



THE TIME IS AT HAND



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The Kingdom of God is nigh

*Blessed is he that readeth,
and they that hear the words of this prophecy,
and keep those things which are written therein;
for **the time is at hand**. (Revelation 1:3, KJV)*

*And he [the angel] saith unto me,
Seal **not** the sayings of the prophecy of this book,
for **the time is at hand**. (Revelation 22:10, KJV)*

*We have also a more sure Word of Prophecy...
holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost
(2 Peter 1:19-21, KJV)*

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FOREWORD

- Amos 3:7 *Surely the Lord GOD does nothing,
Unless He reveals **His secret** to His servants **the prophets**.*
- 2 Peter 1:16-21 *For we did not follow cunningly devised fables
when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.
For He received from God the Father honor and glory
when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory:
This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*
- And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him
on the holy mountain. And so we have **the prophetic word confirmed**,
which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place,
until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;
knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,
for prophecy never came by the will of man,
but holy men of God spoke as they were **moved by the Holy Spirit**.*
- Revelation 19:10^e *For **the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy**.*

Since 1971 Foundation Sjofar has seen it as her calling to familiarize people with the Word of God in accordance with the instructions of Paul to Timothy — ‘...**rightly dividing the Word of Truth**’ (2 Tim. 2:15).

For a long time important passages of the Holy Scripture have not been discussed, for various reasons. Only when the Bible is preached and taught in its entirety is the Word of God shown to full advantage; only then is the Bible understandable. After all, the Bible is not just a religious book but a fascinating written account of God’s Plan of Salvation.

This is why we thought it instructive and useful to compile a comprehensive text survey. It contains a chronological arrangement of Bible passages in accordance with God’s Plan of Salvation. Scripture divides the time in ‘times and seasons’, ‘dispensations’, ‘days’, ‘ages’ and ‘worlds’. Each period has a beginning and an end, and is closed with a judgment. The dispensations differ from each other in the way God deals with people in different periods.

This survey has its limitations but we hope you are encouraged to study the Word of God in order to gain insight into God’s Plan. While attentively searching the Scriptures you will discover that they in their entirety have a clear design that gets its fulfilment throughout the ages, until the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus and the manifestation of God’s Kingdom in heaven and on earth.

All quotes from the Bible* are shown in italics. (*New King James version, or King James Version (indicated as ‘KJV’))

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THE CREATION OF HEAVEN AND EARTH — GOD'S COUNSEL

In the past of eternity God designed a Plan — it's His counsel.

- Ps. 90:1-2 ***LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.*** (Job 36:26!)
 Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
- Ps. 93:2 ***Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.***
- Isai. 25:1 *O LORD, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, For You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.*
- Isai. 40:13-14 ***Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD,***
Or as His counselor has taught Him?
With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him,
And taught Him in the path of justice?
***Who taught Him knowledge,** And showed Him the way of understanding?*
- Isai. 28:29 *This also comes from **the LORD of hosts,***
Who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance.
- Eph. 1:11 ***Him Who works all things according to the counsel of His will,***
- Isai. 46:8-10 *Declaring the end from the beginning,*
And from ancient times things that are not yet done,
*Saying: **'My counsel shall stand,** And I will do all My pleasure,'*
- Rom. 11:34-36 *For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things,*
to Whom be glory forever. Amen.

The Creation

- Gen. 1:1 *In the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth. [lit. in a beginning]*
- Ps. 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God;*
And the firmament shows His handiwork.
- Rev. 4:11 *You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honour and power;*
For You created all things,
*And **by Your will they exist and were created.***
- Col. 1:15-17 *He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

By the Word of God everything came into being

- John 1:1-3 *In the beginning was the Word, and **the Word** was with God, and the **Word was God.** He was in the beginning with God.*
All things were made through Him,
and without Him nothing was made that was made.
- Ps. 33:6 *By **the word of the LORD** the heavens were made,*
*And all the host of them **by the breath** of His mouth.*
- Ps. 33:9 *For He **spoke,** and it was done; He **commanded,** and it stood fast.*
- Gen. 1:3 *Then God said, **'Let there be light';** and there was light.*
- Hebr. 11:3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the **Word** of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*
- Hebr. 1:1-3 *...and upholding all things by **the Word of His power,***
- Isai. 42:5 *Thus saith God the LORD —*
***He that created the heavens** and stretched them out,*
*He that **spread forth the earth** and that which cometh out of it,*
*He that **giveth breath** unto the people upon it, and **spirit** to them that walk therein:*
 see Job 34:14-15 ***If He** [The Lord]... should **gather to Himself** His Spirit and His breath,*
***All flesh** would perish together, And man would return to dust.*

SATAN, GOD'S ANTAGONIST

Often the question is asked: Where does evil come from?

The Bible points to God's adversary, Satan, initially called: 'Lucifer', 'light carrier'.

Lucifer, an angel cast out from heaven

Isai. 14:12 *O **Lucifer**, son of the morning!*

Ezek. 28:13 *You were in Eden, the garden of God; on the day you were created.*

Ezek. 28:14 *You were the **anointed cherub** who covers; I established you;
You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.*

His fall is due to pride. He became Satan, God's adversary

Ezek. 28:15 ***You were perfect** in your ways from the day you were created,
Till iniquity was found in you.*

Ezek. 28:17 *Your **heart was lifted up** because of your **beauty**;
You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendour;
I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.*

Isai. 14:12-15 *How you are fallen from heaven, O **Lucifer**, son of the morning!
How you are **cut down** to the ground, You who weakened the nations!
For you have said in your heart:
I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.'
Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.
The kings of Babylon and Tyrus are types of Lucifer, called: Satan, adversary*

Result: chaos

Gen. 1:2 *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 face of the waters.
Literal translation: 'The earth became awfully chaotic; also (there was) darkness above the surface of a mass of water; but the breath of God (was) hovering over the face of the waters.'^(*)*

Isai. 45:18 *For thus says the LORD:
Who created the heavens,
Who is God,
Who formed the earth and made it,
Who has established it,
Who did not create it in vain,
Who formed it to be inhabited:
I am the LORD, and there is no other.*

(*) 'The earth **has been**...' Hebrew: 'weha ARETS HaJetaH'
HJH = come to pass, appear, to be.
'The earth has been very chaotic...'
Dr. M. Reisel in *Genesis* – published by Kruseman, The Hague, Holland.

THE PRESENT HEAVENS AND EARTH

God restores – approximately 6000 years ago → Genesis = origin

The present earth was created in 6 days — the days begin with the evening Genesis 1

Gen. 1:1 *In the [a] beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Gen. 1:2 *And the earth was [has been] without form, and void;
and **darkness** was upon the face of the deep.
And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

the first day
Gen. 1:3-5 *And God said, **Let there be light**: and there was light. And God saw
the light, that it was good and God **divided** the light from the darkness.
And God called the light **Day**, and the darkness He called **Night**.
And the **evening** [darkness] and the **morning** [light] were the first day.*

Gen. 1:5b,8,13,19,23,31 first the evening and then the morning — 24 hours

the second day
Gen. 1:7-8 *And God made the firmament [‘the heaven’]
and [**He**] **divided the waters** which were **under** the firmament
from the waters which were **above** the firmament*

the third day
Gen. 1:9-13 *sea and land come into existence
And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb **yielding seed**,
and the **fruit tree** yielding fruit*

the fourth day
Gen. 1:14-19 *And God said, Let there be **lights** in the firmament ...
to **divide** the day from the night;
and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years*

the fifth day
Gen. 1:20-23 *So God created great **sea creatures** and every living thing that moves,
with which the waters abounded, according to their kind,
and every winged **bird** according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.*

the sixth day - 1st *Then God said, Let the earth bring forth...**cattle** and **creeping thing**
and **beast** of the earth, each according to its kind
Gen. 1:24-32
Gen. 1:4,10,12,18,21,25 — Six times: And God saw that it was good [the completion is still coming]*

Man, crown of creation

the sixth day - 2nd *Then God said, Let Us make **man** in Our image, according to Our likeness...
Gen. 1:26-27 *So God created man in His Own image: ... **male and female** He created them.
Gen. 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed
into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.***

1 Cor. 15:45 *And so it is written, The **first man Adam** was made **a living soul**;
The **last Adam** was made **a quickening Spirit**.*

Isai. 64:8 *But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter;
And all we are the work of Your hand.*

James 1:18a *Of His own will, He brought us forth **by the Word of truth**...*
Gen. 1:27-28 ***male and female** He created them. Then God blessed them,
and God said to them, **Be fruitful and multiply**; fill the earth and subdue it;
Ps. 8:5-7 *For You have made him a little lower than the angels,
And You have crowned him with glory and honor.
You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet,**

the seventh day
Exo. 31:17 *In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth,
and on **the seventh day He rested** and was refreshed.*
Gen. 2:2-3 *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.
Then **God blessed the seventh day** and sanctified it,
because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.*

Exo. 20:11 *Therefore the LORD blessed **the Sabbath day** and hallowed it.*
Gen. 1:31 (on the 7th day) *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed **it was very good**.*

NO EVOLUTION

Ps. 19:1-4

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
And **the firmament** shows His handiwork.
Day unto day utters speech,
And **night** unto night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech nor language
Where their voice is not heard.
Their line has gone out through all the earth,
And their words to the end of the world.*

Isai. 40:12

*Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand,
Measured heaven with a span
And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure?
Weighed the mountains in scales?*

Ps. 148

Praise the LORD: heavens, sun, moon, stars, waters...

Ps. 148:1-6

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
Praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels;
Praise Him, all His hosts! Praise Him, sun and moon;
Praise Him, all you stars of light! Praise Him, you heavens of heavens,
And you waters above the heavens!
Let them praise the name of the LORD,
For **He commanded** and they were created.
He also established them forever and ever;
He made a decree which shall not pass away.

Ps. 148:7

Praise the LORD: wind, mountains, hills, animals, birds, all people
Praise the LORD from the earth

Ps. 148:13

Let them praise the Name of the LORD,
For His Name alone is exalted;
His glory is above the earth and heaven.

Job 37:23

As for **the Almighty**, we cannot find Him; He is excellent in power,
In judgment and abundant justice; He does not oppress.

Job 37:14

Listen to this, ...

Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.

Job 38:4

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?
Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Rom. 1:20

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**,
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**.

Rom. 1:22

Professing to be wise, they became fools

The lie of the theory of evolution

No Creation?	→	no God!
No God	→	no Word from God
No Word from God	→	no Jesus Christ
No Jesus Christ	→	no Redemption
No Redemption	→	no Resurrection

No hope for the future.

THE TIME OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN

God gave man a command

- Gen. 2:8 *The LORD God planted **a garden** eastward **in Eden**, and there He put the man...*
 Gen. 2:9 *And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life** was also **in the midst** of the garden, **and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.***
 Gen. 2:16-17 *And the LORD God **commanded** the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil** you shall **not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*

Seduction and Fall

- Gen. 3:1-5 *Now the **serpent** was more **cunning** than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?....*
 Gen. 3:6 *So when the woman saw that **the tree** [of knowledge...] was **good** for food, that it was **pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree **desirable to make one wise**, she took of its fruit and **ate**. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ('eat' = incorporate, 'make into a whole...')*
 1 John 2:16-17 *For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father, but is of the world...*
 James 1:14,15 *But each one is **tempted** when he is drawn away by his **own desires** [lust] and enticed. Then, when lust has **conceived**, it bring forth **sin** ; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth **death**.*
 Gen. 3:22 *Then the LORD God said, **Behold, the man** [the first Adam!] has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever...*
 Gen. 3:7 *Then **the eyes** of both of them **were opened***

Result: man — coming forth from Adam — is a **sinner** → **the state** of the natural man, burdened with **sin, the mortal aspect** in man which leads to **death**
 From **the sin** come forth the sins, the fruits of **sin**.

Sin means: **missing our goal:** God! God is Light and Life; without God there is darkness and death!

