much to handle on one's own and we all need the help of others in prayer, counsel, love and support.

Through many hardships I came to a place where physically and spiritually I went into a valley of despair. Then the Lord in His loving kindness walked me through fires of refining. This experience made me realise the reality we all have; how utterly lost we are without our loving Father and the help of caring, non-judgmental fellow believers. We are living at a time when the Lord's people are under excessive attack and deception. If there is any place in our lives not yielded then the adversary will find it. That's what the enemy does; he will use all means to destroy us, our reputation, our health, our hope, our future, our family. God is not like that. His glory is to cover and forgive, purge, heal and give victory. If we seek God, even if we fall, He will ultimately give victory. Daniel 11:35.

Many of us have for years been taught that when Jesus comes we will all be caught away in rapture and everything will be just fine. But when He comes he will purge his "temple" of all sin. He is coming for a clean, consecrated and holy people. The churches are full of abominations. Many of God's people compromise constantly with sin, at times even violate His word and find all manner of reasons to justify doing so. He *must* purge us so that the gold and silver in our lives may come forth and we may offer Him sacrifices in Holiness.

The prophet Malachi said of Jesus –

“The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple, even the Messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, Behold He is coming, says the Lord of Hosts. But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi and purge them

as gold and silver that they may offer to the Lord an offering of righteousness.” Malachi 3:1.

Is this talking about an *earthly* temple or does it mean something far more radical and relevant to all who believe in Jesus? The Bible says **“Do you not know that you are the Temple of God and His Spirit dwells in you? ... For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.”** 1 Cor 3:16,17. When teaching about the church Paul wrote that it is seated in heavenly places. Believers are the **heavenly spiritual temple**. Ephesians 2:6, 3:10. The Lord will purge, sift, cleanse and refine His Temple and fill it with glory. Mal 3:1-3, Lk 3:17.

(This book should be read together with my book “Covenant of Glory” which lays the foundation teaching for much that I share. It is not meant to set any dates for Christ’s return. Any repetition is to emphasize certain truths which may need several readings to fully grasp.)



The Wailing Wall

Preface

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

Daniel 7:25, 8:11-1, 9:24-27, 11:31, 12:1,7-13, Matthew 24:15,21
Mark 13:14, Luke 19:43,44, 21:20-24.

An “abomination” is “a detestable thing or event”. (Strongs 8251) “Desolation” is “to be utterly desolate, appalled, astonished” (Strongs 8074). The “abomination of desolation” means “a desolate appalling thing or act that causes utter astonishment and horror.” In Daniel this event is linked to the Temple of God.

Another word translated “abomination” (Strongs 8441) is used for acts of falsehood condemned by the Law. Malachi challenged people to repent from adultery, lies, sorceries, thieving, wickedness, disobedience to parents, disrespect for poor and vulnerable people such as orphans and widows, false worship and idols, and other things that are declared “abominations” but are generally widespread practices in the present world. He called people to bring pure sacrifices to the Lord. The true Temple will be purged.

The prophet Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament and closes with an extraordinary prophecy. The “Messenger of the Covenant” (Jesus) will come suddenly to his Temple. He will come as a refiner’s fire and fuller’s soap. Malachi lived at the time of the restoration of Jewish people in their land after 70 years of captivity in Babylon. Ezra recorded a great revival and spiritual restoration as people turned away from sinful practices and committed themselves to the Lord. The 70 years of Babylonian captivity that came upon the nation was brought about directly as a result of abominations they had *themselves* committed even to defiling the Temple. Therefore judgment fell on them. Ezekiel 8:6-10-17 9:3-7.

Malachi described a future day “burning as an oven” when sin will be purged from the land; the “Day of the Lord.” Zechariah and

Haggai were also prophets who foretold these things. It was hundreds of years later that the Lord Jesus came and cleansed the temple and drove out the money changers who defiled it and had turned it into a market and a den of robbers. He said “It is written, my house shall be called a house of prayer but you have turned it into a den of thieves.” He quoted from Jeremiah the prophet who spoke about *abominations* of adultery, murder, lies, worship of idols, and falsehood that the *people* committed; see Jeremiah 7 the whole chapter. Jesus called it a house of prayer and the Lord said “I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.” Samuel said “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice and to heed than the fat of rams.” Jesus never conducted a single sacrifice, *he was the supreme Sacrifice* and his own body was the *true Temple*. He fulfilled all sacrifices and abolished forever the need for sacrifices and temple rituals but in doing so he was himself desecrated and destroyed.

Forty years after his horrendous death the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in an awful manner and the survivors scattered. Jesus had especially warned them of the “abomination of desolation”. Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14. He used a term found in Daniel and also in 1 Maccabees 1:54 which foretold the horrendous persecution conducted by a Hellenic king Antiochus IV Epiphanes who desecrated the temple in 168 BC. Jews called this man the “son of perdition.” Jesus used the same phrase to describe the persecution and desolation by the Romans in AD 70. In the Gospels an editorial comment is added “let the reader understand.” Every Jew knew what it meant. The period of persecution lasted 2300 days, about 6 years 4 months from 171 BC to 164 BC and after a great conflict the temple of that time was cleansed and re-dedicated. A hundred years after Jesus the final demise of Jerusalem took place at the Bar Kochbar revolt. All Jews were expelled from the city and it was turned into a pagan Roman city. Was that the final fulfilment of the prophecy or is more to come? It seems there is for Jesus projected the *final* fulfilment to another time of tribulation at the end of the “times of the Gentiles” just prior to his return. Lk 21:17. The apostle John also

foretold a final period of three and a half years in which there would be a great conflict. Where did John get this period from? It is found in Daniel 7:25 and repeated in Daniel 12:7 and then in Revelation chapters 11, 12, and 13. Many scriptures foretell the gathering of a remnant of Jews back to the land and a conflict over possession of Jerusalem. We now see foreboding world events that are building up to this. The Temple Mount has become a focal point of great contention between Judaism and Islam. The status of Jerusalem is therefore of great significance but many miss the meaning of this. Israel is the sign given to the world to understand the times and seasons of God's prophetic purposes. Revelation 12:1.

Some Christians are looking for a rebuilt temple but is this necessary? Does scripture say that there will be another temple rebuilt in Jerusalem and an abomination set up or is there a more obvious meaning to it? Are we missing something because of our theological blind spot and discount the one event to which the "abomination of desolation" truly applies? Are we blinded to the horror of Jesus' death, the greatest abomination of all? In the New Testament there is not a single verse that tells of animal sacrifices being reinstated. In the New Testament the Temple is not a building but believers, and sacrifices are not animals but obedience of all believers as "living sacrifices" to the Lord. When Jesus returns he will cleanse his "living temple" and then judge the abominations in all nations. Because the rapture teaching has become so popular many believers cannot grasp the significance of the end time because they think they will not be around for it but the "abominations" are already here both on the "temple mount" and in the world.

Those who know the scriptures will understand this statement; the New Testament explains the spiritual reality of the Old Testament. The Old Testament is full of history, events, shadows, types, figures, examples, stories, prophecies, promises and much more. The New Testament fulfils them through Jesus. It is also generally accepted that prophecies can have several stages in their fulfilment climaxing in a final fulfilment. In the course of this study we will consider Old Testament shadows and predictions and then consider the reality and

spiritual fulfilment of these promises. There are actually two kingdoms, two temples and two cities called Jerusalem.

All nations will be subject to judgment on the basis of God's laws. This includes Israel and every other nation. Jews, Muslims and every other people including Western nations must receive forgiveness of sins and the Grace of God through Jesus. The choice is the same for all "tribes of the earth", either Grace or Judgment; those who reject God's Gift of Grace face desolation; those who receive it receive consolation. Those who shelter under the blood of Passover are saved but those who do not will be destroyed. Judgment will fall upon all nations that reject Jesus.

The Bible is full of scriptures that predict a remnant of Jewish people will be gathered back to their Bible land. This is the great "sign" and key to understanding the Divine plan for the world. But what will happen in Israel? Will Israel continue as a *political* nation or will there be a profound change in its character? Will earthly Jerusalem be the "eternal capital of the Jewish nation and will it even survive in its present state? What will happen in Israel and the Church? They are entwined within the purposes of God; one is an earthly reflection and the other is a spiritual reality. There is an enormous battle raging in the invisible realms that surround this planet. When we watch TV news what we see are pawns moved around the chess board but not the powers behind the events that move the chess pieces. The things we see happening are indicative of the spiritual battle raging around us. Things that happen in Israel and the Middle East have profound repercussions. When the Bible predicts that in the end times there will be "abominations of desolation" it does not mean only an event in Jerusalem but spiritual abominations in spirit realms in the church and world. When Jesus cleansed the Temple it went beyond the visible; he threw out the demons which had taken up residence in the temple and polluted it. When he died he cleansed the spiritual realms. Hebrews 9:23-26.

When tour groups are taken around the old city of Jerusalem and visit the Jewish, Christian and Muslim "Holy sites" they may not

actually understand the magnitude of what they see. They are unaware of the bloody history of this city or its awesome future and the spiritual battle that has raged around it and still does. Every step they take is on ground saturated with blood and every square meter has been covered with countless heaps of bodies.

What is happening right now in the spirit realms? What about the promise of end time victory in Jesus? Do we look for antichrist or Christ? Are we looking for the mark of the beast or the seal of God? Are we expecting the power of the “evil one” or looking for the great “Appearing of Jesus” who will sweep through the world and bring in the Kingdom of God? Are we getting ready for the coming King? What is our expectation for these times in which we live? We should be preparing ourselves for the next great “Acts of God”.



The Wailing Wall and Dome of the Rock.

Chapter 1 - The Coming Conflict in Jerusalem and the “Abomination of Desolation”

What is meant by the “Abomination of Desolation” mentioned by the Lord Jesus in the New Testament and by Daniel in the Old Testament? (Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14, Luke 19:43, 21:20-24)

Most Christians have no knowledge of the period between the Old and New Testaments and the great upheavals and persecutions of that time. The saying “Abomination of Desolation” is also found in 1 Maccabees 1:54 and the events that took place are recorded in both books of the Maccabees. The author obviously considered the events of that time to be the “abomination of desolation” predicted in Daniel. But Daniel predicted two “abomination of desolations.”

The prophet Daniel foretold these events in Daniel 8:11-13 and in 11:31. He *also* foretold the coming of Messiah (Jesus) and all that He would do. Daniel 9:24-27. This was a very precise prophecy which was fulfilled by Jesus to the exact year. (See my book “The Covenant of Glory” for a full explanation.)

Jesus came at the exact time that Daniel foretold and he ministered for three and a half years, the *first* half of the week of seven years foretold in Daniel 9. He “cut the Covenant” at Passover later called the “Lord’s Supper” and the following day was crucified as the “Lamb of God” who took away the sins of the world. He died at the time when Passover lambs were slain. Jesus fulfilled the Feast of Passover for *he is* the Passover. 1 Corinthians 5:7. After eating the Passover, supper being ended, he took the bread and said “this is my body broken for you” and he took the cup and said “this is my blood that is shed for you.” He fulfilled the First Covenant and established the New Covenant. He alone had the authority to do this because he was the one who made the original Covenant. This is important to understand as we proceed in this study. He Confirmed the whole Covenant; only the sacrifices, ordinances and rituals of the Temple were done away with. (See my book “Covenant of Glory.”) Few

people know that there were *two* Passovers; The Lord's Passover when Israel came out of Egypt, Exodus 12 and Leviticus 23, and the Passover Feast given when Moses later reviewed it in Deuteronomy 16. A careful reading of these scriptures will show that Passover was first killed in the homes on the evening of the 14th of the month but later it was killed at the Temple and kept on the 15th. After Moses received the law and the Feasts of the Jews and Tabernacle ordinances, the manner in which the Passover was celebrated was changed. This was why many Jews went up to Jerusalem at the time of Passover in order to keep it at the Temple as instructed by Moses. (See my book "Crown of Thorns.")

On the *first* evening of the 14th Jesus kept the Lord's Passover whereas most people kept Passover on the *second* evening on the 15th as Moses had later instructed. Deuteronomy 16. Jesus kept the Lord's Passover. He was the true Passover and fulfilled it completely. He and his disciples kept it after the manner it was kept in Egypt, with their sandals and belts on ready to depart. During the supper Jesus washed the feet of the disciples indicating they had not washed their feet as was the usual custom. Jesus took off his outer garment indicating that he was fully dressed. Instead of staying the night inside the house under the protection of the blood he deliberately left and at midnight was in the Garden of Gethsemane in great agony as he, the Firstborn, conducted the greatest intercession the world has ever seen.

The next day with the consent of the High Priest he was crucified and died at the time Passover lambs were killed. His sacrifice brought an end to *all further* sacrifices and the Temple was itself entirely destroyed as foretold by Daniel and endorsed in Hebrews 9:28, 10:1-18. There is no further need of sacrifices and the Temple order was destroyed forever. When the disciples marvelled over the glorious temple Jesus made it clear that it was to be destroyed. He never said it would be rebuilt. Daniel indicated it would remain in perpetual desolation. Stephen repeated this; that it would be destroyed and the customs of Moses changed, for which he was killed. Acts 6:10-14. It was indeed a magnificent building built by Herod the Great, a truly

ungodly man. Not only that, but the temple rituals had themselves devolved into corruption. Jesus told the disciples that not one stone was to remain upon another. Matt 24:1,2. This was described in Daniel 9:24-27 where it plainly tells that the temple will remain desolate even till the very end consummation. In other words according to Daniel it will *never* be rebuilt. This destruction was fulfilled in AD 70 by the Romans. We will consider later what happened at the temple mount through history.

Daniel foretold that from a certain Royal commandment or decree there would be 483 years (69 weeks) to the “Anointed One”. A teaching has gained popular following that this was fulfilled by Nehemiah in 445 BC to the time of Jesus’ death. This teaching has become so accepted that some Bibles are made to read that the antichrist fulfils the final week of seven years. If you have a Bible translation that claims this then I strongly encourage you to get a better translation or to look at the original language which certainly does not say so. The calculation from Nehemiah is not valid; it had *no* command, only *letters* of safe passage. The correct command is the **Command of God** which combines those of three different kings, the last of which was issued in **457 BC** at the time of Ezra’s return not Nehemiah. The book of Ezra records all *three* commands as well as God’s command. Ezra 6:14. This calculates *exactly* to the time of Jesus’ baptism and anointing by the Holy Spirit as Messiah, *not* to his death. Jesus fulfilled the *first* three and a half years of the 70th week and was then “cut off” and, in the middle of that final week, brought an end to all sacrifices. If you wish to understand more about this then please read “Covenant of Glory,” “Crown of Thorns”, “When Messiah Comes” or many others sources that explain it. The Messiah himself, *not* antichrist, fulfils the final week, divided in two parts. Daniel 9:24-27. It is Jesus who confirmed the Covenant. The “gap” during which the Gospel has gone into the nations is between the first and second half of the seventieth week, not between the 69th and 70th week. This will make a big difference in how one understands the “end times”. Also see notes on page 108.

The first half of the last week of Daniel 9 has been fulfilled. The Bible does not project seven years into the future. Both Jesus and John spoke of only three and half years. Why is that? It is because the first half of the last seven year week was perfectly fulfilled by the 3 ½ years ministry of Jesus. Daniel 9:24-27.

So where is the last half of the final week?

Some people think it followed immediately after the crucifixion and was the next period until the stoning of Stephen. However, there is no mention of this in any scripture. Some people claim it was fulfilled at the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD70. Although the Lord clearly warned about this event which was surely a fulfilment of Daniel 9:27 it cannot have been the *final* three and a half years. Why is that? Well, John wrote Revelation *after* the catastrophic events of the Roman destruction in AD70 and described that period. He still projected the 3 ½ years into the future to the “end times” prior to the return of Jesus and did not see the Romans as the fulfilment of either Daniel’s or Jesus’ words.

The Old Testament scriptures which tell us about this period are found in Daniel chapter 12. Daniel described the end period as 1290 days or a “time, times and half a time.” Daniel never referred to a future period of seven years but always defined it as three and a half years. Daniel 7:25, 12:7. The same period is seen in Rev. 11:2, 12:14, 13:5. In Rev 11:2 it is a time, times and half a time, 42 months or 1260 days. There is no mention of seven years anywhere else in scripture, except in Daniel 9:27 of which the first half was fulfilled by Jesus in his earthly ministry. John refers *only* to a future three and a half years, never seven; Revelation 11 is about Jerusalem, chapter 12 is about the war against the dragon and chapter 13 is about world wide evil. Why did he talk so much about it? The first believers knew the first half was gone; they wanted to know where the last half was. There is no 7 year Tribulation. There is a period of three and a half years during which certain things will take place. We read about this in Rev.11:2. Half the city of Jerusalem will fall to the “Gentiles” and will be trampled underfoot for forty-two months. Zech 14:2, Revelation 11. Jesus confirmed this in Luke 21:24. However, there

will also be an amazing visitation of God at this time. Two Prophets will be raised up with great power to strengthen God's people. (Rev.11:1-) Simultaneously there will be trouble worldwide. During the last half of the week Messiah will "confirm the covenant with many" in an amazing manner with the greatest "Acts of God" ever seen. Just as there was a period of three and half years to establish the Church Age so there will be three and half years to usher in the glory of the Kingdom Age. He will come "suddenly to his temple". Malachi 3:1. The last 3 ½ years is not so much antichrist's power but the time during which God will do outstanding miracles to confirm His Covenant. It is the great final "revival" and "Ingathering of the Harvest". Hag 2:7,9, The Lord will fill His house with glory.

THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS

I believe this is a *literal* period of time. There is no justification to make it symbolical or figurative. The first mention of it is in Daniel 7:25. It is the end time that culminates with the return of the Lord and the establishment of the Kingdom of God. It is clearly stipulated in Daniel 12 as three and a half years. If anyone is in doubt it is seen as 1290 days, a period that is three and a half solar years calculated on the orbit of the earth around the sun.

What is going to happen? To understand the fulfilment of this prophecy we need to consider the meaning of "Abomination of Desolation". Over a period of time this saying became established in the minds of Jewish people as a proverbial saying, a descriptive phrase for *any* event that brought awful horror but its origins are seen in Daniel and in significant prophetic events linked with the Temple of God. Daniel 8:11 + 11:31, 9:27 + 12:11. To put it into proper perspective and historical context we need to understand the *three* times it is mentioned in Daniel and the progressive nature of these three events. Each "abomination of desolation" had a meaning for the age in which it happened. This is why when the "abomination of desolation" is mentioned in the Gospels we are told "whosoever reads let him understand". It is vital to understand the times and seasons in which we live and what God is doing and to read the

“signs of the times.” We need to watch national and world events and interpret their significance in the light of Bible prophecies. When certain events happen they are harbingers of things that will inevitably follow. Through history the Jews became so adept at this that a saying was “when you see the Jews leave a country you know it is finished.” There are three main “Abominations of Desolation” but through history there have been others that can be considered similar events that have brought devastating destruction.

Times of great desolation have occurred through history. For example the two hundred years of religious intolerance and war during the Crusades in which fanatical warriors killed one another in the name of God. Before that there was the awful cruel persecution of millions of Christians under Roman Emperors who claimed they were “gods” and demanded they should be worshipped. During the middle ages there was the diabolical destruction of millions of Christians by others who claimed they were the only true Christians and demanded all others obey their doctrines and dogmas. In the religious wars of Europe the toll was horrendous as Emperors fought Emperors. Under the Communist dictatorship of Stalin millions perished. In China under the Red Army millions more died. In Africa under colonialism and subsequent dictators millions have died. In South America many have died under military juntas and dictators.

In the Bible an “**Abomination of Desolation**” is mentioned three times in the Old Testament book of Daniel.

Firstly, it is mentioned in Daniel 8:9-26. This prophecy foretold how a “fierce king” would “**take away**” the daily offering and cause an abomination to desecrate the temple. It was fulfilled by a man called Antiochus IV Epiphanes. After a period of 2300 days we are told that the temple would be *cleansed* and re-consecrated. The temple was *not* destroyed at that time. **Secondly**, it is mentioned in Daniel 9:24-27 that **Messiah** will cause the sacrifice and offering to “**cease**” and that the temple will be *destroyed*; “for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate even until the consummation.” There is *no* mention of the temple ever being

restored or re-consecrated and the emphasis is upon a complete destruction even to the very end. Please note this prophecy is about the **Messiah** and what **He** will do. This event is linked directly with what **Messiah** will accomplish when **He** took away all sacrifices by the supreme sacrifice of himself. He brought a cessation of sacrifice, a Sabbath rest after which there was no further need for a temple. These two references to the Temple being desecrated and then later destroyed are set in contrast to one another; the *first* is to do with a false christ, the *second* is to do with the true Christ. This is important.

Thirdly, it is mentioned in Daniel 12:11 at the end of 1290 days. To which event is Daniel referring? He is *not* referring to the 2300 days of Antiochus. A popular teaching is that an antichrist will make a seven year peace treaty with Israel and allow a temple to be rebuilt with renewed sacrifices and then half way through he will stop the sacrifices. This is erroneously taught from Daniel 9 and although there have been many peace accords and may yet be more it is **Messiah** who will “confirm the Covenant” *not* the antichrist. To correctly understand the prophecy of Daniel chapters 9 and 12 one has to focus on **Messiah** *not* antichrist. I and many others do not believe it refers to an end time Temple in Jerusalem with sacrifices. It is not supported by any definitive scriptures and it would be blasphemous and ignores clear principles of scripture that categorically declare the sacrifice made by Jesus is all sufficient and final. Imagine coming to church or synagogue and making a sacrifice? Why should it be any different in a “temple”? The Lord Jesus cancelled all sacrifices once and for all by the sacrifice of himself. Hebrews 9:15 - 10:10. His sacrifice includes all people for all time. Daniel 12 does not refer to the antichrist. It is incongruous that Daniel’s great discourse of God’s power through history should end with the antichrist. No, it ends with Christ and the blessing He brings *after* his awful suffering and resurrection.

If we follow Daniel’s three prophecies concerning the “abomination of desolation” they are in stages. Antiochus desecrated the temple but it was cleansed. Jesus died and rose and then the *earthly* temple

was destroyed and replaced with a spiritual temple. During the last 3 ½ years a conflict will occur around the Temple Mount and the defilement and abominations of both people and land will be cleansed. This will be a great spiritual and physical conflict which will bring much tribulation as the nation is purged of sin. The Lord will allow his “holy people” to be tested and refined. Only then will he take action; Daniel 7:21-27 and 12:7. It’s not the temple that will be cleansed but the people! They will be purged and atonement made for both land and people. Deut 23:43, Dan 12:10

As I will explain, the fulfilment for this is already set up and plain for all to see if they but look. The stage is set and we are but waiting for the final act. Soon the curtain will be pulled back to reveal the actors as they step on the world stage. This is why we need to understand the staggering significance of what is happening in the Middle East and the increasing animosity and hatred leading to conflict over land and especially Jerusalem as well as the increase of violence, crime and crises worldwide. Please follow the reasoning through this book and it will become clearer.

ABOMINATIONS OF DESOLATION AND THE TEMPLE

There were several men through history that desecrated the temple. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, did so in 586 BC. Others were Alexander the Great, Antiochus, Ptolomey and Herod the Great. In 63 BC Pompey and his legions stormed the temple and captured it. All resistance ceased and he and his staff entered the Holy of Holies. Titus also did so in AD 70. Legend says that Titus slashed the veil of the Holy of Holies to enter it.

