

THE RETURN OF THE KING OF THE JEWS

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PREFACE

The bulk of the fundamental values and principles that govern life on earth are being, or rather have been, systematically eroded from existence by our leaders, rulers, guardians, trainers, parents, brothers and sisters, including ourselves. These values and principles were established in the world to guide us into a life worthy of living. In some quarters you are highly esteemed by your level of disobedience: the amount of wickedness your hands can wrought and how much hurt you can inflict on others. Whether it is through covetousness, greed, power-drunkenness or self-promotion, these are all against the very laws and principles which were established to lead us into a harmonious life.

If anyone is able to keep themselves from these pernicious ways, they become hated by those who perpetuate these impious characteristics. These people will seek every conceivable means to destroy that person.

Our world is decaying at a rate faster than we can ever imagine but the majority of us are blind to it. We are wholly incontinent and stubborn - we cannot be told otherwise, because of the vanities we have set our minds on. We fail to realise that we are protected by the mercy of one who has chosen not to be visible to all throughout this age - which will soon come to an end.

Will things continue as they are forever? Will not those with power completely destroy the weak and needy if given the opportunity? Who is the protector of the poor, the meek and the humble? We have all heard of the judgment to come but the majority of the inhabitants of the world will mock and scorn at the mention of the fact that all our deeds throughout our lives are being recorded and that a day has already been set for each and every one of us to face the judgement of our Creator. But the question is: what else has He, the Creator, said will happen to His creation? Man has no power over his Creator. This study aims to enlighten you on what has been said and to direct you to take the time to investigate for yourself to see if what is being said is so. This is crucial as the time of visitation is close at hand.

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Chapter One

INTRODUCTION

Every day we behold awesome phenomena but the majority of us have not set aside the time required to investigate deeper - in order to establish in our minds how all these events came into existence and to realise the great order that has been set before us. Day runs into night and night into day without fail. There is exactly twenty-four hours in a day regardless where you are on earth. This is beyond the control of man. We cannot add to it or change this set pattern. We have seasons which change at the same period of time each year without fail; winter turns to spring, spring leads to summer which, at the appointed time, it turns to autumn and autumn to winter. This order is consistent. However, the timing varies depending on your location on earth.

There are also certain laws which are crucial for life on earth. If they are taken away, life on earth would be extinct. There is the law of gravity and the laws of thermodynamics, friction and motion, just to name a few. When we look closely at our planet, we realise that all rivers run into the sea continually but the sea itself never gets full. What of the fact that all living cells can only come from another living cell? Scientists have been able to change the composition of living cells but no one has been able to create a single living cell. Nothing in this world has been created from nothing by anyone alive. Things have been made from a combination of materials which already existed.

The earth recycles all natural things. Trees, leaves, dead animals - including human beings - are absorbed back into the earth and turned into earth. The earth also sustains every living thing on it by the use of three natural elements: sunlight, air and water. All living things depend on other living things for their survival.

There are many spiritual laws which affect our lives on a daily basis. The majority of us have not come to the realisation that these laws, when broken, have adverse effects on us; sometimes instantly, or after a while - gradually sucking life out of us. For example: love and hate. When we love we feel instant fulfilment and it brings a sense of overwhelming joy to our lives. We do not see love because it is spiritual but we know it is there, just as we can't see spirits. In contrast, when we hate - joy and peace flee from us and we begin to sense sadness. To add to these two (love and hate) there is also hope, trust, understanding,

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wisdom, truth and more. These are all spiritual laws that govern our lives. So where do these come from and who has set them in order?

There is a law which could completely change the state of this world if everyone abided by it: the law of cause and effect. It is profound but simplistic; if you find the cause you can get rid of the effects. For some odd reason mankind is bent on dealing with the effects and not the cause. For every cause there is an effect and for every effect there is a cause. If laws are broken, the effects will systematically come to light. Take a very common example, which is very prevalent in our communities today: drunkenness. High alcohol consumption leads to defective behaviour which can destroy, not only the life of the person, but that of their family too. The effect here will be someone losing their livelihood and possibly their life through illness. Would you say the cause of death is the illness that killed them or was it as a result of excessive alcohol consumption? The latter would be correct due to the fact that the cause of the illness was excessive alcohol consumption. So, is it sensible to teach others not to drink in excess instead of trying to cure the diseases which are as a result of excessive alcohol consumption?

To some today, character is less valuable than personality, fame and charisma. Character is meant to be instilled in a child by the parents, not from schools or the community. If a child is trained on the correct values of life from an early age, they will never depart from it. The majority of parents in our communities today have discarded this responsibility to schools and government which, as we know, are led by those with very little wisdom on the right values and principles of life. People can only give what they have or what they have learnt. If they do not have the right values themselves how then can they pass on what they never had? Our communities are all headed in the wrong direction for one simple reason: character has diminished to something unrecognisable and it is no more the pillar that once was the foundation of our existence. The promotion of vileness has overtaken us and there aren't many alive today with a strong character based on the right values and principles of life.

Where are we from? Why are we here? And where are we heading? What is next for planet earth? Are we the products of a well-orchestrated plan or are we the products of evolution? Many have given these questions some thought but they fail to understand that evolution is just a theory, not fact. Is it possible for a loaf of bread to be formed as a result of an

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explosion in a bakery? The answer to this question is surely no, therefore why is it that some will even entertain the idea that a more complex form of life can be formed as a result of an explosion from nothing? Please don't be ignorant of the fact that all life on earth can only come from another life therefore someone created the first forms of life.

Some will not consider this because it is not important to them, and some will hold on to their beliefs because their minds are set; but what about you? Are you of the same opinion or do you think differently? The majority of us, at some stage of our lives, must have pondered the essence of our existence and where it will end, but never came to a conclusion and gave up without spending the requisite amount of time required to get to the answers. Some come to the knowledge of the truth but choose to follow a lie because they are afraid, or rather ashamed of what others might say of them.

Would you say there is a superior being, higher in every aspect of life to us out there somewhere who has set everything in existence? We know if we take the time to seriously consider this fact, we will conclude that there is one greater than the human race who has put life together. This means we did not spring out from evolution. Consider the greatest principle of 'seed, time and harvest' which governs everything we do on planet earth today. Nothing happens in an instant, there is always a period of time between sowing the seeds and harvesting the crop. Consider what the Lord has determined after the floods of Noah in this passage of Scripture:

Genesis 8:22 New King James Version (NKJV)

²² *"While the earth remains, Seed, time and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night shall not cease."*

Our discussion so far is summarised in this passage of Scripture. There is always going to be summer and winter, day and night and, as it was mentioned previously, the greatest principle of all: 'seed, time and harvest'. This information is available to all through God's own words in the Bible. No other book can lay claim to the origin of the universe and back it up. God has declared that He created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1-31 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* ² *The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the*

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face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

⁶ Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." ⁷ Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. ⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

⁹ Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. ¹⁰ And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. ¹² And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ So the evening and the morning were the third day.

On the first day of this age, while the earth was in darkness and without order, God called for light and there was light. But why was the earth in disorder? We know God did not create the earth from the beginning in a confused state, so where did the confusion come from? This is a subject for another study. God created light and separated the light from darkness creating day and night. The sun is not the source of light that governs the day. God created that light. This therefore means that without the sun and the moon, there is still going to be night and day because that is what God desired. The sun and the moon were not created until the fourth day after God had found store houses for the water that covered the earth. Ironically, the water that covered the earth was to be released again from these store houses for a hundred and fifty days during the period of time when God destroyed the whole earth during the days of Noah with a flood.

Genesis 1:14-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; ¹⁵ and let them be

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for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. ¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. ¹⁷ God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

On the sixth day, God created man on earth in His likeness, both male and female. He gave them a command to be fruitful and to multiply, fill and subdue the earth. Man was given dominion over God’s creation on the earth.

Genesis 1:26-31 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

²⁹ And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰ Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food”; and it was so. ³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

This is an account of what God did in six days. He then rested on the seventh day. This has great significance to us today since this was the very first covenant God made with man. God later re-established the Sabbath Day as a sign between Him and His people through His servant Moses. It starts at sundown on Friday evening and ends at sundown on Saturday evening.

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Genesis 2:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ² And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

These passages of Scripture are from the first two chapters of the Bible. When we carefully consider these passages of Scripture, we will come to the conclusion that no one can ever completely destroy the earth without the knowledge of God, or rather - without God letting it happen.

This brings us to the point, which is of paramount importance to us alive today, what else has God said? If God has said that as long as the earth continues, there will be day and night, winter and summer, hot and cold, then where do global warming and all the other issues man has invented for the sole purpose of scaremongering stand?

Significantly, would this world continue before a Holy God in its present state, full of perversity, disobedience, bloodshed, injustice, corruption, disrespect, greed and more? Consider this passage of Scripture:

Romans 1:18-32 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

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²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

God forbid, these practices shall not continue forever. God has said His invisible attributes are clearly seen by the things that He has made and His eternal power. There is no hiding place for anyone. God has set a timeframe in which He will judge the earth for its unrighteousness. Some speak of a time of judgment to come without understanding what it entails. This is what God has said He will do at the end of age, which is not the end of the world as some are being led to believe. God has said that He will restore His creation back to its former glory before the transgression of His laws and commandment became prevalent. He will do this by removing all the wicked from the earth. We are the generation to see this come to pass. This should not be confused with the Great White Throne Judgment in which every soul that has ever lived will be judged on what they did during their lives.

Zephaniah 1:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ The word of the LORD which came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah. ² "I will utterly consume everything From the face of the land," Says the LORD; ³ "I will consume man and beast; I will consume the birds of the heavens, The fish of the sea, And the stumbling blocks along with the wicked. I will cut off man from the face of the land," Says the LORD.

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This passage of Scripture reveals that there is an appointed time in which God has said He will destroy man, beast, fish of the sea, birds of the air, all the wicked and the stumbling blocks that cause people to be disobedient. The apostle Paul was inspired to inform us that we are all the offspring of God and we have all been called to change from our evil ways and walk in the righteousness of God. This is how we will escape this punishment which God has proposed to pour out on the wicked - to those who are disobedient to His laws and commandments.

Acts 17:29-31 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁹ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. ³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.

The One who has been ordained to judge the world is the Lord Jesus Christ. On that day He will not pity anyone because we have not heeded the word of God that came through His servants and, most importantly, through His Son: the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Judge.

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Chapter Two

UNDERSTANDING PREDESTINATION

There are many conflicting ideas of the true meaning of the word predestination. If you surveyed a hundred people it would not be surprising if you were to get a hundred different answers with some answers very similar to each other. Why discuss predestination, and do we play a part in it? Hopefully, at the end of this chapter, which is just a short summary of what predestination entails, you will be enlightened by the answers to these questions. First, it is imperative that we look at the dictionary definitions of the word predestination and then search the Holy Scriptures with this knowledge and understanding to unveil the true meaning of the word predestination - according to the spoken word of God.

Merriam-Webster defines the word predestination as:

- 1: the act of predestining: the state of being predestined.*
- 2: the doctrine that God in consequence of his foreknowledge of all events infallibly guides those who are destined for salvation.*
- 3: the belief that everything that will happen has already been decided by God or fate and cannot be changed.*

Cambridge Dictionary says:

If an action or event is predestined, it is controlled by God or by fate.

Dictionary.com says:

- 1. An act of predestinating or predestining.*
- 2. The state of being predestinated or predestined.*
- 3. Fate; destiny.*
- 4. Theology.*

The action of God in foreordaining from eternity whatever comes to pass.

The decree of God by which certain souls are foreordained to salvation.

Above are three dictionary definitions of predestination. One thing common in all three definitions is the fact that God has ordained certain events to happen on earth. Is this

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limited to salvation only and will the rest of what is happening on earth pass by Him without His knowledge, or do we live in a well-orchestrated plan that has a pre-written end? Or is it just a belief as many seem to think? What about the word fate, how does it align with the word predestination? You will be astonished at the definition of fate when you come to understand God's meaning of the word predestination.

Some take predestination to be events which were meant to be. Quite often giving no second thought to the consequences of such events and why things happen in the first place, forgetting the fact that all we do presently and in the future is based on the decisions we made in the past. Please take some time to consider this statement carefully: all we do presently is based on decisions we made in the past. We do not live in the present but in the past. By the time we make a decision, act, or react to a situation, the moment has already passed.

PREDESTINED SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL LAWS

It is important to understand that when God created the world, He also established laws and commandments, both spiritual and physical, which, when broken, have grave consequences. Similarly, if we should break the laws of any nation of the world today and we get caught in the process we will certainly face the justice system of that nation. But with God's laws and commandments, ignorance cannot be cited as an excuse for breaking these laws.

There are many spiritual and physical laws which govern our lives on a daily basis, but the majority of us have not come to the realisation that these laws exist. Yet they are there for us to behold when broken, resulting in adverse effects, some almost instantly and others taking effect after a while: gradually sucking life out of us. If the laws are followed then the result will be rewarding, adding value to our lives. The simple reason for these laws is to keep us from falling into a way of life that God the Creator has not prescribed for us. These laws are our safeguard, protecting us from ourselves, because we do not know what is good for us and what we are supposed to do.

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Take faith as an example. Contrary to what many consider faith to be, faith is the substance, the power that underpins the things we hope for and it is also the evidence of the things we do not see. When we become justified after repentance, we must live by faith. This is the only way we can please God.

We also have the law of gravity, which prevents us from flying off the earth into space. The laws of thermodynamics, friction, just to name a few, have all been established from the time of creation to sustain life on earth. All these laws point to the fact that someone with awesome wisdom, knowledge and understanding must have put them in place to govern life on earth.

Love brings joy to our lives when we love. What about the opposite of love, hate? If we continually live in hatred of another person and we are consumed by it, we become bitter inside and our spirit starts to develop darkness. We slowly but surely start strangling ourselves spiritually, which leads to death if we do not release ourselves from this hatred through forgiveness.

As you can see, it is God who has set the boundaries of all the laws that govern the world and the structure of authority, but we have been given the choice to choose what to do (a free will). The consequences of keeping or breaking these laws always come to light at the end. If we live in hatred, just as breaking any other physical or spiritual laws, the consequence is that we then start to live a miserable life because God does not want us to hate. Living in misery is a consequence of our actions in which we had a choice.

God has not predestined any one of us to live a miserable life. We have all been given the free will to make decisions in whatever situation we face, hence, the importance of wisdom, knowledge, understanding and the fear of the Lord.

The most fundamental principle of both spiritual and physical laws that God has set in the world we live in, is the law of cause and effect. Wherever there is a cause there will be an effect. We most often deal with the effects and forget about the cause. Every action we take has a determined effect. If we consume too much alcohol, we become drunk and lose self-control which can lead to all sorts of effects. All things should be done in moderation.

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God, as part of His laws and commandments, has also ordained certain days of the year, beginning with the weekly Sabbaths, to be His feast days. There is a predestined period of time in the near future, after the great and awesome Day of the Lord, in which every nation will have to go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, and to keep the feast of Tabernacles. If a nation does not go up to Jerusalem during the feast days of the Lord, they will be punished. The punishment has already been pronounced: that nation will have no rain.

Zechariah 14:16-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁷ And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. ¹⁸ If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁹ This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

If that is what has been prophesied for the future, does not common sense tell us that these feast days of the Lord are very important to us today? The majority of those who profess to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ keep days and feasts which are not found anywhere in the Holy Scriptures. The Lord Jesus Christ is our Passover Lamb who was slain for our sins at the feast of Passover. The word of God speaks of the feast of Passover but many professing believers observe Easter, which has nothing to do with the truth. These are people who profess to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Now is the time to amend our errors because we are fast running out of time.

WHAT IS PREDESTINATION?

Predestination is a well-orchestrated master plan of God that will return His creation to the glory of his heart's intention. In other words - predestination is God's master plan to restore His creation to its intended glory before transgression became prevalent. It is imperative we understand that this master plan, which is also the will of God, was set in place before the

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creation of the heavens and the earth. This awesome plan has been communicated to us as prophecy, through His servants the prophets, in which God has outlined these events and the timeframe within which all the events He has ordained will happen, in both the heavens and on earth. This is a very broad topic. The intention of this section is to give you a solid foundation of the meaning of predestination, to enable you to understand the word of truth and prophecy, and why certain events have happened and will happen in the world.

It is of paramount importance to acknowledge the fact that predestination and prophecy are wrought together. All the events in God's master plan will surely come to pass at the appointed time - as spoken by the prophets. As you can now see clearly, not only do we live our lives in decisions we made in the past, we also live in a world whose future has been predetermined in the past. In a nutshell, predestination is separated into different categories which are all linked together, forming a chain that cannot be broken.