- Isai. 53:6a ***All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way;***
 Rom. 10:3 *For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their **own righteousness**, have **not submitted** themselves **unto the righteousness of God**.*
 Rom. 5:12 *Therefore, just as **through one man** sin entered the world, and **death through sin**, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.*
 Rom. 3: 23 *...for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God (see Psalm 53:4)*
 John 19:5 *Pilate about the Lord Jesus: **Behold the Man!** [the second Adam!]*
 2 Cor. 5:21a *For **He** [God] **made Him** [the Lord Jesus] **Who knew no sin, to be sin for us, ...***
 Isai. 53:6b *and **the LORD** has laid on **Him** the iniquity of us all.*
 2 Cor. 5:21b ***that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.***

THE RESULT OF SIN – BUT ALSO THE PROMISE OF REDEMPTION

The result of sin

- Prov. 14:12 *There is **a way** which **seemeth right** unto a man,
but **the end** thereof are the ways of **death**.*
- Gen. 3:17-19 *Because of disobedience of man...the earth is cursed*
- Rom. 8:20-22 *For the creation was subjected to futility,....*
- Gen. 3:17-19 *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread ...
for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*
- Gen. 3:22-24 *Expulsion of man from the Garden of Eden*
- Gen. 5:3 *And **Adam** lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son
in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. (see Gen. 1:26)*

Promise of Redemption

- Gen. 3:15 *And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.*
- 1 Cor. 15:21 *For since **by man** came **death**,
by MAN also came the **resurrection** of the dead.*
- Hebr. 9:22 *... **without shedding of blood** there is **no remission**.*
- Lev. 17:11 *For **the life** of the flesh is **in the blood**, ...
for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.*
- John 1:29 *Behold! The Lamb of God Who **takes away the sin** of the world! (see Mark 10:45)*
- 1 John 4:10 *Herein is love: not that we loved **God**,
but that **He loved us**, and sent **His Son**
to be the **propitiation for our sins**.*
- 2 Cor. 5:21b ***that** we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*

Therefore

- Acts 4:12 *...for there is **no other Name** under heaven given among men
by which we **must be saved**.*
- 1 Cor. 2:2 ***Jesus Christ and Him crucified***

THE RESULT OF THE FALL - Satan became ruler of the world

Because of disobedience to God man loses dominion over the creation.
Therefore the earth and the atmosphere are now under Satan's dominion.

The father of lies

- 2 Cor. 4:4 the god of this age
 John 12:31, 14:30 the ruler of this world
 1 John 5:19 *We know that...the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*
 John 8:44 the devil... a murderer from the beginning,
 and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.
 When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources,
 *for he is **a liar and the father of it.***
 2 Cor. 11:14 *Satan himself transforms himself into **an angel of light.***
 Gen. 3:1-15 Satan deceives man into disobeying God.
 2 Cor. 11:3 *...as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness,*
 1 Tim. 2:14 *...but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. (see Gen. 3:6)*
 Rom. 5:14 Adam's transgression.
 Eph. 2:2 **the prince of the power of the air,**
 *the spirit who now **works** in the sons of disobedience*
 2 Peter 2:19 → *For by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.*
 Luke 4:5-7 The devil showed Jesus...*all the kingdoms of the world...*
 He said to Jesus, *All this authority...and their glory;*
 for this has been delivered to me,
 and I give it to whomever I wish.
 Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.
 Luke 4:8 *And Jesus answered and said to him, Get behind Me, Satan!*
 For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God,
 and Him only you shall serve.'
 →
 Matt. 24:4 *Jesus...said...: **Take heed that no one deceives you.***
 Eph. 6:12 *...we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities,*
 against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,
 *against **spiritual hosts of wickedness** in the heavenly places.*

The final battle

- Matt. 11:12 *And from the days of John the Baptist until now*
 *the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and **the violent** take it by force.*
 1 Peter 5:8 *...your adversary the **devil** walks about **like a roaring lion,***
 seeking whom he may devour.
 Rev. 12:12 **Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea!**
 For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath,
 because he knows that he has a short time.
 Luke 21:26 *...**men's hearts failing** them from **fear** and the expectation of those things*
 which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.
 1 John 5:5 *Who is he who **overcomes** the world,*
 *but he who **believes** that **Jesus is the Son of God?***
 1 John 4:4 *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them:*
 *because **greater is He that is in you,** than he that is in the world.*
 Rom. 1:3-4 **Jesus Christ, our Lord...***[was] declared to be the Son of God with power*
 according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.
 Col. 2:15 *...and having spoiled principalities and powers,*
 He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.
 Rev. 19:11,13,16 Jesus Christ... *called Faithful and True... **The Word of God**...*
 King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

THE FLOOD

The Flood

Gen. 6:1-4

Gen. 6-8

Now it came to pass, when **men** began to **multiply** on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, ...; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the LORD said, **My Spirit shall not strive with man forever**, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years. There were **giants on the earth in those days**, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were **the mighty men who were of old**, men of renown.

sons of God – see Job 1:6–2:1 2 Peter 2:4-5 Jude 6-7
giants – see Num. 13:33 1 Sam. 17:4 2 Sam. 21:20

Gen. 6:5

Then **the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great** in the earth...

Gen. 6:13

And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with **violence** [Hebr. '**chamas**'] through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Gen. 6:14, 17

And God said: Make yourself **an ark** of gopherwood... And behold, **I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth**, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.

Matt. 24:37-39

... **and [men] did not know until the flood came and took them all away**

Gen. 7:11-12

Noah, a **righteous** man (2 Peter 2:5), entered the ark with his wife, three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth, their wives, and numerous pairs of animals, into the ark. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life...all **the fountains** of the great deep were broken up, and the **windows** of heaven were opened. And the **rain** was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

Gen. 7:24

And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days. One hundred and fifty days = 5 months (see Rev. 9:5,10-11) The family of Cain (Genesis 4) dies out during this 'flood'.

The covenant promised to Noah and established with him

Gen. 6:18; 9:8-17

Gen. 9:8

And God spoke **to Noah** and to his sons with him, saying:

Gen. 9:9-17

And as for Me, behold, **I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants** after you, and with every living creature that is with you: ...Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said: This is **the sign of the covenant**... I set **My rainbow** in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.

It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and **I will remember My covenant** which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh...

Gen. 8:22

While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, **Winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.**

Gen. 9:1

God reiterates the commandment.

Gen. 1:28

Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth

Gen. 9:2

And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth

Gen. 9:3-4

From now on man is allowed to eat meat, but not the blood thereof.

Gen. 9:5-6

Capital punishment is introduced (see Rom. 13:4).

→

**Whoever sheds man's blood,
By man his blood shall be shed**

THE SONS OF NOAH

Genesis relates the history of the origin of mankind, the nations.

Genesis contains eight genealogical registers.

Acts 17:26 *And He has made from **one blood** [Adam, later Noah] **every nation of men** to dwell on all the face of the earth,...*

The origin of the nations

Gen. 9:18-19 *Now the **sons of Noah** who went out of the ark were **Shem, Ham, and Japheth**. These three were the sons of Noah, and **from these the whole earth was populated**.*

Gen. 9:27 *May God enlarge **Japheth**, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem...*

Gen. 10:32 *These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations **were divided** on the earth **after the flood**.*

Babel

Gen. 10:8-10 *Babel was built about 100 years after the flood. Nimrod was the first powerful man on earth, the founder of the city of **Babel**. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD*

This means: 'opposing God knowingly, defying Him'.

Gen. 11:1 *Now the whole earth had **one language** and **one speech**...*

Compare Gen. 11:1-5 with Gen. 10:25!

Gen. 11:3-4 *Then they said to one another...Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; **let us make a name** for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.*

Gen. 11:6-9 *And the LORD said: Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there **confuse their language**, that they may not understand one another's speech. So **the LORD scattered** them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called **Babel**... Meaning of 'Babel': Bab-el = gateway to God. Hebrew: 'bavèl' = confusion.*

The descendants of Shem

Gen. 11:10-32 *Arphaxad...Salah...Eber...**Peleg**...Reu...Serug...Nahor...**Terah***

Gen. 10:25 *To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was **Peleg**, **for in his days the earth was divided**... (peleg = partitioning)*

Gen. 11:26 *Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot **Abram**, Nahor, and Haran.*

The boundaries of the nations

Ps. 74:17 ***Thou** [LORD] **hast set all the borders** of the earth (Gen. 8:22)*

Acts 17:26-27 *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, 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*

Deut. 32:8 *When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of Adam, **He set the bounds** of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. (Exo. 1:5; Deut. 10:22)*

Prov. 22:28 → ***Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.** [!]*

Hosea 5:10 *The princes of Judah were like them that **remove the bound**; therefore **I will pour out My wrath** upon them like water.*

THE TIME [DISPENSATION] OF THE PATRIARCHS

God **chose** one man, from the seed of Shem, **Abram**, to proceed with His Plan of Salvation: **the Covenant** (Hebrew: 'berith') that **God** established with **Abram, Isaac and Jacob**.

The Biblical Attributes of a covenant

A **covenant** is made between people who do not have a natural relationship.

Strangers become **brothers** because of a 'berith' (covenant).

Characteristic is that a berith is **unbreakable**.

It's nature (duration) is **eternal, everlasting**.

It has **legality (legal authority!)**.

It is stronger than death – it stretches over the generations.

It is often **sealed** with **an oath**, a sacrifice, and a meal, etc.

God establishes a covenant with Noah, Abram, the people of Israel, David; The New Covenant

God's pledge to Abram

Gen. 12:1 *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.*

Gen. 12:2-3 ***I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; ... I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you;***

And **in you [Abram] all the families of the earth shall be **blessed****. (Gen. 22:18)

Gen. 15:5-6 *Then He brought him outside and said, Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them. And He said to him, So shall your descendants be. And **he believed** in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for **righteousness**.*

Gen. 17:5 *Neither shall thy name any more be called **Abram**, but thy name shall be **Abraham**; for a father of many nations have I made thee.*

Gen. 17:19, 21 *...Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name **Isaac**; I will establish **My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant**, and with his descendants after him.*

Hebr. 6:13,14 *God made a promise to Abraham,...He could swear by no one greater, **He swore by Himself**,... Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.*

God's unconditional Covenant, made forever, for a thousand generations

Gen. 15:18 *On the same day (Gen. 14) the LORD made **a covenant** with Abram, saying: To your descendants I have given this land [Canaan],*

Gen. 17:8 ***from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates** — Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of **Canaan**, as **an everlasting possession**; and I will be their God.*

Gen. 17:13 *and **My covenant** shall be in your flesh for **an everlasting covenant**. (The covenant that God makes with Abraham is mentioned **12** times in Gen. 17.)*

Ps. 105:1-11 ***Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His Name; Make known His deeds among the peoples!...O seed of Abraham His servant, You children of Jacob, **His chosen ones**!...He remembers His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for **a thousand generations**, The covenant which He made with **Abraham**, And His oath to Isaac, And confirmed it to **Jacob** for a statute, To **Israel** as an everlasting covenant, Saying, **To you I will give the land of Canaan** As the allotment of your inheritance***

God repeated His pledge to Isaac

- Gen. 26:24 *I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for **I am with thee**, and **will bless thee**, and multiply thy seed for My servant Abraham's sake.*
- Gen. 26:4 *And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; (Gen. 22:17; Exo. 32:13) and **in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed***

God repeated His pledge to Jacob

- Gen. 28:15 **The Lord unto Jacob:** ...Behold, **I am with thee**, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, **until** I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.
- Gen. 28:13b-14 **I am the LORD God of Abraham** your father and the **God of Isaac**; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and **in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed**.
- Deut. 32:9 ...The LORD's portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.

Sign of the covenant: the circumcision

- Gen. 14:19 Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, Possessor of heaven and earth
- Gen. 17:1-13 *When **Abram** was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, **I am Almighty God**; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly. ...As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called **Abram**, but your name shall be **Abraham**; for I have made you a father of many nations. (Abram = exalted father — Abraham = father of many nations) ...And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. ...**This is My covenant which you shall keep**, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every **male child** among you shall be **circumcised**; and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be **a sign** of the **covenant** between Me and you. He who is **eight days old** among you shall be circumcised, ... and **My covenant** shall be in your flesh for **an everlasting covenant**.*

Israel, the people set apart by God

- God's promise in Gen. 12:1-3 is a perpetuation of God's promise in Genesis 3:15.
- Lev. 20:24,26 *I am the LORD your God, Who have **separated** you from other people... And ye **shall be holy unto Me**: for I the LORD am holy, and have **severed** you from other people, that ye should be Mine.*
- Num. 23:9 ...to the people shall dwell **alone**, and **shall not be reckoned** among the nations.
- Exo. 33:16 Moses: For wherein shall it be known here that I and my people have **found grace in Thy sight**? is it not in that Thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and Thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.
- 1 Ki. 8:53 *For thou didst **separate** them from among all the people of the earth, to be Thine inheritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses Thy servant, when Thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, o Lord God. (see Lev. 26:11-12; Ezra 9:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:14 – 7:1)*
- Esth. 3:8 ...Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is **a certain people scattered** abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and **their laws are diverse** from all people

ISHMAEL

Gen. 16:1 **Sarai is infertile:** her maidservant **Hagar** gives birth to Abram's son Ishmael.
 Gen. 16:10-12 *Then the Angel of the LORD said to her (Hagar), **I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude...**
And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael,
Because the LORD has heard your affliction.
*He shall be a wild man; **His hand shall be against every man,***
And every man's hand against him.
*And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.**

God will bless Ishmael

Gen. 17:20 *...as for Ishmael, I have heard you [Abraham]. Behold, **I have blessed him,***
and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly.
*He shall beget **twelve princes,** and I will make him a great nation.*
 Gen. 21:13 *...because he is your seed (Abraham's seed).*
 Gen. 17:21 **But My covenant I will establish with Isaac**

God has given **promises to Ishmael** and his descendants, the Arabs,
 but there is **no promise regarding any land** within the area promised to Abram.