There are *three* main scriptural events that are said to be Abominations of Desolation. The *first* was by Antiochus IV Epiphanes in about 168 BC. The *second* was in AD 70 after the crucifixion of Jesus by the Romans. The *third* is considered still to be in the future. However, to fully grasp the significance of this future prophecy we need to understand the larger picture and history of the “Temple Mount”. We also need to understand *who* the true Temple

is, what it stands for and *who* it represents.

We need to consider the destruction of Solomon's Temple by Nebuchadnezzar in 586BC, then the restoration of the Temple under Cyrus. After that we can consider the events that took place at the time of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, from 171 – 165BC, when the temple was polluted and then cleansed. Then it's subsequent rebuilding under Herod the Great and its final destruction by the Romans in AD 70 followed by a further rebellion under Simon Bar Kochba in AD 134. Then we need to consider further events through history and how it became an Islamic shrine and the battles fought for it by the Crusaders. Then we can consider the possible final fulfilment during the end times. The blood of literally hundreds of thousands if not millions of people has been shed in conflict on and around the Temple Mount. Not only have there been untold animal sacrifices conducted there but great abominations of human slaughter have taken place there. In all the world it must be the one place that has had more bloodshed on it than any other!

THE TEMPLE MOUNT

The Temple Mount is believed to have been inhabited since the 2nd millennium BC! The Canaanites established a settlement there called Jebus. The Temple Mount is the most important religious site in the City of Jerusalem. It has been used as a religious site for thousands of years and at least four religions have used it for their worship; Judaism, Roman paganism, Christianity and Islam. Judaism considers the Temple as the place where the "Divine Presence" came to rest. Isaiah 8:18, 1 Kings 8:10-13, 2 Chronicles 6:41-. It is therefore central and of supreme importance to Jews. It is called in Hebrew "Har haBayith". Jewish tradition believes that the Temple was built on the spot where Abraham took Isaac to sacrifice. I believe the place where Jesus died was on Golgotha overlooking the Temple and was the *exact* spot where Abraham took Isaac and was the *summit* of Mount Moriah. A traditional Christian site for the crucifixion is the Church of the Holy Sepulchre but I doubt that to be authentic. I believe that what is called Gordon's Calvary near the

Garden Tomb just north of the Old City wall is the authentic place both scripturally and topographically. This was the original summit of Mount Moriah and at the time of the Maccabees it was dug out in order to strengthen the northern side of the city's defences, and the rock face was formed in which the shape of a skull can still be clearly seen. Today it is a cemetery with an inscription; "There is only one God Allah and Mohamed is his prophet." To this day the "Wailing Wall" is considered by Jews to be the place where the "Presence of God" still remains. In Jewish tradition it was from here that the world expanded into its present form and where God took the dust to create man. In Islam the Temple Mount is called the "Noble Sanctuary". It is considered the third holiest shrine after Mecca and Medina yet Jerusalem is not mentioned once in the Koran. It is interesting that modern day Jerusalem is divided into different sections and the "Holy Sites" controlled by different authorities. The Jews have the Wailing Wall, the historical churches (Catholics, Orthodox and Coptic) have the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of England has the Garden Tomb and the Muslims control the Temple Mount. On it is the Dome of the Rock which has inscribed over its entrance "God has no Son". The small knoll of Golgotha is undeveloped with Islamic graves. I believe this "pinnacle" is significant. It was here on the *highest* point that Jesus was lifted up for all people around the city to see, at the extremity or "wing" of the Temple and visible for miles around.

KING DAVID PURCHASED THE TEMPLE SITE

The ancient King of Israel, David, purchased the site but he was not the first to show interest in the "Temple Mount" - it was God who especially chose it when He called Abraham to give Isaac in sacrifice. Abraham took his son to Mt Moriah to a *special* spot where he built an altar and would have slain his son had God not stopped him and provided the true sacrifice, a ram caught by the horns in a bush, representing His own Son Jesus.

The Old Testament tells us Abraham's son Isaac was miraculously born by God's promise. Both Jews and Christians believe Abraham

took Isaac but Muslims claim that it was Ishmael, Abraham's older son. However, the offering by Abraham of Isaac was a figure of the offering God promised in giving His own son Jesus. This is why the New Testament plainly says that Jesus was born by the Holy Spirit as God's Son. From a very early age Jesus declared that God was his Father. The emphasis in the Old Testament on sacrifice was all about the aspect of atonement through the blood of a substitute and was a fore shadow of the supreme sacrifice of Jesus. If Ishmael was the promised seed where is the fulfilment of it in Islam? Islam denies that Jesus is the Son of God and has no sacrificial atonement. It is believed the Dome covers the rock where the Temple once stood but recent archaeology indicates that it actually stands in the court of the Gentiles.

When King David sinned by numbering Israel a destroying angel went through the land and purged it resulting in the death of seventy thousand but when the angel stretched out his hand over Jerusalem to destroy it David saw the angel standing above the threshing floor of Ornan (Araunah) and cried out, confessed his sin and prayed for the Lord to spare the people. The Lord stopped the plague and David was instructed to build an altar on the threshing floor so he purchased it from Ornan for the full price it was worth. 2 Samuel 24:15-25, 1 Chronicles 21:15-30. This threshing floor was on Mt. Moriah and David built an altar there to the LORD.

So, the first person to own the site after Ornan was King David who bought it for the full price and gave it to the God of the Bible and proposed to build a Temple on it for the Lord God.

But the history of Jerusalem goes back even further, to Melchizedek, the "King of Salem", King of Peace and Righteousness. He was the forerunner of Jesus the Son of God. Genesis 14:18, Hebrews 7:1-10.

THE DESTRUCTION OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

The temple was later completed by King Solomon and it became the centre of worship for the Jewish nation and a special place for the

people to pray; a “House of Prayer”. 2 Chronicles 2:1-, 2 Chronicles 7:11-16.

It was King Solomon who built the First Temple at this place. He consecrated it to the Lord with vast amounts of sacrifices; 22 thousand bulls, 120 thousand sheep. There must have been an awful amount of blood around. 1 Kings 8:63. What started out as a system of sacrifices in a tent became a bloodbath. Even though the flesh was not wasted but eaten it sadly did not fulfil the purpose of sacrifice. Instead of sacrifices teaching people to live in a righteous way, which is what was intended the people eventually turned from the Lord and committed great abominations. This is the pattern though history in every nation. They inherit their own sins until their abominations become so great that desolation follows. There came a time when *all* the sacrifices became unacceptable to God and He found no pleasure in them. Malachi 1:6-14. Micah 6:7.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, captured Jerusalem in 596 BC and led away many thousands as slaves taking them into captivity in Babylon. He raided the temple and took away all its priceless vessels of gold. Ten years later in 586 BC he returned and this time he completely destroyed the temple and sacked the town leaving it in ruins and killing many Jews. This happened on the 9th of Av known today as Tishah B’Av.

It was this event that Ezekiel, while he was in captivity in Babylon, warned the people about. The Lord took him to Jerusalem in a vision and showed him the abominations that the people, including the priests, committed in the land and even the Temple. Ezekiel 8:6-17. The Lord saw all the abominations they committed in secret and even in their imaginations. Ezekiel 5:9,11, 6:8-14, 7:20-22, 11:18-21, 22:1-11. These scriptures are very revealing. God is able to look into every secret heart, into every hidden thought and deed. It is very sobering especially in the light of the life and ministry of Jesus who evidently was also able to look beyond the outward deep into the secret hearts and motives of all he met. He could read their thoughts. He could see their hearts. He knows everything about every person.

He knows everything about you, and me. He said that if anyone lusts in their hearts they commit adultery. If anyone hates another it is the same as murder. What is even more sobering is that we are considered the temple of God for He does not dwell in buildings but in people who have received His Spirit; a *spiritual* temple.

Ezekiel and Jeremiah warned of coming judgment that would result in the destruction of the temple, the city and even the land. He foretold their scattering into captivity. He also foretold the eventual restoration of a *remnant* back to the land.

The desolation of Jerusalem lasted 70 years and the Jews were captives in Babylon as foretold by Jeremiah. 2 Chronicles 36:20-23, Jeremiah 29:10. After this they began to return to the land. It was this restoration that Daniel understood and prayed for; the return of Jews to the land and the rebuilding of the House of the Lord and city of Jerusalem. Daniel 9:1-27. Daniel confessed the sins of his people and their turning away from God's Holy Covenant and committing abominations. He was especially praying about God's Covenant.

DANIEL 9:24 - 27

There are many different translations of this portion of scripture some of which are just not accurate. Consequently there are different views to their meaning. I suggest you read it in different translations. I have found the Authorised KJ, American KJ and NIV Bibles and the ancient Peshitta Aramaic text helpful. Best of all is to read a translation straight from the Hebrew which excludes all words *not* found in the original. (Page 109 and my book Covenant of Glory.)

In answer to his prayers the angel Gabriel showed Daniel that from a decree issued by the Persian kings (Ezra 6:14, 457BC) to the coming of Messiah *and* the fulfilment of God's Covenant it would be another 70 years x 7, in other words a total period of 490 years. This period was divided into three parts; the first was $7 \times 7 = 49$ years, the second was $62 \times 7 = 434$ years, the third was 1×7 years which was itself divided in the middle with an extended gap during which the Gospel went into the world. The first 49 years were very difficult in

which the temple was restored and the city rebuilt in “troublesome times”. At this time there was a great revival under Ezra and other prophets. Not all the people returned at the time of Ezra but representatives of all 12 tribes did, enough to establish a Jewish nation. The rest remained in Diaspora. Between the Old and New Testaments there was a time of great upheaval. The Greek king Alexander the Great conquered vast territory and many nations. He spread Hellenic culture and religion and the Jews were persecuted.

The prophet Ezra described the consecration of this new temple when the High Priest Zerubabbel sacrificed 100 bullocks, 200 rams, 400 lambs and 12 goats to signify the 12 tribes of Israel. It was to descendants of these people that Jesus came and declared the Kingdom of God. Jesus came to the earthly temple, in its 50th Jubilee year after 49 years of restoration. (More about this later.)



The Temple

CHAPTER 2 – THE FIRST ABOMINATION THAT CAUSED DESOLATION

ANTIOCHUS IV EPIPHANES AND THE HELLENIC PERSECUTION

Dan. 8: 9-26, 11:1-4

After Alexander died, his kingdom was divided between four generals. The northern area of what is today Syria and parts of Iraq, Iran and Turkey was controlled by Seleucia. The southern part, Egypt, was controlled by Ptolemy. The start of the Seleucid Empire was in 312 BC. A time of rivalry and conflict ensued which lasted for about 20 years, between 323 - 301 BC. The date for the final demise of the kingdom of Alexander is usually recognised as 301 BC which is when it was divided between the four "winds of heaven".

Daniel wrote about these things.

Daniel 11:5-9 depicts the two main divisions of Alexander's kingdom; the "King of the North" under the Seleucid Royal Dynasty and the "King of the South" under the Ptolemy Royal Dynasty. Historically Israel was always caught between the northern kingdom of Assyria and the southern kingdom of Egypt. Out of the northern kingdom came a vile man in 175 BC, Antiochus IV Epiphanes. His name means "Illustrious deity" and he exalted himself as the personification of the Greek god Zeus.

Dan11:21 - Antiochus attacked Israel in 173 BC and killed 80,000 Jews. In 171 BC he was instrumental in the death of the high priest Onias III who was killed by Hellenistic Jews. Onias was the last high priest in the Godly line of Zadok and represented the "Prince of the Covenant". (2 Maccabees 4:33-36). A Gymnasium and sports stadium was built in Jerusalem and many Jews ceased circumcision and had the evidence removed. The "Holy Covenant" was repudiated by many who forsook the laws of God. 1 Macc 1:14, 2 Macc 4:13-15. What happened is described in 1 Maccabees 1:54 -

“On the 15th day of the month of Kislev the “abomination of desolation” was set up on the altar. Pagan altars were built throughout the towns of Judea; incense was offered at the doors of the houses and in the streets. All scrolls of the law which were found were torn up and burnt. Anyone discovered in possession of a Book of the Covenant or conforming to the law was put to death by the king’s sentence. On the 25th day of the month they offered sacrifice on the pagan altar which was on top of the altar of the Lord. In accordance with the royal decree they put to death women who had had their children circumcised. Their babies, their families and those who had circumcised them they hanged by the neck.”

Dan 11:25-28 - Tells of Antiochus’ first campaign against Egypt.

Dan 11:28 - His heart was set against the Holy covenant.

Dan 11:29, 30 - The Romans turned him back.

There are different views concerning the exact details that followed. He invaded Egypt twice and possibly three times. Antiochus enlisted the aid of apostate Jews and for about 6 and a half years 171-164 BC he forced the Jews to Hellenize. (1 Maccabees 1:10-28, 2 Macc 5:15-21) He violated the temple after his first invasion of Egypt in 169 BC. At that time the city of Jerusalem became known as Antioch-Jerusalem. He entered the Holy of Holies and robbed the temple of its gold and silver vessels. He stole the veil and presented it to the temple of Zeus in Olympia!

Daniel 11:31-35 – These verses describe the Wars of the Maccabees. Antiochus issued decrees which prohibited Jewish religious customs. He issued coins to Zeus and claimed himself to be “god manifest,” Satan possessed. 168-165 BC. Antiochus had two agents in Jerusalem. The one was a general called Appollonios - an elderly Athenian who polluted the temple and dedicated it to Zeus. 2 Macc 5:24-26, 2 Macc 6:1,2 (see Rev 9:11 Apollyon, the destroying angel). The other was the false High Priest he appointed.

It is generally accepted that **verse 36** onwards is still future.

NOTICE THE CHARACTER OF THIS MAN Daniel 11:21-35

Antiochus came with intrigue and deceived many. His heart was moved against the Holy Covenant and he came with great rage to destroy the Holy people. He desecrated the Temple and caused great abominations, stopped the sacrifices and brought desolation. Those who were corrupt followed him but those who knew their God were faithful and stood against him and eventually prevailed and the temple was cleansed and re-consecrated. Antiochus fulfilled all this. Very few Christians have any understanding of this period but they are recorded in the Books of Maccabees as well as by the Jewish historian Josephus and some Bible commentaries give good accounts of them. They are far more significant to Jewish believers than Christians therefore we miss their vital importance in understanding Daniel and end time prophecies and the rise of anti-Semitism.

Antiochus desecrated the temple, forbade sacrifice and erected an *image* of Olympian Zeus (Jupiter) which looked like himself. In fact he claimed to be divine. Alexander the Great was the first Greek leader to claim divinity and Hellenic rulers after him also claimed it. At the age of 33 Alexander had through force conquered vast areas of the world and was considered a god. He spread the Hellenic culture of Greek gods and the concept of humanism; the deifying of man. Satan tempted Jesus to follow the same way even though he was in reality God the Son. Satan took Jesus up to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and offered them to Jesus if he would worship him. Jesus refused and chose the humble way of love and sacrifice rather than to enforce people to worship him. Satan took him to the Temple pinnacle and tempted him as the Son of God to do a miracle. He refused. At the age of 33 Alexander died, one of the greatest conquerors of all time. At 33 Jesus died for the world and all in it throughout all ages.

The Romans followed the same way as Alexander and many Roman Emperors demanded worship. Some people may not realise how prevalent this kind of worship is today. It may not be called emperor worship but it is idol worship. Today there are many idols; pop idols,

Hollywood idols, political idols, national idols, religious idols, sport idols and many more. Some nations like North Korea have taken it to depths of human depravity and bondage. In the last century Japan considered their emperor was divine but anything or person that demands our obedience and allegiance and captures our minds to the detriment of all else is an idol. Our own ego can become our worst idol. The cult of “humanism” originated from Hellenic concepts and has done much to exalt a self-centred attitude in mankind. The promotion of individuals to the detriment of others is a rejection of the laws of the universal Lord and Creator. Romans 1:18-25.

It was Antiochus who did much to promote this blasphemy. He considered himself to be god and all others must obey him. He defiled the altar with swine and forced Jews to eat swine which was an abominable thing to do. Loyal Jews resisted and a massacre followed. 2 Macc 6:2, 1 Macc 1:37-40 2:7-11, 3:45. This was in about 167/168 BC. The Maccabean family of Mattathias and his five sons led the Jews in rebellion and after 3 years dispelled the Greeks and cleansed the Temple on the exact day it was desecrated, the 15th of Kislev near the end of December. This was foretold by Daniel centuries before it happened. Daniel 8:13,14. In this scripture we are told that although the daily sacrifices would be “**taken away**” and the temple defiled it would be cleansed after 2300 days. So the temple was never destroyed by Antiochus, only defiled. This was called the “Abomination of Desolation.” The words, “*daily sacrifices were taken away*” are significant and have bad connotations of pride, haughtiness, and rebellion (Strongs 7311 – *ruwm*) and convey the forcible removal of sacrifices just as Antiochus did.

This period was foretold in Daniel 8 and designated as 2300 days – nearly six and a half years for the full period. Alternatively, it was 1150 days counting the “mornings and evenings” as one full day. This works out to just over 3 years for the period of intense persecution. According to Josephus the time of persecution lasted 3½ years: Wars of the Jews 5:9:4. The Jews never forgot this horrendous time of suffering to cleanse the temple. They remembered it every year and still do at the “Feast of Dedication” or “Feast of Lights”

also called Hanukkah. It was at this Feast that Jesus revealed himself as the true Messiah, Son of God, in contrast to the satanic counterfeit and worldly deceit of Antiochus. John 10:22. Many years after Antiochus there came a time when Israel eventually fell under the control of the expanding Roman Empire, the next great world power that followed the Hellenic period. It was during this period that the Bible was translated into Greek. Rome absorbed many of the Greek gods and the influence of Hellenic culture and values grew even among the Jews. In about 19 BC Herod the Great, a man greatly influenced by Greek thinking, architecture and concepts, extended the Temple Mount's natural plateau by enclosing it with four massive retaining walls and levelling a large area. He began a huge project of rebuilding the existing temple. In addition to restoring the actual temple Herod also built courtyards, porticoes, entrance gates and arches, cisterns and what was called the Antonia Fortress on the northern wing. This restoration went on for 46 years, until the time Jesus started his ministry. At the end of 3 ½ years Jesus entered and cleansed the temple in its 50th year Jubilee. He came to set the captives free and pay the debt of sin. He as the true temple was then destroyed but raised in 3 days. John 2:19-21. Later the *earthly* temple was also destroyed. The western wall still exists and is the "Wailing Wall". It is still greatly revered despite the words of judgment Jesus pronounced upon the earthly temple. It is a reminder of an order that passed away. Nevertheless, it is testimony dating back to Solomon's time representing the promise of Jewish restoration and Jewish people still gather there to earnestly pray.

JESUS FULFILLED THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL 9:24

Jesus was born in Bethlehem and grew up in Galilee under Roman control. He remained unknown until the day of his revealing when John the Baptist declared "Prepare the way of the Lord" and pointed people towards Messiah Yeshua, who came at the *exact* time foretold by Daniel; *after* 69 weeks or 483 years = AD27. His ministry lasted *exactly* three and a half years and he fulfilled the *first* half of the last seven years and in the *exact* middle of it he was "cut off" and crucified as foretold. It is significant that Jesus ministered for 3½

years, something many Bible readers do not stop and ponder. (See my book “The Covenant of Glory” and “Crown of Thorns.”)

In fact the crucifixion of Jesus brought the greatest “desolation” ever! During the final week of his life Jesus came to the earthly temple in its 50th anniversary restoration. He cleansed it and took up residence within it where he taught and healed. In the *exact* middle of that last week he established the New Covenant and died the following day which was the day of the Passover. On that day he fulfilled numerous prophetic scriptures concerning his death. Psalm 22, Isaiah 53. These and other OT prophets foresaw his death in precise detail.

Jesus began his ministry at the time of the Feast of Atonement for he ended it at Passover, 3½ years later. He fulfilled the promise given to Daniel by the angel Gabriel in Daniel 9:24-27. The words used in the scripture “he will bring an end to sacrifices” or as the KJ says “He will cause the sacrifices and oblation to cease” are significant. This word actually means to - “***to observe the Sabbath***” and carries the meaning of rest, cessation and fulfillment. (Strong's 7673 – *shabath*). Antiochus never did that or anyone else other than the Lord Jesus. He *alone* brought the end to *all* sacrifice and brought us into the “Sabbath rest of God”. He fulfilled Daniel 9:24-27, Hebrews 4:9-11.

The three and a half years of Jesus ministry is a reflection and *preview* of the *final* three and a half years. He started at the time of Atonement; this is seen in the way he presented himself for Baptism which is a type of washing conducted especially by the High Priest. John the Baptist declared he was the “Lamb of God” who took away the sins of the whole world. Many people came to John and confessed their sins and were baptized in the river Jordan. They went into the water dirty and came out clean. They symbolically dumped their sins in the water. Jesus came to the river as pure as a lamb without blemish, went into the water and came out carrying the sins of the world. At the moment of his baptism all the sins of the world were put upon him and he was driven into the wilderness for forty days as the “scapegoat” where he should have perished. The ministry of John the Baptist was like a trumpet calling the nation to

repentance and fulfilled the Feast of Trumpets just before Atonement. For the next 3 ½ years Jesus' ministry purged the nation.

These figures are all linked with Atonement and instead of dying in the desert Jesus came back *anointed* with the *power of the Spirit* and did great miracles, healed the sick, cast out demons and raised the dead. Wherever he went he was confronted by enemies and opposed by evil spirits. Contrary to the general idea that it was all a time of wonderful blessing it actually was a time of great spiritual conflict. Within the spirit realms great battles raged. Many times Jesus was confronted by demons. Satan dogged his every move arousing animosity and hatred wherever he went; many people directly opposed him. On several occasions his life was in jeopardy; at Nazareth, on the Lake of Galilee, among the religious leaders. He ended his ministry 3½ years later when rejected by Herod the puppet king of the Jews, condemned by a corrupt High Priest, and sentenced to death by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, dying at the exact moment of the Passover sacrifice. In fact, from 9am to 3pm people brought their Passover lambs to the temple to be killed, but Jesus was the true Passover Lamb, our sacrifice, as well as High Priest.

It is also of significance that sometime at the start of Jesus' ministry a terrible "abomination" took place of which the full details are not disclosed. However, it is mentioned in the gospel of Luke that Pontius Pilate the Roman Governor caused a great violation and rebellion in Galilee. Pilate mixed the *blood* of Jewish worshippers with their own *sacrifices*. Luke 13:1. He killed a large number of Jewish worshippers as they sacrificed! The Romans were at times as harsh as Antiochus had been. Why should this have been recorded? Such a deed must surely be in the league of great "abominations" and certainly captured the minds of all Jewish people. This evidently happened near the *start* of Jesus' ministry and was a very significant event. Pilate also brought into Jerusalem and to the Temple precincts the Roman standards and shields that were considered abominations to the Jews. Not only that, but Herod also set up over the temple gate a huge golden eagle! Herod had spent many years building the temple, yet he was not a true Jew. Herod's temple was in fact built

by a cruel, ungodly puppet king who produced a line of despots who opposed the Lord. The temple itself had become so corrupt that Jesus forcefully cleansed it by driving out the offenders. Mal 3:1. He also challenged those who presided over the temple corruption. The start of the three and a half year ministry of Jesus was marked by a terrible event and ended with the greatest “abomination” ever.