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

The plan of salvation was in place before God even created the world. We must understand that God is not reacting to what is happening on earth, on the contrary, He is directing the course of time for His purpose, because of the love He has for us. For that very purpose He created the world.

John 3:16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

God is a loving and caring Father who gave His Son to be our saviour. All those who believe in the Son will not perish but will have everlasting life. The word 'believe' in this instance is being taken flippantly by many professing Christians because there is nothing in their lives rooted in truth that verifies what they profess to believe in.

God had decided before the foundation of the world that the Lord Jesus Christ will be the one who will save His people from their sins and restore His creation to its intended glory.

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He knew what man was capable of doing but still gave us the free will to make our own decisions.

1 Peter 1:17-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁷And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; ¹⁸knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you ²¹who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

In the book of Revelation, we learn that the decision was made for the Lord Jesus Christ to be the Lamb of God before the creation of the world:

Revelation 13:7-9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. ⁹If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

It is the blood of Christ that washes our sins away and His broken body, which was ripped to shreds, that was the veil between man and the most Holy place. Ironically, we do not see it being performed physically, but when we believe, it becomes spiritual reality. Adam and Eve ate a fruit from a tree, believing they will become like God: knowing good and evil. Their belief became reality, because the knowledge of good and evil has filled the earth. But some do not know the difference because they have not tasted from the tree of life.

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So, what did God say will happen on earth? God has said that at the beginning of time, He will establish His government on earth, with no end, headed by His King. We have a choice to be part of this government. This is where our free will comes in play. Not being a part of

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the government of God means we choose certain death, because there is no alternative. We have to go all the way back before the creation of the earth to gain some valuable understanding. All that is happening today is not a knee jerk reaction from God, but a well-orchestrated plan that has been carefully thought through and is being executed with every passing day. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Psalm 2: 1-12 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ *Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ³ "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."*

⁴ *He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.*

⁵ *Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:*

⁶ *"Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."*

⁷ *"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" ¹⁰ Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.*

This is a conversation that took place between God the Father and His Son, when the Father brought forth His Son. When they saw that the inhabitants of the earth will try to break the rule of God, God laughed and said, "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion". When you consider this passage of Scripture even deeper, you will realise it is not just the inhabitants of the earth who are considered to be the Heathen. The Heathen includes both the fallen angels and all those who have chosen not to abide by the laws and commandments of God.

Then in verse seven, the Son declares to us what God the Father had said to Him. He said, "ask and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the world for your possession". The rest, as we can see, are the instructions from God the Father to the Son. The Son will rule over the earth with a rod of iron (the laws and commandments of God),

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and will break the rebellious people into pieces. That is the reason why hell, which was initially made for the devil and the fallen angels, has enlarged to accommodate the rebellious people of the earth as well.

God has said He will set His king to rule over the entire earth at an appointed time from His holy hill of Zion, which is present-day Jerusalem. There is no ambiguity in this statement; it merely describes the predetermined outcome of what will happen on the earth.

Daniel 2:36-45 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁶ “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. ³⁷ You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; ³⁸ and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. ³⁹ But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰ And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. ⁴¹ Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. ⁴² And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. ⁴³ As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. ⁴⁵ Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

This truth was decided before the earth was created, but God gave it to us through His servant: the prophet Daniel. As you can see, it has been predestined to happen in stages. Retrospectively, there have been long periods of time during some of these stages, but all

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have been according to God's timetable. But who is that King? It was prophesied in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 9:6-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of His government and peace. There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

This prophecy was fulfilled in the gospel of Matthew:

Matthew 2:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

Many other prophecies have been fulfilled before the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world and His return is imminent. At the appointed time, God has predestined to set up His everlasting kingdom - immediately after the end of the fourth kingdom.

THE SONS OF GOD

God has chosen to grow His family. He has given man, us, a unique opportunity to be part of His family: to become His Sons. This opportunity is only presented to us now during this present age. In the gospel of John, we come across this passage of Scripture which, at a glance, bears no significance. However, on careful examination, we realise the awesome potential God the Father has given to every living soul in this age:

John 1:12-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

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The key to becoming children of God is to believe in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We must apply what we believe in; if we believe, we must follow the path which has been prescribed before us. The apostle Paul was inspired to record a further expansion of the will of God to us in the book of Ephesians when he wrote:

Ephesians 1:3-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,* ⁴ *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,* ⁵ *having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,* ⁶ *to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*

⁷ *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace* ⁸ *which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,* ⁹ *having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,* ¹⁰ *that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.* ¹¹ *In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,* ¹² *that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.*

¹³ *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,* ¹⁴ *who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

It is the will of God the Father that we are to be adopted by Him through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to the Father's glory. Then at the end of the age, which is the period of time we are currently living in, He will gather all things in heaven and on earth under the Lord Jesus Christ in God. Hence, Jesus Christ had to be born as a man to make it possible for us to be able to enter the kingdom of God.

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A Pharisee called Nicodemus went to the Lord Jesus Christ to enquire about the truth, because he believed no man could do the miracles the Lord was performing unless God was with him. The Lord gave him the process by which all men should adhere to, to be able see and enter the kingdom of God.

John 3:1-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹*There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.* ²*This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."*

³*Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* ⁴*Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"*

⁵*Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."* ⁶*That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* ⁷*Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'* ⁸*The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

Some profess to be born again in this age just because they believe in Jesus Christ, but this does not align with Scripture. They do not have access to nor can they see the kingdom of God.

The truth is that we have to go through two processes: justification and sanctification, eventually becoming converted into the Body of Christ in preparation for the appointed time to be born again. In a nutshell, it starts by first accepting the call to repentance and being baptised: which is being born of water, according to Scripture. Then at the appointed time we are born again, resurrected by the Spirit of God, and only then can we see and be able to enter into the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of God is a physical place, where God lives.

No man, except the Lord Jesus Christ, is born again; He is in heaven with God the Father. If we should qualify through the preordained path God has set before us, only then will we gain access and be able to see and enter the kingdom of God. All those who are dead are at rest,

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sleeping, until the appointed time of resurrection. They are certainly not in the kingdom of heaven according to the Holy Scriptures.

This is the flavour of the meaning of predestination according to the Holy Scriptures - the events that will happen here on earth at the appointed time. One of those events God has predestined to happen in our generation is the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. But will it be according to the expectation of the majority of professing believers?

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Chapter Three

MISCONCEPTIONS

You will be startled when you realise that man has devised sophisticated and subtle ways to misinform his fellow man for gain. If that is the case, what hope has anyone who is bent on finding the truth and willing to employ the required time to achieve their heart's desire? When we came into this world as children, we came with a clean and clear mind. Our parents began the process of filling our minds with all kinds of information, with the majority having very little value. When we came of age we continued in these vain practices, taking and holding onto their beliefs and traditions without understanding the reasons behind these vain customs. When we eventually stumble into some understanding of the truth, which we all do at some stage of our lives, our hearts and those closest to us will do their utmost best to discourage us from pursuing truth. Therefore, the majority of us will give up our search for the truth. Some will associate themselves with the very groups whose main purpose is to keep us as far away as possible from the truth. God has set a principle for us to follow when He inspired the scribe Luke to recount what he witnessed about the people of Berea when he wrote:

Acts 17:10-12 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. ¹² Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

This passage of Scripture provides us with a perfect foundation to build on, enabling us to gain valuable understanding and to see if what we are being taught aligns with what God has said in the Holy Scriptures. If we do not study the Holy Scriptures, how can we prove what we are being told by our teachers is the truth? What if they are in error? Should we take their error to be the truth? Consider these pits in which many have fallen in error whilst seeking the truth.

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SEALED PROPHECY

When we study the Holy Scriptures, we come across certain prophecies which we immediately absorb and gain understanding of the intended meaning. With other prophecies, we can spend years going over them without understanding the intention behind these words. At this point some scholars will try to fill this gap with something other than the truth because they are driven by the need to convince others of their understanding of prophecy. Many will blindly take hold of their word even though it doesn't reference what the Lord has said. There is a particular portion of prophecy which forms the foundation of the timeline on which all the events prophesied at the end age fit neatly. Without the understanding of this portion of prophecy - the timeline of, and the events at the end of age, cannot be clear to any of us on earth. In other words, if this prophecy is sealed, nothing that has been said can be of the truth until the appointed time when God has chosen to reveal the truth. The apostle John was chosen as a scribe by the Lord to record three things for us in the book of Revelation: what he saw, what is and what is to come:

Revelation 1:19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

At the end of the book of Revelation, John was instructed to leave the book open because the time is at hand. Sealing of a portion of Scripture is done spiritually, closing it to our understanding.

Revelation 22:10 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

The book of Revelation was left opened from the time it was written and the true servants of God understand what is written therein. Over the years many have studied the book of Revelation and have gained some understanding of what was said, but not a complete picture of what is to come. This is because the prophecy that underpins all other prophecies has remained sealed until the 'time of the end'. There is a portion of Scripture which the apostle John was told not to write:

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Revelation 10:1-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. ² He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, ³ and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. ⁴ Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

Here, a part of the book of Revelation was concealed because it gave understanding of what God wants to keep sealed until the end. The prophet Daniel, who was the chosen scribe for the prophecy which underpins the timeline to all prophecies, was told on three separate occasions to seal the book until the 'time of the end'. Daniel himself had no understanding of what he was instructed to record.

Daniel 12:4 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

And a few verses later:

Daniel 12:8-9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸ Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what shall be the end of these things?"

⁹ And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."

A few chapters earlier, in Daniel chapter eight, we realise there is another sealing of this prophecy which forms the foundation of the timeline of all prophecies. The Lord Jesus Christ, who came to reveal to us the truth, did not open this portion of prophecy to us because it was not the appointed time. He said to His disciples on the day He returned to heaven when He was asked if He would restore the kingdom to Israel at that stage, "it is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority".

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Daniel 8:26-27 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁶ *“And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; Therefore seal up the vision, For it refers to many days in the future.”* ²⁷ *And I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days; afterward I arose and went about the king’s business. I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it.*

When a segment of Scripture is sealed in one book of the Bible, it inevitably means that everything relating to that section of Scripture in all the other books of the Bible will be sealed to our understanding too. However, since we are the generation of people at the end of this age, all Scripture has now been opened to our understanding, which implies we are supposed to have knowledge of the times and the seasons. The question we have to ask ourselves is: what do we actually know about the end of age? Yes, many have spoken and written books about this subject when this section of prophecy was sealed - but have we taken the time to reference what has been said and written against what God has said? The word of God is our sure foundation. Anything these scribes have said and written about this subject which was sealed does not align with the Holy Scriptures and is therefore erroneous.

NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY OR HOUR

The Lord Jesus said that no one knows of the day and hour of the return of the Son of man, not even the angels of heaven. Only God the Father knows.

Matthew 24:36 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁶ *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.*

It is the truth that no one knows of the specific day and hour when the Lord Jesus Christ will return to earth in great power and glory with His saints. Some professing believers have used this passage of Scripture to keep themselves from understanding what God has foretold will happen at the end of age. But it is of utmost importance to our generation of people; especially those who walk in obedience to the true God who created all things that we understand the times and season.

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Many scholars use this passage of Scripture in error, not understanding the period of time the Lord was referring to. There is a vast difference between a day and a period of time. The Lord Jesus Christ did not say that no one knows of the period of time that will lead to His return. He said that no one knows the specific day or hour of His return except God the Father. If we are not supposed to understand the times and seasons of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth as King, why then have we been told that he who comes to a specific day at a given time in the future is blessed? Moreover, how are we to know when to start counting down the days according to this passage of Scripture?

Daniel 12:11-12 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. ¹²blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.

Here we have been given two sets of days which carry a blessing for any who wait and come at the end of the former. There is a buffer period of forty-five days between the two but they both end at the same time. As we know, the great tribulation will last for one thousand two hundred and ninety days, or forty-two weeks. If we have been given a time period from which we can actually start counting down the days till the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, why are some still hooked on the fact that no one knows of the period of time of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ? Is it not our lack of understanding of the times and seasons?

Specific events have been ordained by God the Father to occur before the day of the return of Christ which God has kept sealed from us. The Lord Jesus Christ gave us details of what we should watch out for during that period of time when He said:

Matthew 24:29 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

In the above passage of Scripture, which speaks of the period of time immediately after the great tribulation, the Lord Jesus Christ explains what we should expect to see when He said:

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Matthew 24:30 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁰ *Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

This is the day the Lord has said only one person has knowledge of - God the Father. So where is the error? If we are dealing with a God who does not change, will He suddenly change and do something different - contradicting His own words? Was not Noah instructed of the coming flood a hundred and twenty years before it happened? Where did he get that information? Was it not the Lord who instructed him? What about Moses, who knew for well over forty years that he, was chosen to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt to the Promised Land? Abraham was given the predetermined future of the children of Israel four hundred years before the time that it occurred and the Lord also gave him the chance to intercede for Lot and his family before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Surely, Abraham passed on this information to his descendants; hence the reason why Joseph knew that the Lord will save the children of Israel from bondage out of Egypt and he gave instruction concerning his bones which Moses performed.

Is there a massive chunk of information missing from our understanding of what has been prophesied to happen at the end of the age? Hopefully your understanding will be enlightened at the end of this study, enabling you to put together all the events prophesied in the Holy Scriptures to occur on earth at the end of the age.

THE LACK OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING

The ways of every man are right in his own eyes but are his ways righteous? We all seem to have forgotten one profound fact: it is the Lord who gives wisdom and the understanding of His truth. Only those who obey His commandments have a good understanding of the truth. The vast majority of believers today can quote passages of Scripture which have often been taken out of context. The prophet Daniel knew who owns and freely gives wisdom and understanding to man, and in his thanksgiving prayer - after the Lord had opened his understanding to King Nebuchadnezzar's dream - he praised the Lord to that effect. This was recorded for us today, so that we can have a deeper understanding of the ways of our God.

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Daniel 2:20-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. ²¹ And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. ²² He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.

We have to be doers of the commandments of God for us to be given understanding.

Psalms 111:10 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.

Understanding comes from God. The Lord will not give understanding to those who do not have wisdom. It is imperative for us to realise that wisdom comes as a result of the fear of the Lord, which is also the beginning of knowledge. The fear of the Lord is not only about respecting God, as many will interpret, although we must show reverence to our God at all times. The fear of the Lord also involves departing from all evil and wicked ways and then starting to follow the paths God has set in his word. The fear of the Lord involves repenting from the evil ways of this world and starting to walk in obedience to God.

The Lord Jesus Christ said Scripture cannot be broken. This is a very important foundation of the word of God.

John 10:35-38 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁵ If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), ³⁶ do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? ³⁷ If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸ but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."

If we do not have the love of the truth - we will certainly have no understanding of the word of God because it is love that gives us the zeal to pursue the truth and abide in it. If we have no love for the truth, it renders us carnal. As we know - the carnal mind is enmity to God and is not subject to His laws and commandments. Hence, the majority of so-called teachers of the word of God today, who do not teach according to the laws and commandments of God,

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are carnal and have no understanding of the truth.

The vast majority of teachers, preachers and pastors of the word of God today, are not of God. They have not been sent by God and, most importantly, they do not have the Spirit of truth dwelling in them. Because they do not worship God in Spirit and truth, they have a very limited understanding of the truth. But astonishingly, many follow them.

Romans 8:5-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

If we do not have the Spirit of God, it means we are not one of His.

John 16:13-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

The above passage of Scripture reveals the fact that it is the Spirit of God that leads us into all truth, without which our understanding of the Holy Scriptures will be limited to the carnal mind.

CHILDREN OF LIGHT

It is fitting to begin the topic of the children light with this passage of Scripture.

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Matthew 5:13-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³ *"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*

¹⁴ *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

All those who believe in the God of creation and walk according to His truth are supposed to be the salt of the earth. But have we lost our flavour? We are to be the light of the world but the majority of us are in darkness because we have no knowledge of the truth. Moreover, we hold on to what does not align with the Holy Scriptures, inventing our own truth. It is our responsibility to find out what God our Father has said:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹*But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.*

If we are the children of light, we should know the events that are coming at the end of the age - including the timeframe of their occurrence. But today, when it comes to the subject of the end of age, there are many contrasting and conflicting accounts of what will happen. Some of these do not mirror what God has said. Should we then say we are the children of light? How can we be charged with leading others to safety if we are in darkness ourselves? Many leaders, teachers, preachers and so-called experts have written books about the end

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of age but these works do not align with the truth. Others then use their work to teach their congregations as if it were the truth without searching the Scriptures to see if it aligns with the truth. Should we then say we are in light when we hold on to these errors?