Gen. 21:21 *[Ishmael]...dwelt in the wilderness of Paran:*
*and his mother took him a wife out of the land of **Egypt**.*
 Gen. 25:16 *These are the sons of Ishmael, and these are their names, by their towns,*
*and by their castles, **twelve princes** according to their nations.*
 Gen. 25:18 *And they dwelt from **Havilah** (Gen. 2:11) unto **Shur, that is before Egypt,** ...*
*toward **Assyria***
 Isai. 19:23-25 *In that day (the Day of the LORD) shall there be a highway out of Egypt to*
***Assyria,** and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and*
*the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians... **Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless***

JACOB AND ESAU Gen. 25:19-34 27:1-36

Esau (rough, hairy), also called Edom – **the battle for the birthright**.
 Gen. 25:23 *The LORD said unto Rebekah: **Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people***
*shall be separated from thy bowels...and **the elder shall serve the younger.***
 Gen. 25:31 *Jacob unto Esau: **Sell me this day thy birthright.***
 (the firstborn is entitled to a double inheritance, see 1 Chr. 5:1-2)
 Gen. 25:32 *And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die;*
and what profit shall this birthright do to me?
 Gen. 25:33 *And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him:*
and he sold his birthright unto Jacob [for a pottage of lentils].
 Gen. 25:34 *Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles;*
and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way:
thus Esau despised his birthright.
 Mal. 1:2-3 *The LORD: Yet I loved Jacob, And **I hated Esau,** and laid his mountains*
*and **his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.***
 Obadiah *God will execute judgments upon Esau, Edom.*

A serious warning

Heb. 12:15-17 *...lest any man fail of the grace of God...*
*lest...be any...**profane** person, as **Esau,***
*who for one morsel of meat **sold his birthright** [of the firstborn!].*
 [‘profane’ — Greek: ‘bebelos’ — **unhallowed**]
 Heb. 12:18-24 *...ye are come unto...the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,*
*...to the **general assembly** and church of the **firstborn,** who are written in heaven,*
and to God the Judge of all, ...
And to Jesus the Mediator of the New Covenant

JACOB, YOUR NAME WILL BE ISRAEL — 'he who strives with God'

- Exo. 4:22 *Thus saith **the LORD**, **Israel** is **My son**, even **My firstborn**:*
 Exo. 4:23 *Let My son go, that he may serve Me*
 Gen. 27:28-29 *The blessing of Isaac to Jacob — the blessing to the firstborn son.*
 Gen. 27:39b-40 *The blessing of Isaac to Esau.*
 Gen. 28 *Jacob's flight to Haran. The LORD speaks to him at **Bethel** - 'house of God'*
 Gen. 28:16-19 *Jacob: *Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not...*
How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God,
*and this is **the gate of heaven**....*
*And he called the name of that place Beth-el**

Jacob's wrestle with the Angel of the LORD, on his return to Canaan

- Hos. 12:3 ***Jacob**]...took his brother by the heel in the womb,
 and by his strength he had power with God:*
 Hos. 12:4 *Yea, he had power over the Angel, and prevailed:
 he wept, and made supplication unto Him:
he found Him in Beth-el, and there He spake with us;
 Even the LORD God of hosts; **the LORD** [JHWH] is **His memorial**.*
 Hos. 12:5 *I AM WHO I AM — I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE*
 Gen. 32:26 *Jacob: I will not let Thee go, unless Thou bless me.*
 Gen. 32:27 *And He said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.*
 Gen. 32:28 *And He said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but **Israel**:
 for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.
 (I s r a e l – Hebr. sar = prince)*
 Gen. 32:30 *And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel [that is, **The face of God**]:
 for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.*
 Ps. 135:4 ***For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto Himself,**
 and Israel for His peculiar treasure.*

Announcement of exile to Egypt and promise of return

- Gen. 15:13-16 *Then He said to **Abram**: Know certainly that **your descendants** will be
strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them,
 and they will afflict them **four hundred years**....
 But in the fourth generation they shall return here,
for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.*
 Gen. 37 *Jacob's son **Joseph** — receives dreams from God.
 Joseph is sold into **Egypt** by his jealous brothers.
 After a long time in prison **Joseph** becomes **Viceroy of Egypt**.
 God uses him in miraculous ways in a time of famine.*
 Gen. 42-46 ***Famine** also in Canaan.
 Looking for food Joseph's brothers meet Joseph;
 remorse and reconciliation.
 Jacob and his sons settle in Egypt.*
 Gen. 46:27b ***All the persons** of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were **seventy**.
 (see Exodus 1:1-5)*

THE ELECTION OF ISRAEL

- Deut. 32:9 ...the LORD'S portion is His people; Jacob is the lot of His inheritance.
 Exo. 4:22-23 Thus saith the LORD, **Israel is My son, even My firstborn:**
 And I say unto thee, Let My son go, that he may serve Me:...
 Isai. 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O **Jacob**, and He that formed thee, O **Israel**, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee,
 I have called thee by thy name; **thou art Mine.**
 Isai. 51:1b-2 Look to the rock from which you were hewn,...Look to Abraham your father,
 And to Sarah who bore you; For **I called him alone**,
 And blessed him and increased him.
 1 Ki. 8:53 For Thou didst **separate them from among all the people of the earth...**
 when Thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD.
 Deut. 7:6-9 ...The Lord did not set His love on you [Israel] nor choose you
 because you were more in number than any other people...
 but **because the LORD loves you**, and because **He would keep the oath**
 which He swore to your fathers,..
 Therefore know that the **LORD your God, He is God**

ISRAEL, the people God continues His Plan of Redemption with

Israel has two — God-given — mandates to fulfill:

To PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM OF GOD

To BRING FORTH THE REDEEMER

- Rom. 3:1-2 **What advantage then has the Jew,...?**
 Chiefly because **to them** were committed **the oracles [Words] of God.**
 Ps. 147:19-20 He declares His **Word** to Jacob, His statutes and His judgments to Israel.
 → He has not dealt thus with any nation
 Rom. 9:4-5 **the Israelites**, ...to whom pertain **the adoption**,
the glory,
the covenants,
the giving of the law,
the service of God, and
the promises; of whom are the fathers
 and **from whom**, according to the flesh, **Christ came**,
Who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.
 Exo. 19:6 And you shall be to Me **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**
 ('**holy**': set apart, separated from everything else).
 Lev. 20:26 And **ye shall be holy unto Me**: for I the LORD am holy,
 and have severed you from other people, that ye should be Mine.
 2 Sam. 7:23 ...who is like Your people, like **Israel**, the one nation on the earth
 whom God went to **redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a NAME** —
 Your people whom You **redeemed** for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods?
 Isai. 44:1-2 ...hear now, O Jacob My servant, And Israel whom I have chosen...
Fear not
 Isai. 49:3,6^b The LORD: You are My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified.
 I will also give You as **a light to the Gentiles**,
 That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.

THE EXODUS — from Egypt**Jacob's descendants, slaves in Egypt**

- Exo. 1:7 *But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.*
- Exo. 1:8 *Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.*
This Pharaoh feels threatened and decides to make **Israel slaves**; the result is bondage and oppression.
Pharaoh even orders to kill all newborn Hebrew boys.
Pharaoh and Herod the Great (Matt. 2) are types of the antichrist.
- Exo. 2:23 *Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage.*
- Exo. 2:24-25 *So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.*
And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.

The Angel of the LORD appears to Moses in the midst of a burning blackberry bush

- Exo. 3:4 *And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.*
- Exo. 3:10 God sends Moses to Pharaoh to lead God's 'children of Israel' out of Egypt.
- Exo. 3:11 **Moses:** *Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?*
[Exo. 2:11 and Acts 7:23-27 (verse 25!) with Exo. 3:11,13; 4:1,10,13; 5:22-23; 6:11,29]

God Almighty makes His Name known

(see Exo. 6:3)

- Exo. 3:14 **I AM WHO I AM — JaHWeH** — or: I Will Be Who I Will Be
- Exo. 3:15 *...Thus you [Moses] shall say to the children of Israel: The LORD [JHWH] God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.*
- Exo. 3:19-20 **The LORD:** *But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, ... So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.*

The LORD warns Pharaoh seven times

- Exo. 4:22-23 *Thus says the LORD: Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.* (Exo. 7:16; 8:1,20; 9:1,13; 10:3)
- Exo. 5:2 *And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.*

Ten plagues Unprecedented severe plagues: God's judgments on Egypt

Compare Exodus with Revelation → a lot of similarities.

Five times Pharaoh hardened his heart.**Five** times God Himself hardened Pharaoh's heart.

- 1st plague** **Water turned to blood**, throughout the whole land, undrinkable.
All the fish died - a dreadful stench. (Exo. 7:14-25)
- 2nd plague** **Frogs**, on the land, in houses, beds, baking troughs and ovens. (Exo. 8:1-15)
Ps. 105:30 *Their land abounded with frogs, Even in the chambers of their kings.*
- 3rd plague** **Lice** (Exo. 8:16-19)
Exo. 8:16 *So the LORD said to Moses, Say to Aaron, Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.*
- Ps. 78:45 *He sent swarms of flies among them, which devoured them,...*
- 4th plague** **Stinging flies** in swarms in houses (Exo. 8:20-32)
Exo. 8:24b *...The land was corrupted because of the swarms of flies.*

- 5th plague** **Cattle** — all the livestock of Egypt died (Exo. 9:1-7)
 Exo. 9:6b ...*but of the livestock of the children of Israel, not one died.*
- 6th plague** **Boils** breaking out in sores (Exo. 9:8-12)
 Psalm 78:50 ...*gave their life over to the plague*
- 7th plague** **Hail** (Exo. 9:13-35)
 Exo. 9:20,21 Servants of Pharaoh, who feared God's word, brought their servants and cattle to safety; the others let their servants and cattle stay in the fields.
 Exo. 9:22-25 ...*the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground.*
 ...*fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it...*
 ...*and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field.*
 Psalm 78:48 *He also gave up their cattle to the hail,*
And their flocks to fiery lightning.
- 8th plague** **Locusts** (Exo. 10:1-20)
 Exo. 10:13b-15 ...*and the LORD brought an east wind on the land...*
And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt... previously there had been no such locusts as they... so that the land was darkened...
So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field...
- 9th plague** **Three days of darkness** (Exo. 10:21-29)
 Exo. 10:21 *Then the LORD said to Moses, Stretch out your hand toward heaven,*
that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, ...which may even be felt.
 Exo. 10:23 *They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days.*
But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.
- 0th plague** **Death of the firstborn** (Exo. 11; 12:1)
 Exo. 12:29 *And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock.*
 Exo. 12:30 *and there was a great cry in Egypt...not a house where there was not one dead.*
 Exo. 12:31-33 *Pharaoh: called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said... go, serve the LORD as you have said...*

The Passover — Hebrew 'Pascha' = pass over

- Exo. 12:2 God spoke to Moses: *This month...shall be the first month of the year to you.*
- Exo. 12:8-11 *Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.*
It is the LORD'S Passover.
- Exo. 12:13 *Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*
- Exo. 12:15,18-20 *Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.... seven days no leaven shall be found in your house...You shall eat nothing leavened...* (1 Cor. 5:6-8)
- Exo. 12:14 *So this day shall be to you a memorial;...an everlasting ordinance*
- Exo. 13:9 *It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the LORD's law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt.*

The departure — the EXODUS

- Exo. 12:41-42 ...*at the end of the four hundred and thirty years - on that very same day - it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt...This is that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.*
- Exo. 12:37 *Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children.*
- Num. 2:32,33 ...*all who were numbered [of Israel] according to their armies of the forces were six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty.*
 The Levites were not numbered.

THE DISPENSATION OF THE LAW

Journey through the desert, on the way to the promised land

Led by an exalted Hand

- Exo. 14:21,22 God leads His people through the Sea...
*and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night...
 and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.*
 Pharaoh, who pursued them, perished in the sea, with all his horses and horsemen.
- Exo. 14:8 *and the children of Israel went out with an high [exalted] Hand.*
- Ps. 77:20 *You led Your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.*
- 1 Chr. 16:19-22 *He permitted no man to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings...
 Do not touch My anointed ones,
 And do My prophets no harm.*
- Exo. 16; 17; 19:4 The LORD cares: water, manna, quails; He carries them on eagles' wings...
- Deut. 8:14-16 *The LORD thy God... Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, ...
 fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, ... that He might humble thee
 and that He might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end*
- Deut. 1:31; 29:5 *... thou hast seen how that the LORD thy God bare thee,
 as a man doth bear his son*
 A long journey, full of affliction, fatigue, murmuring [7 times].
 God punishes and chastises but does not leave His people.