Jesus is the true **Temple of God**. Matt 12:6, John 2:19. This fact is not generally thought about but is clearly stated. As a child he came to the earthly temple with full authority because he was the *real Temple*. What was done to Jesus, the Holy Son of God, was a horrendous thing. Crucifixion is an *appalling abomination*. Isaiah used the word **astonishment** (8074) to describe an abomination of desolation. Thousands of years before Abraham had a vision of this when God “cut” the Covenant with him and he saw the “**full horror of darkness**”; the crucifixion. Genesis 15:10-12. Jesus was torn, flayed, pierced and tortured; disfigured more than any person. **Isaiah 52:14**, 53:1- Amplified Bible. To have seen him crucified was a sight of utter **horror**. No crucifix, painting or film comes close to portraying it. When he took our sins he was lifted up like the serpent had been lifted up on a stake in the wilderness. He took the *curse* of all mankind upon himself. Galatians 3:13, Deut 21:23, Numbers 21:8. The sacrifice of Jesus is eternally complete. It is final. All further sacrifices are unnecessary. Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:9-14. In fact the time came when God rejected sacrifices because of the people’s apostasy. Malachi 1:7-10, Isaiah 1:11-14. It is difficult to fully comprehend the awful **horror** of the death of Jesus. He was the Holy Temple of God and was treated with utter contempt. All our sins and abominations were put on Jesus. He was nailed to a cross and set up high on the pinnacle of Mt Moriah at the “wings of the Temple” where all in the city could see him, an appalling sight which caused **utter astonishment and horror**. He was Messiah the High Priest the “Most Holy,” utterly desecrated, rejected and killed in the most awful manner. Acts 2:27, 3:14, Mk 1:24, Lk 4:34, 1John 2:20.

At the start of his 3 ½ year ministry he was baptized by John the Baptist who publicly declared him to be the “Lamb of God that **takes**

way the sins of the world.” From that moment Jesus picked up the sins of every person who has ever lived and carried them for the next 3½ years to the cross. He identified with our sins and became the living substitute for every temple sacrifice. He lived a life of perfect holiness as a living sacrifice, the Lamb of God.

In Daniel 12:11 we are told “the daily sacrifice is taken away” and these words carry something to ponder. They come from the Hebrew word “*sur*” (Strong’s 5493) and mean to *turn aside or turn off, remove, depart*. Strangely enough it is also a name for one of the Temple gates, Sur. What significance may this have? It was the Lord Jesus, the Gate to the Temple and Door for the sheep who at his baptism took away the sins of the world. (John 10:1-9) He turned aside, took up our sins and carried them to the altar. From the very start of his ministry the Temple sacrifices had become unnecessary; he replaced them, “turned them off” and removed the need for them. He was both Sacrifice and Temple. Perhaps we don’t fully appreciate this. He died at the exact moment of the Passover Sacrifice and at that moment the veil in the Temple was rent in two. The “MOST HOLY” is not a *place* but a *person*, the Anointed One and Messiah. John 2:19-21, Dan 9:24.

**The Most Holy person to have ever lived was crucified!
What was done to Jesus the true Temple was an abomination.**

In the final days of his earthly life Jesus cleansed the *earthly* temple and by his death opened the *heavenly* temple and the “Gates of Glory for every believer to enter. Malachi 3:1-3, Hebrews 8:1, 9:11. He took upon himself all the sins of mankind and was broken, crucified and discarded as rubbish. It was the greatest abomination ever seen, the greatest injustice of all time. The Son of God, the MOST HOLY TEMPLE, died in a horrific way. He was scourged in the fortress next to the earthly temple and then killed at its extremity or wing; “*on the wing of the temple an abomination will bring desolation (astonishment)*.” From that moment the earthly temple was doomed. But his death brought new life and consolation to believers. The 3½ years of Jesus ministry was the start of the great commission to take

the Gospel to all nations and to all people. The disciples withstood satanic opposition of kings, emperors, gladiators and lions. Jesus turned what appeared total disaster into triumph. The 3½ years was a preview and introduction to the age of the Gospel.

The words in Dan 12:11 “From the time that the sacrifices shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days” are significant. The words “set up” are the same as Nathan the prophet – “gift”. It is used in many ways but a primary meaning is “gift or given” (Strong’s 5414). For God so loved the world that he *gave* his only begotten son to be crucified. The ministry of Jesus lasted 3 ½ years, exactly **1290** days from his baptism to when he was slaughtered on the cross. He was the Lamb who took away our sins, the *Temple* that was *destroyed*, the Gift of God given to us. Lifted up like a serpent in the wilderness he took the sins and abominations of the world. His death brought utter desolation or new life, the choice is ours.

The people who abused him brought about their own desolation. Jesus did not weep for the earthly Temple with its rituals and sacrifices but he wept for the *people* and warned that their city and temple would be utterly destroyed. Daniel 12:11-13 foretold a period of **1290** days in which Michael (a Jewish synonym for Messiah) would stand up in power, ending in an abominable event that would bring desolation yet blessing at the end of **1335** days. Did Daniel refer to the events of Antiochus (11:31) or to Messiah? (9:27) He was not referring to Antiochus because he had already recorded that time as **2300** days. He was referring to the time of Messiah. Antiochus polluted the earthly temple, Jesus *is* the pure Temple. Antiochus took away the sacrifice by force, Jesus ended it by love. Antiochus was a counterfeit god; Jesus is the true Son of God.

As in many prophecies there are often several hidden fulfillments and I believe there is a double fulfillment in Daniel which refers to both the first half of the 70th week and also the second half of the week. Daniel 12 gives insights into both the OT and NT end periods. The first half was fulfilled by Jesus, the second is still future with a

gap between the two. Verses 1-7 apply to the *last* half of the week; verses 8-13 apply to the *first* half; Jesus ministry, death and resurrection. Both periods last 3 ½ years. Let me explain further.

If one carefully reads Daniel chapter 12 it becomes evident that there are *two* periods each of 3½ years. Verses 1 - 7 are the conclusion of the entire message that Daniel received from chapter 10 onwards. Daniel saw two “angels” and heard one of them speak to a “man clothed in *linen* above the waters”. Linen is the garment of the High Priest. This is the same person seen in Daniel 10:5-9, who has the glory of the *Lord Himself* and is either the Lord or His representative the Archangel. I believe it is the Lord in His pre-incarnate form, also called in the OT the “Angel of the Lord.” He is the same person described in Revelation as the Lord. Rev 1:13-17. The angel asked this man in linen “how long” will it be until the fulfillment of *all things*. His reply was “a time, times and a half”. This period is the last 3 ½ years and comes from Dan 7:25. It applies to the *final* period, the *last* half of the 70th week.

However, although Daniel heard all this he did not fully understand it and he asked his own question of the man clothed in linen, “O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?” (Dan 12:8,9. KJ) The reply is a *personal* word to Daniel; “Go your way Daniel till the end; for you shall rest and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days”. This is a message to Daniel; he would live his life and die but rise again in the resurrection. When did the resurrection of OT saints occur? What is generally missed is that at the end of Jesus’ ministry there was a resurrection of OT saints. Matthew 27:51-53. Although these verses are usually glossed over they clearly state that *many* “bodies came out of the graves.” This is exactly what Daniel was told; “*many* of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake some to everlasting life and some to everlasting contempt.” Daniel 12:2. The *Old Testament* saints arose with Jesus. This may pose a problem for our theology but when Jesus arose *many* others did too. Surely Daniel was included for the “man in linen” said to him, “*You* will rest and stand in resurrection at the end of the days.” Which days? They are told to us right there - **1290 days**. I can hardly see

Daniel being left behind. Many theologians believe the resurrection is in stages. Daniel 12 contained a hidden message for all who could read it correctly. For Gentile believers the clues may be totally missed for they mean nothing to us but to Jewish believers it was filled with great significance.

This “First Fruits” resurrection happened at the end of the **1290** days ministry of Jesus when he and a *multitude* of OT saints arose. They had been *resting in death* awaiting the “Coming One” who would raise them. The resurrection does not happen all at the same time but in stages; Christ the First Fruits and those with him, those that are Christ’s when he comes, and then the final general resurrection. 1 Corinthians. 15:23. The resurrection of Daniel *must* have happened when Jesus descended into the abode of the dead and after three days ascended leading the OT saints with him. Eph 4:8.

Jesus took away the daily sacrifices, causing all further sacrifices to cease. As the true Temple he was then destroyed in the most awful act of *abomination* ever seen that brought utter desolation upon the people who did it. The same people who destroyed the earthly temple first destroyed the living Temple. The same people who rejected the Heavenly Temple were left desolate at the destruction of the earthly temple. It was the people of the Prince who by their rebellion destroyed both the earthly and Heavenly temple. Dan 9:26. Let me explain further.

To Gentile believers with only Greek based theology **1290** days may have no immediate meaning but to Jewish people with a Hebrew mindset it was of great significance. They knew immediately that there was a 3½ year cycle every seven years between the major Hebrew Feasts of Passover and Atonement. The Hebrew Feasts are arranged in two groups, one in Spring and one in Autumn, in such a way that every 3½ years they start and end on alternative Feasts. The Jewish year usually consisted of 12 months of 29 or 30 days for each *lunar* month. However, every three years an extra month was added because of the discrepancy between the lunar months and the earth’s orbit around the sun. We still do something similar when we add a

day every leap year. Because of the difference between our solar calendar and the Hebrew lunar calendar they had to add more days. Therefore the statement that it was **1290** days is quite acceptable. Jesus revealed his identity either at the Day of Trumpets or Feast of Atonement, or sometime during the ten days of repentance between these Feasts because **1290** days from then in a Jewish calendar comes *exactly* to the day of Passover. John's ministry was like a Trumpet to the nation to repent. Jesus fulfilled the first half of the 70th week of Daniel 9:24-27. (See my books "The Covenant of Glory" and "When Messiah Comes" for more.)

Daniel was given understanding of many things; the great troubles at the time of Antiochus and subsequent cleansing of the temple, the coming of Messiah and the first three and a half years, and even his own resurrection at the end of it. During this period many would be purified and made white but the wicked would continue to be wicked. What we may fail to fully grasp is that this is *exactly* what Jesus did for 3½ years. John the Baptist's message was, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor and gather the wheat into the barns and burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." The ministry of Jesus sifted the hearts of the entire nation. Dan 12:10.

The first half of the ministry of Jesus lasted **1290** days and ended with the resurrection of OT saints. Another 45 days brought the days to **1335**. "Blessed is he who waits and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty five days." This brought the saints that were alive at that time to a significant event; the five days of preparation for Shavuot. Shavuot, also called Pentecost, was the end of Harvest and closely linked with "Wave Offering" at the start of the harvest. They are considered the same Feast with 49 days between the start and the end. However, Shavuot was calculated in different ways. The Sadducees calculated it from the day after the first weekly Sabbath of Unleavened Bread whereas the Pharisees calculated it from the First Day of Unleavened Bread. If it was done this way then its date was not constant but varied. However, the Pharisees linked it with the day God spoke through Moses at Mt Sinai on the 1st of the month of

Sivan, **ROSH CODESH SIVAN**. (Ex 19:1-) This was when God spoke to Moses to prepare for the First Covenant after they had come out of Egypt. It was standardized to 45 days after Unleavened Bread. According to the Rabbis God came down at Mount Sinai 5 days later on the 6th day of Sivan, the traditional day that Shavuot was kept. Every Jew knew the significance of the 45 days to **Rosh Codesh Sivan** and the five days preparation for **Shavuot**.

Jesus fulfilled the Wave Offering on Sunday, the first day *after* the weekly Sabbath, indicating that he was the fulfillment of the “First Fruits” harvest. The Wave Offering was when the first sheaves of the early harvest were offered to God and on that day Jesus arose *together* with the OT saints. Depending on how the calculation was made, whether after Wave Offering or counting from Unleavened Bread it would bring the entire period of 1335 days to the fixed time of five days preparation for Shavuot. These days were vital days of waiting before God in repentance, sanctification and preparation. Five days later God revealed Himself to Israel in the cloud with great power and trumpet blast at the **Feast of Shavuot** and the First Covenant. This was also the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given according to the New Covenant established by Jesus after he died, rose again and confirmed his Covenant to the church.

In the closing lines of Daniel 12 there is a promise of blessing to those who wait and come to the 1335th day. This was why Jesus told the disciples to wait until the Holy Spirit came. That day came during the five days of preparation for Shavuot the exact day that the Lord sent the Holy Spirit to His spiritual Temple consecrating each member with power and grace, purged with tongues of fire and tongues of praise. Daniel 12:8-13 refers to the **1290** days ministry of Jesus followed by his resurrection and Shavuot. The first half of the week has been perfectly fulfilled by him. There now remains the second half which is a *mirror* image of the first, this time starting at Passover and ending at the Feasts of Atonement and Sukkot.

When Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem the people welcomed him but he said they would not see him again until they again cry out

“Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.” He foretold Jerusalem would be trodden underfoot by Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles ended. In other words, when the age of Gentile control in the world ends a new age will begin, the age of Messiah. There is a **gap** between the first visitation of Jesus and the second. The gap is between the two halves of the week during which the Gospel has gone to every nation. The *last* half of the week will start where Jesus left off and this time continue until the Feast of Atonement when he will reveal himself to all who believe in Him. Passover is at the start of the religious year and portrays salvation of individuals and families and Atonement is at the start of the civil year and portrays national cleansing and atonement for the *whole* body of believers.

Daniel foretold both times including the final 3 ½ years which will end in another great resurrection. In Matthew Jesus quoted directly from Daniel and placed the final end time still future. Matt 24:21,22 + Dan 12:1-7. He said “those days will be shortened for the sake of the elect”. Which days did he mean? He referred to the **1290** days. He did not say by how much they would be shortened but if we turn to Revelation we find from chapters 11,12 and 13 that the final time will be three and a half years, 42 months or **1260** days. So we know the 3 ½ years will be shortened by 30 days for the sake of the elect. The number **1260** is the *exact* time in a Biblical calendar from the **Day of Passover** to the **Day of Sukkot**, the time of great rejoicing and ingathering of the latter harvest. The next 30 days is the time of wrath and national judgment and then another 45 days comes to the 8 days of Hanukkah and the cleansing of the Temple worldwide. We will consider more about the final half of the week later.

Daniel 12 foretells the closing periods of **both** the OT and NT. I can hear some readers say this is impossible, Jesus could never have been the “abomination of desolation” that Daniel refers to, but stop and think outside the box of your theology: in his ministry Jesus perfectly fulfilled **1290** days, **raised** the OT saints including Daniel, and left the great **blessing** of the Holy Spirit to living saints. On the “wings of the temple” he was lifted up in the greatest act of sacrilege and **abominable astonishment** ever seen in the history of mankind.

CHAPTER 3 - THE SECOND ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

AD 70 – JERUSALEM DESTROYED BY THE ROMANS

Jesus predicted another future “abomination of desolation”. Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14, Luke 21:21, 19:41, 23:28. Many teachers believe that his words have a double application, the first being the destruction of the temple at the time of the Romans and the second being the *final* desolation at the end of the age. In the Gospel accounts when the phrase “abomination of desolation” is mentioned it is accompanied by an editorial note, “let the reader understand.” Jesus warned of both the Roman event and another one in the end times so we need to understand which. I believe the writer did not want to write anything that would bring persecution on believers so deliberately did not state plainly what would happen but there is evidence for a double fulfillment. He said that the “abomination will stand where it should not” and also, “when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies.” Most Bible commentaries agree with the consensus of Christian interpretation that Jesus referred to the Roman destruction in the near future and a final long term fulfillment at the end of the age. We are told by the Church Father Eusebius that believers at the time of the Roman attack in AD 70 remembered the warning of Jesus and fled from Judea just as Jesus had told them. When they *saw* Jerusalem surrounded by armies they remembered the warning about the “abomination of desolation” and fled.

Daniel foretold that *desolation* will follow *after* Messiah was “cut off on the wing of abominations” for the “overspreading of desolation.” Isaac Newton explained this very well when he described how the Roman armies brought their Roman eagle ensigns to the East Gate of the Temple and the soldiers sacrificed to them before commencing their attack. The earthly temple was doomed after the death of Jesus.

The Jewish revolt started about September AD 66, not in Jerusalem but in Caesarea where Greek residents mocked and persecuted Jews over their religious practices. Conflict broke out and many Jews were

killed there and in other communities in Syria. Back in Jerusalem Eleazar, leader of the Zealots, provoked the war by stopping the daily offerings for the Roman Emperor made in the temple. He led the Zealots to seize control of the temple. The cessation of the offerings was the formal sign that the Jews had renounced imperial allegiance. The Zealots then divided into three factions when two other leaders, Simon and John, defected and ended up fighting one another. Flavius Vespasian arrived in the land in spring of AD 67. When he returned to Rome to become Caesar his son Titus took over the campaign and marched on Jerusalem in the spring of AD 70 and besieged it. This conflict lasted from Spring AD 67 to Autumn AD 70 about three and a half years. The Romans trapped Jewish pilgrims who had entered the city in order to celebrate Passover. A man called Jesus, son of Ananias, had for over seven years walked the streets of Jerusalem and cried “Woe to thee, Jerusalem.” He was killed by a Roman catapult. The actual siege lasted about six or seven months and the city fell and the temple was destroyed on 9th of Ab the very anniversary of the destruction of the first temple! Titus entered the Holy of Holies and the Romans raised their eagle insignia within the temple courts and sacrificed a sheep, an ox and a pig to Jupiter.

During the siege many thousands died of famine. Such depravity as mothers killing and eating their own babies was recorded. At one time 4000 bodies were thrown over the city walls every day. The Kidron and Hinnom Valleys were filled with corpses. The entire landscape was ruined as all the trees were cut down for firewood required for the soldiers and the war effort, and for crucifixions and at one time over 500 a day were carried out.

The Romans “defiled” the temple during their destruction of Jerusalem. Roman soldiers entered the Holy Place, erected their insignia and sacrificed to their standards and then plundered and burnt down the temple. There were large amounts of gold and other treasure in the temple which was totally looted. Herod’s temple never had the Ark of God in it! Jesus was the true Ark. When Titus entered the Holy of Holies it was empty. The Romans took some temple furniture including the golden table and seven-branched menorah and

carried them to Rome and placed them in pagan temples. The extreme heat of the burning caused the gold in the temple to melt and flow between the cracks of the great stones and the Romans smashed down the remaining walls to retrieve it.

The Jewish historian Josephus wrote;

“that which I have to recount is an act unparalleled in the history of either the Greeks or the Barbarians and as horrible to relate as it is incredible to hear. For my part I would gladly have omitted this tragedy, lest I should be suspected of monstrous fabrication. But there were many witnesses of it among my contemporaries; and beside I should do poor service to my country if I suppress the agonies she went through.”

He went on to describe cannibalism even of a mother killing and eating her own baby. All this was foretold by none other than Moses. Deut 28:49-68.

Josephus gave a detailed account of the destruction of the temple and the city and how horrendous the fighting was. He tells how many thousands of Jews were killed. At least 6000 people including many women and children were killed within the temple cloisters alone where they had fled for safety. He described the final days of Jerusalem in apocalyptic terms. The entire city was filled with frightful clamor as hundreds of thousands were put to death. Their screams of fear and utter despair were amplified by the roar of huge flames, billowing smoke and the clash and cries of maddened soldiers and vanquished people. The Romans showed no mercy. They killed and disemboweled people in order to retrieve gold and silver that some had swallowed. It is hard to imagine the scene. The entire temple mount was covered in blood and broken dismembered limbs of charred bodies. It became a putrid rotten stench of dead humanity. The number of slain greatly exceeded that of the slayers. In order to carry on their work of extermination the legionaries had to clamber over heaps and heaps of dead people. Men and women, old and young, insurgents and priests, those who fought and those who entreated mercy, were hewn down in indiscriminate carnage.

The city was almost completely leveled except for a few prominent walls and towers left by the Romans as a testimony of their destruction. The Western Wall, now called the Wailing Wall, was spared at that time. No man or beast survived and those subsequently rounded up from the district were taken away as slaves.

Josephus wrote that no one escaped with their lives and over a million Jews were killed and a hundred thousand taken as slaves many to be killed by gladiators. A small number of Jews held out at the fortress of Masada but the Roman General Silva besieged Masada and it fell in the spring of AD 73. The entire rebellion was over, brutally subdued by the Romans.

At about this time the temple of Jupiter was restored in Rome and an annual tax was imposed on every Jew including those of the Diaspora. When the Temple in Jerusalem had existed the Jews contributed an annual fee to it and this new tax replaced it.

The Western Wall is the only relic left of the temple outer wall. Jewish tradition claims that the Shekinah Glory remained on the Mount of Olives for 3 ½ years after the temple was destroyed! Jewish tradition also claims the Shekinah glory still remains at the Western Wall and to this day Jewish believers gather there to pray.

SECOND JEWISH REVOLT - AD 132 – 135

After Jerusalem's destruction the Romans declared it a Roman city dedicated to Jupiter. In about AD 115 the Emperor Trajan promised the Jews the chance to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. There was a brief uprising of Jews in AD 115-117 but the Romans crushed it. When Hadrian came to power he went back on the promise of Trajan 15 years earlier. In AD 130 he visited the land and ordered that Jerusalem should be restored as a Roman town, "Aelia Capitolina", with a temple and altar to Jupiter whose high priest Hadrian considered himself to be! He also forbade circumcision, the keeping of the Sabbath, the use of the Jewish calendar whereby they calculated their feast days and he prohibited the study of the Torah

and Hebrew scriptures. The Bible scrolls were burnt on the Temple Mount.

Hadrian started to build the temple to Jupiter in AD 131. He first ploughed up the Temple Mount to level it and prepare it for building. He installed two giant statues or images; one of himself in front of the temple and one of Jupiter inside it. It was also normal practice for Romans to sacrifice pigs before their Hellenic deities. These three practices more than any other, the raising of images, sacrifice of pigs and the prohibition of circumcision constituted to the non-Hellenized Jews a new “abomination of desolation”. They rebelled again in AD 132.

SIMON BAR KOCHBA - "Son of the Star"

One hundred years from the time of Jesus this third revolt was led by Simon Bar Kochba. In the autumn of AD 132 Simon captured Jerusalem and raised an altar on the Temple Mount. He reinstated sacrifices and attempted to restore the temple façade. He was considered to be the true Messiah and hundreds of thousands followed him. Some consider this to be a fulfillment of John 5:43. A conflict lasting about three and a half years, from summer of 132 to spring of 136 took place in which huge armies from Rome, larger than Titus’s force, fought against the Jews and killed hundreds of thousands of them. Eventually Julius Serverus drove Simon out and defeated him in the summer of AD 135. The foundation of the new Roman city, Aelia Capitolina, was laid on 9th of Ab and Jews were forbidden to enter Jerusalem on pain of death. Judea was renamed Syria Palaestina. Hadrian erased the name of Judea from maps and texts and replaced it with “Syria Palestine” after the ancient enemies of Israel the Philistines. All Jews were expelled except on the day of Tishah B’Av. He then completed the shrine to the Roman god Jupiter on the temple mount in about AD 135/6.