The Lord is not ambiguous in what He has said. The Lord has said that He will guide us into all truth through His Spirit:

John 16:13-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

If the Spirit of God will guide us into all truth, why is it that we put these teachers, who are just men, before God and hold on to what they say as if they were Gods? One thing is sure, God is faithful and He is the only one who is capable of keeping His promises. Put your trust in God and, most importantly, set the time aside to study the truth.

NOT EVERY BELIEVER WILL GO TO HEAVEN

The Lord said that no one has gone into heaven except the Son of Man, who came from heaven and returned to heaven after He was resurrected from the dead. Some profess that when you die you go to heaven. What ignorance. There is also a doctrine that teaches the Lord could come at any time and rapture believers from the earth into heaven where they will live happily ever after. This doctrine has no foundation in the Holy Scriptures. Its foundation is deeply planted in one of the subtle, but deceitful ways, which man has devised to lead his fellow man astray. Anyone who holds on to this belief is in error. Consider this question carefully: If the dead are already in heaven with the Lord, how could they possibly be raptured from their graves upon the return of the Lord?

It is best to establish some fundamental facts before exploring why there is no truth in this doctrine. Consider this passage of Scripture:

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are

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alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ but are dead are asleep until the appointed time of resurrection. This passage of Scripture gives a description of what will happen at a given time in the future when the Lord comes to redeem His saints. In the Holy Scriptures, this event refers to the period of time of the resurrection of the dead. The dead will rise first and all the saints of God who are still living will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet with the Lord. There is no clear indication of the timing of this event but there is a mention of 'the trumpet of God'. The question now is when will the event occur? The apostle Paul gave us a clearer indication of the timing of this event when He said:

1 Corinthians 15:50-52 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

This passage of Scripture gives a description of what will happen to the saints of Lord who have qualified and are deemed worthy to inherit the kingdom of God. These saints will be changed in a moment at the twinkle of an eye. Furthermore, we are given the timing of this event to be at the last trumpet. Incidentally there are six other trumpets before the last, which is the seventh. In other words, at the seventh trumpet, the dead in Christ will rise up first and all the saints who are alive will be changed in a moment and caught up in the clouds - as described in the above two passages of Scripture.

In the book of John, we are given a clear and concise indication of what will happen by our Lord Jesus Christ.

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John 6:42-44 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴² And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³ Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

This passage of Scripture confirms the timing of the seventh trumpet which will be on the last day. Martha, the sister of Mary, whose brother the Lord Jesus raised from the dead, knew when the dead will be resurrected. This mirrors what the Lord said.

John 11:20-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. ²¹ Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴ Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

The resurrection of the dead will only happen on the last day. In the book of Revelation, the kingdoms of this world became the kingdoms of our God - only after the seventh angel had sounded his trumpet.

Revelation 11:15-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying:

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

There is no resurrection planned to happen at any moment - as some are led to believe. The resurrection of the dead, which is commonly known as the rapture, will happen after the last trumpet, according to the Holy Scriptures.

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Chapter Four

WHO WAS THE PROPHET DANIEL?

It is of paramount importance to set a foundation of what triggered the release of the prophecy that underpins the timeline of all other prophecies in the Holy Scriptures. We will first contemplate: who was the prophet Daniel and why was he in the king's palace at Babylon? This will enlighten us with regards of the flow of the event, culminating in us receiving this prophecy. So, who was the prophet Daniel?

When King Hezekiah of Judah was sick, the Lord sent the prophet Isaiah with instructions on how to he was to be healed:

Isaiah 38:20-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ *"The LORD was ready to save me; Therefore we will sing my songs with stringed instruments All the days of our life, in the house of the LORD."* ²¹ *Now Isaiah had said, "Let them take a lump of figs, and apply it as a poultice on the boil, and he shall recover."*

Merodach-Baladan: the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to King Hezekiah, for he had heard that he had been sick and had recovered. King Hezekiah was pleased and showed these messengers everything in his house and kingdom. The Lord sent the prophet Isaiah to King Hezekiah with this message:

Isaiah 39:2-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

² *And Hezekiah was pleased with them, and showed them the house of his treasures—the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armoury—all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.* ³ *Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah, and said to him, "What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?" So Hezekiah said, "They came to me from a far country, from Babylon."*

⁴ *And he said, "What have they seen in your house?" So Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them."*

⁵ *Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: ⁶ 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD. ⁷ 'And they shall take*

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away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’ ”

⁸*So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good!” For he said, “At least there will be peace and truth in my days.”*

The word of God that came through the prophet Isaiah was fulfilled when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel who could serve in the king’s palace.

Daniel 1:3-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

³*Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king’s descendants and some of the nobles, ⁴young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. ⁵And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king’s delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king. ⁶Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.*

First, Daniel had proposed in his heart not to defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, and the wine which he drank, so he requested if Ashpenaz could give him and his compatriot vegetables to eat and water to drink. God had brought Daniel into favour with Ashpenaz and he consented with them:

Daniel 1:11-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹*So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹²“Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king’s delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants.” ¹⁴So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.*

¹⁵*And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king’s delicacies. ¹⁶Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.*

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After this, Daniel became established in the king's palace at Babylon when He interpreted a dream that God gave King Nebuchadnezzar which depicted the kingdoms which will rule over the entire earth, starting with the Babylonian kingdom and ending with the dreaded fourth kingdom just before the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The book of Daniel chapter two tells us about the demands of the king, the dream and the interpretation of the dream. Please study the book of Daniel chapter two.

At the end of the Babylonian kingdom, as King Belshazzar was feasting with his lords, he asked for the gold and silver vessels which his father, Nebuchadnezzar, had taken from the temple of God which was in Jerusalem to be brought in so that he and his lords might drink wine from them. A finger of a man's hand appeared and wrote on the plaster on the wall in the King's palace. King Belshazzar saw this and was troubled. Just as it was in the days of Nebuchadnezzar, none of the magicians in the kingdom of Babylon could read and interpret what was written on the wall. Daniel was once again called upon to read and give the interpretation of the writing on the wall. That same night, the Medes and Persians overpowered the kingdom of Babylon and King Belshazzar was killed. This account is documented in the book of Daniel chapter five.

When our ways are pleasing to God, regardless of what is happening in the world around us, God will use us to fulfil His will. Since God had not finished His will and His purpose for planting Daniel in the king's palace, when God gave the Babylonian kingdom to the Medes and Persians and to have dominion over the entire earth, Daniel was again appointed as one of the three governors over the whole kingdom. This was because an excellent spirit was in him and the king even considered giving him reign over the whole realm.

Daniel 6:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; ² and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. ³ Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.

But Daniel's ultimate test came when the other governors persuaded the king into signing a declaration which they knew would be detrimental to the prophet Daniel. The king toiled all

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that day to save Daniel but could do nothing due to the fact that not even the king could reverse laws that have been passed by the rulers of the Medes and Persian kingdom. Daniel was thrown in the lion's den. Please study the book of Daniel chapter six.

Daniel 6:16-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you."¹⁷ Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

¹⁸ Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; and no musicians were brought before him. Also his sleep went from him. ¹⁹ Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. ²⁰ And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel. The king spoke, saying to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! ²² My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you."

²³ Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.

There are two important truths to glean from this passage of Scripture, apart from the fact that Daniel trusted in His God and disregarded the council of man. Firstly, Daniel was innocent before God and secondly, he had done no wrong before the king. Darius the King then made a declaration that throughout his dominion all men should 'fear before the God of Daniel'.

Daniel 6:25-28 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote: To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

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²⁶ I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, And steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end. ²⁷ He delivers and rescues, And He works signs and wonders In heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. ²⁸ So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

God will fulfil His will. It was for our benefit that God strategically placed His prophet Daniel in the first two kingdoms that ruled over the entire earth; to give understanding of His awesome plan to His servants. Daniel was God's chosen messenger to document this awesome prophecies. It had to be in Babylon because it does not only a prophecy for the children of Israel and the land of Judea, it is a prophecy that envelops the whole earth.

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Chapter Five

WHO ARE DANIEL'S PEOPLE AND HIS HOLY CITY TODAY?

In the first year of the reign of Darius, the son of Ahasuerus of the lineage of the Medes, the prophet Daniel understood from the books of the prophet Jeremiah that the Lord had proposed seventy years in which He will accomplish the 'desolations of Jerusalem'. It is crucial for us to be attentive of the fact that the Lord had set seventy years, not weeks, in which He will render Jerusalem desolate. The Lord has proposed multiple desolations of the city of Jerusalem after seventy years from a given period of time.

The prophet Daniel went to seek the Lord for more understanding because he could not see an end of the 'desolations of Jerusalem' in the word of God and secondly, to make a request to the Lord to fulfil His promise to bring back the captivity of His people. Daniel sought the Lord through prayer and supplication with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.

While Daniel was still in prayer to the Lord, the angel Gabriel was dispatched from the presence of the Lord to give the Prophet Daniel the greatest prophecy that underpins the timeline of all prophecies. In the first verse of this prophecy there are two fundamental facts that carry profound implication to our generation of people today.

Daniel 9:24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁴ "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

Which people and holy city, mentioned in this passage of Scripture, could be considered to be Daniel's people and holy city today? When we examine Daniel's prayer to the Lord our God, we realise the prophet Daniel, who was a Jew, was not only praying for the Jews but for the whole house of Israel (the people of God) scattered in all the nations on earth and for the city which God has called by His name.

Daniel 9:4-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,⁵ we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done

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wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. ⁶ Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. ⁷ O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.

⁸ “O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. ⁹ To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. ¹⁰ We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. ¹¹ Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him.

It is fascinating when you come to the revelation of how God works. The Jews, who were taken captives by King Nebuchadnezzar into Babylon, were those that God preserved. Some of them returned to the land of Israel after seventy years. The prophet Daniel was one of the captives who actually became a prominent official in both the Babylonian and Medo-Persian empires. Those who remained in the land of Israel and then decided to flee into Egypt perished in the wars that overtook them. This is a lesson for us to grasp and keep at the front of our minds because it will happen again in our generation. Will you have the faith to obey the Lord’s commandments, even if this might not sound logical to you? The prophet Daniel was praying for all of Israel, not just the Jews who were held captives in Babylon. Who are the Israelites, the people of God today?

THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, DANIEL’S PEOPLE TODAY

When the Lord Jesus Christ was asked about what will happen at the resurrection of the dead by the Sadducee who did not believe in the resurrection, the Lord answered them by saying: God is the God of the living, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

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Matthew 22:31-33 New King James Version (NKJV)

³¹ *But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying,* ³² *'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?* *God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."* ³³ *And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.*

We know Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are all asleep, waiting for the appointed time of resurrection - which is at the last trumpet. Contrary to popular belief, they are not in heaven. We also know God changed Jacob's name to Israel, and there are many of the descendants of Israel who are still alive today. There are many debates about which people form the composition of the house of Israel today. What has God said concerning this topic?

Psalms 68:34-35 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁴ *Ascribe strength to God; His excellence is over Israel, And His strength is in the clouds.*
³⁵ *O God, You are more awesome than Your holy places. The God of Israel is He who gives strength and power to His people. Blessed be God!*

If God is the same yesterday, today and forever, will He change the fact that He is the God of Israel? Is it not our misunderstanding of Scripture which leads us to believe otherwise? Firstly, we have to understand the prophets of the Old Testament never had the revelation of the New Testament church which came through our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church that the Lord Jesus Christ built started with the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who, in the Old Testament, were the children of Israel. The Church was also opened to the Gentiles when Peter was sent to Cornelius the centurion. The apostle Paul was later given the revelation of the same New Testament church - the body of Christ (the spiritual children of Israel).

It was the Lord Jesus Christ who led the children of Israel in the wilderness for forty years by the hand of Moses until He brought them into the Promised Land by the hand of Joshua.

Acts 7:37-39 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁷ *"This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.'* ³⁸ *"This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai,*

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and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us,³⁹ whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. And in their hearts they turned back to Egypt,

But He did not give them rest because of unbelief even after they had seen all His works.

Hebrews 3:7-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, ⁸ Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹ Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. ¹⁰ Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.' ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'"

Please let no one lead you to believe that the Holy Spirit is a person. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. It was the Lord Jesus Christ who led the congregation of the children of Israel in the wilderness. It started when Abraham was about to offer up Isaac in obedience to the voice of God.

Genesis 22:15-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— ¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

From the above passage of Scripture, we now know that Abraham's seed according to the promise is the Lord Jesus Christ, and the body of Christ is composed of the descendants of Abraham.

When we consider even further, we find an interesting difference between the Jews and the rest of the ten tribes of Israel given by the Lord to the Samaritan woman by the well. The Lord said, "Salvation is of the Jew because they, the Jews know what they worship":

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John 4:19-26 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ *The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."*

²¹ *Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father."²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."*

The Lord has said, "Salvation is of the Jews". There is no ambiguity in this statement. If the Lord Jesus Christ, the author of salvation, came into the world as a Jew, says salvation is of the Jews, that is what it is. It is up to us to find out what it means to be a Jew because the Jews worship God the Father in spirit and truth. We have to follow the Lord's example and the instructions He has set before us by obeying the laws and commandments of God.

The Samaritans worshipped God the Father in vain because they worshipped according to the precepts, statutes, commandments and laws of man. The Jews worship according to the laws and commandments of God given through Moses, the servant of the Lord. Moreover, the laws and commandments of God have been magnified by the Lord Jesus Christ - rendering them more binding, hence, the only way to worship God the Father is in spirit and truth.

The prophet Daniel was praying for the people of God, not just for the Jews, for the simple reason that the people of God had all departed, as it is today, from the laws and commandments of God. Daniel could see what had happened to the children of Israel in keeping with the promises of God which came through the prophet Moses. All of us today still live under these promises given by God from the days of Moses but we lack understanding of the truth which was given by the Lord Jesus Christ. Today, we still have to choose between life and death but we live under a different covenant - which is that of repentance and obedience towards God and faith towards the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Anyone who says the laws of God have been done away by Jesus Christ is effectively saying that they do not need to repent because they have not sinned. The true meaning of sin is the transgression of the laws and commandments of God. Remember what Jesus said to the Pharisees who said they had not sinned. Pressing forward to today, a Jew is one who is circumcised in the heart and not in the flesh.

Romans 2:28-29 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; ²⁹ but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

The apostle Paul was inspired to give us this account:

Ephesians 2:11-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— ¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Through the Apostle Paul the Lord gave us the revelation of the Body of Christ. Was the Lord confused in what He was saying? Are the body of Christ and the common wealth of Israel

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two separate people? Paul was then sent by the Lord to the Gentiles to enlighten them about the Body of Christ. Why will he then inform them that they were grafted into the common wealth of Israel by the blood of Christ if it was not so?

The first Jews to worship God the father in spirit and truth came into existence on the day of Pentecost when the Spirit of God was first poured out from on high onto the children of men. It continues till this day, not openly as it happened on that day, but privately as we are drawn by the Spirit to repentance. A distinct outward observation of true repentance creates a change in character from within. The Spirit of God works in a repentant soul developing the character of God.

Acts 2:1-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

² When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marvelled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." ¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" ¹³ Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will

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pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

This was the fulfilment of the prophecy in the book of Joel. There is another prophesied fulfilment of that prophecy to come to pass during this generation. On the day of Pentecost the apostle Peter was addressing devout Jews from every nation on earth who went to Jerusalem to keep the feast of Pentecost according to the commandment God gave us through Moses. On that day Israel was converted into the spiritual house of Israel (also known as the church, the house of God and the Body of Christ).

Acts 2:33-39 New King James Version (NKJV)

³³ Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. ³⁴ "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." ' "

³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

This passage of Scripture explains the conversation the Lord Jesus Christ had with the Samaritan woman at the well. The disciples were the first converted Jews to worship God the Father in spirit and truth. On that day three thousand more who were Jews by birth became spiritual Jews after repentance. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, both Jews and Gentiles now have access to God the Father by the Spirit of God. This means that anyone from any part of the world who has repented from their evil and wicked ways against God is converted into the household of God. It is at this point that the difference becomes apparent. Obeying the laws and commandments given by God, through all His apostles and prophets, qualifies you as a Jew. Those who do not keep the commandments of God but

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have repented you qualify as an Israelite.

The Samaritans worshipped God in vain, because they worshipped according to the commandments and traditions of men. Today we still have that same contrast between a true Jew who is circumcised in the heart and doing the works of righteousness, and an Israelite who worships God according to the traditions of man. Ponder it in your heart carefully and search the Scripture for the truth while we still have the opportunity.