The LORD God wants to dwell among His people — the Tabernacle

- Exo. 29:45 *I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God.*
- Exo. 25:1,8-11 *... the LORD spoke to Moses... And let them make Me a sanctuary,
 that I may dwell among them.*
*According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle
 and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it. (Heb. 8:5; 10:1)*
- Exo. 25:40 *... after their pattern, which was shewed thee [Moses] in the mount.*
- Exo. 29:46 *And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, that brought them forth
 out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the LORD their God.*

In the book **Exodus** the **tabernacle** is described in detail: **the material** used, **the sacred objects** placed in the tabernacle, etc. In the book **Leviticus**: the sacrifices that were brought, the work the priests had to perform in the house of the LORD. In the books of Moses we find the **commandments** and prohibitions for the people of Israel, that they may be **a holy people unto God**.

- Exo. 26 The tabernacle made with ten curtains of fine twined linen, blue and purple and scarlet, with cherubim of skillful work
- Exo. 27; 38 The court of the tabernacle, in which:
 the **altar** of burnt offering of shittim wood, overlaid with brass
 the **laver** of brass, from the looking glasses of the women assembling
The holy place, in which:
- Exo. 25; 37 the **table** of shittim wood, overlaid with gold,
 with **showbread** in two rows, six in a row
- Exo. 37 the **incense altar** of shittim wood, overlaid with gold
- Exo. 25 the **candlestick** of pure gold, with three branches out of both sides
The Most Holy Place
- Exo. 26 At the entrance **the veil** of blue and purple and scarlet and fine twined linen, with cherubim of skillful work.

Behind the veil: the ark of the testimony with the mercy seat

- Exo. 25:10-11 *And they shall make an ark of acacia wood; ...
 And you shall overlay it with pure gold*
- Exo. 25:14 *You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark,
 that the ark may be carried...*
- Exo. 25:16 *... put into the ark the testimony [two tablets of stone] which I shall give thee.*

- Exo. 25:17-22 *You shall make a **mercy seat of pure gold**; two and a half cubits... its length...and a cubit and a half its width. And you shall make **two cherubim of gold; of hammered work**... Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of **one piece with the mercy seat**. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, **covering the mercy seat with their wings**, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and **in the ark you shall put the Testimony** that I will give you. And **there I will meet with you** [Moses], and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you **in commandment to the children of Israel**.*
- Exo. 40:34 *Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and **the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle**.*
- Exo. 40:35 *And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because **the cloud abode** thereon. → [see Hag. 2:5 - ...My Spirit remaineth among you] and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.*
- Num. 7:89 *Now when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, **he heard the voice of One** speaking to him from **above the mercy seat** that was on the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim; thus He spoke to him. (→ Numbers 12:8!, Exo. 25:10-20,**21-22!**)*
- Exo. 13:21-22 *The LORD went before them **by day in a pillar of a cloud** [the Shechina - 'to dwell'], to lead them the way; and **by night in a pillar of fire**, to give them light, to go by day and night. He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night — during all the journeys of the people of Israel through the dessert.*
- Exo. 40:36 *Whenever **the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle**, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys.*

The Covenant made on Mount Sinai

(Exo. 19; 20; 24)

- Exo. 3:12 *God said to Moses: ...**this shall be a sign** to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.*
- Exo. 20:18 *Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. (see Deut. 5:23-29)*
- Exo. 24:7-8 *The LORD showed His glory and His greatness, and His people heard His voice. Then he [Moses] took **the Book of the Covenant** and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, **This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.***
- Deut. 27:9-10 *Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the LORD your God. Therefore you shall obey the voice of the LORD your God*

Sign of the covenant: THE SABBATH

Hebr. 'shabbat' = interruption, intermission, cease working

- Exo. 31:12-17 *The children of Israel shall keep **the Sabbath**, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. (see Hebr. 4)*
- It is a **sign** between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He **rested** and was refreshed.*
- Lev. 23:3 *Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is **the Sabbath of the LORD** in all your dwellings.*

The LAW, given by God to Israel. TORAH — INSTRUCTION

From Mount Sinai God instructs '**The Ten Words**', the 'Ten Commandments'.

Exo. 19 The appearance of the LORD on Mt. Sinai

Exo. 20 The Ten Commandments

Exo. 24:12 *And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to Me...: and I will give thee tablets of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written...*

Exo. 31:18b *... **two tablets of the Testimony**, tablets of stone, **written with the finger of God.***

Ps. 78:5-7 *For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children... That they may set their hope in God*

Deut. 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The LORD [JHWH] our God, the LORD is ONE!

*You shall love **the LORD** your God **with all your heart**, with all your soul, and with all your strength. (see Markus 12:29-30) And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall **teach them diligently to your children** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand*

Deut. 4:1,6-8

*...that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you. Therefore **be careful to observe them**; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples..., and say: Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what great nation is there... that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law...?*

Deut. 31:11-13

*...in **the place which He chooses**, you shall read **this law** before all Israel... that they may **hear** and that they may learn to fear the LORD your God... and carefully observe to do all the words of this law,... in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess.*

Joshua 1:8-9

*This Book of the Law shall **not depart** from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** in it **day and night**... For then you will make your way prosperous...*

Deut. 31:24-26

*So it was, when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites...: Take this **Book of the Law**, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there as **a witness** against you*

Gal. 3:24

*...the law was our **tutor** (Greek: paidagogos) to bring us **to Christ***

God's law is perfect

Ps. 1:1-2 ***Blessed** is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, ... But **his delight is in the law of the LORD**,*

And in His law he meditates day and night,

Ps. 12:6

The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.

Ps. 119:129

Your testimonies are wonderful; ...

Ps. 19:7-11

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;...

The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; ...

The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether...

And in keeping them there is great reward.

Ps. 119:97

*Oh, how **I love Your law!** It is my meditation all the day.*

Ps. 119:104

Through Your precepts I get understanding; ...

Prov. 6:23

For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; (see Ps. 119:105)

Reproofs of instruction are the way of life

Prov. 10:8a

The wise in heart will receive commands, ...

Prov. 19:16

He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, ...

Deut. 32:46-47

*For it is not a futile thing for you, because **it is your life***

JOSHUA — JHWH saves — Entry into the Promised Land

Joshua, Moses' successor

- Joshua 1 Joshua receives the command to enter the land of Canaan.
- Joshua 1:6 ***Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.***
- Joshua 1:7 ... *that you may observe to do according to **all the law** which Moses My servant commanded you; **do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left**, that you may prosper wherever you go.*
- Joshua 2 Joshua sends out spies to scout out the land.
- Joshua 2:9,11 Rahab hides them: ...*I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you... for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.*
- Joshua 3 **Crossing the Jordan**
- Joshua 3:11 ***Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan.***
- Joshua 3:17 ...*the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground **in the midst** of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.*
- Joshua 4 Joshua sets up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan → a sign for posterity
- Joshua 5 Circumcision of the people at Gilgal and celebration of the Passover.
- Joshua 6 **Jericho**, taken miraculously; Rahab saved. (Hebr. 11:31; Matt. 1:5)
- Joshua 7-12 The land conquered: first the middle, then the south, after that the north.
- Joshua 13:1-7 **Overview of the areas not yet conquered:**
- areas in the south;
 - the land of the Philistines: Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron;
 - the land of Sidon, to Aphek (Lebanon);
 - the mountains of Hermon, to Hamath (Syria).
- To this very day (!) Israel faces the consequences.**
- Joshua 13-19 **Division of the land among eleven tribes**
- Joshua 18:10 *Then Joshua cast **lots** for them in **Shiloh** [the tabernacle stood in Shiloh] **before the LORD**, and there **Joshua divided the land** to the children of Israel according to their divisions.*
- Joseph receives a double portion — the right of the firstborn → Ephraim and Manasseh - 1 Chron. 5:2!
- Joshua 18:7 *But the Levites have **no** part among you, for the priesthood of the LORD is their inheritance. The Levites were allotted towns with pastures. (Num. 35:7; Josh.21:41)*
- Joshua 19:51 *These were the **inheritances** which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel divided as an inheritance by lot in Shiloh **before the LORD**, at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. So they made an end of dividing the country.*
- Joshua's farewell address**
- Joshua 23:14 ...*you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you...*
- Joshua 23:11-16 ...*take careful heed to yourselves, that you **love the LORD your God**. Or else, if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of **these nations**... they shall be **snare**s and **traps to you**,... until you perish from this good land which the LORD your God has given you.*
- Joshua 24 **renewing of the covenant at Shechem** ... And the people said to Joshua:
- Joshua 24:24*The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!*
- Joshua 24:26 ...*Joshua wrote these words in the **Book of the Law of God**.*

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Judges, twelve in all, governed the people of Israel over a period of about 400 years after Joshua had died and the people had been freed from the power of their adversaries.

The most well-known judges are Gideon, Deborah, Jephthah and Samson.

Deut. 8:2 *And you shall **remember** that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and **test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.***

Judges 1; 2 → The Lord gives Judah leadership over the land of Canaan.
Israel does **not drive out all** the Canaanites; *'they remained living in their midst'*.
God warns Israel not to enter into an alliance with the Canaanites. (see Judges 3:5-6)

Judges 2:7 *So the people **served** the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.*

Judges 2:10 ***When** all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose **after** them who did not know the LORD, nor the work which He had done for Israel.*

Judges 2:11 ***Then** the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD,...*

Judges 2:12 *...they **forsook** the LORD God of their fathers, Who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they **provoked the LORD to anger**...*

God says that He will not drive out the remaining tribes which are hostile towards Israel.

Judges 3:4 *And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the LORD, which He had commanded their fathers...*

Judges 3:5-6 *Thus the children of Israel **dwelt among** the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods.*

Judges 3:7 *...the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. They **forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs.***

Judges 2:13-15 *They forsook the LORD and **served Baal** and the Ashtoreths. And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them;... And they were **greatly distressed.***

Ps. 107:6 ***Then** they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, And He delivered them out of their distresses.*
(see Judges 10:9-10; Ps. 107:13,19,28; Jer. 30:7)

Judges 2:16-19 *Nevertheless, **the LORD raised up judges** who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods... They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the LORD... And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge... for **the LORD was moved to pity** by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them. And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and **behaved more corruptly than their fathers**,...*

The Book of Judges ends with:

Judges 21:25 *In those days there was **no king** in Israel; **everyone did what was right in his own eyes.** (see Judges 17:6)*

SAMUEL — the great reformer

The time described in the book of Judges can be seen as ‘the dark Middle Ages’ in the history of the people of Israel. A tragic low point is **the plunder of the ark** by the Philistines.

1 Sam. 4:21,22 ...*The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.*

In 1 Cor. 10:11 we read that the history of Israel was written for our admonition, *on whom the ends of the ages have come.*

It is God’s mercy that He always takes pity on His people in days of great terror.

He raises up men and women who pull Israel out of the valley of misery and cause Israel to turn back to the God of the Covenant which He had made with their fathers, a covenant that would stand firm until the most distant generations.

Samuel, an exceptionally gifted **versatile leader** carried out many reforms.

He is the last judge (Acts 13:20), head of the prophets (1 Sam. 10:10-12; 19:20-21), Levite.

Samuel anoints Saul and David king and acts as their advisor, he writes Chronicles

(1 Chron. 29:29) and is above all things a dedicated intercessor (1 Sam. 12:23; Ps. 99:6; Jer. 15:1).

1 Sam. 3:20 *And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD.*

1 Sam. 7:3 *Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then **put away the foreign gods** and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve **Him only**; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.*

1 Sam. 7:5 *And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and **I will pray to the LORD for you.*** (Psalm 99:6!)

1 Sam. 7:6 *So they gathered together at Mizpah [watchtower], drew water, and poured it out before the LORD. And they fasted that day, and said there:*

*“**We have sinned against the LORD**”. And Samuel judged the children of Israel...*

1 Sam. 7:12 *Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name **Ebenezer**, saying, Thus far the LORD has helped us. ‘Eben-Haezer’, literally: ‘stone, the help’*

Samuel is alarmed because of the people’s desire to have a king after the manner of the surrounding heathen people.

(see 1 Sam. 8:19-20; 12:12-19)

1 Sam. 8:5 Israel unto Samuel: *Look, you are old,... Now make us **a king** to judge us **like all the nations.***

1 Sam. 8:20 *that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.*

1 Sam. 8:7 *And the LORD said to Samuel, Heed the voice of the people... for they have not rejected you, **but they have rejected Me**, that I should not reign over them.*

1 Sam. 8:8 *According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day — with which **they have forsaken Me** and served other gods...*

King Saul, from the tribe of **Benjamin**, is anointed with oil out of **a stone bottle**

[compare: King David anointed with oil out of **a horn** - Jer. 2:13 1Sam. 16:1 Luke 1:69]

Hos. 13:11 *I gave you a king [king] in My anger, And took him away in My wrath.*

Ezek. 20:32 What you have in your mind shall never be, when you say, *“We will **be like** the Gentiles, like the families in other countries...”*

Gen. 49:8-10 ***The scepter shall not depart from Judah,** Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until **Shiloh** comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.*
(שִׁילוֹה - Shiloh - ‘for Whom it is’, a Messianic title, see Ezek. 21:27)

THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

After the entry into Canaan **the tabernacle** of the congregation is brought to Shiloh.