The Roman temple of Jupiter (Zeus) now stood on the site of the Temple, a fulfillment of what Antiochus had attempted to do nearly three hundred years before. To the Jews it was an event of extreme

calamity and profanity. Roman Emperors took the status of deity and demanded worship from all Roman subjects. They had adopted this from Hellenic culture; it was the Greek rulers who had first claimed to be gods. In fact some Bible students believe it was to this practice that the apostle Paul alluded when he wrote 2 Thessalonians 2:3 –

“the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

At the time Paul wrote this the temple was still standing in Jerusalem and it appears that Paul had already gone into some detail to tell believers what would take place but was reluctant to put anything into writing so as not to incriminate himself or jeopardize the safety of Christians. (2 Thess 2:5) Paul saw Babylonian/Hellenic/Roman culture as a prelude to the elevation of a “divine leader” in the temple that would eventually lead to the final fulfillment of this prophecy at the time of Christ’s future return in glory. That the early Jewish Christians understood the earthly temple was to be destroyed is seen from the words of Jesus himself. From then on Paul and Peter and all the apostles taught that the true temple was a “**heavenly spiritual**” temple of *living* believers, not an earthly one. Both Paul and Peter knew there would be persecution and did not expect to be alive at the time of the Lord’s return. Both foretold their own deaths.

One hundred years after Jesus was crucified the Jewish State came to an end and the city of Jerusalem as a Jewish city was destroyed. However, these events could not have been the fulfillment of Daniel 12. Why is that? It is because none of them ended with a resurrection, something clearly foretold in Daniel 12. Only two periods can apply to Daniel’s prophecy; the *first* 3 ½ years during the time of Jesus which ended at his resurrection together with the OT saints, and the *second* being a future end time which will also end with a resurrection. Daniel 12 is a prophecy of something truly awesome, the end 3 ½ years deliverance of believers when the Lord will purge His Temple and fill it with Glory at His coming.

CHAPTER 4 - EVENTS THROUGH THE AGES

ROMAN PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS through the ages.

A prolonged time of great suffering now started for Christians. The Romans had a whole array of pagan gods and also practiced Emperor Worship and this was enforced upon Christians. The seal of the Emperor was called the “charagma” or “mark” and anyone who refused to respect it or worship it when called to do so could be punished by death. True Christians refused to worship either the seal or the Emperor and consequently many millions were killed. This mark of Satan has existed all through history in various forms and will culminate at the end. (See my book Covenant of Glory.)

The Roman Empire brought extreme persecution on early Christians. Almost every Emperor conducted violent campaigns against them. The apostles Peter and Paul were both killed in Rome. Emperor Nero was excessively brutal. He crucified believers, killed them in the arena and burnt thousands of them. Domitian (AD96) conducted a harsh campaign against Christians in Rome and Italy. Trajan (AD98-117) killed many leaders. Hadrian (AD117-138) allowed persecutions. Pius (AD138-161) killed many leaders including Polycarp. Aurelius (AD 161-180) conducted a barbarous persecution and many thousands were beheaded or thrown to wild animals including Justin Martyr. Under Severus (AD193-211) many martyrs were beheaded, crucified and burned. Maximin (AD235-238) killed many leaders. Decius (AD249-251) carried out a violent extermination of Christians throughout the Empire. Valerian (AD253-260) was more severe than Decius and brought utter destruction on the church. Diocletian (AD284-305) conducted the most brutal of all persecutions throughout the whole Empire. He put Christians to death in the cruellest manner possible. It was a systematic attempt to abolish Christianity. Millions of Christians were killed. Almost all the early “Church Fathers” were martyred. In the Roman Catacombs there are millions of graves many of which are those of Christians who were persecuted.

Despite all this the Church was not extinguished. Eventually in the 4th century the Emperor Constantine made “Christianity” the official state religion and persecution stopped. Unfortunately from then on the “church” took on more and more of the values and character of the Roman Empire. Greek based theology was formulated that prohibited freedom of worship outside of State Churches. Once again severe persecutions of believers began and continued through the centuries. This time it was the “church” itself that committed the acts of violence. “Heretics” were cruelly hunted out and killed. Much of what is called “Church history” is a cover for the crimes of State instituted churches that oppressed non-conforming true believers. Charlemagne officially established the HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE in AD800 and was crowned Emperor by the Pope. Church leaders claimed more and more divine authority. Unfortunately they were not Holy and some were totally godless individuals known for their cruelty, apostasy, violence, immorality and abusive ways. In the Eastern Roman Empire the Byzantium Church also grew strong. These State Churches became entrenched in worldly power, became excessively wealthy, and their leaders, clothed in purple and gold, at times lived in debauchery and extreme immorality, harlotry, sodomy and child abuse. Amongst them were true believers but they were controlled by an ungodly, unbiblical system; the spirit of antichrist. Constantinople, named after Emperor Constantine, was now called the “Second Rome”. Eventually in AD1453 the Eastern Empire had become so corrupt and weak that it fell to Islamic armies. Many Christians fled to Eastern Europe, and Moscow now became known as the “Third Rome”. The power of the State Churches, Catholics, Orthodox, Coptic and others, became entrenched in all these countries and the old Roman Empire especially in Europe became the nations of “Christendom” (Babylon). The Caesars were now called Emperors, Kaisers and Tsars and the Roman Eagle ruled.

Throughout the centuries millions of Christians and Jews were killed by the so called “church.” The Inquisition was responsible for the death of millions. In thirty years alone over a million Protestants were killed. That campaign lasted many centuries and was one of the most horrendous events in history, all in the name of Christ. It was

impossible for many people to work, to make a living, to have a home, to survive. Whole towns were exterminated. It completely stamped out the Reformation in Southern Europe. At times the Protestant Churches were as bad. They were intolerant of others and severely persecuted Catholics and even burnt “heretics” at the stake. In the time of Queen Elizabeth 1 in the 16th century anyone celebrating mass in England could be killed.

Not only did “Christians” kill “Christians” but they also killed Jews. State Churches deliberately persecuted Jews. Over the centuries they promoted Crusades and pogroms, expelled them from countries and forced them to convert to their form of Christianity. Poisonous theology was spewed out from the Churches that made Jews scapegoats for every hateful cause. It was this that prepared the way for the Holocaust. The Reformed Church is as responsible for this as much as the historical State Churches. In 1523 Martin Luther wrote;

“What shall we Christians do with this damned rejected race of Jews? First, their synagogues should be set on fire. Secondly, their homes should likewise be broken down and destroyed. Thirdly, they should be deprived of their prayer books and Talmuds. Fourthly, their Rabbis must be forbidden under threat of death to teach any more. Fifthly, passport and travelling privileges should be absolutely forbidden to the Jews. Sixthly, they ought to be stopped from usury (charging interest). Seventhly, let the young and strong Jews and Jewesses be given the flail, the ax, the hoe, the spade, the distaff and spindle and let them earn their bread by the sweat of their noses. We ought to drive the rascally lazy bones out of their system. Therefore away with them.” The Reformed Churches with their “Replacement Theology” prepared the way for the Holocaust.

When Hitler came to power he called his regime the Third Reich and did just what Luther said. Nazis saw themselves as the Third Revival of the Germanic Empire which was in reality the continuation of the Roman Empire. Not only were Jews persecuted under the Nazis but at different times they were severely persecuted in other nations including Russia, France and Britain. No wonder they want nothing

to do with Christians. The “church” as a whole has never apologised or repented for this outrage against Jews and fellow believers. We contributed to this great cruelty and to some measure all “Christians” need to repent. Paul alluded to this in his teaching in 2 Thessalonians 2. He foretold a time would come of great apostasy and a man called the “son of perdition will sit in the temple of God claiming to be God.” Jews would know this is a reference to anti-Semitism on a massive scale. Through history there have been times when ungodly men have taken control of the church and claiming to be God’s representatives have usurped God’s place of worship, lured people away from pure devotion and led the “church” in great acts of abomination especially against the Jews. In this context the great lie is anti-Semitism. The spirit of antichrist has been in the church!

In Revelation 17:7 we are told about “*Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of Abominations of the Earth*” and of the Beast that carries her. Notice that the Beast is not the Harlot but carries her. Apostasy in various forms has always ridden on the back of State power, they go hand in hand. Through history there has always been a “marriage” between State and Religion. At times secular and religious leaders vied for power as one sought to manipulate and control the other. This Beast of Revelation had “seven heads” which are seven “mountains” on which the woman sits. (Rev 17:9) Rome was known as the “city of seven hills”. However, the term “heads” in the prophetic language of Daniel and John represents *more* than hills but different kings or kingdoms. They are different historical ‘mountains’ of Gentile kingdoms and their meaning is explained in Rev 17:10. Five of them had already fallen in the days of John (past tense), the sixth one existed at his time (present tense), and one was still to come, the seventh (future tense). All together they represent the Beast “that was, and is, and is to come”. Rev 17:8. It is fairly easy to see that the *kingdom* in power in the days of John was the Roman Empire and the *city* that ruled over kings and nations was **Rome** not Jerusalem. Rev 17:18. Rome had a vast dominion that stretched from East to West with many kingdoms under its administration which were subject to its religion and control.

The five previous “heads” are considered to have been Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Alexander and the Greeks; the five notable kingdoms of Biblical antiquity. Some consider them to be Babylon, Medes, Persians, Greeks, Hellenic and **Rome** as the sixth. The Kingdom that was to come after Rome, the seventh, was the Holy Roman Empire in its various forms including both Eastern and Western European nations; the two legs of Daniel’s image. The Roman Empire profoundly affected the whole world with its culture, values and laws. Even today many European nations still practice what is called Roman Law. It forms the basis of many legal actions and laws of society. However we now have come to a place where it is quite legal to break the Laws of God. In fact in some places it is illegal to keep God’s laws! Parliaments pass legislation contrary to the laws of God. Much of our present worldly values are derived from **Babylonian** origins and have been strengthened through history by pagan nations including the apostate **Holy Romans**. It is all tainted by Babylonian spiritual and secular values; its trade and commerce, all come from Babylonian roots. The course of Gentile world history is depicted by the great “image” of Dan 2. The entire “image” from the head to the toes is Babylonian and represents people and nations that reject the true values of God. Daniel 7:25.

Our understanding of end time prophecy must be considered in the context of the prophetic predictions of the book of Daniel who was a man of amazing insights and foretold the course of history and the rise and decline of all the great Gentile nations of antiquity; Babylon, Medes and Persians, the Greek empires, Romans and the subsequent Holy Roman Empire in its various forms. He also foretold the rise of a final end time “Son of Perdition” the “little Horn” who opposes God, attacks and overcomes the “Holy People” and divides the land, changes times and laws and blasphemes God. He is called the “false prophet.” When we consider Old Testament scriptures such as Ezekiel 38 and 39 we must place them within the context of Daniel and also take note of the explanation of them given by the apostle John in Revelation. Anyone who has studied the Bible will know that the Old Testament is mostly a historical record of events and people with types and shadows and the New Testament, although historical

and factual, is the spiritual fulfilment of the old.

The seventh head of the beast came *after* the Roman Empire and is what historians call the Holy Roman Empire of which the Nazi regime was the culmination; the seventh head that persecuted the Jews. The Roman Empire and Holy Roman Empires fiercely persecuted both Jews and true believers.

The Nazis revived the Roman Eagles, the Roman Salute and the worship of Fuhrer as Emperor. Many German people were as much victims of Hitler as others. Hitler's Europe was the final stage of the seventh head of the Beast of Revelation 12:3-13:1 which swept a third of the Jews to death. Six million Jewish people were destroyed as well as millions of others. (Rev 12:4) The rebirth of Israel came out of that horror. Here is something that is often overlooked; the Beast was given a fatal wound but then healed. This was not an individual who was wounded but the entire beast that was wounded and then healed and became the eighth head. (Rev 13:3,12) Has this been fulfilled? Keep within the context and consider what happened to the seventh head. During WW11 Europe under the Nazi was completely devastated. Its cities lay in ruins, its people demoralised, millions were dead and the economy ruined. The abomination in the Holocaust brought desolation. The old Holy Roman Empire including Russia lay mortally wounded. It was divided into East and West right down the middle by the "iron curtain". It had been given a fatal wound. People said it would never rise from the ashes. Yet within a few decades it recovered. The healing of Europe and subsequent European Union is considered the great "*miracle*" of the 20th Century. Actually **WW11** was a continuation of **WW1** and out of them came the demise of the Ottoman Empire and the *true miracle* of Israel restored. The coming **WW111** will bring end in the establishment of the "Kingdom of God" age.

We are told that a final eighth head will arise *after* the seven. (Rev 17:11) It belongs to the seven and has the same anti-Semitic spirit and power. It will persecute God's people just as the previous heads did. It will arise out of the old **Roman Empire** as the final

“antichrist”. Its “little horn” is the false prophet and forms a satanic trinity; the Dragon, the Beast and the Goat. (Rev 19:20) The dragon represents Satan, the Beast represents the world antichrist system and the Goat represents anti-Semitic false religion. The Goat of Revelation 13:11 is like the Goat of Daniel; Antiochus Epiphanes the terrible antichrist who attacked the Jews was the prophetic forerunner of the end time antichrist. He is linked to the river Euphrates and the Hellenic Seleucid Empire including Syria and Assyria; parts of Iran, Iraq and Turkey. (Rev 16:12,13)

(See my book “War for the World.”)

THE HOLY ROMAN BYZANTINE EMPIRE

When Emperor Constantine became a Christian there was a massive change in the Roman world because Christians were no longer persecuted. However, the simplicity of Christian life and faith was institutionalized with a formal structured church and hierarchy. Constantine’s mother, Helena, travelled to the “Holy Land” and searched for “Holy” sites. During the Byzantine period many Churches and basilicas were built at historical sites and amongst them was a church on the Temple Mount. She also ordered that the “Temple of Venus” which had been built to the west of the Temple Mount be torn down so as to build the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and it is thought that at that time the Temple of Jupiter was also removed and replaced with the “Church of Holy Wisdom.”

Some years later the Roman Emperor Julian (AD 361) visited Jerusalem and granted the Jews permission to build a temple. Work started but in AD 363 an earthquake interrupted and totally stopped it but there are records of Jews offering sacrifices on the temple foundation stones after its destruction and right on into the Byzantine period.

Archaeological evidence shows that an elaborate church or monastery stood on the Temple Mount during the Byzantine period but it eventually fell into decay.

ANOTHER JEWISH REVOLT

In AD 610 the Sassanid Persian Empire took control of Jerusalem from the Byzantium Empire. The Jews in Palestine had joined them in an insurrection against the Byzantines and the Persians permitted them to set up a vassal state called the Sassanid Jewish Commonwealth which lasted about 5 years. Jewish Rabbis reinstated animal sacrifices and started to reconstruct a temple. This seems to be a recurring aspiration for some Jews. However, the Persians then gave the Christian population in the land full control and they promptly tore down the partially built temple and turned it into a garbage dump. The Byzantine Empire won back Jerusalem but within a short time the Muslims conquered Syria and Jerusalem.

THE RISE OF ISLAM

Jerusalem was captured by Caliph Omar in about AD 637. Having taken the “Cradle of Christianity”, Islamic armies marched on Constantinople and besieged it for 8 years but were turned back. Meanwhile Caliph Omar built a shrine over the rock on the Temple Mount believed to have been the place where the “Holy of Holies” stood. This was the first “Dome of the Rock”. The original building was wooden and was constructed on top of a Byzantine building with a beautiful mosaic floor. In AD 688 an octagonal domed building started to be constructed on this site. In AD 715 the Mosque of al Aqsa was also constructed and called the “furthest Mosque” in Jerusalem.”

These Islamic shrines have therefore stood on the temple mount for about 1400 years, the longest continuously standing religious shrines to do so.

Islam expanded rapidly right across the Middle East even to Tours where the famous battle of Tours took place in AD 732. Islamic armies crossed the Straights of Gibraltar and took southern Spain.

From the Arabic conquest until the Crusades there were good

relations in Jerusalem between Muslim rulers and the few Jews still there and a Jewish synagogue was built somewhere on the Temple Mount but it was destroyed by the Crusaders when they captured the site and massacred both Jews and Muslims in 1099.

THE CRUSADES

There were seven Crusades starting in 1095 and ending in 1291. Hostilities lasted for about 200 years and many hundreds of thousands were killed.

First Crusade – started in AD 1095 when Pope Urban I promised remission of sins to all who joined the Crusade. Two hundred thousand marched in 1096 and captured Jerusalem in 1099. For three days many thousands of Jews and Muslims were massacred. Ten thousand Muslims who had sought refuge in the alAqsa mosque were killed. Jews met a similar fate in their synagogue which was burnt to the ground with them in it. An eyewitness, Raymond of Aquiles, described the horror: *“Piles of heads and hands and feet were to be seen in the temple and Porch of Solomon. Men rode in blood up to their knees and bridle reins. Indeed it was a just and splendid judgment of God that this place should be filled with blood of unbelievers since it had suffered so long from their blasphemies.”*

All this was done while the clergy sang hymns, gave thanks and chanted. The rotting bodies were not removed for six months. This was the start of the horror of the so called “Crusades.”

Second Crusade – 1147 – 1149

Only a part of the original force reached Jerusalem in 1148. They attacked Damascus but failed to conquer it and the Crusade came to an end.

Third Crusade – 1183. Saladin united Arab power and Muslims into one kingdom under the banner of Jihad and attacked Jerusalem. The Christians also became more militant. One leader of the Order of the Temple, St Bernard of Clairraux, said – *“To kill a pagan for Christ is*

the way to Glory". These knight-priests took vows of chastity and waged war on Muslims. In 1187 Saladin attacked Jerusalem for seven days and took the city. Not a single Christian was killed. He gave them opportunity to ransom their lives and those who had no money he simply let go. He was moved to tears at their plight and sent them away with gifts. He allowed Syrian and Armenian Christians to stay in the city. He did not violate a single Christian holy site and no attempt was made to force them to convert to Islam.

Richard the "Lion Heart", Phillip II of France and Frederick I the Holy Roman Emperor of Barbarossa invaded in order to win back Jerusalem. Richard fought Saladin for 16 months until in the end he retreated in 1192. At times Saladin had been merciful to Richard allowing him to escape when he was facing certain defeat.

Fourth Crusade – More armies came to the "Holy Land" but were roundly defeated. They were promoted by Pope Innocent III but instead of attacking Jerusalem the Knights of the 4th Crusade attacked and sacked Constantinople in 1204.

Fifth Crusade – The "Bloodless Crusade" in 1215 - 1228 caused a massive reaction on both sides of the conflict and did much to establish permanent animosity and mistrust. Frederick II had many titles including "Prince of Princes, "Wonder of the World" and "King of Jerusalem". When he arrived in Palestine instead of spilling blood as in previous crusades he started negotiations and came to a peaceful settlement but there was outrage on both sides against the leaders who had made peace. Jerusalem had become a symbol of Islamic rule but "Christians" also claimed it. For many Muslims it was blasphemous to make a treaty with unbelievers. For the Knights Templar it was also unforgivable for Frederick to submit to Islam. To allow Muslims to retain control of Jerusalem was unacceptable and the Knights sought to assassinate Frederick who fled for his life. The result of this Crusade was to finally polarize the opposing factions. Neither Islam nor the West was willing to accommodate each other and both were prepared to sacrifice martyrs for their cause. In 1239 the Muslims recaptured Jerusalem.

The next Crusade –1249 left Jerusalem still in Islamic hands.

The final conflict was in 1291; the Christian stronghold of Acre was eliminated and Christian power in Palestine ended. A war of several centuries was over but a great rift had opened that could never be spanned. A Christian cult at that time taught that Islam was the fulfilment of the “Abomination of Desolation” and the great apostasy and the Beast 666 who would sit on his throne on the Temple Mount and rule the world. Some groups of fanatical Christians deliberately antagonised Muslims and clashed with them so as to become martyrs.

THE RISE OF THE OTTOMAN AND RUSSIAN EMPIRES

In 1453 Constantinople fell to the Islamic Turks. It had been so weakened by the attacks of Crusaders and Genghis Khan that it was never able to recover and the Ottoman Empire rebuilt it as a Muslim city. They converted the beautiful Church of Sophia, one of the finest buildings of worship in the entire world, into a mosque. To Christians it was the “abomination standing in the Holy Place”. Christians fled into Russia where they strengthened the Eastern Orthodox and Russian Orthodox Churches. Moscow became the “Third Rome.” In 1516 the Turks captured Jerusalem and enforced a policy that allowed only Muslims into the Temple Mount.

THE RISE OF RUSSIA, AUSTRIA AND PRUSSIA

Russia now began to grow in power. The Eastern Church had long before sent missionaries and evangelists to the Russian peoples. They had established churches and won many converts. After the collapse of Constantinople many people fled into Europe and to Russia. They brought with them their faith and learning and Russia and Eastern Europe became grounded in Orthodox Christianity. **Russia** became known as the *third Rome* and beautiful churches were built. With the establishment of “Christendom” Russia and the other nations grew strong but it was now a mixture of many different people, the miry clay of the feet of the image of Daniel 2:31-45.

In 1683 the Ottoman Turks were defeated at Vienna by a coalition of armies from the Holy Roman Empire but in 1711 Peter the Great of Russia was defeated by the Ottomans in his quest to win back Constantinople. Also, in 1711 Charles VI, Archduke of Austria, became the Holy Roman Emperor and the most powerful man in Europe. Vast lands were added to his domain. At his death in 1740 war broke out and Frederick the Great became King of Prussia from 1740 – 1786. By the end of his reign he had doubled the size of his lands. By 1815 the German Confederation of 38 states including Prussia and Austria had formed; the Germanic rise of the Holy Roman Empire.

In 1829 Russia seized territory from the Ottoman Empire and expanded its power over 12 million Orthodox Christians. So both Prussia and Russia had grown strong. In 1866 Prussia's chief minister Otto von Bismark become Chancellor and strengthened the "North German Confederation". The Second German Reich was born.

In 1821 Greece demanded freedom from the Ottomans and became independent in 1833 and Bulgaria followed in 1877.

Later in the same century the Holy Roman Empire of Austria-Hungary began to unravel and the Jewish people living amongst them came under jeopardy and faced an uncertain future. Theodore Hertzl, a nonreligious Jew but an astute journalist, realised the danger of annihilation and began to work towards the creation of a Jewish homeland in the land of their historical origins.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR STARTED IN 1914

This war was a conflict within the Holy Roman Empire and was fought between the European nations. It started when Archduke Ferdinand the heir of the Holy Roman Empire of Austria Hungary was assassinated. War broke out with Germany, Austria, Hungary, Italy and the Ottoman Empire against Russia, France and Britain. It saw horrendous casualties of many millions. In 1917, after a difficult

campaign, the British army under General Allenby captured Jerusalem from the Turks without firing a single shot. This was a significant event in the modern day history of the city which had for many centuries remained a quiet backwater in the desolate Land of Promise. At the end of WW1 the British were given a Mandate over the territory and Jewish people from all around began to return.