JERUSALEM, DANIEL'S HOLY CITY TODAY

Who really owns Jerusalem could be an endless debate. The rightful owner is not one who will respond to all the evil that has been directed at Him, at least not yet. At the appointed time the world will come to the knowledge of the rightful owner, as clearly stated in the Holy Scriptures. When we come to the understanding of what God has said; this and more (including the myth about going to heaven) will be completely relegated from our thoughts. The Lord has chosen Zion to be His resting place forever. Zion is here on earth and the Lord will be here on earth. So why are many being led to believe they will be going to heaven? This draws similarities to what happened with Adam and Eve when they thought they would become like God.

Psalm 132:13-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³ For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place: ¹⁴ "This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it. ¹⁵ I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread. ¹⁶ I will also clothe her priests with salvation, And her saints shall shout aloud for joy. ¹⁷ There I will make the horn of David grow; I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed. ¹⁸ His enemies I will clothe with shame, But upon Himself His crown shall flourish."

King David was inspired to write:

Psalm 48:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised In the city of our God, In His holy mountain. ² Beautiful in elevation, The joy of the whole earth, Is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, The city of the great King. ³ God is in her palaces; He is known as her refuge.

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The above passages of Scripture speak of Zion as the place which the Lord has chosen for Himself as His dwelling place here on earth forever. There is no mention of Jerusalem at this point. When we search further, we find something interesting about Zion:

Psalm 87:1-6 New King James Version (NKJV).

¹ *His foundation is in the holy mountains.* ² *The LORD loves the gates of Zion More than all the dwellings of Jacob.* ³ *Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God! Selah* ⁴ *"I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to those who know Me; Behold, O Philistia and Tyre, with Ethiopia: 'This one was born there.'"* ⁵ *And of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one were born in her; And the Most High Himself shall establish her."* ⁶ *The LORD will record, When He registers the peoples: "This one was born there." Selah*

We learn here that the Lord loves Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob Israel. The Lord Himself will establish His holy city, Zion. It will be the Lord who registers His people in His holy city. Which city on earth has the Lord chosen to establish His holy mount: Zion? We know the first temple King Solomon built was in Jerusalem on the threshing floor of Araunah, which King David purchased to stop the plague from killing the people:

2 Samuel 24:20-25 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ *Now Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming toward him. So Araunah went out and bowed before the king with his face to the ground.* ²¹ *Then Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" And David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people."*

²² *Now Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up whatever seems good to him. Look, here are oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing implements and the yokes of the oxen for wood."* ²³ *All these, O king, Araunah has given to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you."*

²⁴ *Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.* ²⁵ *And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.*

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The second temple also stood on the same grounds in Jerusalem until it was burnt to ashes by the Romans because of transgression in AD 70. The Lord has said through His servant, the prophet Zechariah that He is zealous for Jerusalem and His temple will be built there; most likely on the grounds on which the first temple stood.

Zechariah 1:14-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ So the angel who spoke with me said to me, "Proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts:

"I am zealous for Jerusalem And for Zion with great zeal. ¹⁵ I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease; For I was a little angry, And they helped—but with evil intent."

The city of the Lord our God is Jerusalem. Today the Lord is angry with what is happening in His city Jerusalem because they have not put their trust in Him as their God. They profess to believe with their mouths but their hearts are far from Him, like many other professing believers. God has said that He will return to Jerusalem with mercy and His house will be built.

Zechariah 1:16-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ 'Therefore thus says the LORD: "I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it," says the LORD of hosts, "And a surveyor's line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem." ' ¹⁷ "Again proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "My cities shall again spread out through prosperity; The LORD will again comfort Zion, And will again choose Jerusalem." ' ' "

The above passage of Scripture is self-explanatory. This prophecy will be fulfilled in our generation. When the children of Israel returned to the land of Israel after the Babylonian captivity, Cyrus - the King of the Medes and Persians - gave them permission to return and build the temple of God. Since Israel became a nation again in 1948 they have not been able to start work on the temple of God, something they long to do. As we can see from Holy Scriptures, the time is near at hand.

There is one important question: what is the difference between Zion and Jerusalem? The answer is simple and straightforward, like everything to do with the kingdom of God, but we need understanding of His word. Jerusalem is the land the Lord has chosen to dwell in. When the Lord will come and establish His government on earth in Jerusalem it will become

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Holy Jerusalem, Mount Zion. The apostle Paul was inspired to write this prophecy in the book of Hebrews:

Hebrews 12:22-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Mount Zion is the city of the living God. When it will be established here on earth, you will find an innumerable company of angels - the church of the spirits of just men made perfect. These are those who have been born of the Spirit of God, in the likeness of their Master: the Lord Jesus Christ who is the mediator of the new covenant and the judge of all. As you can see Daniel's holy city today is Jerusalem, the city of our God.

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Chapter Six

WHY DID THE PROPHET DANIEL RECEIVE THIS PROPHECY?

Knowledge gained on any subject can never be credited to anyone. It is imperative that we study the word of God to acquire the knowledge of the truth. Teachers and pastors are supposed to be our guides to direct us on the right path, but if they themselves have no understanding of the truth, they can never be the right guides. The Lord has promised to guide us into all truth through His Spirit if we set aside the required time to study and prepare our hearts to seek the truth.

The great prophets who wrote the Old Testament studied the word of God written by other prophets to gain understanding of what God has said. God is not speaking to us on a daily basis as some will lead you to believe. Today, we are blessed with the complete living word of God, the Bible, which is freely available for us to purchase. Unfortunately, many of those who own a copy have not read through a single page, let alone a complete chapter. Now, we have the 'verse of the day' sent to our mobile devices. Can anyone gain any understanding of the truth from a single verse or one passage of Scripture?

The prophet Daniel was not only a scribe but also a diligent student of the word of God. It was through his studies that he came to the understanding that the Lord had proposed 'seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem', the city of our God. God did not tell Daniel directly or send an angel - as He had done before to inform Daniel of what He had told the prophet Jeremiah. God opened his understanding to what the prophet Jeremiah had written in the past:

Daniel 9:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— ² in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

This passage of Scripture reveals the fact that the Lord has not just proposed to destroy Jerusalem once, but multiple times. Daniel also saw in the books of the prophet Jeremiah that the children of Israel will be held captives in Babylon over a period of seventy years,

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which at that time was coming to an end. Like all true men of God, Daniel sought the Lord in prayer.

Jeremiah 29:10-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

There is a profound truth hidden in this passage of Scripture which, when acted upon, brings great blessing. The children of Israel were to be held captives by the Babylonians over a period of seventy years, according to the word the Lord had given the prophet Jeremiah. After seventy years of captivity, Israel was to call upon the Lord their God and pray to Him and He will listen to them, when they searched for Him with all their heart. The Lord has said: “I will be found by you” and “I will bring you back from your captivity”.

It was this statement that prompted the prophet Daniel to seek the Lord in prayer and supplication with fasting, sackcloth and ashes. If Daniel did not seek the Lord, there is a possibility the Lord would not have called an end to their Babylonian captivity, but Daniel understood what was required and acted upon the Lord’s command and the Lord rewarded him, or rather us, with the timeline that underpins all prophecies.

The prophet Daniel understood, from the books of Jeremiah the prophet, that the Lord will allow transgression to prevail for seventy years in Jerusalem’, His Holy city; before commanding its destruction, if the inhabitants of the city will not response to the call to repentance. Study the books of the prophet Jeremiah to understand what the ‘desolations of Jerusalem’ really mean.

There are many chapters in the books of Jeremiah which speak of the seventy years ‘desolations of Jerusalem’. However, as the Lord did with the prophet Daniel, the Lord has to open our understanding too for us to be able to comprehend the true intention of these

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passages of Scripture.

Before we can go any further, we need to understand what triggered the desolation of Jerusalem. Furthermore, what will trigger the desolation of Jerusalem at the end of the age? We have to be aware of the fact that it will happen in our generation twice. Disobedience is the root cause of the desolations of Jerusalem but the trigger is the disobedience of the people of God to the call from the Lord to repent.

Jeremiah 25:4-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴And the LORD has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear. ⁵They said, 'Repent now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD has given to you and your fathers forever and ever. ⁶Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.' ⁷Yet you have not listened to Me," says the LORD, "that you might provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.

Before, the call to repentance was to the children of Israel in the land of Israel only, but now, since the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, all men everywhere are called to repent. The call has gone out to all, but who has an ear to hear?

Acts 17:29-31 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁹Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. ³⁰Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

What are the implications of these prophecies in the books of the prophet Jeremiah on us today? There are two important facts that form the foundations of these prophecies:

- Firstly, the Jews have to be in the land of Judea: present day Israel. In 1948, Israel became a nation again after many hundreds of years.
- Secondly, the body of Christ (the church/the people of God) are in Babylon. This means

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that they are actually scattered all over the world, with Babylon depicting the current world governing system.

THE JEWS ARE IN THE LAND OF JUDEA

To set the foundation of what is to come, it has to be earnestly reiterated that the end of the age could not be close if Israel was not a recognised nation. For the end of age to come, Israel has to be a nation in the Land of Judea. That having been said, we have to investigate what is happening in the land of Israel and in who do the inhabitants and the government of present-day Israel put their trust? Do they put their trust in God, or do they look to the United States of America and Europe for help in times of trouble?

There are some in the land of Israel today who have repented and are walking according to the commandments of God; just as there are many who profess to walk with God but their hearts are far from Him. What has God said to the Jews in the land of Judea today? This is what God has proposed will happen in Israel:

Jeremiah 25:5-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵They said, 'Repent now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD has given to you and your fathers forever and ever. ⁶Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.' ⁷Yet you have not listened to Me," says the LORD, "that you might provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.

⁸"Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Because you have not heard My words, ⁹behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the LORD, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations. ¹⁰Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. ¹¹And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

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¹² *'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the LORD; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation. ¹³ So I will bring on that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah has prophesied concerning all the nations.*

A quick glance at this prophecy indicates it has already been fulfilled when King Nebuchadnezzar overran the land of Israel, burnt down the temple of God and took the Jews captive into Babylon. On closer examination, taking into context the whole chapter, you come to the realisation that this prophecy, like many others, has multiple fulfilments. The first was during the days of the prophet Jeremiah. The second came to pass in 70 AD and the next is at hand.

At the moment, Israel is in the land Judea and they are serving the king of Babylon. This refers to the current world governing system. After seventy years the Lord will punish Israel and all nations for their iniquity. As it was mentioned earlier, Israel is not bent towards the Lord at the moment, but at the appointed time the Lord will remove all the rebels from the land of Israel when He brings back the captivity of His people.

Some will say this cannot be. But surely one must consider: has not the potter power over the clay? Here is the confirmation that this prophecy has another fulfilment:

Jeremiah 25:29-33 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁹ *For behold, I begin to bring calamity on the city which is called by My name, and should you be utterly unpunished? You shall not be unpunished, for I will call for a sword on all the inhabitants of the earth," says the LORD of hosts.'*

³⁰ *"Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them:*

'The LORD will roar from on high, And utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, Against all the inhabitants of the earth. ³¹ A noise will come to the ends of the earth— For the LORD has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword,' says the LORD."

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³² Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, disaster shall go forth From nation to nation, And a great whirlwind shall be raised up From the farthest parts of the earth.

³³ And at that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground.

At the first and second fulfilment of this prophecy, the Lord did not roar from on high. There are other passages of Scripture in the books of the prophets that bear witness to the fact that this prophecy will happen at the end of the age. Nebuchadnezzar was not punished but died and was buried in Babylon. When Babylon was captured by the kingdom of the Medes and Persians, it was not through war. It happened on the same night that Belshazzar, the King of Babylon saw the fingers of a man's hand writing on the wall. This prophecy will be fulfilled during the period of time called the Day of the Lord.

THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE IN BABYLON

The book of Ephesians stipulates that any Gentile who has gone through the process of justification and is being sanctified by God, which is to repent first and then start walking in obedience to the laws and commandments of God and the faith of Christ, has been grafted into the commonwealth of Israel by God. But in the house of God there is a difference between the Jews and the rest of the house of God. Many do not understand this at the moment but is plain for all to see in Holy Scriptures.

Ephesians 2:11-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

The majority of those, if not all, who are brought near to God by the blood of Christ are still in the nations of the world where they became converts into the kingdom of God. As we

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saw earlier in this chapter, those currently living in the land of Judea are mostly Jews by birth.

The Church of God, that is, all converts into the kingdom of God, who form the body of Christ, who have been justified and are being sanctified are still scattered in the nations throughout the earth. At the moment, it is impossible for anyone from any nation, who is a convert into the kingdom of God to be granted stay in the land of Israel if they cannot prove their Jewish origin. The government of Israel does not recognise the true people of God and God is not allowing it to happen. That will change at the appointed time when God brings back the captivity of His people, the Body of Christ to the land of Israel.

God has said in numerous places in His word that He will bring back the captivity of His people. These people are not just the Jews by birth but spiritual Jews - those who have the Spirit of God dwelling in them. In the book of the prophet Jeremiah, the prophet Daniel saw what was required to bring this prophecy to fulfilment when he sought the Lord in prayer and supplication with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.

Jeremiah 29:10-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

Once again, we have to understand this prophecy has multiple fulfilments. All the major events that took place in previous generations were previews of what will happen in our generation but on a grander scale since we are the generation at the end of this age. When the Lord brought the children of Israel out of Egypt by the hand of Moses, this was a preview of the event prophesied to take place at the appointed time when the Lord will return the captivity of His people from Babylon.

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As it was in the days of the prophet Daniel, the Lord has promised to bring back the captivity of His people (the church) after seventy year. Some might say it has already happened but, as it was mentioned earlier, this prophecy has another fulfilment. There are other passages of Scripture which support this fact. The above passage of Scripture from the book of Jeremiah is just one of many.

Taking what has just been said into account, and in the context of the whole of chapter twenty-nine of the book of the prophet Jeremiah, we realise that there is a part which is still to come and that part is connected to the verses we just discussed above.

Jeremiah 29:15-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ Because you have said, "The LORD has raised up prophets for us in Babylon"—¹⁶ therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king who sits on the throne of David, concerning all the people who dwell in this city, and concerning your brethren who have not gone out with you into captivity—¹⁷ thus says the LORD of hosts: Behold, I will send on them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like rotten figs that cannot be eaten, they are so bad. ¹⁸ And I will pursue them with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence; and I will deliver them to trouble among all the kingdoms of the earth—to be a curse, an astonishment, a hissing, and a reproach among all the nations where I have driven them, ¹⁹ because they have not heeded My words, says the LORD, which I sent to them by My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; neither would you heed, says the LORD. ²⁰ Therefore hear the word of the LORD, all you of the captivity, whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon.

To understand what the Lord has said in this passage of Scripture, we have to understand the Lord is addressing different groups of people who will be affected by this prophecy. The intention behind this prophecy is that the people of God should heed His word given through His prophets. This prophecy is addressing what will happen to the people of God at different periods of time in the future who:

- Have decided to stay in the world and not return to the land of Israel when the Lord brought back the captivity of His people because they have trusted in the words of their pastors and prophets and not the word of God.

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- Have decided to stay in the land of Israel and have not fled into the mountains at the appointed time as advised by the Lord.

The Lord has said He will make them like 'rotten figs' that cannot be eaten because they are so bad. The Lord has proposed to pursue them with the sword, famine and pestilence. He will deliver them into trouble among all the kingdoms of the earth to be a curse, an astonishment, a hissing and a reproach because they have not listened to the words of the Lord which He sent through His servants the prophets.

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Chapter Seven

WHAT HAPPENED IN JUDEA IN 70 AD?

In 70 AD the Romans surrounded the city of Jerusalem for what would have been an age to its residents. They then broke down the wall around the city, burning houses and setting the temple of the God on fire. The land of Judea did not escape their claws. Today, all that is left of the temple is a small section called the Wailing Wall. Was this event in prophecy or was it just a coincidence that the Romans wanted to crush a Jewish rebellion?

The Lord Jesus Christ did prophesise of the destruction of the temple, but was He addressing what happened in 70 AD, or was He speaking of a time to come at the end of age? What did Jesus say when His disciples showed Him the temple? We have three accounts in Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Matthew 24:1-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁴*Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ²And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."*

³*Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*

⁴*And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*

Mark 13:1-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹*Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!"*

²*And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down."*

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³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, ⁴ “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?”

⁵ And Jesus, answering them, began to say: “Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁶ For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and will deceive many. ⁷ But when you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows.

Luke 21:5-12 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵ Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, ⁶ “These things which you see—the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.”

⁷ So they asked Him, saying, “Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?”

⁸ And He said: “Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time has drawn near.’ Therefore do not go after them. ⁹ But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately.”