In Shiloh the division of the Promised land among the twelve tribes took place. (see Josh. 18; 19)

Due to mismanagement of the priests God turns away from the tabernacle at the time of Samuel.

God even allows — for a short period — that the ark, **the ark of the Covenant of the LORD of hosts**, falls into the hands of the Philistines. (see 1 Sam. 4)

Ps. 78:60 **The LORD .. forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh,
The tent which He had placed among men.**

At the same time a daughter-in-law of the priest Eli gives birth to a son.

1 Sam. 4:21 **Then she named the child *Ichabod*, saying, *The glory has departed from Israel because the ark of God had been captured...*** (Hebr. 'kabod' = glory)

The Almighty God shows the Philistines His greatness and power, and in a miraculous way the ark returns to Israel. For **God wants to live** 'in Israel, **in the midst** of His people.' (see Exo. 29:46)

Deut. 12:5,11 **The place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put His name there, even unto His habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: ... Then there shall be a place which **the LORD your God shall choose to cause His name to dwell there**: thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, ...all...which ye vow unto the LORD**

After a grievous event in King David's life the Lord shows him the place where the temple should be located, namely the place where Abraham was about to sacrifice his son Isaac:

'Moriah' - 'The LORD will provide' (2 Sam. 24; 1 Chr. 21; Gen. 22)

2 Chr. 3:1 **Then Solomon began to **build the house of the LORD** at Jerusalem on **Mount Moriah**, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at that place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.**

King David is not allowed to build a house 'unto the Name of God' because of his 'battles of the LORD' (1 Chron. 22:8; 1 Sam. 25:28), but David makes many preparations. Led by God's Spirit David makes **the design of the temple**: buildings, lay-out, execution, etc. (1 Chr. 28:11-19)

1 Chr. 22:14 **David: Now behold, in my trouble I have prepared for the house of the LORD: ... gold, ...silver; ...brass and iron... and thou (Solomon) mayest add thereto.**

1 Ki. 6:11-13 **And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying, Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in My statutes...and keep all My commandments to walk in the; then will I perform My word with thee, ...**

I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel.

1 Ki. 8:10-11 **When the temple was ready: ...the cloud filled the house of the LORD, ... for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.**

It is written that Solomon, ignoring serious warnings of God, took foreign women from many nations and in his old age turned to their abominable idols. (1 Ki. 9:4-9; 11:1-13)

Therefore God 'rent' the kingdom in two areas. Jeroboam, a servant of Solomon, received ten tribes.

Two tribes remained for the lineage of David.

Jeroboam served the idols too! Fearing that the people would go to the temple in Jerusalem he made **two golden calves**, one in **Bethel** and one in **Dan**, saying to the people: *It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt!* (1 Ki. 12:28)

And all the kings after him in Israel (the Ten Tribes) 'walked in the sins of Jeroboam'.

1 Ki. 12:26-30 **All this was *a cause of sin*...and would ultimately **lead to the downfall** of the **Ten Tribes** and **their exile** in 722 to Assyria. From Assyria they were scattered over an area from India to Ethiopia, over 127 provinces, at the time of the Medo-Persian Empire. (Esther 1:1; 3)**

Later on **the majority of the tribe of Judah and Benjamin** was **deported to Babylon** by Nebuchadnezzar, in three phases, 605-587 BC. Jerusalem and the House of the LORD were burned down.

Jer. 7:12 **... go ye now unto **My place** which was **in Shiloh**, where I set My name at the first, and **see what I did to it for the wickedness of My people Israel.****

Lam. 5:1 **Remember, O LORD, ...consider...behold...** Prayer and God's answer. (Isai. 64; 65)

THE COVENANT WITH DAVID

Promises granted on oath to David who is from the house of Judah

1 Sam. 16; 1 Chr. 12:3,12-15; Matt. 1:3-6; 2 Sam. 7:4-16; Ps. 89:4,20-38; Jer. 33:20-21

The covenant with David guarantees promises

- 2 Sam. 7:12,16 David's house, kingship and throne will — forever — be established.
David's seed will reign as king on his throne. (2 Chr. 7:16)
- Acts 13:22 After the LORD reproached Saul, ...*He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said: I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.*
- 2 Sam. 7:14-16 *I will be his Father, and he will be My son.
...your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you.
Your throne shall be established forever.*
- Ps. 89:3-4,18-37 *I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David:
Your seed I will establish forever,
And build up your throne to all generations.*
- Jer. 33:20-22 *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, **then** My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne...*
- Ps. 132:11-17 *For **the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place:**
There I will make the horn of David grow;
I will prepare **a lamp** for My Anointed. (see 1 Ki. 11:36; 2 Chr. 21:7)*
- 1 Chr. 29:23 David and Solomon sit on the throne of the LORD.
- 1 Ki. 15:5 ***because** David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, **except** in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.*

ISRAEL, A THEOCRACY

David's posterity shall bring forth the King of kings

- Micah 5:2 *But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall **come forth** to Me **the One to be Ruler in Israel**, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting. (see Matt. 2:6)*
- Jer. 23:5 *Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, That I will raise to David **a Branch of righteousness**; a King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. (see Jer. 33:14-15)*
- Dan. 2:44-45 ***a kingdom** which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people...*
- Dan. 7:14 *Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That **all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him**. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.*
- Luke 1:32-33 ***He** 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**. (see Isai. 9:5-6)
And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of **His kingdom** there will be **no end**.*
- Matt. 1:1 ***Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham** (see Rom. 1:2-4)*
- Heb. 1:8 *To Him, the Son of David, the Son of God (Luke 3:38,32) God says:
Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever:
a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Thy Kingdom.*

THE KINGS

Israel is a **THEOCRACY** (*).

[Greek: 'theos' = God; 'krateo' = to rule.]

(* **Until this day Israel is not called a Republic.** Israel is waiting for the Coming of its King.

Theocracy is a form of government in which the government of state belongs to God; YHWH is the **LAWGIVER**. God wants to dwell among His people; God is in charge of the establishment of the state administration. See also: Judges, Samuel; The Covenant with David.

The tabernacle stood in the midst of the people.

The ark, with the **Mercy Seat** on top and in the ark 'the Testimony' (the Law), was placed in the Holy of Holies. Right there the LORD spoke with Moses: *I will speak with you [Moses]...about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.* (Exo. 25:22)

The king, in the Bible called 'the anointed one of the LORD' (1 Sam. 24; 26; etc.),

He always had to have **a copy** of **the LORD's Law** with him and read it.

If the people wanted a king as leader, it was permitted under certain conditions:

Deut. 17:15 *you shall surely set a king over you whom **the LORD** your God **chooses**;...*

Deut. 17:18 *...when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself **a copy of this law** in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites.*

Deut. 17:19 *And it shall be with him, and **he shall read it all the days of his life**, that he may **learn to fear the LORD** his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes*

Not obeying God and not submitting to God's commandments Saul was rejected by God.

1 Sam. 15 (see verses 22-23); Hos. 13:1

The king had to **govern** the land, **administer justice**, and be in the **forefront of the army**.

Prophets were often **counsellors**/advisors of the king: Samuel, Nathan (king David), Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah (king Hezekiah) and Jeremiah at the time of the last kings before the exile.

There were also counsellors who tried to mislead kings (see 1 Ki. 22 - king Ahab). Also (high)priests and even 'queen-mothers' took important positions in order to advise the king, for good or for evil.

In Biblical times Israel had **a clear separation of powers**: king – prophet – priest.

A sovereign like Abraham or a king like David could have prophetic gifts. (Gen. 20:7; Acts 2:30)

But David could not be both king and priest (have spiritual leadership),

for that would mean **political and spiritual totalitarian power** (see King Uzziah – (2 Chr. 26:16-22).

Only the Lord Jesus has all four offices in Himself:

Prophet and High Priest → at the time of His **first** coming on earth

Judge and then King → at His **second** coming on earth

When kings sought the LORD with all their hearts the land and the people prospered.

1 Ki. 2:2-3 King David to his son Solomon:

*...**be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, ... that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn***

2 Chr. 20:20,30 *...Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall **be established**;*

believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.

*...God gave him **rest** all around... **until**...*

1 Ki. 11:1-13 King Solomon, in his old age, did what was evil in the sight of the LORD.

Result: schism of the Kingdom in two parts: the North: 10 tribes, the South: 2 tribes.

After the kingdom **split up into** two sections, the Ten Tribes and Judea, the kings of both areas withdrew repeatedly from the authority of God's Word and **sought help from foreign powers** (!), and **worshipped their false gods**, even at the expense of the house of the Lord God (king Ahaz).

Time and time again God sent out warnings through the mouth of many prophets.

Finally and inevitably God had to intervene and **the people Israel went into exile**.

The glory of the LORD withdrew from Israel...(Ezek. 9-11) **...until The Day...**

(Ezek. 40-48; Matt. 23:39).

The PROPHETS

Hebr. 'nabi' = **speaker**, preacher of the Word of God; also called 'seer' (1 Sam. 9:9)

In the time of the kings, especially in the time before the exile (to Assyria (the Ten Tribes) and Babylon (Judah)), **the prophets of the LORD** warned the people of Israel time after time of the Lord's judgments that awaited them because of their idolatry.

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel are the best known prophets. However, 'the twelve minor prophets' (so called because of their short writings) proclaimed remarkably striking statements of the Lord as well — statements confirmed by later history.

Many **theologians try to spiritualize** these **prophecies**, or they claim that the prophets' messages were written down in the Bible at a much later time, after the events.

Amos 3:7 *Surely the Lord GOD does nothing,
Unless **He reveals His secret** to His servants the **prophets**.*

Num. 12:6 *Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you,
I, the LORD, make Myself known to him **in a vision**; I speak to him **in a dream**.*

Hos. 12:10 *I have also spoken by the prophets, And have multiplied visions;
I have given **symbols** through the witness of the prophets.*

2 Pet. 1:20-21 *...knowing this first, that **no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation**,
for prophecy **never came by the will of man**,
but holy men of God spoke as they were **moved by the Holy Spirit**.*

[Read it as it is written in the Bible; and **to whom** or **what** and **to which time** it relates!]

Rev. 1:3 *Blessed...those who hear the words of this prophecy, and **keep those things**
which are written in it; for **the time is near**.*

Many false prophets appeared — just as **in our day** there are **many false teachers**

(see Deut. 18; Jer. 23; Ezek. 13)

Matt. 24:11 *...**many false prophets** will rise up and deceive many.*

Matt. 13:14 *And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:
Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
And seeing you will see and not perceive*

Zeph. 3:4 *Her prophets are light and treacherous persons:
her priests have **polluted the Sanctuary**, they have **done violence to the Law**.*

Jer. 5:30-31 *An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land:
The prophets prophesy falsely,
And the priests rule by their own power;
And My people love to have it so. [!]
But what will you do in the end?*

Jer. 25:4 *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**.*

Dan. 9:10 *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. (see Dan. 9:6)*

Zech. 1:4 *Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets preached, saying,
Thus says the Lord of hosts: Turn now from your evil ways and your evil deeds.
But they did **not** hear nor heed Me, says the LORD.*

Zech. 1:6 *Yet surely **My words** and My statutes,
Which I commanded My servants the prophets,
Did they not **overtake your fathers**? So they returned and said:
Just as the LORD of hosts **determined** to do to us,
According to our ways and according to our deeds,
So He has dealt with us.*

Micah 3:6 *Therefore you shall have **night** without vision,
And you shall have **darkness** without divination...*

Amos 8:12 *And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east;
they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.*

see John 7:34 *Ye shall **seek Me** [Jesus Christ], and shall **not find Me**...*

EXILE TO BABYLON AND PROMISE OF Return

Cause

- Ps. 81:11 The LORD God: ***But my people would not heed My voice,...***
 Isai. 1:4 ***Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, ...***
 They have forsaken the LORD, They have provoked to anger
 The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward.
- Hos. 7:11 *Ephraim also is like a silly dove, without sense—*
 They call to Egypt, They go to Assyria.
- Isai. 31:1 ***Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses,...***
 But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the LORD!
- Isai. 36:6 ***Lo, thou trustest in the staff of this broken reed, on Egypt;***
 whereon if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it:
 so is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all that trust in him.
- Jer. 2:8 ***The priests did not say, Where is the LORD? And those who handle the Law***
 did not know Me; The rulers also transgressed against Me;
 The prophets prophesied by Baal, And walked after things that do not profit.
- Jer. 2:10-13 ***Has a nation changed its gods, Which are not gods?***
 But My people have changed their Glory
 For what does not profit.
 Be astonished, O heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid;
 Be very desolate, says the LORD. For My people have committed two evils:
 They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters,
 And hewn themselves cisterns — broken cisterns that can hold no water.
- 2 Chr. 36:15-16 *And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers,*
 rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people
 *and on His dwelling place. But **they mocked the messengers of God,***
 despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets,
 until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy.