THE RISE OF COMMUNIST RUSSIA

At the end of WW1 Russia experienced an internal revolution that led to the fall of the old regime controlled by the Tsars and the rise of the Communist Party. The Communist ideology was that man did not need God or religion and was master of his own fate. They did not believe in God and certainly not the God of the Bible. The result was a time of great suffering as many people were persecuted, Christians amongst them. Russia also had a population of many million Jews and they increasingly came under persecution as well. In the wake of WWI came the “Great Depression” when banks and currencies collapsed in 1929 causing civil upheaval, unemployment and starvation. In the midst of conflict and collapse Communism filled the vacuum in Russia. Stalin’s regime was responsible for horrendous abominations and millions died.

THE NAZI REGIME AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR REVELATION 13

The “Great Depression” brought another significant event; the rise of the nationalist socialist Nazi Party in Germany which led to the Second World War which started in September 1939. It was an alliance of Germany, Italy and Japan against Britain, Russia and USA which joined in 1941. The Nazi regime had come to power in the hardship, turmoil and disorder of the financial collapse.

World War II was the clash that led to the fatal wounding of the “*seventh head*” of the Beast of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13. In Daniel we are told about a beast with seven heads. The heads were symbolic of empires through history. In Revelation John explained the

prophecies of Daniel by using the same symbols. When he described the vision given by the angel in Revelation 17 about the beast with seven heads, *five* heads were already *past*. These included Babylon, Medes and Persians, Alexander and the Greek Hellenic expansion. Then he explained that one was *present* in that time. That must have been the *sixth* head, the Roman Empire. Then he said one was still *to come* and would continue. That would be the *seventh* head that followed after the Romans, the Holy Roman Empire in its various forms which lasted 1000 years. (See my book, “The War of the World” for an explanation of the prophecies of Daniel and their fulfilment through the ages.)

The Nazis called their regime the “**Third Reich**” because they believed they were reviving the past glory of the Holy Roman Empire. The First Reich was that which came after **Charlemaine** and was called the Holy Roman Empire or the **German Reich** including Germany, Austria, the Czech lands, Northern Italy and other territories. (AD 962-) The Second Reich was that of Prussia and **Bismark** (AD 1740-1918) and the Third was Hitler’s Reich. The Nazis actually called Germany “The Reich” or “Empire” and its official name from 1919 to 1933 was “Deutsches Reich.” Hitler simply revived the old Roman Eagle standards, the Roman salute, “Heil Hitler”, and the status of Emperor as seen in the Fuhrer. Their emblem was the “Broken Cross” called the Swastika. The Nazi were a repeat of Antiochus and caused massive abominations especially over a period of about 6 ½ years, 2300 days of intense persecution.

The Standards of the old Roman Legions bore an eagle and some had remarkable similarities to the emblem of the ancient Egyptian sun god. The Romans had many gods amongst which was Jupiter (Zeus) to which they sacrificed before their standards. Anyone who has looked at photos of the Nazi armies and Nuremburg Rallies cannot fail to see the almost identical Roman Eagle standards carried by the Nazi soldiers. The Roman Empire was divided into the Eastern Empire under Constantinople and the Western Empire under Rome and the Holy Roman Empire continued to use the eagle emblem and it is still seen on many of the flags and national emblems as a two

headed eagle. The eagle is still the emblem used by European Nations including Germany and Russia.

With the Nazi regime a time of “great tribulation” started for the Jews and many others as the world was plunged into war. The Nazi regime hunted Jews, placed them in ghettos and began a systematic annihilation of them as well as all others they did not consider of value such as Gypsies, Christians who actively resisted them including Jehovah Witnesses and many others; deformed, mentally ill, homosexuals and all others who opposed them.

The Romans burnt down the temple in AD 70; the Nazis of the “**Third Reich**” burnt down the synagogues. Antiochus burnt the Torah scrolls; the Nazis burnt Jewish books and Torah scrolls. Antiochus sacrificed a pig on the altar; the Nazis sacrificed living people; Jews. They forced Jews to wear a yellow star, the “Star of David” and tattooed their arms and sometimes their foreheads with a number, made them into slaves, worked them to death and killed millions in the gas chambers and then burnt many of them to ashes in the incinerators. They were the “antichrists”.

The Holocaust (meaning “burnt offering”) resulted in the death of more than 6 million Jews, a third of the entire Jewish world population, the largest ever mass murder in the history of the world. It is now known that they killed many more Jews than previously thought. They also murdered millions of other people in the camps. The most intense persecution was from 1939 to May 1945, about six and a half years, remarkably similar to the time of persecution by Antiochus. The persecution of Jews began back in the 1930s in the Ghettos but the “Wannsee Conference” of Jan 20 1942 was the official Nazi approval of their “Final Solution” plan to destroy all Jews in a network of extermination camps. From about January 1942 to May 1945 was three and a half years. Millions had already died.

Hitler became Chancellor in 1933 and Jews were already singled out for persecution even at that time. Hitler made no pretence of his hatred of them and those who knew history and saw the Roman

Eagle ensigns of the Nazi army and the fanatical salutes and hero worship of Hitler would have understood that another “abomination of desolation” was soon to take place. Those who read the signs and understood made every effort to get out of Germany before it was too late. Unfortunately most of them, many millions, were trapped and just as in Jerusalem of old unable to escape. It was the greatest persecution ever witnessed in history. Hitler was a modern Antiochus and the Nazi regime was riddled with occultism and demonic power. Many Germans were themselves brutally treated and killed and, as the Nazi regime refused to surrender but pursued a fanatical policy of self-destruction, millions of German people suffered and died. Sadly, some German citizens were so indoctrinated by the teaching of “Replacement Theology” that they supported or ignored Hitler’s cruel genocide of Jews.

REVELATION 12 - A Woman clothed with sun, moon, stars.

I believe this massive holocaust was foretold in Revelation chapter 12 where John described a great dragon that came against the nation of Israel depicted as a woman clothed with the sun, moon and twelve stars. Israel is the great sign foretold in scripture; Matt 24:29,30, Lk 21:25,26. The dragon swept a third of her stars to destruction. The twelve stars in this vision are not angels but represent the twelve tribes of Israel as seen in the dream of Joseph in Genesis 37:9. Israel has always been linked with sun, moon and stars. Jer 31:35,37. All through history Satan, the great dragon, has relentlessly pursued the Jewish people with pogrom after pogrom, chasing them out of the nations in which they had sought refuge and killing millions of them. This destruction reached apocalyptic proportions during World War 11. This holocaust is the greatest “abomination of desolation” ever to take place and it was not in Jerusalem or the “Holy Land” but in Europe. The dragon devoured a third of the Jews but then survivors fled back to the place from where they originally came, where they will be divinely preserved during the last 3 ½ years. Rev 12:6,14. This return has already happened. After WWII surviving Jews fled in great numbers to the ancient land of Israel. Just like the scapegoat they fled into the wilderness of a barren land that had been desolate

for 2000 years. Instead of dying they lived. Revelation says the dragon will be cast down onto the earth and then rise in the form of two beasts, one with seven heads and ten horns out of the sea and the other like a goat out of the earth. These symbols come directly from Daniel 7; the first looks like a leopard, a bear and a lion with seven heads and ten horns, a combination of all the nations of Biblical history. The second is a goat but speaks like a dragon. The “sea” is a Biblical term for nations around the Mediterranean and the “earth” is symbolic of the interior of the Middle East, the historical nations that have existed to the north, south and east of Israel.

As we have seen, one of these great Gentile kingdoms representing the *seventh* head was given a fatal blow through a war. The greatest war ever fought was **WW1** and **WW11**, actually one war with an interval between. The result was that Europe lay fatally wounded, divided right down the middle. It was said that it could never recover yet the amazing thing is that it has come back to life and the old Holy Roman Empire is now a powerful coalition of European States, the “beast” revived. This is why it is called the “beast that was and is not and is to come.” Rev 17:10-11. It is the final *eighth* head of Gentile power. It will have ten horns which give their power and authority to the “beast” and out of them the “goat” will arise and have power to deceive many people to worship his false god. Eventually, these same ten horns will destroy the “Great Babylonian Harlot”. We are now approaching a conflict that can be called **WW111**.

“Post Christian Europe” has become largely apostate and anti-Christian as people reject the Gospel. Even though there are over a billion Catholics worldwide not all of them are committed believers. Europe once stood against Communist atheism but has now accepted the same philosophy with little resistance and has become atheist socialist having embraced the teaching of Godless evolution and forsaken many Biblical values. We may see a spiritual resurgence of the structured “Church” including Catholics and all others, as a window of renewal gives opportunity for reform but if “Babylon the Great” represents false Christianity then its ultimate fate is sobering. We are told that the beast will destroy it.

THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Common Market was formed by the Treaty of Rome in January 1957 and came into existence in 1958. It is significant that it was called the Treaty of Rome, a revival of old Rome. There were six nations, Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium, pretty much the old Western Holy Roman Empire. Other nations saw the benefits of trade and financial gain and it grew beyond its original trade agreement to a political union and a one currency union. It is now called the European Union and has its own Parliament and legislation that overrules individual national Parliaments. It is the largest trade and economic block of nations in the world. I believe this is the fulfilment of scripture. If it falls under the wrong kind of control it could have frightening consequences.

The recent economic crash has brought a time of crisis in Europe and there is talk of full monetary union with a single central bank. But it is verging on financial crash with millions out of work, the cost of living spiralling, wages diminishing and much social upheaval. There is resistance from the mass of people to the austerity cuts imposed by central banks on the nations and governments continue to borrow enormous amounts of money and get further into debt. The appropriation in Cyprus of funds from private accounts could be the sort of thing that will happen on a great scale in the future. We are on the brink of collapse and the imposition of a world financial order that will enslave people. The USA \$ is in jeopardy and the Russian Rouble is failing. In today's international economic structure it is virtually impossible to escape the strangle hold of financial control. For years nations and individuals have lived off the principle of borrow now, pay later and we are now coming to pay back time.

Anti-Semitism is on the increase everywhere. As things become even more volatile the Jewish State will become more and more isolated. Before **WW11** social conditions deteriorated in Germany and Jews were seen as scapegoats, so too with the present worldwide financial crash and upheaval in the Middle East, Israel will become more isolated and vilified. But the full horror is still to come.

After the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans the Jewish people were scattered through many nations and in danger of extermination. The only thing that saved them was their religion. It held them together and established their identity. When Hitler conquered the nations where they lived he hunted them down and killed them. Today, a large number of Jewish survivors are living in a narrow strip of land in Israel and are just as vulnerable if not more. They could be annihilated by weapons of mass extermination or simply overrun by large armies. The remaining Jews outside of Israel are mostly in USA, many in New York City. Smaller communities are scattered through the world. Recently one of the most ancient relic populations of Jewish believers, a few thousand from India, returned to Israel. More Jews will follow but now face a greater risk of attack.

THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL – 1948 – DIVISION?

One of the most significant consequences of **WW1** was the release of Jerusalem from Islamic control and restoration of Israel as a Jewish homeland after more than 2000 years wandering. Their scattering was in fact their way of survival for they could not be eliminated in any one country all at one time. Now they are more vulnerable than ever. History is often a repeat of events, nations falling into the same old pitfalls. Sin and pride have not changed through the ages. Every nation has fallen from within before it ever fell to outer enemies. First, morals collapse, then the economy and then there is no ability or unity to withstand outside attacks. It's the story of history. That any people could have survived over 2500 years as wanderers without a home, persecuted from nation to nation, and then return and form a nation is a unique event and is what Israel has done. This is depicted by the Woman of Rev 12. Mic 5:3, Isa 66:8. The result of **WW11** was the rebirth of Israel as a sovereign nation. There are many Bible verses that predict the return of a *remnant* of Jews to the land of Israel and the restoration of the nation so anyone who reads the Bible cannot fail to notice them. Here are just a few; Amos, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah, Zephania, Malachi, Ezra, Haggai and Paul the apostle. Get a concordance and look up *remnant*. There are Christians who discount these scriptures by

saying they were fulfilled at the first return from Babylon hundreds of years before Jesus. However, these OT prophets indicate a far greater fulfilment than has ever happened before. They tell of people who were scattered to the “four winds” of the earth, north to south, east to west and speaking many languages of many nations who will return after great persecution and be planted in the land and *never* pulled up again. This is why Israel is so important to understand the times in which we live and what will happen on this planet.

Israel was restored as a land in 1948 and since then there has been increasing conflict. The last century saw many significant things happen. Events in Israel impact the church and vice versa. Israel was restored as a nation in 1948; the great evangelical healing campaigns broke out in the church. In 1967 Jerusalem was united; the “charismatic” renewal of the Holy Spirit came to the church. In the 1970s Israel survived war; the Berlin Wall came down and the Soviet Union disintegrated and revivals broke out in Asia, Africa and many places worldwide and Jews began to come to Jesus. The Bible focuses on Israel as the key to the world’s future. There will be a conflict around the city that will drag in many nations. It will bring purging, reconciliation and life out of death. (See my book “Miracle of Israel” about God’s Covenant with Israel.)

DIVISION OF LAND - CONTENTION OVER JERUSALEM

In 1967 during the Six Day War Israel was threatened with annihilation by several Islamic nations but succeeded in repelling those forces and took control of old Jerusalem for the first time in over 1900 years. Jews had access to the Western Wall for the first time in centuries. Since then there have been more wars, and conflicts have increased with Jewish settlements being established on what was once considered Palestinian land. Palestinians have sought to establish their own State on land once part of Jordan but now called the West Bank. Supported by much of the world they also want Eastern Jerusalem, including the Old City with Temple Mount, to be their State capital. What is called “The Fence or Wall” now stretches many hundreds of kilometres from the north of Israel to the

south. It even divides the area around Jerusalem; a high concrete wall to keep out suicide bombers divides the adjacent Eastern area from the Western. Instead of the Berlin Wall dividing East and West we now have the Jerusalem Wall dividing the nations of the world. Israel is divided in other ways. There is a large secular segment which is not interested in religion; a Zionist nationalism which claims the land is theirs; and a growing number of orthodox Jews who do not even recognize the current nation but live there anyway! Jerusalem itself is divided between Jews and Muslims. These two groups are also divided; Jews politically and spiritually and Muslims into Shiite and Sunni. The world of Christendom is even more divided!

Israel wants Jerusalem to remain its eternal, undivided capital. Many scriptures say a *remnant* of Jews will return to the land and never again be dispersed. There are scriptures that say the land will blossom. There are scriptures that say that Jerusalem will become the “Throne of the Lord” and His “sanctuary”, and declare future blessing that the Lord will dwell there and His Presence will cover it with a cloud of Glory. But *first* the Jewish people must receive their Jewish Messiah, King Yeshua. Jesus said that it is his city, the “city of the Great King”. Matt 5:35. The apostle John wrote in Revelation that at the end of the 1000 year millennial rule of Messiah “New Jerusalem” will come down as a Bride. John says its gates will always be open and *all* nations that are saved will enter into it. It will belong to the Lord and saints from all nations will live there including Jewish believers.

I don’t believe that there is any place on earth that is more “holy” than any other; not the Temple Mount, the empty tomb, a cathedral, synagogue or mosque. It is a Person that makes a place Holy, the Lord God and His Presence. When Moses met the Lord at the burning bush it was just a piece of desert but the Presence of the Almighty made it Holy ground. What made the OT Temple a “Holy Place” was the Presence of the Lord. Note Daniel 9:27 tells of the **MOST HOLY** not a place but a person; Jesus *is* the true Temple.

Places can however hold a residue “spirit” that impacts people in

different ways depending upon their perceptions, beliefs, values, culture and experience. A place can be special to us or foreboding to us. People who visit Auschwitz say that it has an overbearing sense of sorrow and horror. Why is that? It is because we know what happened there. The Temple Mount means different things to different people; Jews, Christians and Muslims. Its power is so strong that some are willing to go to war over it. Yet Jerusalem is meant to be the City of Peace. “How can peace ever be achieved?” Only through forgiveness and reconciliation. When people get tired of killing each other and instead see each other as human beings with value. What can ever bring such a mind change? The coming “desolation” at Jerusalem will be a catalyst for this to happen. It will become a burden to the entire world. Jerusalem is the Lord’s “Threshing Floor” where God will sift the hearts of the entire world. There will be multitudes in the “Valley of Decision,” the Valley of Jehoshaphat that runs just outside the city walls. The events that we currently witness will culminate in great judgment and purging bringing a new age of renewal and life to the whole earth.



Ruins of the temple destroyed by the Romans

CHAPTER 5 – THE FUTURE ABOMINATION JERUSALEM AND THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS

What happens in Israel affects the spiritual realms of the whole world including the church. As Israel becomes isolated and besieged more people will turn to the Lord. Everything is building up to a great spiritual renewal in Israel. Since the War of Yom Kippur (War of Atonement) a spiritual break through took place and Jewish people began to come to faith in Yeshua Messiah. Now there are thousands of Messianic believers, more than any time since the first century. The Bible says that two prophets will stand up in Jerusalem and begin a powerful ministry for three and a half years. The result of this will be a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the promised “Latter rain” of Joel 2 which will bring purification and purging to the *spiritual temple* of the Lord. This is a prelude to the return of Jesus; Jewish believers will cry “Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord” and Christians will be purged for His return.

Will there be another temple and more sacrifices?

There is a small group of Jews supported by some Christians, who believe this. However, most religious Jews discount another temple and those who do look for it believe it will happen only *after* Messiah has come, not before. Some teach that the antichrist will make a treaty with the Jews to rebuild a temple. I do not believe this as all sacrifices will be unacceptable to God and must not be aided or supported by Christians. Jesus foretold both the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans and also an end time “abomination of desolation” but no where did he say that a temple will be built. Quite the contrary, he said he was the Temple. He would build a *spiritual* temple comprised of Jew and Gentile believers. Heb 8:2. Jesus drew attention to the “abomination of desolation standing in the holy place” “where it should not.” However, in Luke his warning was to look for Jerusalem “surrounded by armies.” Matt 24:15, Mk 13:14, Luke 19:43, 21:20-24. Bible commentaries note this distinction and it is generally accepted that he referred to a double fulfillment; both the Roman destruction in AD 70 and the final end times. The key event

in the end is not the desecration of a temple but the surrounding of Jerusalem by armies when the great desolation of the wicked will be immanent. There are some who teach that the temple of Revelation 11:1 is a rebuilt temple under the antichrist. However, it cannot be for it clearly says it is the **Temple of God** and those who worship in it must be *true believers*. This is not an antichrist temple but *God's* temple. All references in Revelation to a temple, altar and throne refer to **heavenly spiritual** ones. None of the descriptions make sense if applied to an earthly building. Read them carefully. John wrote Revelation **after** the destruction of the temple and did not refer to an earthly temple but a *spiritual* temple, consistent with his meaning throughout the book of Revelation. He used the words of Jesus and foretold three and a half years in which Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot. Luke 21:24 Then the temple in heaven will be opened and the ark of His covenant seen in the temple of the tabernacle. Rev 11:2, 19. The ark is a symbol of Jesus and the temple is the true church; **Eph 1:3, 2:6,3**. He will appear to all believers in His *spiritual* temple, the **Temple of God**; comprised of every true believer Jew and Gentile throughout the world. This Temple is “measured” and all true worshippers counted and cleansed. The “outer court” *outside* the temple represents the apostate world controlled by those who come against Jerusalem, which is divided and trampled underfoot by Gentiles. Rev 11:2. The earthly city of Jerusalem will suffer a great earthquake and a third of it destroyed with 7000 casualties. This division of the city and earthquake is also prophesied in Zehariah 14:1-9. In fact it is written in Daniel 7 and 12 that only *after* the “power of the holy people” is shattered and nearly overwhelmed will the end come with the intervention of the Lord. Israel claims Jerusalem as its undivided and permanent capital. However, Islam claims it for the capital of a new Palestinian State. There is no room for compromise and peace accords are simply delaying the inevitable; “when they say peace, peace sudden destruction shall come upon them.”

WHAT IS THE FINAL “ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION”

Over the last two millennia the Temple Mount has been fought over

by armies of Gentiles. It is a place of blood letting. What will happen in the final days of this present age that will cause yet another “abomination of desolation”? It could be a number of things. If those people who wish to sacrifice actually take possession of it and do so, that would indeed cause a confrontation. In 2013 at Passover two Jewish men intended to sacrifice a lamb on the Temple Mount but were arrested. The Muslims too have a sacrificial ritual called the “Festival of Sacrifice”, “Eid al-Adha.” It takes place after the Hajj and a camel, goat or sheep is slaughtered. It has nothing to do with sin or atonement but symbolises dedication, submission and willingness to follow the command of Allah. Muslims kill animals in a strict manner at the time of slaughter, effectively making it an act conducted in his name. All jihad and killing is conducted in that name. However, the abomination is already there; the “tents” of the false prophet.

Daniel 11:45. The “Tents” of the fierce king.

As we have considered there have been several past abominations that have brought desolation. The first was when Nebuchadnezzar brought ruin to Solomon’s Temple. After 70 years it was rebuilt. Then Antiochus caused the *desecration* of the Temple. The next was the entire *destruction* of the Temple by the Romans. The next is to do with the cleansing and *consecration* of the *true temple* and the *destruction* of all *abominations* worldwide.

The rise of Islam in the 7th century had apocalyptic results for Christians in many lands and many churches were decimated and even eliminated. Jerusalem fell to the Muslim army and Omar erected the Dome and a Mosque on the Temple site. In due course these shrines were rebuilt as permanent buildings using materials from previous buildings including the Shrine of Jupiter. When the Crusaders conquered Jerusalem the Dome was converted into a church but when Muslims won it back it was reinstated and stands there to this day; “*standing where it should not.*” The Dome was originally considered to stand on the exact spot of the Holy of Holies but now it is known to actually stand on the court of the Gentiles.

These shrines are plainly visible for all in the world to see.

Few Bible scholars understand the prediction of Daniel 11:45 because very few take time to understand the prophecies of Daniel 11. There are few study books about it and it is neglected yet is one of the most important prophecies about “end times”. As already explained this chapter predicted the rise of a ‘king’ who is in fact the king depicted in Dan 8:1- the goat with two horns. This goat is called the “false prophet” in Revelation 13:11, 16:13, 19:20.

Daniel 11 foretold the development of this “goat” and eventually how a “fierce king” will “plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain”. This is the little horn, the goat, called in Revelation the “**false prophet**” who will have his “tents” on the Holy Mountain. “Tent” is the same word as “tabernacle” used throughout scripture for a place of worship or a temple. It is also called a palace or as another translation says, a “royal pavilion”. The word pavilion means “a highly conspicuous domed building visible from a distance”. It is planted on the Holy Mountain between the two seas. This is none other than the Temple Mount at Jerusalem between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas. It is staring everyone in full view. Daniel foretold the end times.

Daniel 11:36-45 are generally considered to have never been totally fulfilled historically but describe this end time “false prophet”, his character and activities. It tells of the planting of his tabernacles and the final years of their existence. These buildings were first established many centuries ago, in fact in about AD 638. It is during the end time that the “false prophet” of Revelation again takes control of half of the city of Jerusalem and then the last three and a half years of Daniel 12 will come to pass and lead to conflict between Israel and Islamic countries and the nations that support them. It will be a devastating war that will plunge the world right to the brink. Israel has always been caught between the “super powers,” Assyria in the north and Egypt in the south. From time to time Israel looked to one or the other for help. It is still caught between the great powers of the world but in the end will be cornered with nowhere to

go and no one to help, except God.