¹⁰ Then He said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake.

What the Lord Jesus Christ said is consistent in all three accounts. Astonishingly, He said very little about the temple that stood in Jerusalem - save the fact that the temple will be completely destroyed. He then went on to address what is to come at the end of age.

You will be startled when you come to the realisation that the majority of what is recorded in the Holy Scriptures that the Lord Jesus Christ said is addressed to us: the generation at

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the end of this age. In the accounts in Matthew and Mark, the Lord mentioned the prophecy in the book of Daniel chapter nine about the abomination of desolation. The Romans did not commit the abomination of desolation. They destroyed the temple, which confirms the abomination of desolation is yet to be fulfilled.

In the account in Luke, the mention of Jerusalem being surrounded by armies who went on to eventually destroy it. This too is not related to what happened in 70 AD. This account is about the end of age.

Luke 21:20-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²² For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴ And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

History tells us that, since 70 AD, not every event mentioned in this prophecy has been fulfilled. We know Jerusalem was trampled by the Gentiles but the times of the Gentiles have yet to be fulfilled. This question then follows: what is the time of the Gentiles? The time of the Gentiles is a period of time in which lawlessness, sin and evil will be at its highest levels throughout the entire earth empowered by Satan the devil without restraints. These passages of Scripture best describe that period of time:

Daniel 12:1 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book.

In the gospel of Matthew we read:

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Matthew 24:21-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

These passages of Scripture are both addressing the same period of time that is to come, not only in the land of Judea and Jerusalem but the entire earth. This period of time is what the Lord is referred to as the times of the Gentiles. So, where was 70 AD prophesised in the Holy Scriptures?

Jeremiah 25:8-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸ "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Because you have not heard My words, ⁹ behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the LORD, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations. ¹⁰ Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. ¹¹ And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Here the Holy Scriptures speaks of the families of the north and Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, being brought against this land and its inhabitants to utterly destroy them. When the Lord gave this prophecy, Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon who came against the land of Israel. When the Romans came, it was the families of the north. The next will be during the fourth kingdom, led by the Anti-Christ. Remember the prophet Daniel spoke of his understanding of the 'desolations of Jerusalem'. The second desolation of Jerusalem was in 70 AD. There are two more prophesised desolations to come, which form an integral part of the subject of this study.

But what happened in 70 AD? Could these events have been before or after that particular time? There is an interesting cut-off point which has been missed by many. Many of us have gone through the Holy Scriptures several times and missed the fact that the Messiah has

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always been the focal point from which a new season begins or ends in prophecy. In other words, prophecy is centred on the Messiah. Consider:

Matthew 2:1-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

⁶ 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

At this point, it is imperative to point out that the Lord Jesus Christ is the shepherd of Israel, as stated above. If He is the shepherd of Israel, will it not be correct to point out that the body of Christ is the same as the children of Israel? The Body of Christ is the spiritual children of Israel.

We have to remember it is at birth that one who is in line to be king is honoured as king, not when they begin their office. The three wise men came to honour the King of Israel when He was born, not when He started His office. The period of time when the Lord came into the world as a child was the cut-off point and the countdown for the next seventy years of the prophecy in the book of the prophet Jeremiah began. The issue concerning the cut-off point will become clearer by the end of this study.

To sum up this section of the study, 70 AD had to happen because the Son of God came and preached repentance to the Jews in the land of Israel but they did not heed His word, neither did they turn from their wicked ways. It was prophesied in the book of the prophet Jeremiah that Jerusalem will be destroyed if the inhabitants do not turn from their evil ways.

As we have seen in the Holy Scriptures, there is a connection between the birth of the Lord and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. It is at birth that one becomes a king - if they are

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in the lineage to be king - not when they take office. When the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world as a child, the countdown for destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD started.

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Chapter Eight

THE FOUNDATION OF THE SEVENTY WEEKS PROPHECY

There are two very important elements required to understand the foundation of the prophecy that underpins the timeline of all other prophecies. Firstly, you must be given the skill to understand, and secondly, the timing has already been set by God. From the period of time this prophecy was given to man by God until now, many generations of people have read, studied and written books about it. However, none have been correct because this prophecy was sealed. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Daniel 9:22-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

²² And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. ²³ At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

Daniel, who recorded this prophecy for us, was given the skill to understand what he had written. If that was the case with the prophet Daniel, what about us today? The reason Daniel received this prophecy was because he understood that a period of seventy years had been pre-determined for the 'desolations of Jerusalem'. Secondly, the period of time the Lord had set to bring an end to the captivity of the children of Israel, Daniel's people in Babylon, which incidentally applies to us today, had been accomplished. We have to seriously contemplate the words of this prophecy to be able to understand its implication. This prophecy has been the subject of many studies throughout the years, but the revelation has remained hidden from these scholars because it has not been fully revealed yet. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Luke 24:45 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

It is the Lord who opens our understanding at the appropriate time so we can comprehend the Holy Scriptures. Without His understanding, we can never come to the knowledge of the truth.

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Secondly, God has set the boundaries of time and has control over what happens with the children of man. It is important to understand what God told the prophet Amos: that He will do nothing unless He reveals it to His prophets first.

Amos 3:5-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵ Will a bird fall into a snare on the earth, where there is no trap for it? Will a snare spring up from the earth, if it has caught nothing at all? ⁶ If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it? ⁷ Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. ⁸ A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?

The prophet Daniel did say that it is God alone who changes the times and seasons.

Daniel 2:20-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. ²¹ And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. ²² He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.

Contrary to popular believe, we are supposed to understand the times and the seasons if we are walking with God.

Matthew 16:2-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

² He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; ³ and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. ⁴ A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.

It is our duty to diligently seek to know the signs of the times and seasons. The irony is - God has already spoken but we have not gone to God to seek understanding of the truth. We gladly take hold of the words of man as if they were the words of God.

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The prophecy in the book of Daniel chapter nine is a further expansion of what God had already told the prophet Jeremiah: that He will complete seventy weeks in the 'desolations of Jerusalem' and after seventy years of captivity, He will bring back His people to the land of Israel. This fact will become very clear by the end of this study. It is important that we notice that in the books of the prophet Jeremiah - the total number of years is seventy years. In the book of Daniel, we are given the timeframe in weeks. In this context, one week equates to seven years. There is therefore a total of four hundred and ninety years in which every prophecy for this age shall be fulfilled. Here is the prophecy of the timeline that underpins all other prophecies, which the Lord gave for our benefit through the prophet Daniel:

Daniel 9:24-27 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁴ *"Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.*

²⁵ *"Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.*

²⁶ *"And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

²⁷ *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."*

There is something profound here - missed by many scholars who have studied this prophecy over the years but have still to come to the knowledge of the truth. They have not taken into consideration the duties of the Messiah outlined in verse twenty-four. We can never understand this prophecy without a solid foundation of the will of God concerning the duties of the Messiah.

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Chapter Nine

THE DUTIES OF THE MESSIAH PRINCE

It is of paramount importance to have a good knowledge of the tasks God the Father has set for the Messiah. Only after that can we have a good understanding of prophecy as a whole. First, we have to lay the foundation of this statement, to make it easy to place the pieces together to form the perfect picture of what the Lord has said in prophecy. This is just an overview, to give us an understanding of the times ahead because the duties of the Messiah are a subject of a separate study. At the beginning, the Lord God said to our Lord, His Son: “ask of me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance”.

Psalm 2:4-9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. ⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶ “Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.” ⁷ “I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

From the above passage of Scripture, we realise that God has already set His King on His holy hill of Zion. This signifies the end point for this age and the beginning of the ages to come. Regardless of what we do here on earth, it will happen as God has proposed. It is up to us to be part of God’s awesome plan or not. We have the free will to choose. This is the foundation from which all other prophecies stem. God has set His King on His holy hill of Zion where he will rule the nations with a rod of iron. For this to happen, God called Abraham and blessed him and his seed.

Genesis 12:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

This was confirmed by the Lord when He asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son on the mount which the Lord had chosen.

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Genesis 22:15-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— ¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

It is in Abraham's seed that the nations of the world shall be blessed because Abraham obeyed the voice of the Lord. As we now know, Isaac - the son of Abraham - had a son called Jacob whose name the Lord changed to Israel. Jacob's descendants, the Israelites, were in bondage to the Egyptians for a period of four hundred years, until The Lord, by the hand of Moses, removed them from the land of Egypt with great signs and wonders to the land He had promised to their fathers: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Joshua brought the Children of Israel into the Promised Land after forty years of circling the wilderness. While they were in the wilderness, God - through His prophet Moses - established His precepts, statutes, judgements, laws and commandments to His people: the house of Israel. Many years later, when David became king over all of Israel, the Lord made a promise to David. This cemented the promises He had made to His Son at the very beginning and that which He had made to His friend Abraham.

Jeremiah 33:16-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called:

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.'

¹⁷ "For thus says the LORD: 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; ¹⁸ nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.' "

¹⁹ And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, ²⁰ "Thus says the LORD: 'If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, ²¹ then My covenant may also be broken with David My

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servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests, My ministers.

There is no ambiguity in what God has said. The one who is to sit on the throne of the house of Israel will be the one through whom all the nations of the world shall be blessed. If anyone can break God's covenant with day and night so that they do not happen, then they can prevent the seed of David from sitting on His throne. Who then is the seed of David? Before the foundation of the earth, God promised His Son that He will be the one to sit on His holy hill of Zion and He will give Him the nations as His inheritance. The seat of David is here on earth, which therefore means the one to rule from the seat of David must be a man who must fulfil certain duties. This was prophesied in the book of the prophet Isaiah when he was inspired to write:

Isaiah 9:6-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

This prophecy was fulfilled when the scribes and all the chief priests spoke to Herod, the King of Israel.

Matthew 2:1-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ⁶'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

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There are other passages of Scripture confirming the fulfilment of what God had told His prophets, some hundreds of years before they happened. We must be attentive to the fact that at the appointed time, as prophesied, these prophecies came to pass exactly as they were written.

It is of utmost importance to also realise that God had finally brought His Son into the world. This fulfilled two promises He had made. The promise He made to David that he will always have a man to sit on the throne, and secondly, the promise God made to Abraham - that in his seed all the nations of the world shall be blessed. Every king has duties to fulfil. What are the duties of the Messiah, who is to rule the entire earth with a rod of iron? From the book of the prophet Isaiah, the duties of the Messiah are outlined in this passage of Scripture:

Isaiah 61:1-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.” ⁴And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations.

These are just some of the duties God the Father has given the Messiah to fulfil on earth. All the duties of the Messiah are not documented in just one book of the Bible. According to the principle by which the word of God was written: precepts are spread throughout, and the word is given: here a little, there a little. We are given a comprehensive account in the book of Daniel, which reflects what is given in the book of Isaiah.

Daniel 9:24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁴“Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

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From this passage of Scripture, we can see from the onset the timeframe in which God has determined for the Messiah to complete His duties. This therefore means that after seventy weeks, all the tasks assigned to the Messiah must have been completed. As we know, only the messiah can:

- Put an end to transgression.
- Bring an end to sin.
- Reconcile iniquity.
- Bring everlasting righteousness.
- Seal up visions and prophecy.
- Anoint the most Holy.

From the above list, it is obvious for all to see that only one of the above tasks assigned to the messiah has been fulfilled completely. The children of Israel, regardless of how you contemplate their lives, are still transgressing the laws and commandments of God. Sin is still prevalent amongst the children of God, including the spiritual children of the house of Israel, the body of Christ. We also have to acknowledge that the most Holy place has not been anointed, since there is no temple of God in His holy city (Jerusalem).

Furthermore, we have to accept - without a shadow of doubt that - the world is far from being a righteous place, let alone a place of everlasting righteousness. Every day in the news we hear of unprecedented wickedness that is committed in every nation of the world. Wickedness that includes greed, covetousness, wars, rumours of war and much more.

The Messiah, in His first coming, fulfilled some of what was prophesied in the book of the prophet Isaiah and only one from the above list from the book of the prophet Daniel. Here is an account of this prophecy being fulfilled in the book of Luke:

Luke 4:18-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

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Notice the Lord Jesus Christ read directly from the book of the prophet Isaiah but stopped at: “to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” We live in the days of the acceptable year of the Lord, where all men everywhere are called to repent. In His teachings, the Lord Jesus Christ showed us the right way to live our lives, the way to eternal life and taught us the truth about the kingdom of God. From the above passage of Scripture, we notice that what was prophesied in verse eighteen has been completely fulfilled, hence the reason why the Lord said just before He died: “it is finished.” He had completed the tasks God had set for Him to complete during His first coming.

John 19:30 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

If we hold to the opinion that all the duties of the Messiah have been completely fulfilled, because the Lord said: “it is finished,” then we are in danger of falling into great error. From the list in the book of Daniel chapter nine verse twenty-four, we see that just one from that list has been fulfilled. In the book of the prophet Isaiah, there is still a long list of tasks which the Messiah has to complete. The next on the list (which is in chronological order of events to befall the earth) is the beginning of the Day of the Lord, which is the period of time of vengeance of our God.

Before the first coming of the Lord, the sins of the children of Israel were punished as a nation after a short period of time when the Lord sent His prophet to warn them of their sins, asking them to repent of their evil ways and to stop serving other gods. When the Lord Jesus Christ was born, an angel was sent to some shepherds with good news. An angelic host appeared to declare peace and goodwill towards men on earth. This was the dawning of the acceptable year of the Lord but did not suspended the seventy years prophecy in the books of the prophet Jeremiah.

Luke 2:10-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

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¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

The acceptable year of the Lord is coming to an end. The seventy weeks prophecy in the book of the prophet Daniel gives us an expected period of time when the Messiah will return to complete the tasks set before Him by God. You will be astonished by the simplicity of how it can be calculated, and at the same time marvel with great amazement at how it has been concealed from the eyes of men until now.

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Chapter Ten

THE START AND FINISH OF EACH SEGMENT OF THE SEVENTY WEEKS

It is of utmost importance to reiterate that what instigated the release of this prophecy is deeply rooted in another prophecy given by the Lord to the prophet Jerimiah; and also in King Solomon's prayer to the Lord during the dedication of the first Temple God in Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 6:36-39 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁶ *"When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to a land far or near; ³⁷ yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, and have committed wickedness'; ³⁸ and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been carried captive, and pray toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and toward the temple which I have built for Your name: ³⁹ then hear from heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned against You.*

The Lord God answered King Solomon's prayer when He said:

2 Chronicles 7:11-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ *Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's house; and Solomon successfully accomplished all that came into his heart to make in the house of the LORD and in his own house.*

¹² *Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ¹⁵ Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. ¹⁶ For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.*

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The Lord has said that His name, eyes and heart will be in Jerusalem forever. We have to understand: it is not our will being done but the will of God. Solomon gave instructions which were from the Lord. The Lord repeated the same instructions in the books of the prophet Jeremiah which, when followed by the prophet Daniel, brought about the release of this prophecy and the return of the Jews from the Babylonian captivity.

As acknowledged before, the seventy weeks prophecy in the book of Daniel is a further expansion of what the Lord had said in the book of Jeremiah concerning the 'desolations of Jerusalem'. But here, in the book of Daniel, we have been given details of the end of these desolations along with the coming and returns of the Messiah on earth, including what tasks He will perform upon each visit. When we closely examine this prophecy, we realise it is composed of three sets of weeks which add up to seventy weeks. Hence, this prophecy is commonly known amongst scholars as Daniel's seventy weeks prophecy.

Daniel 9:25 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁵ "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

Before we dissect this portion of Scripture, we have to begin with one profound fact that the Lord God said to the prophet Daniel through the angel Gabriel – "know therefore and understand". This statement should trigger alarm bells in the minds of all students of the word of God because if the Lord God does not give us the knowledge and open our understanding of what He has said in this passage of Scripture, we will never come to the revelation of the intention of His words. Throughout Scripture we see written in countless places: "it is God who gives wisdom, knowledge and understanding of His truth". In the book of Daniel, we see it more because this portion of Scripture was sealed from the time it was released to us until the end of age which has now been opened at the appointed time to the chosen servant of God.

The Lord God chose the prophet Daniel to reveal the time of the end of the Babylonian captivity. There were other prophets of God in the world at that time but the Lord chose Daniel to complete His work because of various reasons known to the Lord alone. Consider that, from the time this passage of Scripture was written by the prophet Daniel, the amount

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of people who have read, studied and written books about it. None have been written in truth because the appointed time for its revelation had not come to pass. We are privileged to be in a position to see the unveiling of God's master plan at the end of age - only if we believe and walk in the paths prescribed by the Lord our God.