Consequence

- Jer. 2:9 ***Therefore I will yet bring charges against you, says the LORD,***
 And against your children's children I will bring charges.
- Jer. 25:9-11 *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 this whole land shall be **a desolation, and***
 an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.
- 2 Ki. 17 [722 BC] Deportation of the Ten Tribes, Israel, to Assyria
- 2 Ki. 25 [605 BC] Deportation of the Two Tribes, Judah, Benjamin, and the Levites, to Babylon.

Return from exile predicted

- Dan. 9:1-10 ***The righteous Daniel: In the first year of Darius ...of the seed of the Medes ...***
 I, Daniel, understood by books the number ... seventy years...
 And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession...
 Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His laws,
 which He set before us by His servants the prophets.
- Jer. 29:10-11 *...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. 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.
 Return to Jerusalem at the command of King Cyrus of the Medes and Persians,
 in 538 BC. (2 Chr. 36:22-23; Ezra 1; 2)
- 1 Cor. 10:6 *Now these things were **our examples**, ...*
 *we [who believe in the Lord Jesus] **should not lust after evil things**...[!]*

THE END OF THE EXILE — Ezra, Nehemiah

Exile = someone who is expelled from his original community, country

In the Bible exile of the people of Israel is mentioned three times:

- to **Egypt** (after that back to the promised land)
- to **Babylon** (after that back to Judea)
- to **all countries of the earth** (after that back to the land of their fathers, **the Promised Land**).

- Deut. 28:65 *And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.* (see Isai. 61:1-3!)
- Ps. 137:1-3 *By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept when we remembered Zion... For there, those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, And those who plundered us requested mirth: → became reality during World War II*
- Ps. 137:4 *How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?*

Return under Zerubbabel – 538 BC

[80 years later under **Ezra** (Ezra 7) - 15 years later under **Nehemiah** (Neh. 1 ff.)]

- Ezra 1:2 *Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: ...the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah.*
- Ezra 1:3 *Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (He is the God,) which is in Jerusalem.*
- Ezra 1:5 *Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.*
- Ezra 1:7 *Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods.*
- Ezra 2:64-67 *The whole congregation together was about 50.000 people.*

Rebuilding of the Temple and of the walls of Jerusalem - a difficult mission *in troublous times*.

- Dan. 9:24-25 *Seventy weeks* [*'year-weeks'* - 490 year - Lev. 25:8] *are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.*
- Ezra 4; 5 A lot of **opposition** to the rebuilding of the temple. (**Compare our time!!**)
- Ezra 3 When the foundation of the temple of the LORD was laid, the youth rejoiced, but the elders, who had known the former splendour, wept loudly.
- Ezra 6:14-15 *And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah... And they builded and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, ... And this house was finished... in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king — in 522 BC.*

The temple service could **not** be resumed **until** the walls around Jerusalem had been **restored**.

Therefore God put it in Nehemiah's heart to help his brothers; again enmity everywhere.

Nehemiah prayed! A close unanimous Jewish community built and protected city and wall (444 BC).

When the walls around Jerusalem had been **repaired** and the temple rebuilt (in ± 440 BC):

- Neh. 8:1-2 *And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate... And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation, both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding...*
- Ezra 7:10 *For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.*
- Neh. 8; 9 *And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, ... And they kneeled... and confessed and bowed themselves before the LORD, their God.*
- Ezra 6; Neh. 8 Dedication of the temple, celebration of the **Passover** and **Feast of Tabernacles**.
- Ezra 9; Neh. 13 Measures of **sanctification** of God's People.

INTERIM PERIOD ± 400 BC — 4 AD

On Tisha B'Av, the 9th of the month of Av(*), in 587 BC, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, burned the temple and carried the people of Judea to Babel into exile.

In exile the Jews did not have a temple; yet in order to give their spiritual life form and purpose they built synagogues and introduced a religious guide such as the Talmud and the Gemara.

In 538 BC King **Cyrus of Persia** gave the Jewish people **opportunity to return to Jerusalem**, in order to rebuild 'the House of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God Who lives in Jerusalem.'

After a difficult start a successful end was reached because of the words of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, the scribe Ezra and the governor (stadholder) Nehemiah, '... **even in troublesome times**' (Dan. 9:25!).

The last person to speak was the prophet Malachi; he urged the Jewish people to return to the Law of Moses. **Then there was silence.** During a period of about **400 years** God's Words, spoken by prophets, were not heard. This would last **until John, the Baptist**, the forerunner of the great PROPHET, about Whom Moses had said: *The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear...* (Deut. 18:15).

At that time Israel lived between hope and fear. The Medo-Persian Empire was replaced by the **Greek Empire**. The ruler of the Greek Empire was the brilliant world conqueror Alexander the Great.

He had made it his object to found a world empire with a **multi-cultural** or rather a **cosmopolitan, democratic society** in which all cultures and religions were **merged**.

Israel did not escape this '**Hellenistic**' influence! (see Lev. 20:24; 1 Ki. 8:51,53)

Israel between 'hammer and anvil'

Dan. 10:1-12 *In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel,...*
[in 536 BC] *The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he [Daniel] understood the message, and had understanding of the vision.*

After Alexander's death four of his generals appropriated each a part of the empire. That was attended by rivalry and hate. Judea became a **buffer-state** between the **northern** realm (of the Seleucids) and the **southern** realm (of the Ptolemies). Because of their strife Judea was repeatedly trampled underfoot. Chapter **11** of the book of Daniel gives a **prophetic (!) striking description** of that time, in accordance with the facts of that period!

The conduct of Antiochus IV Epiphanes [175-164 BC] was a low point.

Dan. 11:21 *There ...shall arise a vile person, ...but he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue. (see Dan. 7:8; 8:9!)*

Dan. 11:31 *And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation. (see Matt. 24:15)*

Retreating from the South after a failed battle Antiochus Epiphanes took revenge on the Jewish people. He invaded Jerusalem on the Shabbat, sowing death and destruction. On the Temple Mount he built an altar. He defiled the altar by sacrificing swine on it, sacrifices to Zeus. (see Lev. 11:7-8,11)

At a critical moment priest Mattathias of Modiin and his five sons rose in revolt against this idol worship and gave the signal for a heroic war of independence, '**the battle of the Maccabees**'.

On the 25th of Kislev 165 BC they successfully recaptured the Temple. This event became known as '**the feast of Chanukah**' — initiation. However, the assaults from the northern empire continued.

About 140 BC Simon, the last surviving son of the priest Mattathias, became ruler of the Jewish realm. Simon's descendants became known as 'the Hasmonean dynasty'.

They gave themselves the title of **king** **and** the office of **high priest** [see page 30!]. **Decay was the result!**

(*) On **Tisha B'Av, the 9th of the month of Av, in 70 AD**, the Roman general Titus destroyed the Second Temple in Jerusalem. Israel went into exile again. It ended up in a diaspora, a dispersion to the end of the earth.

Two sons from this dynasty (two brothers) **competed fiercely** for the honorary titles **king and high priest**. Each of them **appealed to the Romans to interfere**.

The Romans gladly complied with the request! In 63 BC the Roman general Pompey entered Jerusalem. Judea and the area north of it were violently subdued and **annexed to the Roman empire** and became **part of the 'Syrian province'** (see Luke 2:1-2).

In earlier years John Hyrcanus, high priest and ethnarch, had strived to extend the regained Jewish area.

In 135 BC he succeeded in adding Idumaea to Judea. He **forced the people of Idumaea to embrace Judaism**. Because of this double nationality and his own craftiness Antipater, the Idumaeen, father of Herod the Great, could be appointed in 47 BC as governor of Judea by the Romans.

Due to **self-overestimation** and **internal misgovernment** the Jewish people had once again fallen prey to the domination of a cruel foreign world power.

Features of the Roman Empire

The rulers of the Roman Empire, just like those of previous empires, aimed at a **World order, now under dominion of Rome**. They carried out a **'divide and rule' policy**. Really everything was done to make the Empire work. Everywhere new roads were constructed and 'all roads led to Rome'!

Roman legislation and jurisdiction were introduced as well as a monetary system. (Luke 20)

Borders were opened. Koine Greek served as the official language, enabling merchants and diplomats to make themselves understood in each province of the Empire.

But **the Romans ruled with an iron hand**. The conquered nations had to pay contribution [see Luke 5. and 19., the publicans] and to supply their own produce to their rulers.

Revolts were cruelly dispersed and those who resisted the Roman policy were oppressed.

The worst form of oppression

Every subject of the Roman Empire had the obligation to bring **an offering to the Roman emperor** once a year - 'disobedience' was punishable with a cruel death. In this way the Roman **emperor received divine honor**. After many battles and blood shed the Jewish leaders were able to get exemption from this obligation. Later on those from the heathen world who followed Jesus did not receive this exemption. Especially at the time of Emperor Nero they suffered severely.

The Bible speaks about this time period as **'the fullness of the times'**

Gal. 4:4 ...*when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son...*

After many centuries of exile, oppression, persecution and suffering Israel was longing for a new revelation of the Kingdom of God.

About Simeon, who held the Child Jesus in his arms, is written:

Luke 2:25 ...*this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.*

And also the prophetess Anna, of the tribe of Asher, met the Child Jesus.

Many parts in the Gospels express this longing for rest and peace, see Luke 1:68; John 12:13; Acts 1:16, etc.

Isai. 59:20 ***the Redeemer will come to Zion,***
And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob, says the LORD.

The Lord Jesus had to come first for the Atonement of the sins of mankind, and it is amazing that Israel's rejection of Jesus as REDEEMER meant the salvation of the world. (Rom. 11:15a)

Jesus wept over Israel:

Luke 19:42 ***If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes...***

Luke 19:44 ...*because you did not know the time of your visitation.*

Israel did not discern the signs of the times — the Lord Jesus had visited His people!

Matt. 16:3; compare Ps. 8:4

In our time the **Lord Jesus will return**, first as **Judge** and after that as **King**, first of all for Israel and then for the entire world (see the Book of Revelation).

THE FOUR GOSPELS(some data adopted from: S. Baxter, *Explore the Bible*)

The first four books of the New Testament were called 'Gospels' — the message of good tidings.

The term refers to the fulfillment of God's promises of salvation

Luke 2:101. **The Coming of the Savior** of sin and death,

for the salvation of man and of creation.

Matt. 1:21

2. **The Foundation of God's Kingdom,**

to the praise and honor of the Name of God.

Rev. 4:11; 5:12-13; 15:3-4

Gen. 49:18

I have waited for Thy salvation, O LORD!

Luke 2:30

*For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation***The four Gospels reveal the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus**

The Gospels constitute the key to the Bible. They serve as a focal point: all lines in the Old Testament point to the Gospels, the Gospels are the point at which all lines of the Old Testament meet

and the point from which they continue.

Luke 24:25-44

Matt. 5:17

*The Lord Jesus: Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets.**I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.*

Matt. 13:35

I will utter things, which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Mark 1:15

The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand.

John 1:17

*... the law was given through Moses,...****grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.***Four offices, held by the Lord:**PROPHET - PRIEST - JUDGE - KING**Prophet

Hebr. 1:1-2 - Deut. 18:18-19 - Matt. 21:11 - John 6:14

(High-)priest

Mark 10:45 - Hebr. 2:17; 3:1; 4:14; 5:10; 7!; 9:11

Judge

Revelation

King

Ps. 45:6 - Luke 1:30-33 - Acts 2:25-36 - Rev. 11:15; 15:3; 19:16

the Gospel of **the Kingdom**

Matt. 9:35; 24:14 Luke 4:43, 8:1 - Acts 8:12

the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Mark 1:1

the Gospel of **the Grace of God**

Acts 20:24

the Gospel of Salvation

Eph. 1:13

the Gospel of Peace

Eph. 6:15

the glorious Gospel of Christ, Who is the image of God

2 Cor. 4:3-5a!

The four gospels describe the Life and Work of the Lord Jesus during His walk on earth. The four gospels partly overlap; each gospel contains unique descriptions as well. Compare this with the description of the four cherubim in Ezek. 1 and Rev. 4:6-8 (the cherubim have faces **like a man**, a **lion**, an **ox** and an **eagle** and characterize the work of Jesus on earth as well).

In His office as prophet, the Lord Jesus shows the people of Israel that He is **The Prophet**, foretoldby Moses, and the promised **Messiah**, Son of David Deut. 18:15; John 1:45; Acts 3:22-24; 7:37

Deut. 18:18

I [the Lord] will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee...

Deut. 34:10-11

And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, in all the signs and the wonders which the LORD sent him...