John described a great earthquake in Jerusalem in which 7000 residents will be killed but the rest turned to God. His account comes from scriptures in the Old Testament.

There is a detailed description in Zechariah of the conflict around Jerusalem and the great earthquake and how the city will be divided. Zech.14:4. Most Bible commentaries see these events depict the end times just prior to the Coming of Christ. They foretell the city of Jerusalem being divided, a great battle fought in its vicinity and in the land of Israel at the Valley of Megiddo, with many nations involved. Judah will be in this battle but it is the Lord Himself who terminates it.

Does the Bible actually say that Jerusalem will never be divided? In fact it says in Zechariah that before it is sanctified it *will* be divided and half will fall and the inhabitants ravished. Most Bible commentaries understand this portion of scripture to be a prophetic preview of the end conflict around Jerusalem. If it is then it is a sober description of events and a frightening prospect. Note that the Bible indicates that Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives in Eastern Jerusalem.

After this great confrontation only a third of the people will be left in the land but it does not say what ethnic group they will be made of. However, Zechariah also describes in vivid terms the conversion of the *remnant* of people as they behold the Lord and realise that he is Jesus who was pierced in “the house of his friends.”

When tour groups visit Jerusalem few have any concept about the rivers of blood that have been shed and still may be shed at this place. It is probably the one spot on earth where more blood has been shed than any other. The awful toll of life at this place is truly awful, including the blood of God’s own Son just outside the city walls on the “wings of the temple”. This is the reality of earthly Jerusalem. What about the spiritual realities?

PAUL’S TEACHING – 2 Thessalonians 2

Paul and all the disciples knew they would die before Jesus returned. None of them expected a speedy return of Jesus but a prolonged spiritual conflict that would last a long time. Paul wrote that the man of lawlessness the “son of perdition” will one day be revealed and consumed by Christ at His coming. Paul foretold that the “temple” would be inhabited by one who epitomizes Satan. It is not just a man but an “image” of the beast which comes alive and speaks. At last Satan will have a face! In Paul’s theology the temple does not mean a building but the spiritual body of Christ. This then is a very serious prediction. Paul tells of a “falling away” or “apostasy” when many people will be so misled that they will “believe a lie”. The love of many will wax cold. This is not just in the end time. Throughout history the spirit of antichrist has been within the “church” causing prejudice, intolerance, hatred, immorality and great cruelty especially to Jews! This was caused by “Replacement Theology” which has bred the greatest of all anti-Semitism. The “tents of antichrist” are not just standing in Jerusalem but in the nations. Can you not see them; the false doctrines, pagan gods, worldly customs and values and so called liberating immorality? Do we turn a blind eye to them, even admire their beauty and embrace them as part of our progressive enlightenment into liberty? Right now there is an immense battle raging in the invisible dimensions of the earth and in the “church” which is being measured, purged and divided, especially over Israel. Do you not remember Jesus warned about the tares that were sown by the enemy and which looked like the real thing and could not be told apart? Do you not remember he said to let them grow together until the harvest when the tares will be destroyed and the wheat gathered? Matt 13:25. Paul warned of sudden destruction. He said the revealing of Jesus and the destruction of antichrist will happen on the same Day! Read it carefully.

THE “GREAT MOTHER OF ABOMINATIONS” – Rev 17,18

In Revelation John does not talk about just a single “abomination of desolation” but about “Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and

of Abominations of the earth.” Read the description of this woman in contrast with the woman of chapter 12. She is dressed in scarlet and purple, has gold vessels and cups and is adorned with precious stones and pearls and lives in luxury and debauchery, commits sexual fornication and is full of abominations. She rules over kings and has all manner of wealth through trade with the merchants of the world. She also trades in the “souls of men.” What does such symbolism conjure up in your mind? Well, we are told that she is a city that dwells on seven hills and also rides on the seven heads of the beast, the great nations of the world. In fact the angel is very precise in identifying her when he tells John that this great city is none other than the city that actually ruled over the kings of the earth *at the time* of John. (Rev 17:18) This was not New York, London, Moscow or any other city but the city of Rome. It certainly was not Jerusalem for that city had already been sacked by the Romans when John wrote. Through the last two thousand years Jerusalem has not ruled over anything but has been plundered, neglected and left a destitute backwater of poor people of various nationalities, a conquered vassal city of different warring armies. In contrast the “Holy Roman” nations have influenced much of the world in religion and trade during the last two thousand years. Not only do they have some of the biggest and most glorious “Holy Shrines” but through their colonies they established wealthy nations and worldwide trade and were fixated on luxury, mammon and wealth. It was not “Holy” but committed abominations in the name of God and commerce. The Roman Empire split into “East and West” and then split more but out of it has come the end time “beast” world powers of both East and West. The Harlot is not the “beast” but rides upon it and empowered it. The Vatican in Rome has been the centre of Christendom for 2000 years and claimed to be the “Mother church” and at times instrumental for numerous religious conflicts in which millions have perished and yet has been lavishly wealthy and powerful over nations. Sadly however it is not only Rome but much of “Christendom” that has been ungodly and much of the church worldwide has at times been apostate. Although contributing good Christendom has also been responsible for some of the most heinous crimes in history. Can apostate churches escape judgment?

In Revelation John quoted from Daniel and described the final three and a half years, the last half of the week foretold in Daniel 7:20-25, 9:27 and 12:7. Daniel wrote about the great apostasy and the “beast” who speaks great blasphemies and subdues kings, divides the land, degrades women, gives no honor to them and who persecutes the saints. He will also change “*times and laws*” or as the Good News Bibles says “He will speak against the Supreme God and oppress God’s people. He will try to change religious laws and festivals.” Islam has done this but apostate Christianity has done the same and is still doing so today.

The present age is filled with abominations. It is quite possible now to break moral laws yet not break the laws of men and vice versa to keep the laws of men and be immoral, untruthful and dishonest. Which are most important? In some nations people are actually killed for being good. We consider ourselves enlightened and know what is right and wrong yet abominable things are committed throughout the world as many people cast off all restraint. Every foul deed is justified one way or another by people of ungodly principles. This is what was foretold in Daniel 7:25 and 12:10.

The world is filled with violence, murder, sexual immorality, child slaves, degradation of women, greed, pride, blasphemy, idol worship, covetousness, disrespect, depravity and hundreds of other abominations. Every day we witness “abominations of desolation.” Let us have a brief look at what the Bible says abominations are; adultery and every kind of sexual fornication, murder, lying, covetousness, idolatry, stealing and other sins we may not think so important are all abominations. When these things become so rife that they dominate society then society will implode into anarchy.

Babylon is described in Revelation 17 and 18 as a “great city” that defies true laws, lives in disproportional luxury, commits the most heinous sins, trades in great wealth of gold and silver and parades in the most outlandish garments of purple and gold. It trades in souls of men. What imagery, what can it describe? It is apostate religion together with the entire worldly systems of corrupt morals.

ROME – “THE ETERNAL CITY”

During the last two thousand years the “Holy City” in Rome, also known as the “Eternal City”, took up the spiritual side of the Roman Empire and in a very real way the power of that Empire. Rome’s spiritual influence impacted all the nations of the old Empire. The spiritual centre for Christianity moved from Jerusalem to Rome. Augustine promoted this notion in his teaching about “The City of God” in which he claimed that the earthly church replaced the former nation of God (Israel) and would eventually rule over the whole world. **Babylon** became a synonym for **Rome** and all other apostate worldly cities such as **Constantinople** and **Moscow**. If Babylon represents the condition of apostate Christendom and secular power then the future is truly frightening. John described its destruction in similar terms as to what happened when Pompeii was destroyed at the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79 something that John and the whole world of that day had witnessed with great shock. The city of Rome actually sits on an ancient massive volcano. The question is whether it is dormant or not? It has for long been considered to be dormant but scientists have registered a great deal of tremors and activity. Like Pompeii it could suddenly erupt and if so the entire region will be devastated. However, the wealthy yet corrupt nations of the world sit on a spiritual earthquake that is just as explosive; the collapse of monetary systems and spiritual values of society.

“Babylon the Great Harlot and Mother of Abominations” represents **all** apostate Christendom worldwide in all its divided factions. Babylon is a harlot giving birth to others like her. Regrettably the Roman, Orthodox, Reformed and other churches have all had a sordid history of sin despite the many wonderful, devout people in all parts of the church. All sin is under judgment. Rev 17:1-2. We are all called to repent and to “Come out of her my people lest you share in her sins and lest you receive of her plagues.” Rev 18:4. God will save individuals but judge institutions. Why is she called a Harlot? It is because she broke the marriage vows to her Lord. She was betrothed to Christ but forsook her first love and gave herself to worldly customs of carnality and spiritual falsehood. When the Lord sent his

messages to the seven churches he commanded five of them to repent or face judgment! Note in particular some of the prevailing sins in these churches; sexual immorality, worship of idols, the sect of the Nicolaitans known for their autocratic control over God's flock, and the power of Jezebel, an Old Testament figure of abomination. She was a prophetess of Baal and figure of the fertility **mother** goddess Asherah who caused God's people to worship her. She had four hundred and fifty false prophets who followed her and corrupted the whole of Israel. It was these prophets that Elijah, the true prophet, slew. Asherah was one of the ancient goddesses of Babylonian origin that have through the ages been called different names; Isis, Ishtar, Venus, Diana, and others; the icons of Babylon that have been embraced by "harlot churches". These idols and icons and their veneration can be seen within the walls of many notable cathedrals. If the seven churches represent universal churches then many need to repent. 2Cor 11:2, Eph 5:24,32, Col 1:18, Rev 2 + 3, 19:7-9.

The true church is a devoted bride to Jesus. Romans 7:4. In a marriage there is room for only two. Anything or anyone who comes between bride and bridegroom is a Harlot. The mother of Jesus was the most blessed of all women but to claim that she was sinless, or ascended to heaven or is a mediator between us and Jesus and that one can pray to her, is harlotry and idolatry. There is nothing wrong with Mary but there is in worshipping her in this way. There is not a single scripture that endorses any of it. The "church" has embraced many pagan concepts promoted in Easter, Christmas and other practices. The nations of "Christendom" have in the name of liberty and freedom forsaken the truth. To suggest the need for discipline in how we conduct ourselves is considered archaic. No wonder that some Jews do not see much worth in our religion. No wonder that some Muslims call the West the "great Satan" when they see our extravagant immorality and how we conduct ourselves with open pornography displayed in our movies, and general arrogance and disrespect not to mention the crimes, the child molesting and the murders. Have we contributed to their animosity by our own actions? Have we opened the slues gates of worldwide judgment because we have "lost our flavour?" Luke 14:34.

“Babylon the Great Harlot” (all falsehood in Christendom) is divided over many issues and is under judgment and anyone still caught in her deceptions will suffer. Now is the time for churches and Christians of all faiths to turn away from all sin and get our house in order. The Lord wants to lovingly call us back to himself and purge us. He is kind, forgiving, caring, merciful and gracious to all who call upon Him. Joel 2:32.

THE FINAL DAYS IN JERUSALEM

Let me reiterate something I have already said. The OT is the shadow, the NT is the reality. There is a spiritual reality. The purging of the *earthly* temple by Jesus portrays the purging and cleansing of the true *spiritual* temple, the Church of God. It warns us of the present conflict in the *spirit* realms that rule over nations.

To recap: there will come a three and a half year period foretold by Daniel and Zechariah and other prophets that will result in a conflict around Jerusalem. Daniel predicted this final period in chapters 7 and 12. He first foretold of a vile king who would desecrate the temple and after a conflict the temple will be re-consecrated. This happened in 168 – 165 BC under Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Daniel also foretold another conflict in which the temple would be totally destroyed. Dan 9:24-27. He described it as a time of great tribulation. Daniel 12:1. Jesus referred to this *exact* scripture and warned the people of his day that there would soon be a time of great trouble when an “abomination of desolation” would occur. Matt 24:15. This happened under the Romans in AD 70. However, Jesus extended the prophecy beyond that time right to the very end of the age of the Gentiles and the establishment of His Kingdom. Luke 19:43,44, 21:20-24, Matt 24:21,22.

As I have already stated Jesus spoke of two events; one with the Romans and another in the end. He spoke of two things; the abomination “standing where it should not” and “Jerusalem surrounded by armies”. In the first instance he said the temple would be destroyed. This has already happened. He also emphasised that

Jerusalem will be surrounded by armies. This is what Zechariah and many other OT prophets foretold. It happened in AD70. Will it happen again? Notice that when the “abomination of desolation” is mentioned there is an editorial note, “let the reader understand”. It is therefore necessary for us to discern the season in which we live and take cognisance of the events that are taking place in our times. The first two prophecies of Daniel concerning the “abomination of desolation” have already been fulfilled; the *desecration* and subsequent cleansing of the temple in the days of the Maccabees and the total *destruction* of the temple in the days of the Romans. So we await only a third; the end time conflict as armies and nations gather against Jerusalem. Everything is already in place for this. The “tents” or shrines of Daniel 11:45 are already there and the nations are gathering against Jerusalem. The “Arab Spring” is a prelude to this and has resulted in the persecution of Christians in these nations. Two things are of significance; the worldly Babylonian values are in the “church” and the “tents of the false prophet” are in Jerusalem. The nations of the world are full of abominations. The spiritual temple will be cleansed and *rededicated* and the false will be *destroyed*. The cup of sin is nearly full for the vials of wrath to pour out. Before we go further let us consider the prophecies of Ezekiel.

THE INVASION OF ISRAEL

Ezekiel foretold the return and spiritual restoration of Israel (chapter 36), the resurrection (chapter 37), and a terrible war in the land of Israel (chapters 38 + 39). He mentions numerous nations that will be involved but bear in mind that although they are all seeking control of the land they may not all be united. Zech 14:13.

The following nations mentioned in Ezekiel are all historical nations of his time; Meshech and Tubal 38:3, 27:13, 32:26; Persia (Iran). 38:5, 27:10; Ethiopia 38:5, 29:10, 30:4,5; Libya 38:5, 30:5; Togarmah 38:6, 27:14. All these nations were known to Ezekiel. Meshech, Tubal and Togarmah were all in the vicinity of Asia Minor north of Israel; Assyria, Media, Persia, and others including modern day Turkey. Watch for big changes and upheavals in Turkey.

Magog and Gomer are mentioned together with Meshech, Tubal and Togarmah and considered to have been Indo-European people who came from Japheth. (See Genesis chapter 10 for the table of nations.) The house of Gomer and its troops is mentioned in Ezk 27:14. Gomer refers to Germanic ethnic people. Historical sources link Magog and Gomer with ancient Scythian and Cimmerian people who came from the Caucasian and Black Sea area; now called Azerbaijan, Georgia, Belorussia, **Ukraine** and **Russia**. What few commentaries fail to mention is that since the days of Ezekiel these people moved westwards into Europe. Through history there were great migrations of different tribes from the East into Europe. These people gradually moved West invading and eventually settling in Europe as far as the Rhine Valley and further where they absorbed other European people and formed the different nations of greater Europe. They, as well as Slavs, Huns, Vandals, Goths and others are people that presently comprise Eastern and Western Europe and Russia; the children of Japheth; ten ethnic groups like ten toes. They are represented in the image of Daniel chapter two as the *miry clay* that mixed with the *iron* kingdom of Rome and never formed a strong unity hence the history of conflict and Europe's many divided nations. Many of these people are associated with the European Union, even Turkey and Russia.

Then there is Persia, Ethiopia and Libya all well known today. Ethiopia was a term for Cush and the African people, children of Ham. Libya (Put) and Persia represent Middle Eastern people among which are Semitic people but now also greatly mixed. Since the days of Ezekiel there has been a great deal of mixing of peoples but broadly speaking these nations present the end time nations that oppose Israel. Notice that there are other nations that are not necessarily in agreement with them: Sheba, Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish; 38:13 + 27:12-25, 19:3,5. Sheba is southern Arabia, and Tarshish is a Western nation, but all they can do is protest!

The question is "Who is Gog, Prince of Rosh?" Except for John in Revelation 20:8, Ezekiel is the only prophet who talks about Gog. However, Gog is linked with other prophetic descriptions of the satanic oppressor *throughout* history. Ezk 38:17. Daniel calls him the

“little horn” and “vile king of the north.” Paul calls him the “son of perdition” who will even deceive the elect. John calls him the “accuser of the brethren.” Evidently he is the great “oppressor of God’s people,” the anti-Semitic deceiver who incites the nations to attack Israel and to annihilate God’s people both Jews and Gentiles; Satan himself. “Gog” is the spiritual power in the end times. He is linked with king Og of the giant race of Rephaim from the north of Israel in the region of Syria, the old “king of the north”.

The prophecy of Ezekiel must be fitted into the prophecies of Daniel and the great empires Daniel foretold will arise and the final “beast” that is described in Revelation. According to John Gog is *at both the beginning and end of* the 1000 years, the same sequence found in Ezekiel; re-gathering and spiritual restoration of Israel, the resurrection, *then* the attack by Gog. The “beast and false prophet” gather the kings of the earth against the Lord at the start of the 1000 years. Revelation 19:11-20:10. This is evidently only a preview of the final conflict at the end of the 1000 years.

**Rabbinical tradition places Gog after Messiah.
So does Ezekiel and John.**

Some scholars believe that Ezekiel described a double event in the prophecy of Gog (Ezk. 38 + 39), one at the end of this *present age* and one at the end of the *millennial age*. John quotes Ezekiel and indicates there are *two* conflicts. Rev 19:19 + 20:9. The first is an attack against the Lord immediately *at* his return. This is Satan’s response to a spiritually reborn Israel. This conflict will build up and culminate in an attack *at* the return of Messiah. There is another attack at the *end* of the 1000 years. Some Rabbis foretell that Russia will control Crimea and northern parts of the M.E. *before* Messiah comes.

There are two “beasts”; the world power and the religious power. They are linked to apostate Babylonian Christendom and Islam. They are the end time “**beast**” and “**goat**” that arise from the old Roman Empire. As we follow the course of the Empire we see how it split

into East and West; the two legs of the image of Dan 2. In the West the “**Holy Roman Empire**” developed from Rome and in the East the **Byzantine Roman Empire** developed which later became linked with the **Russian Empire**. Those who know history will know that there were three cities called Rome: The first was the original **Rome**, the second was Constantinople called the “**second Rome**” and when it fell to the Turks its power moved north to Russia and Moscow became known as the “**third Rome**”. Tsar means Caesar and to this day the two headed Eagle is the Coat of Arms of Russia and other Holy Roman nations. They are part of the “Beast Empire”.

Many prophetic teachers believe that “Gog, chief prince of Rosh” is **Russia**. This teaching became very prominent during the cold war years in which USA and Russia were “mortal enemies” and Russia was seen as the satanic regime of prophecy. I believe that Russia will be involved but I think there is more to understand. After the Second World War Russia controlled much of Eastern Europe and the lands of the old Byzantine Empire in the Eastern block of Europe; nations such as Bulgaria, the old Yugoslavia, Poland, Romania and others. Many of these have now joined the EU and NATO. This could never have been foreseen only a few decades ago. These northern people are the same people that Ezekiel described who migrated westwards and populated East and West Europe now part of the EU.

Daniel foretold the course of history through all the great worldly powers; Babylon, Medes and Persians, Greeks, Hellenic kingdoms, Romans, and what are called the Holy Roman Empire and Byzantine Empires which make up Europe, both East and West, including Russia. This is why the reunification of Germany was so significant. It was the catalyst that brought a divided Europe into unity and also largely contributed to the demise of the Soviet Union. Over forty years ago I taught about this reunification as well as the collapse of the Soviet Union. We now have former Soviet States that are in conflict amongst themselves. Russia, which is comprised mostly of European people of similar stock as the rest of Europe is traditionally part of the old Eastern Orthodox Christian Empire. As shown in the image of Daniel 2 the feet of clay and iron never bonded and

European history is one of conflict between East and West with Russia currently strengthening its power. Europe needs Middle East and Russian oil and they all are jostling to maintain trade with Muslim nations that have energy resources. Back in the 1970s the predominantly Middle East OPEC Nations blackmailed Europe with oil prices. Europe soon stepped in line. The crisis has not gone away. Europe needs gas and oil. Vast new reservoirs are now opening off shore Israel and Russia wants to maintain its access through Ukraine to the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. Even a casual knowledge of history reveals the strong link between Europe, Russia and Middle East nations. Ever since oil was discovered it has been European expertise and money that has developed the oil wells and the oil cartels have manipulated them. Europe is still dependent upon oil for energy requirements. Europe is the largest Economic Block of nations in the world but currently faces an uncertain future. Because of financial crisis there is high unemployment and massive unmanageable debts which are causing havoc in European society with declining living standards. What happened in Cyprus may be a preview of future events. These conditions are conducive to social upheaval and discontent similar to conditions that prevailed prior to the Second World War; the depression of the 1930s plunged society into crisis. Anti-Semitism is greater now than ever before. Islamic pressure is isolating Israel more and more. The prophecies tell of two “beasts”; one comes out of the old Holy Roman Empire and “sea” of nations, the other out of the earth, the historical nations of the Middle East. Rev 13:1-11. USA is declining as a world power and is weakened by internal divisions and also the decline of the \$. It is becoming a disunited Union of States with growing internal crises; spiritual, political, ethical and *financial*. Nations are raging and together with religious fanaticism and historic animosity are moving towards conflict on a scale we have not imagined possible. Radical groups have access to diabolical weapons and some nations are working towards developing more nuclear weapons. Conflict can easily break out in Asia between North Korea and South Korea, Japan, China and Taiwan. India has nuclear weapons as does Pakistan and tension mounts in Egypt, Sudan and most of Africa, Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Jordan

with America and Europe getting dragged into a religious conflict tearing nations apart. Joel predicted that in the end times there will be “pillars of smoke” upon the earth. Joel 2:30,31. The word “pillars” describes huge clouds shaped like Palms. I expect nuclear war as well as internal friction in nations, lawlessness and chaos, which is also a great threat. Iran is said to be developing a nuclear weapon and already there are large arsenals of weapons in the hands of radical religious groups. There are huge amounts of missiles, scuds, and conventional weapons. The whole place is a powder keg. It must be evident that huge changes will take place. We are on the brink of **WW111**. For the best part of four decades I have taught on prophecy and have drawn attention to Syria as being the catalyst for end time collapse. There is now the possibility of many nations being dragged in as “brother fights brother”. World powers mentioned in Ezekiel 38/39 are all involved. Eventually, a consortium of “United Nations” will endorse a plan to bring about a new world order and support an Islamic takeover of Jerusalem. The prophecies tell of two “beasts” in league together; the first “beast” of world power opposed to Biblical Christianity and a second Islamic “beast” opposed to Israel. They will force Israel to give up half of Jerusalem.