From this passage of Scripture there are two very important facts to seriously consider, namely:

- The going forth of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem is the starting point of each segment of the three sets of weeks.
- Until the Messiah the Prince, which as we now know is the Lord Jesus Christ, is the end point of each segment of the three sets of weeks.

Each of the three segments of weeks begins with the rebuilding of the streets and the walls around Jerusalem even in troublesome times. This emphasises the fact that this prophecy is based on the command to rebuild Jerusalem. The end of each of the three segments of weeks culminates with the appearance of the Messiah. Remember, when the Lord came down to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, they all knew He was around and about them, but they did not see Him except a select few. Keep that in mind as we go through the rest of this study.

Therefore, from the command from God to allow the rebuilding and restoration of Jerusalem there will be:

- Seven weeks
- Sixty-two weeks
- One week

Please do not be deceived because you have seen some outrageous calculations by many prophecy experts who have added the weeks together without the understanding that these weeks are based on different periods of time relating to duties of the Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Some experts have added the seven and the sixty-two weeks to make sixty-nine, coming up with outrageous calculations of years and days. They add together the seven and sixty-two

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weeks, but what about the last outstanding week? If you try working out their calculation yourself you will never understand it, let alone come up with the same answer. Yet they use these calculations and claims, promoting and selling their books whilst violating the fact that Scripture cannot be broken. They miss the most important fact of all: the end point of these three sets of weeks, which are the different stages in which the Messiah enters and returns to the earth to complete the will of God the Father.

Would you believe that the great and Mighty God would complicate His word to His servants and turn it into complex calculations, or is it not our folly that leads us to believe such complications? It is not the first time in Scripture that the Lord God concealed a fact and it is up to kings to search it out. To seal this portion of Scripture until the end of age, the Lord God placed the seven weeks before the sixty-two weeks, and then concealed it from our understanding until the end of age:

Proverbs 25:2 New King James Version (NKJV)

² It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

It is clearly stated in Scripture that there will be three sets of weeks, which - when added up - will make the determined seventy weeks.

$7+62+1=70$ weeks

If there were only two sets of weeks, then God would have said that there will be sixty-nine weeks and one week. For some odd reason, the majority of prophecy experts add the seven and the sixty-two weeks together to make sixty-nine because it corresponds to the approximate time Nehemiah was given the command by the king Artaxerxes to go and build the wall around Jerusalem and the time when Jesus entered Jerusalem as the Messiah. We lack understanding of this prophecy because we are all looking at it from man's perspective.

It is God Who gives the command or decree to rebuild and restore Jerusalem, not man. Just as it is God Who gives the command to destroy the city of Jerusalem and send His people into captivity. For this reason, no one knows the day and hour which God the Father has set.

Going back to the weeks, when we add these two weeks together, we miss a vital portion of prophecy, hence, the whole picture of what will happen at the end of age becomes distorted.

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These weeks are all separate from each other and there has been a great length of time between the first two sets of weeks. However, these weeks do not happen in sequence as they were recorded. This is for one simple reason; to conceal it until the end of age. This pattern is not strange in the Holy Scriptures. Jacob was second out of the womb but inherited his father's blessing from his brother. Many events in the book of Revelation are not recorded in the order they will occur. The Lord Jesus Christ said the first shall be last and the last first. This mirrors what we see here, where something that comes second is put first.

Matthew 20:11-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' ¹³ But he answered one of them and said, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. ¹⁵ Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."

In the gospel of Luke, the same words are mentioned for emphasis:

Luke 13:27-30 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁷ But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' ²⁸ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. ²⁹ They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last."

With that in mind, we have to look at the context of these few verses of Scripture from the book of Daniel chapter nine verse twenty-five through to twenty-seven to see what event the Lord God has proposed after sixty-two weeks and the last week. Not much has been said about the seven weeks - except the duties the Lord is to fulfil. If you are in agreement that the Bible is self-explanatory, then we have to look deeper in the Bible to find out what the Lord has said about the seven weeks in this prophecy. You will be startled when you find out about the context of what has been prophesied to happen in both the heavens and the

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earth during this segment of weeks.

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Chapter Eleven

THE START AND FINISH OF THE FIRST SEGMENT: THE SIXTY-TWO WEEKS

Sixty-two of the seventy weeks of years that the prophet Daniel addressed in his writing has already been spent. As mentioned before, this segment of weeks started when God gave the command to build and restore Jerusalem, and ended with the entrance of the Messiah into the world.

Daniel 9:25-26 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁵ "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. ²⁶ "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

Some foundation is necessary to fully understand the rest of this chapter. Firstly, from the above passage of Scripture it is crystal clear that the Messiah will be 'cut-off' after sixty-two weeks. This means that, at some stage after sixty-two weeks, the Messiah will be crucified. As we know today – He will be crucified for the sins of the world, not because He transgressed any of God's laws and commandments. If we add the seven and the sixty-two together, it doesn't fit with this portion of scripture and we will be left with an outstanding seven weeks. Furthermore, if we have sixty-nine weeks because we have added two segments together - how can the Messiah be cut-off after sixty-two weeks?

It is also important to understand that the people of Satan shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The Romans fulfilled this prophecy when they destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the sanctuary of God with fire in 70 AD. This was beyond the sixty-two weeks point. There is another fulfilment of this prophecy that will come at the end of age. Another desolation of Jerusalem will occur, but this time, it will be Satan himself who is going to destroy the city of Jerusalem with a flood. To shed more light on the phrase: "the prince of the people to come," we must understand that in the world today, there are two types of people living - the people of God and the people of Satan. The people of God will not destroy their own city

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- as is mentioned in the prophecy. The people of Satan are from every nation in the world today. Satan is also the lord of a people to come who are not of the earth. That is a subject of another study.

With that established, we can now proceed to investigate the start and finish of the first sixty-two-week segment of this prophecy. There is an interesting prayer in the book of Nehemiah which must have paved the way for the restoration and rebuilding of Jerusalem. When Nehemiah heard of the distress and reproach of the captives who had returned to Jerusalem, it caused him to weep and mourn for many days. Like the prophet Daniel, Nehemiah sought the Lord in prayer and fasting:

Nehemiah 1:5-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁵And I said: "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe your commandments, ⁶please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned. ⁷We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. ⁸Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; ⁹but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.' ¹⁰Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand. ¹¹O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." For I was the king's cupbearer.

It is a fact that God answers prayers if we pray according to His will. God answered Nehemiah's prayer - just as He did when Daniel prayed. It was the Lord who gave the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. As we observed before, the Lord returned the captivity of His people because of prayers made to Him. If Nehemiah did not seek the Lord God - Jerusalem would not have been restored. The Lord gave the command to restore and

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rebuild Jerusalem. He also granted Nehemiah favour in the presence of King Artaxerxes who gave Nehemiah permission to leave his presence and his job, and secondly, provided what was required to complete the task of rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem. There is a difference between the rebuilding of the temple of God and the restoration of the city of Jerusalem.

How long it took Nehemiah, or when Artaxerxes gave him permission to start the process of rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem, has no bearing on when the command was given to restore and build Jerusalem. Remember, Ezra was already in Jerusalem building the temple of God. There is no date in the Holy Scriptures which states when the rebuilding process of Jerusalem started. It must have taken Nehemiah some time to find out what was required before going back to King Artaxerxes with a list of requirements. We now know for sure that it was the Lord who gave the command to restore and build Jerusalem, but at what point? We shall soon find out. This point marks the beginning of the sixty-two-week segment of the seventy weeks determined by the Lord.

From the prophecy in the book of the prophet Daniel, we are given the end point as the time when the Messiah enters the earth. Earlier, we came to the revelation that the Messiah had to be born into the world as a man to fulfil the promise God had made with His Son, Abraham and David. The Son of God coming into the world as a man opened the door to a unique opportunity for man to join the family of God.

Daniel 9:25-26 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁵ "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. ²⁶ "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

We now have to be certain when the sixty-two-week period came to an end. It was not when the Messiah entered Jerusalem on a donkey to present Himself as the Lamb of God, contrary to popular belief. It was actually when heaven presented Him as King at His birth. There are a few accounts of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, but the passage of Scripture

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below is specific in mentioning the fact that the child who was born was already king over Israel. This is written, not for us to celebrate His birth as some do, but to mark the point in time when our redeemer entered the world to fulfil prophecy. Consider:

Matthew 2:1-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

If a child is in line to be king, as the above passage of Scripture stipulates, it is at birth that a king is crowned - not when they take office. Scripture portrays here that the wise men from the East came to worship the King, not a baby. This is significant. Ironically, the wise men did not enter Jerusalem quietly seeking a baby. Their enquiry came to the attention of King Herod, who secretly had an ordinance with these men. Herod, along with the whole population of Jerusalem were troubled when they knew of the expectant king: the Messiah.

Herod was troubled enough to have killed all the children who were in Bethlehem and the surrounding district who were two years and under. Before the Lord was conceived, His arrival was announced by an angel who said that He will reign over the house of Jacob, and His kingdom will have no end.

Luke 1:30-33 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁰Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

From these two passages of Scripture we can establish that the end point of the prophecy in the book of Daniel chapter nine verse twenty-five is at the birth of the Messiah, not at any other time.

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We have the start point when God gave the command to restore and build Jerusalem. The end point is at the birth of the Messiah. Therefore, if we count back sixty-two weeks of years, which is four hundred and thirty-four years, we will come to the approximate period of time when God gave the command to build and restore Jerusalem: around 433 BC.

As Scripture prophesied that the Messiah shall be cut-off after sixty-two weeks, the Lord was crucified for the sins of all men after He had fulfilled some of the duties given to Him by God. He had provided atonement for our sins, given the revelation of the truth about the kingdom of God and showed us the way into the kingdom of God. The Lord could not do these duties as a child. He had to come of age to fulfil His duties. We now live in the period of the acceptable year of the Lord. All men everywhere are called to repent.

Acts 17:22-31 New King James Version (NKJV)

²² Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; ²³ for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: ²⁴ "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. ²⁶ And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' ²⁹ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. ³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

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To sum up this chapter, the sixty-two weeks started when God gave the command to start the process of restoring and rebuilding Jerusalem. From the Holy Scriptures, we understand that a child in line to be king is crowned king at birth, not at the time when they start performing the duties of a king. We can therefore see that the end point of the sixty-two weeks was at the birth of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The period of time between these two points is four hundred and thirty-four years. This is calculated by multiplying sixty-two weeks by seven, as one week in this prophecy consists of seven years. This therefore means that the command to restore and build Jerusalem was given by God at some stage around 433 BC. This year is derived from a simple calculation, counting back four hundred and thirty-four years from the birth of the Messiah, which was around 1BC.

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Chapter Twelve

THE START AND FINISH OF THE SECOND SEGMENT: SEVEN YEARS

From the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit of God was first poured from on high onto mankind during the feast of weeks in Jerusalem, till this day - the world has been slowly drifting into a period of darkness. This will come upon many as a snare, like a thief in the night. The majority of people in our generation, including many professing Christians, are not aware of the events God has ordained to happen on earth at the end of age. We utilise words and phrases like the abomination of desolation, Armageddon, the end of the age, the end of the world and the last days - without a good grasp of what these words and phrases represent.

We live in an age in which everything has a lifespan, some longer than others, including the period of time we currently live in: the acceptable year of the Lord. We are a generation of people blessed with knowledge, technology, prosperity and understanding, We are also the most cursed generation, because we have not used these blessings to our advantage - to put ourselves on the right path of life. For many, life will continue as it has always done, tomorrow is going to be just like today. They forget that the One who created all things, including us, has a plan for His creation and has given us many details of what will happen at the end of age.

The next segment of years, which is the second of three ordained segments of time, is critical to all us alive today. This period of time marks the end of the acceptable year of the Lord and the beginning of the year of vengeance of our God. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Isaiah 61:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

The Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled part of this Scripture when He walked the earth during His first coming.

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Luke 4:18-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸ *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

²⁰ *Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.*

The Lord knew exactly what He was doing when He stopped after the acceptable year of the Lord and said: "This Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing". But when we examine this prophecy in the book of the prophet Isaiah, we realise that the Lord stopped at the point after declaring the acceptable year of the Lord, but that point is not the end of that prophecy. What comes next is the prophecy of the vengeance of Our God. When will it start?

There is a long period of time before the beginning of the seven-week segment after the end of the first sixty-two weeks.

Daniel 9:25 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁵ *"Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.*

Seven weeks of years (forty-nine years) has been set from the time God gave the command to restore and build Jerusalem - until the Messiah. This means that the Lord Jesus Christ will return on earth to complete the next phase of the task God the Father has set before Him after forty-nine years. We now have to investigate when this segment of years started and when it will end, which is marked by the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. We currently live in the period of time marking the end of this segment.

This part of the prophecy in the book of Daniel has no other details except for the fact that there will be seven weeks before the return of the Messiah from a given start point. The Lord Jesus Christ did not shed any more light on this prophecy when He first walked the

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earth for one simple reason: this prophecy was sealed. Since we are at the end of this age, this prophecy is now open to our understanding.

We do not know when God gave the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem but we know that from that time until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ there will be a window of forty-nine years. There are very little details to work with from the book of Daniel, but by diligently searching through the Scriptures, the approximate start and end point of this segment can be determined. From the first segment, we could not determine the time the command was given to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until we counted back the years after the events. The same principle will be applicable for this segment - taking into account historical facts.

King Cyrus told the Jews who were held captive in Babylon to return to their homeland and build the temple of God at Jerusalem which ended their Babylonian captivity. A similar situation happened when Israel became a nation again in 1948. The difference between the two has great significance. It will enlighten our understanding of the situation in Jerusalem today. In troubled times, Israel was established in the land of Judea but did not have full control of Jerusalem. In 1967, after the six-day war, Israel then took control of Jerusalem. However, they have not been able to rebuild the temple of God which was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

It is ironic that in other parts of the world, people are building temples and churches for their gods who are not the true God but in the land of Israel, they are prohibited to build a temple for the only true God. Why is this? Consider this passage of Scripture which states that the Lord is not happy with proceedings in the land of Israel and Jerusalem:

Zechariah 1:12-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² Then the Angel of the LORD answered and said, "O LORD of hosts, how long will You not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which You were angry these seventy years?"

¹³ And the LORD answered the angel who talked to me, with good and comforting words. ¹⁴ So the angel who spoke with me said to me, "Proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts:

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“I am zealous for Jerusalem And for Zion with great zeal. ¹⁵ I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease; For I was a little angry, And they helped—but with evil intent.”

¹⁶ ‘Therefore thus says the LORD: “I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it,” says the LORD of hosts, “And a surveyor’s line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem.” ’ ¹⁷ “Again proclaim, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “My cities shall again spread out through prosperity; The LORD will again comfort Zion, And will again choose Jerusalem.” ’ ’ ”

At some stage, before 1967 and a short period of time thereafter, we know that God must have given the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem - as He did in the days of Nehemiah. The Israeli government has yet to give the go-ahead for the reconstruction of His temple. We have to acknowledge the fact that, it is the Lord who governs what happens in Jerusalem, not man. So, when God gave the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, it must have been the start of the seven-week segment.

At the end of this segment, the Lord Jesus Christ will return to earth. This will be after forty-nine years from when God gave the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. Forty-nine years is a result of multiplying the seven weeks by seven - due to the fact that a week, in this context, comprises of seven years. At some stage, before the capture of Jerusalem during the Six-Day War, one or more servants of the Lord our God must have sought the Lord in prayer to request the restoration of Jerusalem - similar to what the prophet Daniel and Nehemiah did. Hence, the command went forth from the Lord our God.

All we have so far are these facts:

- The command has already been given.
- We have forty-nine years until the return of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

From Scripture we know that there has been a desolation of Jerusalem since the prophet Daniel had the understanding of that prophecy. This means there is another to come. According to Scripture, that desolation comes after seventy years.

Jeremiah 25:4-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ And the LORD has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear. ⁵ They said, ‘Repent

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now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD has given to you and your fathers forever and ever. ⁶ Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.’ ⁷ Yet you have not listened to Me,” says the LORD, “that you might provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.

⁸ “Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Because you have not heard My words, ⁹ behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,’ says the LORD, ‘and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations. ¹⁰ Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. ¹¹ And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

¹² ‘Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,’ says the LORD; ‘and I will make it a perpetual desolation. ¹³ So I will bring on that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah has prophesied concerning all the nations.

Previously in this study, we acknowledged that the first fulfilment of this prophecy was when King Nebuchadnezzar invaded the land of Israel and Jerusalem, taking the Jews into captivity - of which the prophet Daniel was one of the captives. The next fulfilment of this prophecy was in 70 AD when the Romans burned the city of Jerusalem to ashes. There is one further fulfilment of this prophecy, which is after the seven-week segment. This time around it will include all the nations of the world.