Matt. 9:35

*And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every sickness...***WHAT JESUS DOES, PROVES WHAT HE IS AND WHO HE IS**

1. Teaching

2. Preaching

3. Performing signs and wonders (including many healings) — Matt. 4:23; Mark 6:56

Matthew, Mark, Luke

WHAT HE is

John

WHO HE is

The Gospel of Matthew, symbolized by **the lion** → **Jesus, the Son of David****The lion**: symbol of power, royal dignity and courage. (Gen. 49:8-10; Rev. 5:5)Matt. 1:1 *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the **Son of Abraham***Micah 5:2 *But thou, Beth-lehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of **Judah**, yet out of thee shall **He come forth** unto Me that is to be **Ruler in Israel**; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*Matthew reveals **the Lord Jesus** as **the King of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD**, in heaven **and** on earth, and the arrangement of society in this Kingdom. (Matt. 5-7; Isai. 2:3)Matt. 4:17 *...Repent, for **the Kingdom of heaven** is at hand.*

The expression 'the Kingdom of Heaven' is mentioned 30 times in Matthew!

The Gospel of Mark, symbolized by **the ox** → **Jesus, the voluntary Servant****The ox**: beast of burden: servitude, obedience — Jesus sacrifices Himself for mankind.Ps. 40:8 ***I delight to do Thy will**, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart.*Phil. 2:5-8 *Christ Jesus, Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him **the form of a servant**, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, He **humbled Himself**, and became **obedient** unto death, even the death of the cross.*Mark 10:45 *For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life as a ransom for many.*John 5:17 ***My Father worketh** hitherto, and **I work**.*John 17:4 *I have glorified Thee [Father] on the earth:****I have finished the work** which Thou gavest Me to do.*The Lord Jesus, continuously active: **and He...and He...and He...**And about **40** times the expression: '**immediately**'...**The Gospel of Luke**, symbolized by **man** → **Jesus, the Son of Mankind**

Luke emphasizes the incarnation of the Lord Jesus: His birth, His development as a human being, in the midst of the people of Israel: Zacharias, Elisabeth, shepherds, Simeon, Anna, in the temple, bystanders..

Jesus, **the complete, perfect MAN** Phil. 2:7,8; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 2:14,17; John 3:13b; 1 Cor.15:20-22!Luke 2:52 *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.*Luke 3:38 *Genealogical register of Jesus Christ, ..**the Son of Adam, the Son of God**.*Luke 19:10 *For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*Luke 6:5 Many healings — often on Shabbat — *the Son of man is also Lord of the Sabbath.*Luke, the beloved physician shows the Lord Jesus in **His compassion** for ordinary people:

the lonely, the weak and needy, women in distressful circumstances, those with serious illnesses, etc.

Luke 9:51-19:44 *The report of Jesus' journey with His disciples from Galilea to Jerusuaem is emphasized; seven times interrupted by a remark about the goal of His way to → **Jerusalem** Luke 9:51; 13:22; 17:11; 18:31; 19:11,28,37.*Jerusalem, centre of God's acts of Salvation, the place where **the suffering** of the Lord Jesus **precedes** His Royal Magnificence. Luke 13:33-35The teaching the Lord Jesus gives during this journey portrays the perfect Man Jesus — **the greatness of His devotion**, His **mercy**, His **compassion and love for man**, His **righteousness and truth** and also His sincere, righteous **anger**. It comprises **many profound lessons** for everyone's daily life.**The Gospel of John**, symbolized by **the eagle** → **Jesus, the Son of God****The eagle**: image of heavenly loftiness.

In the Gospel of John Jesus emphatically testifies — 40 times — that He is 'sent by God'.

The Lord Jesus, as **SON of GOD**, came to earth to fulfill the Will of God, His Father:

the Redemption of sin, death and everlasting destruction, for everyone who believes in Him.

Luke 1:32,35; 3:22; John 1:14,34,49,50; 3:16,17,18; 5:25; 11:4,27; 20:31; Mat. 27:54

In the Gospel of John about **40** times the Lord Jesus is referred to as: '**the One sent by God**.'In the Gospel of John God is mentioned 119 times as 'Father'; 19 times as '**My Father**'.

No one has ever seen God

The only begotten Son, Who is in the bosom of the Father, **He has declared Him**. (John 1:18)

- John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*
 John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only Begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.*
 John 17:6 *I have manifested **Thy Name** unto the men that Thou gavest Me out of the world...*

The announcement of the Lord Jesus, Who and What He is**Jesus said:**

- John 10:30 ***I and My Father are one.***
 John 14:9 *He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father*
 John 14:11 *Believe Me that I am **in** the Father, and the Father **in** Me*
 John 14:20 *At that day ye shall know that **I am in** My Father, and ye **in** Me, and I **in** you.*

Father... I [JESUS] have manifested Thy Name

John 17:5,6

- John 8:12 ***I am** the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall... have the light of life.*
 John 8:58 *Jesus said... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am!*
 John 6:35, 48, 51 ***I am** the Bread of life*
 John 10:7 ***I am** the Door of the sheep — Verily, verily I say unto you...*
 John 10:11,14 ***I am** the good Shepherd. The good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*
 John 15:1,5 ***I am** the true Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser.*
 John 13:13 *...Teacher and Lord...
 [‘Lord’ — Greek: Kurios; ruler; highest legal authority] ... for so **I am***
 John 14:6 ***I am** the Way, the Truth, and the life.
 No one comes to the Father except through Me.*
 John 11:25 ***I am** the Resurrection and the life.
 He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.*
 Rev. 22:16 ***I am** the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.*
 Rev. 1:8 ***I AM** ALPHA AND OMEGA, THE BEGINNING AND THE ENDING,
 saith the Lord, Who **is**, and Who **was**, and Who **is to come**, the Almighty.*
 Rev. 1:17 ***I am** the First and the Last (— fear not...)*
 Rev. 21:6 ***I AM** ALPHA AND OMEGA, THE BEGINNING AND THE END*
 Rev. 22:13 ***I am** Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.*
 Isai. 44:6 *Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts;
I am the First, and **I am** the Last, and beside Me there is no God.*
 Isai. 48:12 *Hearken unto Me, O Jacob and Israel, My called:
I am He; **I am** the First, **I** also **am** the Last.*

Truly, This, Jesu s Christ, is the Son of God

- Heb. 12:2 ***Jesus** is: the Author [Greek: ‘archeos’ - founder] and Finisher of our faith...*
 1 Peter 2:6 *Jesus is: ... a precious Cornerstone, a sure Foundation [1Cor. 3:11]
 ...and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded.
 [a cornerstone = a stone for strenghtening and maintaining the angular points of structures]*
 Heb. 1:3 *Jesus, Who ... **upholding all things by the Word of His power***
 Matt. 16:18 *...upon this Rock [massive Rock - is Jesus Himself!]
I [Jesus, Jehoshua] **will build My church;**
 and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
 John 20:31 *these [words] are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing, ye might have life through His name.*
 John 1:49 *Rabbi [Master], Thou art the Son of God; Thou art the King of Israel.*
 John 11:27 ***Yea, Lord: I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, Who should come into the world.***

THE FIRST COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

John the Baptist, announced as **forerunner** for the LORD

- Mark 1:1-3 *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; (Jes. 40:3)
As it is written in the prophets, Behold, **I send My messenger** before thy face,
who shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make his paths straight.*
- compare Mal. 3:1 *Behold, I will send My messenger [Elijah], and he shall prepare the way before Me...
(See Matt. 17:9-13; Luke 9:28-31; Rev. 11:1-14)*
- Luke 1:15-17 *John the Baptist: ...and he shall be filled with (the) Holy Ghost, ...
And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.
And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts
of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just;
to make ready **a people prepared** for the Lord.*
- Luke 16:16 *The law and the prophets were until John [the Baptist].
Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached*
- Matt. 3:2 *John said: **Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.***

The Announcement of the Birth of Jesus Christ

- Isai. 9:2 *The people that walked **in darkness** have seen a **great light**;
they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*
- Matt. 4:16 *The people who sat **in darkness** have seen a great light,
And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death
Light has dawned.*
- Isai. 11:1 *There shall come forth **a Rod** from the **stem of Jesse**,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.*
- Isai. 7:14 *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin
shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name **Immanuel**.*
- Matt. 1:23 *Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call
His name, **Immanuel**, which is translated, God with us. (→ Matt. 28:20!)*
- Luke 1:31 *[Mary]...you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son,
and shall call His name JESUS. (Hebr. **Jeshua** — the LORD will give Salvation)*

The birth of Jesus

- Matt. 1:18-21 *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: ...
And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call **His name JESUS**,
for He will **save** His people from their sins.*
- Num. 24:16-17 *...the Most High, ...I see Him, ...
A Star shall come out of Jacob; **a Scepter** shall rise out of Israel (Gen. 49:10)*
- Matt. 2:1-6 *behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, Where
is He who has been born **King of the Jews**?
For **we have seen His star** in the East... [see Num. 24:17]
So they said to him, **In Bethlehem** of Judea, for thus it is **written** by the prophet:
...For out of you shall come **a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel**.*
- Luke 2:8-11,14 *Now there were in the same country shepherds... 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**. For there is born to you this day **in the city of David** a Savior,
Who is Christ the Lord.
Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!*
- Isai. 9:6 *For unto us **a Child is born**, unto us **a Son is given**:
and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His Name shall be called:
Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.*

In the Fullness of the Time

- Gal. 4:4-5** ...when **the fullness of the time** had come, **God sent forth His Son**, ...
born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law...
- John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses,
but **grace and truth** came through Jesus Christ.
- Luke 2:40 ...the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom;
and the grace of God was upon Him.
- Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.
- John 4:22 ...**salvation is of the Jews**
- Isai. 42:1 Behold! My Servant Whom I uphold, My Elect One, **in Whom My soul delights!**
I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.
- Matt. 4:17 From that time **Jesus** began to preach and to say,
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

The Lord Jesus refers again and again to what was written (prophecy in the Old Testament):

- Luke 4:17-19,21^b And He [Jesus] was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah [Isai. 61:1-2!].
And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:
The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me
to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me...
Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.
- Matt. 8:17 ...that **it might be fulfilled** which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet...
See Matt. 1:22; 2:15,17; 4:14; 12:17; 13:35; 21:4, etc.
- Matt. 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues,
And preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom,
and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.
- Matt. 14:14 **Jesus**... saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, ...
- Mark 6:56 And whithersoever He entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid
the sick in the streets, and besought Him that they might touch if it were but
the border of His garment: and **as many as touched Him were made whole.**
- John 6:2 → And a great multitude followed Him, because **they saw His miracles**
which He did on them that were diseased.

The Lord Jesus prophecies. He heals, frequently on the Sabbath. He performs miracles.
He drives out evil spirits. He raises the dead. The Lord Jesus teaches, preferably in the temple.
He speaks in parables — deep spiritual lessons for everyday life — see Luke 9-19; John 6-8;14-16.
He exhorts and reproaches the Scribes and Pharisees: '**woe unto you**' (sevenfold). see Matt. 23.

- Mark 11:17 And He taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of
all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.
- Mark 7:6-8 For **laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men**
- Luke 11:52 **Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge...**
- Luke 4:32 And they were astonished at His doctrine: for His word was with power.
- Luke 9:43a And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God.
- Luke 4:22 And all bare Him witness, and wondered at **the gracious words**
which proceeded out of His mouth.
- John 7:46 ... No man ever spoke like this Man!
- Luke 8:25 ... being afraid wondered, saying one to another, **What manner of man is this?**
- John 9:36 Who is He, Lord, that I might believe on Him?
- John 4:29 **Is not This the Christ?** [the Anointed, the Messiah]
- John 6:15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take Him by force
to make Him a king, He departed again into a mountain Himself alone.
- Luke 5:16 And He withdrew Himself into the wilderness, and prayed.
- Luke 6:12 And Jesus ...**continued all night in prayer to God.**

THY KINGDOM COME...