Daniel linked this end time scenario to what he called the “**king of the north**”. This king originally came from nations north and east of Israel, the old Seleucid Empire which was at one time under Hellenic power but came under Roman control, then Ottoman and now subject to an Islamic struggle that is dragging in world powers. Zechariah foretold that all nations will gather at Jerusalem. What will come of Syria? There are scriptures in Isaiah (17:1) that talk of the demise of Damascus as a city of any consequence. Were these predictions fulfilled in the days of the Old Testament as some believe or is there a final fulfilment of them? Watch events in Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Jordan and other nations of central Asia. There are many suggested scenarios as to how the conflict will go. However, I am convinced the *key* to understand the end times is Daniel who gives the clearest outline of future events. Daniel explained previous upheavals; that of the Greeks when the temple was *desecrated* and then cleansed and that of the Romans when it was *destroyed*. He then described the

final events. In chapter 11 Daniel foretold the “**king of the north**” will invade the land and then chapter 12 immediately follows with the end times. Daniel 7:25, 11:36 and Ezekiel 38:17 foretell this same person. We have already seen how Antiochus truly was an abomination and fulfilled the first part of Daniel 11 but many commentaries and prophetic teachers consider verses 35 onwards to be only fulfilled in the end times. Israel has always been squeezed between the King of the North (Assyria) and the King of the South (Egypt) the two superpowers of history. Behind them are still the superpowers of today. Israel is squeezed between them. Who is this “vile person” and what is he like? He is the “**king of the north**.” Let’s consider his character. Daniel 11:36-45. He will be a man who exalts and magnifies himself above all gods and speaks great blasphemies against the true Supreme God. He will not regard any other gods nor will he desire, respect or honour women. He will exalt himself above everything. He will honour the god of war and have great wealth and luxury, gold and silver with precious stones. He will come violently against the strongest fortress with the help of a foreign god who he will honour and cause to rule over many. (Rev 13:12-) He will divide the land for gain. He will win the allegiance of many through deception, guile and lies. He is called “**the false prophet**”. He will deceive many people and prosper until destroyed. Already many churches oppose Israel because of “Replacement Theology” which teaches that God has rejected Israel. Long ago Islam planted its “glorious tabernacles and royal pavilion” on the Holy Mount between the two seas. This is a clear prophecy that in the end on the Temple Mount there will stand the shrines of someone the Bible calls the “**false prophet**.” Dan 11:45, Rev 16:13,19:20. This has already been fulfilled and the evidence is staring us in the face. I believe the “world beast order” will support and give power to the false prophet who will take over half of Jerusalem and control the Middle East to the detriment of Israel which, after a period of conflict, will face imminent destruction. The “false prophet” will work with the “beast” who will prepare the way for the invasion of Israel. They are deceptive spirits in earthly union.

We need to “watch and pray”. As we do, things will become clearer.

It is also significant that the apostle John places Gog after the resurrection. Revelation 20:7,8. This is the same sequence in Ezekiel who foretold the gathering of Jews back to the land (Ezk 36) then the resurrection (37) and only after that the attack of Gog. Notice the description in Ezekiel 37 is emphatic that the people come out of their graves. For some reason many interpret this as only a spiritual restoration whereas it includes a literal resurrection. Why should this be figurative when the main theme of the Bible is resurrection? Jesus foretold that *all* in the graves will come forth some to life and some to abhorrence. Dan 12:2, John 5:28,29. It includes the Jewish holocaust of **WWII**. This was the vision Ezekiel saw, a valley filled with the bodies of millions upon millions of Jewish people who were killed simply for being Jews, hated by the world and by Satan. They did not rise when Jesus arose on the third day because the slaughter of Israel had not yet fully happened. Ezekiel described a future event. Notice that only *after* God raises them do they come to fully understand who He is. Ezk 37:11-14. This may not agree with our theology but then God does it for the glory of His Name, not for us. We must not forget the power and sovereignty of God. Jews are not saved because they are Jewish but because God promises a resurrection of *all* in the graves. When the nations see millions of innocent men, women and children slaughtered by the Nazi and many others come forth and stand up, an exceeding great army, then exceeding great fear will fall upon the entire world. **WWIII** will bring in the resurrection and the Kingdom Age.

The final fulfilment of this prophecy is when Satan leads Gog in the final rebellion against God at the *end* of the millennial kingdom and prior to the coming of New Jerusalem. Rev 20:21. It is different to the events that describe the attack by the “Great Dragon, the beast and the False prophet” against Israel and the Lord *at the start* of the 1000 years when the “beast and the false prophet” are thrown into the “Lake of Fire” and the Dragon is bound. At the end of the 1000 years Satan is released for a short time and will gather together the entire ungodly opposition to God and surround the “camp of the saints and the beloved city.” This does not happen in the near future but *after* the 1000 years. So quite evidently there is still much that will happen

on this planet before the Eternal Kingdom is finally established with the dissolution of the present heavens and earth to make way for the New Heavens and Earth and New Jerusalem of which present Jerusalem is but a poor reflection. So the coming of Christ at his “*parousia*”, his abiding “*Presence*” with us, is pre-millennial and the coming down of New Jerusalem is post-millennial. There was 3 ½ years to usher in the Gospel Age and there will be 3 ½ years to usher in the Kingdom Age. This is the start of the coming glory.

What will happen during the 1000 year millennial age? There are many scriptures that tell about the cleansing of the land and indeed of the whole world which will be filled with the “glory of the Lord as the waters cover the earth”. It tells of Jerusalem being sanctified and eventually becoming the “Throne of the Lord” and the sanctuary of God. Ezekiel 37 Jer 3:17. How will this happen, will it increase in majesty and power throughout the next age? I believe so, until the Glory of the Lord fills the whole earth.



The dividing wall near the eastern side of Jerusalem.

CHAPTER 6 – THE LAST 3 ½ YEARS

During the last half of the week the Lord will continue the work he began during the first half – He will “confirm the Covenant.”

Daniel 12 is an important scripture concerning the end times and tells of a great conflict in which many are purged and made clean. It lasts for 3 ½ years or 1290 days. We know from Zechariah, Ezekiel, Revelation and other scriptures it will involve an earthly battle in the land of Israel. However, I have tried to show the links between the earthly and the spiritual; what happens in the spiritual happens in the earthly and vice versa. Both the earthly and the spiritual will be purged. A *remnant* of Jews will be birthed into the Kingdom of God and at the same time the living Temple of God will be cleansed. Both will be purged and joined as one to become the “Israel of God,” God’s Holy People. Gal 6:16. Are you looking for an antichrist to make a peace treaty or are you looking for the Lord to “Confirm the Covenant?” During the last half of Daniel’s week there will be many worldwide “Acts of God” conducted by the Lord himself. This will include the ministry of two powerful Prophets who will use Jerusalem as their stage to preach to the entire world. Something will happen *after* 1260 days, 42 months. It is the sounding of the 7th trumpet, directly *after* the conclusion of the ministry of the two great prophets in Jerusalem and simultaneous to their resurrection after they have lain in the streets of Jerusalem for three and a half days, a day for each year of ministry. Rev 10:7, 11:3,15,15. They will arise and enter the “Cloud” of resurrection as the 7th trumpet sounds. The full period is actually 1290 days so something continues to happen in the next 30 days. The Day of Atonement follows soon after the Day of Trumpets, depicted in Revelation chapters 8, 9 and 10:7, 11:15.

There is a **gap** between the two halves of the final 70th week. This is the period that the Gospel has gone into the world to every nation. The last half of the final week will start again where Jesus left off, this time starting at Passover and continuing until the Feast of Atonement. There is a *gap* between the first and the last half of the week which is the Gospel Church Age. The Lord has fulfilled the

first three and a half years when he **took away** all sacrifices and caused them to ***cease*** as in Sabbath. The Hebrew ***“taken away”*** in Dan 12:11 is ***“sur”*** (Strong's 5493). It is different from the previous words used in other references to the temple. It has many translations some of the most common being, ***“to take away, put away, depart, remove, abolish”***. This is what Jesus did; he **put away** and **removed** the daily sacrifice as explained earlier. Jesus abolished the temple and ended **all sacrifice** and is himself ***“the Way, the Truth, the Life.”***

Daniel foretold a period of 3 ½ years (Daniel 12:1) and it was to this that Jesus referred when the disciples asked him about end times. Matt.24:3. In fact in **Matt. 24:21** Jesus quoted the exact words of **Daniel 12:1** so we know exactly where he was teaching from. Jesus used Daniel 12 as his foundation text to teach about two events; the ***destruction*** of the temple in AD70 and the ***final*** end time events culminating in resurrection. The events of AD70 had already happened when John wrote Revelation in which he described the ***final*** three and a half years. John placed the fulfilment of it ***after*** the destruction of the temple and at the end of this age at the appearance of Christ.

When Jesus quoted Daniel 12:1 he immediately made a statement that indicated that ***“those days”*** will be shortened! Matt.24: 22. Clearly, he was referring to the days of Daniel 12:11. There are no other days to confuse us. However, Jesus did not say by how much they would be shortened. When we turn to Revelation we discover they are 1260 days. There is a discrepancy of **30 days** between the Old and the New Testaments. In the OT they are **1290**, in the NT they are **1260**. John the beloved disciple had listened carefully to the Lord and perhaps asked him to fully explain what he meant. Certainly John understood the shortening of the days to 1260 days. Why did the Lord shorten them? He tells us; they are shortened for the sake of the **elect**. Matt 24:22. What will happen in the 30 days?

The final trumpet sounds **after** 1260 days and a number of things then take place: the kingdoms of the world become the kingdoms of Christ and he begins to reign; it is the time to reward the Lord's

servants, prophets and saints; the mystery of God is finished (1 Cor 15:51,52 1 Thes 4:16), the dead are judged and seven vials of wrath poured out. Rev.10:7 11:14,15. The time of God's wrath immediately follows; the **wicked are destroyed** and rewards are given to God's people. This short period is the time of wrath. Rev.16:1. Follow the sequence through carefully. These final 30 days are days of wrath, *not* 7 years or even three and a half.

When does all this take place? It happens at the **end** of the **1260 days** of the two prophets. It is during the next thirty days that wrath is poured out. The world will never endure years of wrath. In fact God destroyed the entire world at the time of Noah in 40 days! This final purging takes place in a matter of days. It follows after Atonement and Sukkot and the 7 vials fall on those who have *not* repented and whose names are *not* written in the book of life. It is a purging of the entire world. The **Feast of Atonement** is the opportunity given to people to repent, get their lives right and prepare for the most Holy day of the Year, Yom Kippur. It is followed by destruction on rebellious sinners and the gathering in of the harvest.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 1260 DAYS

The period of 1260 days may mean nothing to Gentiles but to Jewish believers it was significant; it is exactly the period between **Passover** and **Sukkot** calculated on a calendar of 30 days to a month. From Passover in Spring at the beginning of the religious calendar, to the Feasts of **Trumpets**, **Atonement** and **Sukkot** in the Autumn, is exactly 3 ½ years. This is of enormous significance. Passover is the Feast that initiates salvation and is family centred. Atonement is the Feast that is national and brings atonement for the whole nation. Jesus fulfilled them both but only the Feasts of Spring have been literally fulfilled on the very day of their celebration; Passover when Jesus died, Wave Offering when he arose and Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came. The "latter feasts" yet await their fullness in the last half of the prophetic week when Jesus returns. **Feast of Trumpets** is depicted in the seven trumpets of Revelation. **Atonement Yom Kippur**, is depicted when Jesus will appear in the

spiritual temple and reveal himself to those who trust him as High Priest and who will return having made Atonement through his blood. Hebrews 9:28, Rev 11:19, 15:5,8. **Sukkot** represents the great latter day harvest when the earth is harvested and is a time of great joy especially on the eighth day known as “**Simchat Torah**”. These feasts are at the start of the New Civil Year of the calendar, the start of the millennial age. The Jewish people still celebrate these feasts but do not realise that Messiah has already made the supreme sacrifice for them. The ritual conducted at Atonement of swinging a chicken around their heads and then killing it is not Biblical; not a single verse in the Torah supports it. All such bloodletting is unacceptable whether done by Jews, Christians or Muslims. Just as some Christians have unbiblical practices this is too. I believe that for those who have received the New Covenant all the Biblical Feasts are fulfilled in Jesus. There is a wonderful surprise awaiting those who have not yet entered the New Covenant and live in the Old. The manner in which they celebrate **the feasts** is important. **Passover** is I believe of great significance. It is an unfinished meal. Jesus left one cup on the table, the cup of consummation. One day he will return to drink it and the Jews will see him face to face. At **Atonement** the Ark is opened and the Torah scroll, symbol of Jesus the Word of God, is taken out and touched. On the last day of **Sukkot** the Torah is brought out of the synagogues and carried through the streets on their shoulders as people rejoice. The person who starts the new readings of the Torah is called the “Bridegroom of the Torah” and is symbolic of Messiah the risen Word of God. The eyes of the Jewish people have been blinded but one day will be opened right on the Feast Days as Messiah reveals Himself to them. Zech.12:10. They will see him again and rejoice. (See my book “The Covenant of Glory” for an explanation of the Feasts.)

THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE

If after the 30 days we calculate 45 days as told in Daniel 12 we come to a most significant Feast; **Hanukkah**, the Feast of Dedication of the Temple. This celebrates the great victory following the defeat of Antiochus the forerunner of the end time antichrist. The Temple

was cleansed and the Lord miraculously sustained the oil lamps burning in the Temple for eight days. Because of this it is also called the **Feast of Lights**. Since the restoration of modern Israel this feast is especially celebrated to recall the miracle of the new State of Israel. It is celebrated in December. It was at this Feast that Jesus revealed himself in the Temple as Messiah. John 10:32-39. He came to the Temple in the 50th Jubilee, cleansed it but was rejected. He will do so again; this time he will be received in the Temple of believers which will be cleansed and consecrated by him. Matt 25:1-13.

In the opening chapters of Revelation the Lord sent messages to seven churches. We have looked briefly at the condition of these churches and their failures. They are very sobering and contain strong warnings. Many churches today have these same sins; sexual immorality, control and bondage by leaders, compromise with idols and much more. The apostle Paul said very clearly that believers are the temple of God and should be set apart for Himself. 2 Cor 6:15-18, 1 Cor 3:16,17, 10:14-21, Rev 2:14,20, 9:20. Yet the church has compromised Biblical standards of righteousness, not upheld clear Biblical injunctions and condoned loose morals. There has even been a reversal of Biblical morality. People now say that we don't need Biblical laws, they are old fashioned, archaic and outdated and we know better. Yet God has not rewritten the Bible, His precepts are eternal; they form the foundations of society but the spirit of antichrist has changed them and people have turned away from them and the ungodly society we live in is a result of this apostasy.

During the last century there was a spiritual renewal called the Holiness movement with an emphasis upon sanctification and consecration and separation from the world. It was somewhat discounted by some Christians who emphasised that the Grace of God covers us, which it does, but maybe we should have paid greater heed to this move of the Spirit of God for it seems that many Christians have fallen as the church has compromised holiness. Do we really think the church will be exempt from the consequences sin brings in this present world? Our sins are forgiven through Jesus but sin still works terrible consequences if we continue in it.

Malachi 3:1 – 4:6

In Malachi we are told that the “Messenger of the Covenant” will come suddenly to his temple and cleanse it. The three and a half year ministry of Jesus exposed all ungodliness especially the falsehood of religious practices. John the Baptist proclaimed his coming was as a “refiner’s fire”, and that he would lay an axe to the root of sin. During his ministry he sifted the people and in the final days of his earthly life he cleansed the temple. He threw out defilers and purged it. This will happen again but this time he is not coming back to an earthly temple but to his spiritual Temple. Those who use the church as a means to personal wealth and control need to repent. There is a massive war raging in the spirit realms and around each child of God. We are entering a period of testing, confessing, cleansing, purging and renewing. This was the message the apostle Peter gave on the day of Pentecost and it is just as relevant now. Acts 3:19. We may face severe tests and the adversary may even overcome some who will fall yet we are all to be purged and made white. Only by being sanctified will we avoid defeat. Only then will the “accuser of the brethren” be cast down. Some will be overwhelmed before the Lord intervene but we are coming to a time of restoration through repentance, cleansing and renewal. Dan 12.

The heart of the message given to Daniel is the purging and cleansing of God’s people. Daniel 12:10, 11:5. “Many will be purged and made white.” Some will even fall in order to be cleansed. The Lord will sometimes allow us to fall, not to destroy us but to bring us to repentance, cleansing and victory in those areas in which we fell. I am not suggesting that everything wrong in our lives must be confessed openly and hung out like dirty laundry for others to gloat over. But things not right must be put right. This is a requirement of the Lord. If there is anything we have done against another then we need to go to that person and put it right. We need to make confession and where necessary restitution and if possible restoration and not only that but whole congregations and denominations may need to repent. If not we may suffer loss when we stand before Him and give account. Will we be cleansed` or will we weep? Rom 14:12,

Psalm 32:1, Pr 10:12, Rev 16:15.

This does not give anyone the right to try and expose others. It is the glory of God to cover a matter and love covers a multitude of sins. We are called to put our *own* lives right with God but that means getting right with others. There needs to be forgiveness and reconciliation. How can the Lord come to a church and a people who are not consecrated to Him? It is a very serious thing.

Some churches are full of abominations. Not only that, but as individuals we may have idols within our own lives; altars to false gods and un-confessed, hidden sins. We break God's laws and say that we are under grace and God will not mind but the Lord is coming for a Holy people, saved by Grace and living consecrated lives. It is time for, sanctification and renewed dedication.

THE FUTURE EARTHLY JERUSALEM – Zechariah 14

The Bible describes *two* different cities called Jerusalem; *earthly* Jerusalem from below and *Heavenly* Jerusalem from above. Galatians 4:21-5:25.

They represent two different covenants. The earthly Jerusalem represents the Covenant of bondage and in the Old Testament is portrayed by Abraham's union with Hagar and the birth of Ishmael. It is interesting that Hagar is portrayed as Mt Sinai in Arabia. So Sinai was in Arabia! It is also significant that Arabia is the birth place of Islam and earthly Jerusalem has for much of the past millennia been under the control of Islam! Today it is a city inhabited by both Jews and Muslims and many others and held in the bondage of three religions with all their laws and rituals. It is very evident that Paul considered earthly Jerusalem as synonymous with religious bondage.

However, "Jerusalem from above is free and the mother of us all". Paul can see no mixing of the two. The one can never be tagged on to the other. The Gospel is not Jesus and anything else tagged on. This

is why the most crucial thing for Jewish people as well as all others is to come to faith in Messiah. All the symbolism, rituals, figures, and sacrifices are shadows of the true reality. We need to come into the light of Jesus, “The Way, the Truth and the Life.” Moses gave the law but Grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17.

Zechariah gives a detailed description of what will take place at Jerusalem. It is a sobering account. In Revelation John foretold that earthly Jerusalem will be devastated by an earthquake and many thousands killed. He also said it is called Sodom and Egypt, an awful title! Rev 11:9. It reveals how urgent it is for people to come to repentance and faith in Jesus. This is a sad description but does it portray the condition of the church too? But New Jerusalem is not a political State of Judaism or an Islamic Caliph or a post-Christian nation but a redeemed people of the LORD. John tells of a day when New Jerusalem will come down, a truly pure and “Holy” city, and its gates will remain open to allow *all* nations that are saved to enter.

The Mark of the Beast and the Image.

This book is not intended to deal in depth with this and I point readers to my books “Covenant of Glory” and “The War for the World” for a deeper consideration of them. Suffice to say that the “mark of the beast” and his “image” has always existed from the days of John. Any image that is worshipped is an abomination and the “mark on the forehead and hand” are related to false worship. They have existed for long, right through the last two thousand years and in the final years will take a deceptive and hideous form. Nations will fall under the deceptive power of the worship of mammon, false religion and apostasy. An idol does not have to be an inanimate form and the greatest idols have always been people; many have taken on the nature and image of the “evil one” and do his work. Many of our modern “idols” live lives which are anything but holy! Hitler was a prime example of what scripture means when it says that the “image will come alive and speak great blasphemies.” Hitler was a man possessed and driven by Satan. He had an evil, deceptive spiritual power that entranced people and held them captive to his every word.

He was literally worshipped by millions of people. What gave him this aura of power? It was Satan, coming alive in him and using him like a puppet to think, speak and do his will. He was literally a living, walking, talking image of Satan.

This is what scripture means when it says the “image will come alive”. In his earthly life Jesus was the express image of God the Father. The coming “evil one” will be the exact opposite, the image of Satan. Satan will have a face. He will also have a purpose; to control and sit on the “sides of the north” (the Temple Mount and the church) and destroy God’s people both Jews and Gentiles. He will cause desolation. He will be destroyed by the intervention of the Lord in flaming fire. Few people understand the extent of world purging that will take place. All abominations will be removed. Angels will go through the length and breadth of the world and remove the wicked. There will be no where to hide. Western society is filled with demons. All covetousness is idol worship which together with many other perversions is demonic.

WILL THERE BE ANOTHER TEMPLE AND SACRIFICES?

Does the Bible really teach that there will be a temple with sacrifices *before* the return of Jesus? Very few Jewish people believe this or even want it. It has taken the Lord 2000 years to get that out of the Jewish mind and very few want it now. People who believe in a future temple see it in the Messianic era and *not* before the return of the Lord. There is a Christian minority who are adamant that another temple must be built and they hold to a view of Daniel 9:27 which I and others believe is a misinterpretation of scripture. I do not believe there will be a seven year peace treaty made by the “antichrist” during which he will allow the Jews to build a temple and reinstate sacrifices and then stop it half way through. I have already commented on this and for more information please see my book “Covenant of Glory”. If a “temple” is rebuilt in Jerusalem and sacrifices reinstated no Christian should support it. It would be supporting a system God ended at the death of Jesus. At best it would be deceptive; at worse it would aid falsehood.

As we have already seen, Jesus fulfilled the First Covenant and established the New. The basis of blood sacrifice is substitution, expiation, atonement. Not once do we see Jesus making sacrifices in the temple. He is the sacrifice offered once and forever, never to be repeated. After he died the veil in the earthly temple was ripped from the top to the bottom indicating the way into the Holy Presence of God is now open forever if we come through Jesus. God is finished with the *earthly* Temple. There is no further need for it or any of its rituals, vessels, priests or anything of that order. Why should it ever be rebuilt? The scriptures in clear *principles* have declared it is fulfilled. When the NT was written the temple order had already waxed old and was ready to vanish. Hebrews 8:13. We are told that we are not to go backwards but to press on into the Kingdom of the Lord. Heb 6:1-6. We must now obey the “Royal Law” from which all others derive. James 2:8, Matt 22:37-40, Mark12:33.

The Royal Law does not cancel the Ten Commandments, it endorses them. In the New Testament we find fulfilment and teaching of significant Old Testament instructions. For example the sign of the Covenant was circumcision. However, in the New this is not the cutting of the flesh but the “circumcision of the heart”. As we identify with the death and resurrection of Jesus this is symbolised in the outward act of baptism by submersion, not a sprinkling but a burial; we die to sin and are symbolically buried with Christ. Gal 2:19,20. Baptism represents not just the cutting of flesh but our total identifying with Jesus in death and burial. The old is done away and fulfilled by the new. Another example is the Sabbath. In the Old Testament it was kept on the seventh day. In the New it is not just a single day but extended as an *entire* life lived in obedience to Jesus; “*So there is a full and complete Sabbath-rest reserved for the true people of God*”. Amplified Bible, Hebrews 3:1 – 4:11. It is not living one day for the Lord but a *life* of holiness. The Sabbath day has not changed and is still a physical and spiritual resting in God but today very few people set apart any day for resting with God. Instead it is given to shopping, sport and other things. The law written on stone should now be written in our hearts. Jesus said it is a greater law; lust is adultery, hatred is murder, to covet is idol worship.