It will be the last and final fulfilment of the seventy-year prophecy in the book of the prophet Jeremiah. This will involve some of the duties the Messiah has to perform here on earth upon His return, including bringing an end to transgression. Don’t be distracted by the wording of this prophecy. The Lord is going to use the same families to carry out the desolation of the nations. King Nebuchadnezzar was the first, during the period of time this

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prophecy was recorded. What is interesting is that, in the first fulfilment, the Lord was not in His holy habitation - which we know to be Jerusalem. This time, we are instructed that the Lord will be in His holy habitation of Zion which is here on earth.

Jeremiah 25:27-33 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁷ "Therefore you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Drink, be drunk, and vomit! Fall and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you.'" ²⁸ And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup from your hand to drink, then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "You shall certainly drink!" ²⁹ For behold, I begin to bring calamity on the city which is called by My name, and should you be utterly unpunished? You shall not be unpunished, for I will call for a sword on all the inhabitants of the earth," says the LORD of hosts.' ³⁰ "Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them:

'The LORD will roar from on high, And utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, Against all the inhabitants of the earth. ³¹ A noise will come to the ends of the earth— For the LORD has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword,' says the LORD."

³² Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, disaster shall go forth From nation to nation, And a great whirlwind shall be raised up From the farthest parts of the earth. ³³ And at that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground.

This passage of Scripture is addressing the period of time known as the day of the Lord. There are many calamities which have been prophesied to happen during this period of time. This will come at the end of seventy-years from the time Israel became a nation again. This prophecy could not be fulfilled if the land of Judea was not occupied by the Jews. We have now seen that there are two prophecies which must end at exactly the same time:

- The final fulfilment of the seventy-year desolation of Jerusalem in the book of the prophet Jeremiah.
- The seven-week restoration of Jerusalem in the book of the prophet Daniel.

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These two prophecies have a common end point, coinciding with the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord will roar from His holy habitation of Zion on earth. There are a number of scriptures, apart from those we just discussed, which address the fact that Israel will be remembered after seventy years of not focusing on the Lord as their Lord and saviour:

Isaiah 23:15-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ Now it shall come to pass in that day that Tyre will be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king. At the end of seventy years it will happen to Tyre as in the song of the harlot: ¹⁶ "Take a harp, go about the city, You forgotten harlot; Make sweet melody, sing many songs, That you may be remembered."

¹⁷ And it shall be, at the end of seventy years, that the LORD will deal with Tyre. She will return to her hire, and commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world on the face of the earth. ¹⁸ Her gain and her pay will be set apart for the LORD; it will not be treasured nor laid up, for her gain will be for those who dwell before the LORD, to eat sufficiently, and for fine clothing.

From 1948, since it became a nation, Israel has been like a forgotten nation to the Lord. Nothing significant has happened, apart from the Six-Day War in 1967 which bears the fingerprints of the Lord. For almost seventy years now, Israel has been part of the world system, not set apart as it is supposed to be - as the head of the nations, not the tail.

According to the above passage of Scripture, at the end of seventy years - from 1948, the Lord will visit Israel. The prophecy in the book of Jeremiah also says that the Lord will roar from His holy habitation after seventy years. We now have two sources which give details about what the Lord has said that He will deal with the situation in Judea, Israel after seventy years.

There is a third and unmistakeable source that further expounds on what has been prophesied to happen in Jerusalem and Judea in the coming months: the book of Zechariah.

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Zechariah 1:12-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² Then the Angel of the LORD answered and said, "O LORD of hosts, how long will You not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which You were angry these seventy years?"

¹³ And the LORD answered the angel who talked to me, with good and comforting words. ¹⁴ So the angel who spoke with me said to me, "Proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts:

"I am zealous for Jerusalem And for Zion with great zeal. ¹⁵ I am exceedingly angry with the nations at ease; For I was a little angry, And they helped—but with evil intent."

¹⁶ 'Therefore thus says the LORD: "I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it," says the LORD of hosts, "And a surveyor's line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem.'" ¹⁷ "Again proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "My cities shall again spread out through prosperity; The LORD will again comfort Zion, And will again choose Jerusalem.'""

Can you recall earlier in this study, when it was mentioned that you will be enlightened as to why Jerusalem is in such a sad situation today? In the above passage of Scripture, we have the answer. The Lord has been angry with the cities of Judea and Jerusalem. This anger began when Israel became a nation again in 1948. The Lord has been angered by unrighteousness and disbelief within the nation of Israel. Furthermore, the nations of the world have not helped due to their antics against Israel.

When the Jews returned from the Babylonian captivity, they started with the reconstruction of the house of God almost immediately. However, as we know - since Israel became a nation, no work has started on a new temple of God.

The Lord has said that He will return to Jerusalem with mercy and His house will be built. A surveyor's line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem. This means that those who are not welcomed will not again pass through Jerusalem. This is going to happen after seventy years. If we add seventy years from the time Israel became a nation in 1948, we get the proposed year of the return of the Lord to be 2018. The end of the seventy years brings us into 2019. We are now within the general period of time of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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If we are expecting the Lord to return with mercy to Jerusalem in 2019 and for His house to be built thereafter, it means that the second segment of weeks: the seven weeks segment, has to line up with the command from God to rebuild and restore Jerusalem. God must have therefore given the command sometime after Jerusalem was captured by the Jews during the Six-Day War.

2019-49=1970

2019-70=1949

We have to acknowledge the fact that we are not in the throne room of God to know exactly when He gave the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. Secondly, as with the first segment of weeks (the sixty-two weeks), we could only estimate the time the command went forth from God only after the event for the same reasons as now. God does not make public what He does all the time. As a result, we had to determine the time after the event. But there is one important promise we should all be looking out for: the messenger God has promised to send in the Spirit of Elijah. This messenger will suddenly appear on the scene and the return of the Lord will follow closely after. But to many it will come as a thief in the night because of the lack of knowledge of what God has said.

On this occasion, we have three prophecies that line up and end at approximately the same time as the seven-weeks segment. These three prophecies mark the end of the acceptable year of the Lord, and also stipulate the beginning of the day of vengeance of our God which points to the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ will return to the earth to make an end to sin, and transgression.

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Chapter Thirteen

THE START AND FINISH OF THIRD SEGMENT: THE LAST WEEK

This week is completely different from the other two because it is the final week of this age. It is crammed with events well-documented in the books of the prophets and the book of Revelation. This is the week the Lord has chosen to sort out the controversy He has with the nations of the earth. It has a similar starting and finishing point as the other two segments. This week of seven years starts with the going forth of the command from God to restore and rebuild Jerusalem and ends with the return of the Messiah. It will be at the end of this week that the Lord will return in great power and glory with His Saints. Retrospectively, there was a big window between the end of the first segment - which consisted of sixty-two weeks - and the beginning of the second segment of seven weeks. But the window between the end of the seven weeks and the beginning of the last week of this age is relatively short because the Lord has said He will make a quick work of righteousness upon the earth.

Romans 9:26-29 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁶ *“And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ There they shall be called sons of the living God.”* ²⁷ *Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel:*

“Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. ²⁸ For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth.”

²⁹ *And as Isaiah said before: “Unless the LORD of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah.”*

Only a small portion of the children of Israel will be saved. We need to know what righteousness is, not according to our understanding, but according to God’s - as told through the apostle Paul and the prophet Isaiah.

From the prophecy in the book of Daniel, we are told the activities of the man of sin, commonly known as the anti-Christ - who will be empowered by Satan. He shall confirm a covenant with many, (not with Israel), and then in the middle of the week he will bring an end to the sacrifice and offering. At this time, he will also set an abomination in the temple of God in Jerusalem. For this to happen there must be a temple in Jerusalem.

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Daniel 9:27 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁷ Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

We know a week comprises of seven years, which means that the middle of a week is three and a half years. We have to come to the understanding that there is only a relatively short period of time between the return of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, after the previous segment of weeks and the start of the last week. We have to search the Holy Scriptures to find any time periods connected to this week to be able to determine when this week starts. The book of Amos carries an interesting detail:

Amos 1:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹The words of Amos, who was among the sheepbreeders of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. ² And he said:

“The LORD roars from Zion, And utters His voice from Jerusalem; The pastures of the shepherds mourn, And the top of Carmel withers.”

A quick glance at this passage of Scripture will not reveal the awesome detail hidden within it. But sifting through it word by word, we come to the revelation that this prophecy is about what the Lord will do upon His return after the seven-week segment. The Lord will roar from Zion and utter His voice from Jerusalem when He returns to complete the next phase of His duties. This will happen two years before the great earthquake, described in the book of revelation, when the Lord opens the sixth seal.

Revelation 6:12-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴ Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves

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and in the rocks of the mountains,¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Here is the description of the earthquake the prophet Amos was referring to. Before this earthquake, which is the opening of the sixth seal, there are other events - namely the four horsemen of the book of Revelation. The first four seals must occur first. These will bring significant devastation upon the earth. The Lord has revealed in the Holy Scriptures that there is a period of two years from the time the Lord returns to Zion and when the sixth seal is opened.

In Matthew chapter twenty-four, the Lord Jesus Christ spoke of wars and rumour of wars being a marker for the beginning of the period of time known as the 'beginning of sorrows'.

Matthew 24:4-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows.

During the last week of this age, deception about the truth is going to be prevalent throughout the world - including wars, rumours of wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes. From the word of the Lord in the book of Revelation, we can clearly see this is a description of the first four and the sixth seals of the book Revelation.

In the book of the prophet Isaiah, there are a few passages of Scripture that detail the timeframe of a natural event, (before a child can speak), with a similar timeframe to the start of the last seven years, after the Lord has returned the captivity of His people. Consider this passage of Scripture:

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Isaiah 8:1-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Moreover the LORD said to me, "Take a large scroll, and write on it with a man's pen concerning Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. ²And I will take for Myself faithful witnesses to record, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah."

³Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the LORD said to me, "Call his name Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz; ⁴for before the child shall have knowledge to cry 'My father' and 'My mother,' the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be taken away before the king of Assyria."

⁵The LORD also spoke to me again, saying:

⁶"Inasmuch as these people refused The waters of Shiloah that flow softly, And rejoice in Rezin and in Remaliah's son; ⁷Now therefore, behold, the Lord brings up over them The waters of the River, strong and mighty— The king of Assyria and all his glory; He will go up over all his channels And go over all his banks. ⁸He will pass through Judah, He will overflow and pass over, He will reach up to the neck; And the stretching out of his wings Will fill the breadth of Your land, O Immanuel.

At first glance, you might think this has nothing to do with the beginning of the last seven years of this age; rest assured - when you take these few passages of Scripture in context of the whole chapter it becomes clear that it does. God has proposed to use the king of Assyria to destroy the entire earth. He called the earth the land of His Son Immanuel because He is the rightful owner of the world. Within a year from a certain point, the cities of Damascus and Samaria will cease to exist. In the book of Isaiah chapter twenty-one we are given a similar account but from a different perspective:

Isaiah 21:16-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶For thus the LORD has said to me: "Within a year, according to the year of a hired man, all the glory of Kedar will fail; ¹⁷and the remainder of the number of archers, the mighty men of the people of Kedar, will be diminished; for the LORD God of Israel has spoken it."

The Lord has said yet again that: within a year the glory of Kedar will fail. Kedar may not exist as a city or nation today. However, we should not necessarily believe that this prophecy has been fulfilled. In the context of the whole chapter, it is also mentioned that there are nations around the forest of Arabia who will supply food and water to those who

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are fleeing from wars. Yet again it will be within a year of a certain point. That point is the subject of our search, which is also the start of both the beginning of sorrows and the last seven years of this age. There is another passage of Scripture in the book of the prophet Isaiah which addresses the same subject.

Isaiah 32:9-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹Rise up, you women who are at ease, Hear my voice; You complacent daughters, Give ear to my speech. ¹⁰In a year and some days You will be troubled, you complacent women; For the vintage will fail, The gathering will not come. ¹¹Tremble, you women who are at ease; Be troubled, you complacent ones; Strip yourselves, make yourselves bare, And gird sackcloth on your waists.

These women in this context represent the churches of this world who are not teaching the truth according to the laws and commandments of God. These women are a contrast to the woman who symbolises the church of God (the Body of Christ) in the book of Revelation chapter twelve who has a place prepared for her in the wilderness where she will be nourished for three and a half years, the duration of the great tribulation.

Revelation 12:1-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ²Then being with child, she cried out in labour and in pain to give birth.

³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ⁶Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

In the previous passage of Scripture from the book of Isaiah, these women are waiting for a gathering (rapture) that never comes and they find themselves in great trouble. Here we have the same timescale as in the previous passages of Scripture: a year and some days. In the book of Ezekiel, we are told by the Lord the end has come:

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Ezekiel 7:1-27 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ²“And you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD to the land of Israel: ‘An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land.

³Now the end has come upon you, And I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways, And I will repay you for all your abominations. ⁴My eye will not spare you, Nor will I have pity; But I will repay your ways, And your abominations will be in your midst; Then you shall know that I am the LORD!’

⁵“Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘A disaster, a singular disaster; Behold, it has come! ⁶An end has come, The end has come; It has dawned for you; Behold, it has come! ⁷Doom has come to you, you who dwell in the land; The time has come, A day of trouble is near, And not of rejoicing in the mountains. ⁸Now upon you I will soon pour out My fury, And spend My anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, And I will repay you for all your abominations. ⁹‘My eye will not spare, Nor will I have pity; I will repay you according to your ways, And your abominations will be in your midst. Then you shall know that I am the Lord who strikes.

¹⁰‘Behold, the day! Behold, it has come! Doom has gone out; The rod has blossomed, Pride has budded. ¹¹Violence has risen up into a rod of wickedness; None of them shall remain, None of their multitude, None of them; Nor shall there be wailing for them. ¹²The time has come, The day draws near. ‘Let not the buyer rejoice, Nor the seller mourn, For wrath is on their whole multitude. ¹³For the seller shall not return to what has been sold, Though he may still be alive; For the vision concerns the whole multitude, And it shall not turn back; No one will strengthen himself Who lives in iniquity.

¹⁴‘They have blown the trumpet and made everyone ready, But no one goes to battle; For My wrath is on all their multitude. ¹⁵The sword is outside, And the pestilence and famine within. Whoever is in the field Will die by the sword; And whoever is in the city, Famine and pestilence will devour him. ¹⁶‘Those who survive will escape and be on the mountains Like doves of the valleys, All of them mourning, Each for his iniquity. ¹⁷Every hand will be feeble, And every knee will be as weak as water. ¹⁸They will also be girded with sackcloth; Horror will cover them; Shame will be on every face, Baldness on all their heads.

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¹⁹ *'They will throw their silver into the streets, And their gold will be like refuse; Their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them In the day of the wrath of the LORD; They will not satisfy their souls, Nor fill their stomachs, Because it became their stumbling block of iniquity. ²⁰ 'As for the beauty of his ornaments, He set it in majesty; But they made from it The images of their abominations— Their detestable things; Therefore I have made it Like refuse to them. ²¹ I will give it as plunder Into the hands of strangers, And to the wicked of the earth as spoil; And they shall defile it. ²² I will turn My face from them, And they will defile My secret place; For robbers shall enter it and defile it.*

²³ *'Make a chain, For the land is filled with crimes of blood, And the city is full of violence. ²⁴ Therefore I will bring the worst of the Gentiles, And they will possess their houses; I will cause the pomp of the strong to cease, And their holy places shall be defiled. ²⁵ Destruction comes; They will seek peace, but there shall be none.*

²⁶ *Disaster will come upon disaster, And rumour will be upon rumour. Then they will seek a vision from a prophet; But the law will perish from the priest, And counsel from the elders.*

²⁷ *'The king will mourn, The prince will be clothed with desolation, And the hands of the common people will tremble. I will do to them according to their way, And according to what they deserve I will judge them; Then they shall know that I am the LORD!'"*

This passage of Scripture is self-explanatory and it is addressing the period of time also known as the Day of the Lord, which is the last seven years of this age. Our interest is in verse twenty-seven, which speaks of a time when there will be rumour upon rumour. The timing of this period of time is expounded in the book of the prophet Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 51:45-46 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴⁵ *"My people, go out of the midst of her! And let everyone deliver himself from the fierce anger of the LORD. ⁴⁶ And lest your heart faint, And you fear for the rumour that will be heard in the land (A rumour will come one year, And after that, in another year A rumour will come, And violence in the land, Ruler against ruler),*

It is important to point out that these passages of Scripture are not pulled out of their chapters to form a private interpretation of prophecy at the end of age, but are all taken in context of the whole chapter. With that in mind, and in combination with all the other passages of Scripture reviewed in this chapter, we can clearly see that this period of time in

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question (the last seven years) will start after the Lord has removed His people from harm's way.