We hear quite a lot from some people about the possibility of yet another Temple being rebuilt in Jerusalem before Jesus comes. In the Bible there are only two temples; an earthly temple and a spiritual heavenly temple also known as the church, not a building but the Temple of the “body of Christ”; both the individual and corporate body of believers. As we have seen in this study previous earthly temples have all been destroyed with the strongest indication that they will never be rebuilt in this present age, indeed to do so would be sacrilegious. God does not dwell in temples made by hands but in hearts of believers. Acts 7:49. The true Temple is the church and each true believer is a *living* Temple forming a spiritual building in which God will tabernacle and in which we offer “spiritual sacrifices”. 1 Peter 2:5, 2 Cor 6:16, Heb 12:22-29.

In the Old Testament blood sacrifices were regular and numerous. In the New Testament all sacrifice is done away by the supreme sacrifice of Jesus. In the New Testament sacrifices are “sacrifices of praise” by faith, giving our whole lives, including our bodies, as “living sacrifices” in obedience to God Romans 12:1.

I believe the Lord never wanted the sacrifice system to become so extensive. Ps 50:7-23. Sacrifices were intended to bring people both individually and collectively to faith but the people did not mix the Word of God with faith and sinned more and more until Jesus came and fulfilled the true sacrifice. Do we really believe that the Lord is going to back track on everything he accomplished and go back to sacrifices? Have we not yet understood the meaning of all the OT shadows, ordinances, types and figures and how they are all fulfilled by Jesus? Is there a single scripture in the NT that says God will reinstate sacrifices? In Psalm 51:16,17 we read;

“You do not desire sacrifice or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart – These, O God you will not despise.”

Sacrifices are only a shadow, repentance is the substance God desires. God does not want sacrifices but obedience and mercy. Hosea 6:6, Micah 6:6-8, Isaiah 1:10-15, Hebrews 10:1-18. To rebuild

the old system of Temple sacrifices would be against everything Jesus has done and would be going back on all he accomplished. In the New Testament there is no mention of sacrifices ever being reinstated. As we have seen in Hebrews the concept of animal sacrifices is entirely discounted. Hebrews 10:19-39. This and other OT practices and ordinances were part of the controversy between the new believers in Jesus and the old Jewish believers which the apostle Paul addressed in Galatians. Please note that the actual commandments of God have not changed or been cancelled.

WHAT ABOUT EZEKIEL 40 – 48 ?

What then of the final chapters of Ezekiel? These are some of the most difficult passages to understand and there are conflicting views to their meaning and devout believers have different convictions and we will have to wait to see their fulfillment. However, if we *maintain principles* of NT understanding it may help us. The NT takes the prophecies of the OT and explains them in the light of the death and resurrection of Jesus. In Revelation John quoted from Ezekiel and applied his OT prophecies to the future new order but did not mention any renewal of sacrifices. Ezekiel was an OT prophet; that's the way he thought and preached; he spoke in terms the people of his day were familiar with and could relate to. Why did he speak like that? It was to provoke them to turn away from ungodliness and to repent and put their faith back in God. In his day there were still sacrifices and the temple was the central issue of the time. It was defiled and then became destitute. Ezekiel was given this vision to call people back to God and give them a glimpse of the future glory in ways they could understand. Ezekiel 43:10-12.

In Revelation the apostle John does not go into much detail about the 1000 year period but there is "the camp of saints and the beloved city." John does not tell of an earthly temple or of future sacrifices and he does not explain what happens but we know from OT scriptures such as Ezekiel, Isaiah and others that Jerusalem will be filled with God's glory and righteous sacrifices offered. Did John purposefully not tell us about animal sacrifices because the early

believers already understood what will happen? The OT gives the foundations upon which we build. It is full of figures which are described in the NT as shadows. In the book of Hebrews a full explanation of the OT temple sacrificial system is explained. When Jesus died he overruled all the shadows and temple ordinances and established lasting realities. By his own death he ended *all* temple sacrifices. They *ceased* as in the “**Sabbath rest**”. Dan 9:27. The 1000 years is a **Sabbath** age of peace and rest.

What then did Ezekiel mean when he described a new Temple in Jerusalem? The sequence in which Ezekiel placed his vision is important. He described it in the closing chapters of his entire book, *after* the judgment upon earthly Jerusalem and the nations, *after* the re-gathering of Israel (36), *after* the resurrection of Israel (37), and *after* the subsequent great attack of Gog (Satan) and the combined forces of evil (38,39). The apostle John followed the same order as Ezekiel’s vision but he did not describe a Temple with sacrifices but instead the coming of a New Heavens and Earth in which there was no temple. He evidently knew something Ezekiel had not fully disclosed. However, this is only after 1000 years of God’s reign.

We must remember the historical context in which Ezekiel’s vision was written and the purpose for it being given. Ezekiel warned Israel and many other nations of inevitable judgment of their sin. He called God’s people to repent and come back to God. He gave a vision of a *restored* temple despite the temple in Jerusalem lying in ruins. This was an appeal to his countrymen and the reason for his vision was given by the Lord, to cause them to repent. Ezekiel wrote pre-Messiah and therefore spoke in ways that his contemporaries would understand. He used terms and figures, symbols and examples of things with which they were familiar and could grasp. It was a “visual sermon,” a magnificent visual parable of future glory and he was instructed to relay it to the people for one purpose, so that they could “see” it, consider it and learn from it and be ashamed and repent and turn back in faith. (43:10-12.) This was why it contained such vivid meticulous imagery; for a Jew of that time in captivity it held great meaning and they understood its significance. In fact the

original earthly tabernacle plan and structure with all its furniture was filled with imagery as a visual way to convey spiritual truth and bring people to faith not just ritual.

A careful reading of Ezekiel draws our attention to a number of things. Firstly, the purpose for which it was given; it was to be a vision they could consider and lead them into repentance. (43:10) It was like a sermon, convicting them of the awesome holiness of God and imploring them to turn away from abominations back to God. It was therefore to be considered to invoke repentance. The Bible is full of such writing and is a method the Lord used constantly to bring people to truth. It would be very hard to construct a literal building of the proportions that Ezekiel envisioned in the *present* circumstances. There would have to be changes to the topography of the region to accommodate it, certainly not possible *before* the coming of Messiah. Zechariah tells us there will be future geographic changes and this may well involve rebuilding Jerusalem after a devastating attack upon it. I believe the whole of creation will be renewed and restored in preparation for the eternal new creation. In the millennium Jerusalem will be sanctified and there will be a “Sanctuary”. The NT does not mention animal sacrifices but if there are they must be post-Messianic.

Secondly, Ezekiel’s sacrifices cannot be like OT sacrifices which were intended to cleanse the conscience and create faith in the *future* sacrifice of God’s Son. They were only temporary, pending their fulfillment at the cross. They came *before* the cross not after. In fact the Levite priesthood was changed and replaced with that of Jesus the High Priest in the eternal order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 7:11-13. Melchizedek never sacrificed but gave *bread* and *wine*, the eternal symbols of Jesus (Gen. 14:18) and we too will eat at the table of the Lord. Ps 23, Luke 22:29-30, Matt 8:11, 1 Cor 10:21 11:23-29. We are told that during the 1000 years those who have been faithful to Jesus will be “priests and kings” and rule on earth. The Levites of Ezekiel are believers in Jesus. Revelation 1:6, 5:10, 20:6. If there are sacrifices during the millennium we have to explain why, in the light of all that is said in the New Testament; the temple ordinances are

done away with, the Priesthood is changed and Jesus has risen as eternal High Priest. These sacrifices must therefore represent a change. Some say that they are intended as a memorial of what Jesus has done. Yet we will have the Presence of the “Living Lamb of God” forever bearing the wounds of his supreme sacrifice. It will be the *corpses* of the wicked that are a memorial unto the Lord, a reminder forever of the Lord’s righteous judgment. The nations will hear and see the Glory of the Lord and His people are themselves an offering to Him, redeemed and cleansed forever. Isaiah 66:1-24. Whatever convictions you may have it is clear that Ezekiel’s temple is not built *before* the return of Messiah but *after* Messiah comes. There will be a new order in the millennium and there are different views as to how things will be fulfilled so we will have to see how Ezekiel’s vision comes to pass. Whatever it is it will be glorious.

OUR PROMISE – A FUTURE JERUSALEM – Isaiah 62

Psalms 122:6 Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

I believe in the coming of God’s kingdom on earth but that does not cancel heaven for it is dependent upon heaven and upheld by it.

Believers in Jesus Messiah are not looking for an earthly city but a “city with foundations built by God.” It is called “Mount Zion, Heavenly Jerusalem; City of God, where there are multitudes of angels and the Church of the First Born enrolled in Heaven.” We have a “heavenly country and city.” Hebrews 11:10,15-16, 12:22, 13:14. We are told that “here we do not have an enduring city but we look for the city to come.” It is not an earthly city but heavenly. Our future is not an earthly State but a Heavenly State. Our future hope is in the return of Yeshua and the remnant of Jewish people together with all others turning to Him as Lord and Saviour. There will, however, be 1000 years before the fullness of the Heavenly Kingdom becomes fully manifested. This period is a transitional time and translates the present creation into the reality of the future. This is foretold in 1 Corinthians 15:24-27. During this time those who are raised with Christ will reign with him. Revelation 14:4,5 20:4,5.

During this period there will be a “ladder” (a portal gate) between earth and heaven allowing interaction such as we have not seen before. John 1:51, Matt 22:30. The Lord will overcome all things even death itself and then submit all things to the Father.

Then John described a monumental event; the present heavens and earth will dissolve and the New Heavens and Earth will appear. Revelation 20:11, 2 Peter 3:7, 13, Isaiah 65:17-19, 66:22-. The present creation is finite and cannot last forever. It is decaying and the whole of creation groans because of its bondage and eagerly awaits the great deliverance into the glorious liberty of the Sons of God. Romans 8:18-23. We are *not* looking for a Jewish State or an earthly temple but we are looking for a new order in which the Lord himself is Present in His Risen Glory.

New Jerusalem will be the Throne of the Lord and all nations will gather to the Lord. Jeremiah 3:17. Melchizedek represents Jesus who is both High Priest and King of Jerusalem, the city of peace and righteousness. New Jerusalem is a bride, Eternal, unchanging without corruption, death or decay. Of its increase there will be no end. Then the words of the Lord will come to pass: God will tabernacle with men, God with us, Immanuel. The whole earth will be full of the Glory of the Lord which will extend to the whole universe.

“Heaven is My throne and earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the Lord, or what is the place of My rest?”

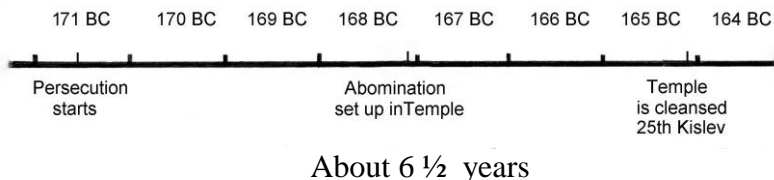
We are the temple of the Living God and are called to live consecrated lives with sacrifices of obedience and holiness. Beloved get ready, the Glory is coming. Hag 2:6-9, 1 Co 3:16,17, Rom 12:1.

CONCLUSION - WHERE ARE WE NOW?

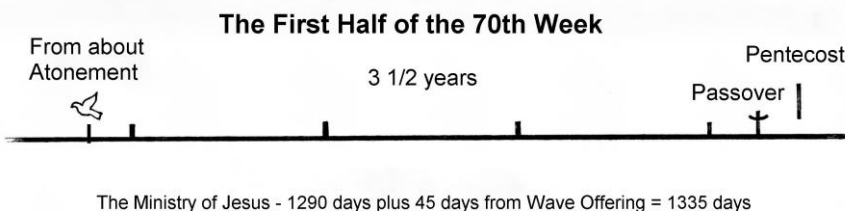
We are living very near the end of the age and the start of the next. There is no 7 years, only 3 ½. There is no need for a third temple to be built. Two prophets will be revealed at or after the division of Jerusalem. After a terrible conflict Messiah the King will appear to his people. This is closer than many may think.

CHARTS

The Temple desecrated and cleansed 2300 days of Antiochus Epiphanes



Ministry of Jesus

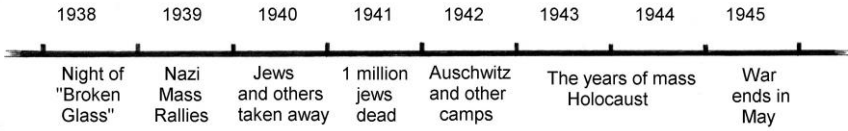


1290 days ministry plus 45 days to Pentecost

Roman destruction of Temple



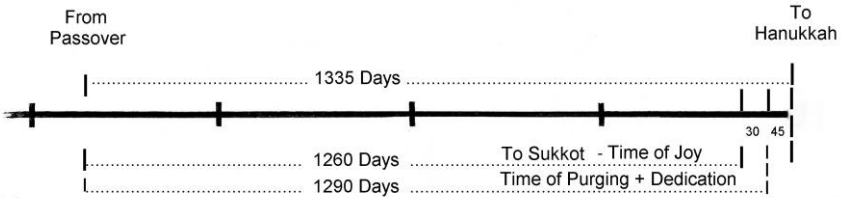
The NAZI Regime



About 6 ½ years intense persecution

Matthew 24:21,22 Jerusalem is surrounded.

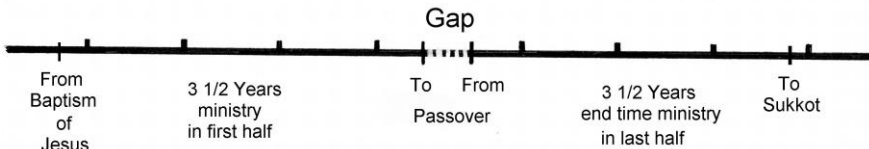
Last Three and a Half Years



A mirror reflection of the first half of the week.

1260 days to Sukkot, 30 days of harvest and 45 days purging to Hanukkah

The 70th Week of Daniel 9:24 - 27

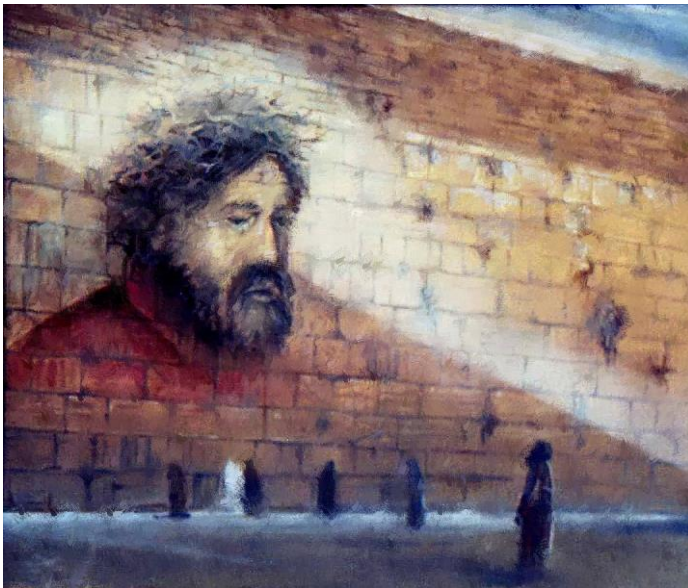


**1290 days (plus 45) -
1335 days to the First
Covenant + Gospel Age**

**- 1260 days to Sukkot -
30 days of harvest + 45 days
purging = 1335 days
to consecration at
Hanukkah + Millennium Age**



The “Presence” at the Wall – Past and Present.



END NOTE: Daniel 9:24-27 is about Jesus.

There is some obscurity in the many translations of this passage but it should not be too difficult if we maintain the simplicity of the original language without adding extra words to the meaning. We are sometimes unable to think outside the restrictions of our theological boxes so may miss vital truth.

9:24 – ...to anoint the Most Holy.

Jesus is “Messiah” meaning the anointed Holy One. This whole message is about Messiah the Prince and what He will do when He comes. The entire period is 70 weeks (70x7) 490 *years* and starts with a Royal Command. It is to do with Messiah the Prince; anyone else who may be mentioned is incidental. It was given to answer Daniel’s prayer about God’s Covenant 9:4,12 which the people had broken through disobedience bringing 70 *years* of desolation upon themselves. In response Gabriel announced that Messiah will yet come and confirm the covenant – cause the Covenant to prevail. It is *not about* antichrist but Christ.

9:25 – (69 weeks) unto the Messiah the Prince.

It would be exactly 69 weeks (483 years) to the Anointed One; the very day when Jesus revealed himself and was anointed by the Holy Spirit at the start of his 3½ year ministry during which he declared the eternal Covenant of God..

9:26 – “after (the 69 weeks) shall Messiah be cut off but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.”

Sometime *after* the 483 years Messiah was “cut off” by crucifixion. He is the MOST HOLY the true Temple and at the moment he died on the cross the veil in the temple was torn. It was the “people of the prince to come” who were responsible for the destruction of the temple. They first killed the Holy One and then also brought about the destruction of the city and earthly temple. There is only *one* Prince in the prophecy; Prince Messiah. The *prince* is the same as verse 25 and in context should have a capital P. The people of the Prince, the Jewish leaders *together* with the Roman authorities, killed the Prince the Most Holy (kodesh kodesh - Strongs 6944) and later were largely responsible for the destruction of the earthly sanctuary (kodesh 6944) by their own disobedience, rebellion and faction fighting. The Romans were only the agents of destruction.

9:27 - “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week; and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifices and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make desolate, even until the consummation and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”

To “Confirm the Covenant” means God’s Covenant, *not* a peace treaty; Confirm means to strengthen and Covenant is the Biblical word for God’s Covenant. This

was fulfilled by Jesus himself who confirmed and declared the Gospel for 3½ years and then established the Covenant in the midst of the 70th week by causing the sacrifice to cease, meaning cessation as in Sabbath. No antichrist can do that. Jesus did this. Hebrews 4:9, 10:11-14. It was the crucifixion of Jesus when lifted “on the wings of abomination that brought utter desolation.” Jesus was hung on the “wings of the temple” for all to see and this deed ultimately brought utter desolation upon the temple and nation. In the first half of the 70th week, Jesus confirmed the Covenant, took away all sacrifices and after his resurrection poured out His Holy Spirit on His new living temple. This view is in fact the original oldest view of Daniel 9:24-27 held long before any ideas about antichrist, came along and hijacked the real meaning. Barnes’ Notes on the Bible, Haley’s Bible Handbook and other authentic long standing scholars believed this way. I have found that we can be misled by teachings that appear logical to our theological mindset but not based on the true Hebrew context. Several crucial scriptures that apparently mean one thing actually mean the exact opposite once we consider them from a Jewish view point.

Daniel chapter 12 is also about Prince Messiah. There may be an angel called “Michael” but in Jewish tradition and thinking this is a synonym for Messiah the Prince of Israel, highest in rank of all angels. Dan 10:3,21. The Apostle Paul confirms this by linking the resurrection with the “voice of the archangel” who in Biblical context is the “Angel of the Lord” – Jesus Himself. No angel can raise the dead only Jesus himself. Daniel 12 is about what the Messiah will do in the end.

The view that the prophecy of Daniel 9:27 is about antichrist making a “peace treaty” with Israel which he then breaks does not make sense. The message Gabriel brings is in direct context to Daniel’s prayer to the Lord God who keeps His covenant with those who love him and keep His commands. Daniel’s confesses that Israel had broken those commandments (Dan 9:4-) The word **covenant** is used hundreds of times in scripture for God’s Covenant. (Strongs 1285) It is occasionally used for a covenant between men (1Sam 18:3) but the overwhelming use is for God’s Covenant.

Another word meaning “*covenant by cutting flesh*” is to “**cut off**”. (Strongs *karath* - 3772) This word is used in Daniel 9:26 of Messiah who was “cut off” but not for Himself. This was when Jesus took our sins and was “cut off” in our place, crucified for us.

The word “**confirm**” is a word meaning to “be strong, strengthen, cause to prevail, confirm.” (Strongs *gabar* 1396). It is the root for the name of the angel **Gabriel** who gave this message; *geber* - 1397 “a valiant man, warrior” and *el* - 410, “strength, especially of the Almighty.” The over whelming meaning of the word to confirm is to “strengthen in a valiant manner as a warrior and man of God.” It is what the Messiah did; by being “cut off” in our place For 3½ years he declared the covenant with signs and miracles. He then confirmed it exactly in the middle of the

final 70th prophetic week and also in the middle of his final week of earthly life. He ministered for exactly 3½ years, from his baptism to his death. That was the first half of the 70th week. It was 69 weeks to his baptism in the Jordan as Messiah when he was anointed by the Holy Spirit and declared by God the Father to be His Son as well as by John the Baptist to be the Lamb of God. This was his public revelation as Messiah. After that he was cut off, when he established the Covenant with his disciples and then died on the cross.

The idea that the antichrist will make a treaty with Israel and then break it is totally out of context with the meaning of the entire chapter. It is not the antichrist that makes a treaty but it is the Lord Messiah who confirms and fulfills God's Covenant and then brings a cessation and Sabbath rest to further sacrifices. Nowhere does it say that antichrist will break the Covenant. It was Messiah who was "cut off" because it is our sins that break God's Covenant. Neither is there mention of a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. That temple was destroyed with no further need of sacrifices. Even devout Jews who look for a rebuilt temple believe it will happen *after* Messiah comes and not before. This prophecy in Daniel makes it clear that the temple will remain desolate right to the consummation. This means an utter and complete destruction to the very end. Some teach that a so called "peace treaty" which will last seven years will be made by a confederation of nations (Psalm 83) but then broken in the middle. There are two problems with this. First of all there is not 7 years left in Biblical prophecy, only 3½. Nowhere does Daniel talk about 7 years at the end, only 3½. Secondly, the nations of Psalm 83 vow to destroy Israel. They do not covenant *with* Israel and then break it; they hate Israel and always have done, and agree together to destroy Israel not covenant with it.

Some people may ask, "What then of the calculations made by Robert Anderson who calculated the time of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem?" This is very interesting but it is a complex calculation which most people have no understanding of and certainly cannot replicate. To do so requires ability beyond most of us. However, if indeed these calculations are correct there are two problems with them. They *start* at the wrong time and *end* on the wrong day. Anderson starts his calculations from Nehemiah in 445BC and through a complex process of turning Jewish lunar years into solar years and then counting the days he works it out to the day Jesus entered Jerusalem. However, the prophecy of Daniel states there will be 69 weeks (483 years) from the command to restore Jerusalem *until* Messiah. Messiah means anointed one; it is therefore to his *anointing* not his death. He was anointed as Messiah at his baptism not his death. Nehemiah never had a command from the king but only a *letter* which ratified the *previous* Royal Command given in **457BC** and under which the rebuilding of the city had already begun. The correct decree is found in **Ezra 6:14** as are all 3 decrees. There are various complex ideas as to how to understand Daniel 9 but the simplest and most historically accurate calculation works out from Ezra's return in **457BC** to when Jesus was baptized at the *start* of his 3½ ministry not his entry into Jerusalem. For more on this please read my books "Covenant of Glory," "Crown of Thorns" and "When Messiah Comes."