The passage of Scripture in the book of the prophet Jeremiah gives us a particular event which acts as a marker from which we can start measuring the timing of the start of the last seven years. The passage in the book of Ezekiel gives us the beginning of the event in question. The passages from the books of the prophet Isaiah give us the amount of time from the return of the people of the Lord to the land of Judea and the beginning of the last seven years of this age to be one year apart.

Retrospectively, we know the children of Israel came out of Egypt during the feast of Unleavened bread. The Lord said it was a time to be greatly observed.

Exodus 12:14-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ 'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance. ¹⁵ Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you. ¹⁷ So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance. ¹⁸ In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. ¹⁹ For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land. ²⁰ You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.'"

On that feast day, similar to the one described above, the Lord will bring back the captivity of His people from the world, as He has said through the prophet Jeremiah.

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Jeremiah 16:14-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ "Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that it shall no more be said, 'The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' ¹⁵ but, 'The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.' For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.

A year after this event: the feast of Unleavened bread, there will be wars and rumours of wars. We have to be certain at what point the Lord is going to roar from Zion and utter His voice in Jerusalem. Scripture points to the fact that the feasts of the Lord also hold the keys to unlock His redemption plan. The Lord is the Passover lamb and was crucified on the day of Passover. As we have just seen, the children of Israel came out of Egypt during the feast of Unleavened bread. The Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost.

There are four more feasts which are to be fulfilled within the last week of this age, starting with the feast of trumpets. Trumpets signify wars and great announcements. The first two chapters of the book of Amos, which reveal the period of time in which the Lord will roar in Zion, also prophesise of a time of war. According to the Holy Scriptures there can be no wars without a trumpet being blown. The Lord will be the One directing the war. The feast of trumpets is always celebrated in the seventh month: the Jewish month of Tishrei, which is between September and October.

We know that the Lord will make quick work of restoring righteousness on earth. We also now know that the Lord will be in Zion on the feast of trumpets in this coming season. It will be at the feast of Unleavened bread six months later, in the Jewish month of Nissan between March and April, when the Lord will once again return the captivity of His people.

Let's recap what we know of this timeline so far:

- The Lord will roar in Zion and utter His voice in Jerusalem in Tishrei in 2019.
- The Lord will return the captivity of His people in Nissan in 2020, six months from when He roars from Zion.
- A year after returning the captivity of His people, there will be wars and rumours of wars. This is the beginning of sorrows.

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- The beginning of sorrows, which is when the first four seals are opened, marks the start of the last seven years of this age.
- This will a years and six months after the Lord roars from Zion, and six months before the earthquake prophesised in the book of Amos chapter one.

So, the going forth of the command from God to restore and rebuild Jerusalem will be given at some stage around the period of time of Nissan 2020. This will be the starting point of the last seven years of this age. Please remember that all this information has been provided for the servants of the Lord - so that they should know what will soon come to pass.

A week of years is seven years. The end point of the last week will come seven years from the start of the week. This will be sometime in 2027.

It will be sometime during the year 2027 that the Lord has said He shall be seen coming in great glory with His Saints. The Lord has provided all the information we need.

Matthew 24:29-31 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The Lord has said it will be after the tribulation of the last week that we shall see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory to rule on Earth. He will not be going to heaven, contrary to the doctrine held in the minds of many professing believers. In the book of Revelation, we are given this account by the Lord.

Revelation 19:11-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed

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Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

God made man to inhabit the Earth. We have been given a unique opportunity to be part of God's government which the Lord Jesus Christ will establish on Earth.

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Chapter Fourteen

WHAT TO DO NEXT

The Lord Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. Before He returned to sit at the right hand of God the Father in heaven, the Lord prescribed a path for all His servants to follow. We only have two choices before us: we either serve the Lord or we are servants to sin. We cannot serve two masters. We all know the lord of sin is Satan the devil. But what is the meaning of sin? This is God's definition of sin:

1 John 3:3-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

³And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. ⁴Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. ⁵And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

If sin is the practice of lawlessness, it means there must be laws and commandments in place for us to transgress to commit sin. The Lord is on His way back to earth. We only have a little window of time left to turn from our wicked ways and start walking in obedience to the laws and commandments of God. God has no joy in the death of the wicked, but we have all been given the free will to choose our path. The reality of our free will is a choice between life and death; we have been advised to choose life. The significant, but subtle, difference between life and death is faith and obedience: not to the laws, commandments, precepts and statutes of man, but obedience to the laws, commandments, precepts and statutes of God. The Lord Jesus Christ gave this word to us through His servant Moses:

Deuteronomy 30:14-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. ¹⁵"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, ¹⁶in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and

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are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them,¹⁸ I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess.¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;²⁰ that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

Are we not going to return to the land of Israel? Some will say that this is the Old Testament and it means nothing to us today. However, this is quite the contrary because the New Testament is built on the foundation of the Old Testament. The laws and commandments of God are all in righteousness. To be in right standing with God, we have to walk in obedience to His commandments and do the works of righteousness. The Lord Jesus Christ came and magnified the law, and God the Father has given us His Spirit to empower us to be able to keep His laws and commandments. Today all men everywhere are called to repent:

Acts 17:22-31 New King James Version (NKJV)

²² Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious;²³ for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:²⁴ “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.²⁶ And He has made from one blood^[a] every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’²⁹ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by

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art and man's devising.³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

It was the Lord Jesus Christ who set the covenant of repentance in motion at the beginning of His ministry when He said: repent and believe the gospel. The Lord did not give us a new commandment because the laws and commandments of God were already in place. That is the reason why He asked us to repent from the beginning of His ministry, because we have all transgressed the laws and commandments of God that came through Moses the servant of God:

Mark 1:14-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

The apostle Peter was inspired to expound on what the Lord had said on the day of Pentecost when God the Father gave man His Spirit.

Acts 2:38-39 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Calling on the name of the Lord means to repent from our wicked ways and walk according to the paths of righteousness as the Lord has set before us. Peter gave further details of the process of repentance:

Acts 3:19-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

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The time of the restoration of all things, which God has spoken through His holy prophets, is the period of time called the Day of the Lord - when the Lord returns to restore all things. We are the generation to see the restoration which God promised from the beginning.

At the moment, the window of opportunity opened to us to change our ways is getting smaller with every passing day. God is near to each and every one of us, not according to the ways we are taught in the churches of this world, but according to His word given to us through His servants: the prophets. We can all access His word in the Holy Bible: the living word of the only living God.

This study has highlighted the fact that the end of this age is only a few months away. You do not want to be on earth without God's protection during the period of restoration. God has said He will protect all those who put their trust in Him here on earth and, at the appointed time, He will lead His servants to the place of protection.

God has also promised to send a messenger, who will tell us what to do at the end of age. This messenger will suddenly appear with the truth from God. During this period of time - our faith, trust and knowledge of the ways of the Lord will be greatly tested. It is through knowledge of what is to come that we will be delivered.

Proverbs 11:9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbour, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.

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Chapter Fifteen

CONCLUSION

There are many contrasting ideas about what will happen at the end of age. Many of these ideas have no foundation in the truth. Regardless of what we may have been led to believe by your pastors, prophets, teachers, or our own private interpretation of the Holy Scriptures, if our understanding has not been opened by the Lord - we will never come to the knowledge of the truth and we may even reject the truth as a lie. God has spoken and His word is truth. We live in a well-orchestrated plan which was formulated before God created the heavens and the earth.

God the Father has said He will set His King on His holy hill of Zion. It is from this statement that every prophecy in the Holy Scriptures stems. For God's king to reign from Zion, there are certain prerequisite requirements that have to be fulfilled before this is made possible. It is essential that we understand that God the Father is Holy and pure. No unclean thing can dwell in His presence. For man to be able to have a relationship with God the Father, every transgression has to be paid for by blood.

Hebrews 9:21-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. ²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. The Lord Jesus Christ, who was with God from the very beginning, is the only one capable to redeem mankind from their sins by His blood because only the Lord has been capable to live a sinless life on earth. For that reason, He had to become a man to provide atonement for our sins. That was one of the many tasks God the Father has set before the Lord. The Lord had to first defeat Satan the devil in a battle of wills and not transgress any of God's laws and commandments.

The first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ as a child is well-documented in the Holy Scriptures. Retrospectively, we can now see the major events that were prophesied about the first coming of the Lord. When we search the Scriptures further, we realise that the Lord will return on the earth a second time before His final return to reign with His Saints for a

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thousand years. God the Father has proposed for the Lord to come to earth three times to complete the duties He has set before Him. If you are of the mind-set that everything has been done, you will fall into error.

Daniel 9:24 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁴ "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

The Lord has been given seventy weeks to complete these major tasks. As it stands at the moment, only one segment of the seventy weeks has been fulfilled. When the Lord returns to earth the second time, He will:

- Make an end to sins.
- Seal up visions and prophecy.
- Finish transgression.

On the third and final return on earth, which will be on the heels of the second, He will:

- Anoint the Most Holy.
- Bring in everlasting righteousness.

God the Father has set a timeframe of seventy weeks, separated into three sections, for the Lord to fulfil His duties. The first has been spent. The second is at hand and the third will follow closely after the second. Moreover, all the major events related to each of the remaining two phases have already been given to us. We have been given the events that precede the return of the Lord Jesus Christ:

Matthew 24:27-31 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ²⁸ For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with

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power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Why will the Lord return as a thief in the night to many? If we are watching, the Lord will not come to us as a thief because we are expecting Him and we know the signs of the times. A thief can only plunder the goods of those who are not watching. The majority of professing believers will be looking for the signs, described in the above passage of Scripture, which mark the third return to the earth of the Lord Jesus Christ. But when we consider the fact that the timeframe God the Father has given is separated into three sections, and we know the Messiah has already visited the earth once, we realise there is an important part of Scripture that we have all missed:

Psalm 50:1-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹The Mighty One, God the LORD, Has spoken and called the earth From the rising of the sun to its going down. ² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth. ³ Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent; A fire shall devour before Him, And it shall be very tempestuous all around Him. ⁴ He shall call to the heavens from above, And to the earth, that He may judge His people: ⁵ "Gather My saints together to Me, Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice." ⁶ Let the heavens declare His righteousness, For God Himself is Judge. Selah

The Lord will return to judge His people. When He returns the third time, there is going to be peace on earth. At His second coming we are going to be entering a period of time that the Holy Scriptures describe as a time of trouble and distress. Such events have never occurred and will never happen again in successive generations.

Daniel 12:1 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹"At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book.

This was also documented in the gospel of Mark:

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Mark 13:19-20 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ *For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.* ²⁰ *And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.*

What position are you going to take? Before God created the earth and everything in it, He had already decided that He will set His king on His Holy Hill of Zion and the law of God will flow from Zion to the ends of the earth. We now know that the king who God has chosen to rule over the earth is His very own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ was with God at the very beginning and all things were made through Him and in Him there is everlasting life. There is a profound account of what happened, before anything was created, in the book of Proverbs chapter eight in which our Lord Jesus Christ addresses us individually.

Proverbs 8:32-36 New King James Version (NKJV)

³² *“Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways.* ³³ *Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it.* ³⁴ *Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors.* ³⁵ *For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favour from the LORD;* ³⁶ *But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death.”*

Earlier in the book of Proverbs, the Lord Jesus Christ had warned us about our disobedience to the commandments of God.

Proverbs 1:20-31 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ *Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares.* ²¹ *She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words:* ²² *“How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge.* ²³ **Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.** ²⁴ *Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded,* ²⁵ *Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke,* ²⁶ *I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes,* ²⁷ *When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress*

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and anguish come upon you. ²⁸ "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. ²⁹ Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, ³⁰ They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke. ³¹ Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies.

Nothing can be added to what the Lord has said, except to point out that: the period of time mentioned in this passage of Scripture is exactly the same period of time of distress mentioned in the passage of Scripture from the book of the prophet Daniel.

The Lord Jesus Christ had to come as a child first to fulfil certain criteria that no man on earth could ever do. Only the blood of Christ can wash away the sins of all men - if they will humble themselves and repent their sins. We live in a world controlled by evil spirits whose aim is to steal, kill and destroy us. But the Lord Jesus Christ came to give us life abundantly. No man living, or rather, who has ever lived, has been blameless before God except our Lord Jesus Christ. He lived a perfect life before God. Satan the devil tried but was unsuccessful in his attempts to cause Him to disobey God. The above list is just a small number of points amongst many that qualify the Lord Jesus Christ to be ruler over the entire earth before God. We have the opportunity to also qualify if we are obedient to the commandments of God and have faith in Jesus Christ.

Previously in this study, we came to the understanding that we currently live in the period of time called the acceptable year of the Lord. We now know that this period is coming to an end in a matter of months.

Consider this scenario for a moment if you may. If you are to become a manager of a company and you know you will be inheriting people who will neither accept you as their manager, nor will they do what you instruct them, what will you do? If you are to run a successful operation will you not let them go at the earliest convenience? Furthermore, if you are given charge over a school and you know some teachers and students will be disobedient to your authority, will you keep them in the school so they can disrupt others, or will you let them go as soon as possible? The kingdom of God cannot co-exist with the kingdom of darkness.

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God can see the hearts of men and He knows our thoughts. All judgment and power over all in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus Christ to establish the kingdom of God on earth. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of righteousness. When the Lord Jesus Christ returns on the earth in a few months, it will be for vengeance and punishment and not for peace - contrary to popular belief.

Isaiah 13:9-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. ¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine. ¹¹ "I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. ¹² I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold, A man more than the golden wedge of Ophir. ¹³ Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the earth will move out of her place, In the wrath of the LORD of hosts And in the day of His fierce anger. ¹⁴ It shall be as the hunted gazelle, And as a sheep that no man takes up; Every man will turn to his own people, And everyone will flee to his own land. ¹⁵ Everyone who is found will be thrust through, And everyone who is captured will fall by the sword. ¹⁶ Their children also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; Their houses will be plundered And their wives ravished.

When the Lord returns, as it was in the days when the Lord came down to remove the children of Israel from the house of bondage in Egypt, the children of Israel did not see His face but they knew that the Lord was there to lead them out of Egypt. We will be faced with a similar situation when the Lord returns. We shall not see His face but we shall all know the Lord is on earth.

Isaiah 8:16-18 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ Bind up the testimony, Seal the law among my disciples. ¹⁷ And I will wait on the LORD, Who hides His face from the house of Jacob; And I will hope in Him. ¹⁸ Here am I and the children whom the LORD has given me! We are for signs and wonders in Israel From the LORD of hosts, Who dwells in Mount Zion.

From this passage of Scripture; there are three important facts to take away. Firstly, you can see the Lord is in Zion. Therefore, this Scripture has not yet been fulfilled. When the Lord

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walked the earth the first time, it was around Jerusalem and not Zion because the Pharisees were in charge in Jerusalem. This time around the Lord will be directing proceedings in Zion. Secondly, no one will be able to see the Lord but everyone will be aware of the presence of the Lord. Like it was in the days when the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt, so it will be in the days to come. Truth will be taught according to the laws and commandments of God in Israel.

This prophecy in the book of Daniel stipulates that there are three separate segments of weeks in which the Lord will come to the earth. The first has passed and the second will begin soon.

Daniel 9:25 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁵ "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

Angel Gabriel said to the prophet Daniel that we have to know and understand. We need understanding from the Lord to be able to comprehend this passage of Scripture. It addresses the fact that there are three segments of weeks which add up to seventy weeks - in which God has planned for the Messiah to return on earth to complete His duty as king over all the earth. First, He came as a child to include man in God's plan. Secondly, He will come to judge the earth. He has chosen not to be visible to all during this segment of weeks. Finally, He will come as the king of kings with His Saints to rule over the entire earth for a thousand years, then everyone alive will be able to see the glorified King. The Lord said before the Day of the Lord, which is the end of age, that He will send a prophet who will turn us back to the truth as John the Baptist did before the Lord started His ministry.

Malachi 3:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And 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. ²"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 launderers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of

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Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.

⁴“Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years. ⁵And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness

Against sorcerers,

Against adulterers,

Against perjurers,

Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans,

And against those who turn away an alien—

Because they do not fear Me,” Says the LORD of hosts.

The message is in the Scripture. The Lord will soon send a messenger to prepare the way before Him. Then the Lord will suddenly come to His temple for Judgment against all the wicked.