- Mark 1:15 Jesus: ... ***The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye and believe the Gospel.***
(Jesus' words point to a **quick coming** of the Kingdom of God.)
- John the Baptist asks if Jesus, the Christ, is the Messiah**
- Matt. 11:1-2 *And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, ... and said to Him, **Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?***
- Jesus answers:**
- Matt. 11:4-5 *Go and tell John the things which you hear and see:
The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.*
- Luke 16:16 *The **law** and the **prophets** were until John.
Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached,
and **everyone is pressing into it.***
- Matt. 11:12b *... and the violent take it by force. (see 'The end of the dispensation of the Church')*
- John 12:13b ***Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the LORD!
The King of Israel!***
- Matt. 16:13-25 Jesus asked His disciples, saying,
Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?
verse 15 *He saith unto them, But **Whom say ye that I am?***
verse 16 *And Simon Peter answered and said,
Thou art **the Christ**, [the Anointed, **the Messiah**] **the Son of the living God.***
verse 17 *And Jesus answered and said..., ... **flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father Who is in Heaven.***
verse 20 *Then charged He His disciples that they should tell no man
that He was Jesus the Christ.*
verse 21 ***From that time forth*** began Jesus to show unto His disciples,
*how that He must go unto Jerusalem, and **suffer** many things of the elders
and chief priests and scribes, and **be killed,**
and **be raised again the third day.***
- Luke 17:25 ***But first*** He must **suffer** many things and **be rejected** by this generation.
- Matt. 17:1-2 *Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother,
and brought them up into a high mountain apart,
And He was **transfigured** before them; and **His face shone** as the sun,
and His raiment was white as the light.*
- Luke 9:30-31 *And behold, there talked with Him two men, who were **Moses and Elijah,**
Who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease
which He should accomplish at Jerusalem.*
- Matt. 17:5 A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples.
*And behold, a **VOICE** out of the cloud, which said, This is My Beloved Son,
in Whom I AM well pleased; **hear ye Him.***
- Matt. 17:9 *And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying,
Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of Man be risen again from the dead.*
- Luke 18:34 *And they [the disciples] **understood none** of these things; and this saying was **hid**
from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.*
- 1 Peter 1:10-11** *Of this salvation the **prophets** have **inquired** and **searched** carefully,
who prophesied of the grace that would come to you,
searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ
Who was in them, was indicating when **He testified beforehand**
the sufferings of Christ,
and **the glories** that would follow.*

JESUS' VICARIOUS SUFFERING

- Matt. 5:17-18 *Do **not** think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy **but to fulfill.** For **assuredly**, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*
- Luke 18:31 *Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and **all things that are written** by the prophets concerning the Son of Man **will be accomplished.***
- Matt. 20:19 *and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again. (see Matt. 17:22-23; Luke 9:22)*
- John 11:49-52 ***Caiaphas:** ...it is expedient for us that **one man should die** for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish... **being high priest** that year **he prophesied** that Jesus would die for the nation... but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.*
- Phil. 2:5-8 *Christ Jesus...Who, **being in the form of God**, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, **taking the form of a bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** and became obedient to the point of death, **even the death of the cross.***
- Isai. 53:1-6 *Who has believed our report?...He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;... He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; **The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,**... All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid **on Him the iniquity of us all.***
- Gal. 1:3-4 *Jesus Christ, ...**Who gave Himself for our sins**, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father*
- Shedding of blood is necessary for forgiveness**
- Mark 10:45 *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to **give His life a ransom** for many.*
- Luke 22:42 *Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless **not My will, but Yours, be done***
- Hebr. 10:5-7 *Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a Body You have prepared for Me. ... Then I said, Behold, I have come...to do Your will, O God.*
- Hebr. 9:26 *... now, **once at the end of the ages**, He has appeared to **put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.***
- Lev. 17:11 *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you **upon the altar** to make atonement for your souls; **for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.***
- Hebr. 9:22 *... without shedding of blood there is no remission.*
- John 1:29 ***Behold! THE LAMB OF GOD** Who takes away the sin of the world!*
- John 1:36 *... looking upon Jesus...**Behold** the Lamb of God!*
- 1 Peter 1:18-19 *...the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot.*

JESUS CHRIST, HIGH PRIEST

In Him we have the redemption

- John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His Only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, ...have everlasting life.*
- Eph. 1:7 *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.* (Col. 1:14)
- Col. 1:20 *...having made peace through the blood of His cross.* (Hebr. 9:12)
- 1 John 5:9-13 *...that you may know that you have eternal life*
- 1 Peter 1:18-19 *knowing that you...were...redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ*

The Cross of Golgotha

- Matt. 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19
- John 10:17-18 *Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.
No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.
I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.
This command I have received from My Father.*
- Hebr. 12:2 *...Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,
Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame*
- Deut. 21:23 *...for he who is hanged is accursed of God.*
- Gal. 3:13 *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law,
having become a curse for us:
For it is written, Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree:*
- 1 Peter 2:24 *Who Himself bore our sins in His own Body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed.*
- Hebr. 7:27 *Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's; for this He did once, when He offered up Himself.*
- Hebr. 9:12 *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood, He entered in once into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*
- Rom. 6:10 *For in that He died, He died unto sin once; but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God.*
- Hebr. 10:10 *By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the Body of Jesus Christ once for all.(!)*
- 2 Cor. 5:21 *For He made Him Who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
- John 19:30 *IT IS FINISHED!*
- Matt. 27:51-53 *Then, behold,...the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection...*

God's Wisdom

- 1 Cor. 2:9 *Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*
- 1 Cor. 2:8 *which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (!)*
- 1 Cor. 1:18 *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*
- 1 Cor. 2:2 *For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*

RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION

That you do not believe in all that the prophets have written...

- Matt. 28:5-8 ...the angel answered...He is not here
 Luke 24:5-6 Why do you seek **the Living** among the dead? **He is not here, but is risen.**
 2 Cor. 13:4 For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God.
 Rev. 1:17-18 **I am...He Who lives...And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**

The Lord Jesus to His disciples, now apostles, 'messengers':

- Luke 24:25-27 Then He said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!
Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?
 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, **He expounded to them in all the Scriptures** the things concerning Himself.
 Luke 24:44 Then He said to them, These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.
 Luke 24:31 And their eyes were opened, and they **knew Him** (compare **Gen. 3:7**)
 [Greek: 'epiginosko' — to know exactly, to recognize]

The Ascension

- John 14:2 **I go to prepare a place for you**
 Acts 1:8-9a ... ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be **witnesses unto Me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
 Luke 24:51 Now it came to pass, **while He blessed them**, that **He was parted from them...**
 Acts 1:9b-11 And when He had spoken these things, ...He [the Lord Jesus] was **taken up**; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
 And...two man stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, ... this same **Jesus**, Which is taken up from you into heaven, **shall so come in like manner** as ye have seen Him go into heaven.
 (see Zech. 14:4; 12:10; John 19:37)
 Ps. 68:18a You have ascended on high... (see Eph. 4:8)
 Acts 3:21 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.

Jesus Christ has put Himself at the Right hand of God in heaven

- Eph. 1:20 ...when He raised Him from the dead and **seated Him at His Right hand in the heavenly places**
 Hebr. 9:24 ...now to appear in the presence of God for us
 1 John 2:1 And if anyone sins, we have **an Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (Hebr. 7:25)
 Hebr. 9:11-12 ...**Christ came as High Priest** of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.
 ...**with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place** once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.
 Hebr. 10:12 But this Man [Jesus Christ], after He had offered **one sacrifice for sins forever**, sat down at the Right hand of God. (Hebr. 1:3)
 Acts 5:31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be **Prince and Savior**, to give repentance to **Israel** and forgiveness of sins.
 Ps. 110:1 The LORD said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, **Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.**

Believers have free access to the throne of Grace

- Hebr. 2:14-18 *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise [almost*] shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. ...Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*
- Hebr. 4:15-16 *For we do not have a High Priest Who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*
- Hebr. 7:25 *Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*
- Rom. 8:34 *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Who died, and furthermore is also risen, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also makes intercession for us.*
- Rom. 8:26-27 *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He Who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

*) 'almost' - in the Greek text: 'para-plèsioos'.

Hebr. 2:14

The Lord Jesus almost became like man, except His immortal blood!

For the life of the flesh is in the blood,...

Lev. 17:11

After all, Mary conceived Him through the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:35

The Lord Jesus:

No man taketh it [His Life] from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.

I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.

This commandment have I received of My Father.

John 10:18

In the blood of Jesus is no decay of death, no mortality.

In the blood of the Lord Jesus is Eternal Life!

And the blood of Jesus Christ, [Son of God,] cleanseth us from all sin [!]

1 John 1:7

Note

The LORD Jesus fulfills on earth four special offices – in order (!):

At His First Coming:

- Prophet
- High Priest — He is also the sacrificial Lamb

At His Second Coming:

- Judge
- King

THREE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. Who is God?
2. What has He done?
3. What has man done with it?

The answer to these questions determines the answer to the next **key question**:

Where will you spend Eternity?

In God's presence or out of God's presence?

The Salvation God offers — on the basis of Jesus' sacrifice — **is available to every person.**

John 3:16-17 *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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

Titus 2:11 *For the grace of God that brings **salvation** has appeared to **all** men*

Every person is a sinner

Isai. 53:6 ***All** we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way*

Rom. 3:23 *for **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

Because of Adam's disobedience mankind lives separated from God and is therefore alive but dead.

Isai. 59:2 *But your **iniquities** have **separated you** from your God; And your sins have **hidden His face from you**, So that He will not hear.*

Rom. 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness*

Rom. 5:12 *Therefore, just as through **one** man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to **all** men, because **all** sinned*

In His righteousness, God must let man perish

Rom. 6:23^a *For the wages of sin is death, ...*

Man dies once

Hebr. 9:27 *And as it is appointed for men **to die once**, but after this the **judgment***

God is Life

Ps. 36:9 *For with You is the fountain of life; ...*

Acts 17:25^b *...since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.*

In His Love, God wants to save man

2 Sam. 14:14 *...Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him.*

Rom. 6:23^b *...but the **gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

It is only through a perfect sacrifice that reconciliation between God and man can take place

Hebr. 10:1-4 *...the **law...can never** with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year...**make** those who approach **perfect.** ...*

1 John 2:2 *And **He [the Lord Jesus]** Himself is **the propitiation** for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

The sacrifice of a perfect MAN (the Lord Jesus) is the only way to salvation

Acts 4:12 *Nor is there salvation in any other,
for there is **no other NAME** under heaven given among men
by which we **must** be saved.*

God became man: the Man Jesus Christ

1 Tim. 2:5 *For there is **one God** and **one Mediator** between God and men,
the Man Christ Jesus*

Phil. 2:5-8 *...Christ Jesus, ...being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself
and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

He died on the cross to redeem man

Mark 10:45 *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
and to give **His life a ransom** for many.*

He voluntarily laid down His life and entered death

Luke 23:46 *...Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit.
...having said thus, He gave up the spirit.*

Because He was guiltless, He was not subject to the power of death

Acts 2:25, 27,31 *David: I foresaw the LORD always before my face, ...
For You will not leave my soul in Hades,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption...
he, foreseeing this, **spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ**,
that His soul was not left in Hades,
nor did His flesh see corruption.*

Jesus rose from the dead and He lives

Rev. 1:18 *I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.
And I have **the keys of Hades and of Death**.*

Just knowledge of these facts of salvation does not save.

'What must I do to be saved?'

(Acts 16:30)

Adam became part of sin by eating from the forbidden tree

Gen. 2:16-17 *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying,
Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;
but of the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil** you shall **not eat**,
for in the day that **you eat** of it you shall **surely die**.*

Gen. 3:17,19 *...Because you...have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying,
You shall not eat of it: ...For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.*

Man becomes part of Life by 'eating' of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ

John 6:33 *For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world.*

John 6:35 *And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life.
He who comes to Me shall never hunger,
and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*

John 6:48 ***I am the bread of life.***

- John 6:51 ***I am the living bread** which came down from heaven.
If **anyone eats** of this bread, he will **live forever**;
and the bread that I shall give is My flesh,
which I shall give for the life of the world.*
- John 6:54 *Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life,
and I will **raise him up at the last day**.*
- John 6:57-58 *As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father,
so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.
This is the bread which came down from heaven —
not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead.
He who eats this bread will live forever.*
- Rev. 3:20 *Behold, I stand at the door and knock.
If anyone hears My voice and **opens the door**,
I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*

Man needs to become one with the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus.

Man needs to become part of that sacrifice. An example in the Old Testament:

Lev. 16 – Day of Atonement

- Lev. 4:29 *And he shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering*
- Gal. 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ;
it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**;
and the life which I now live in the flesh
I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

Jesus Christ must live in man.

- Hebr. 11:6^b *...for he who comes to God must believe that He is,
and that He is a rewarder of those **who diligently seek Him**.*
- 2 Cor. 13:5 *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.
Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is **in** you? — unless indeed you are
disqualified.*

Jesus is now in heaven. He has sent His Spirit, the Holy Spirit

- John 16:28 *I came forth from the Father and have come into the world.
Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.*
- John 16:7 *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away;
for if I do not go away, the Helper [the Holy Spirit] will not come to you;
but if I depart, **I will send Him to you**.*
- John 14:16-17 *And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter,
that He may abide with you forever —
the Spirit of truth, Whom the world cannot receive,
because it neither sees Him nor knows Him;
but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be **in you**.*
- Rom. 10:8-10** *...The word is near you, **in** your mouth and **in** your heart,
(that is, the word of faith...):
that if you **confess with your mouth** the **Lord Jesus**
and **believe in your heart** that **God has raised Him from the dead**,
you will be saved.
For with the heart one believes unto righteousness,
and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

The confession before God of being a sinner who needs Jesus' Sacrifice for Salvation will be heard by Him. The recognition that the Lord Jesus, as the Son of God, paid the only sufficient price with His life and blood, is well-pleasing to God.

The Lord Jesus will hear **your prayer if you ask Him to come into and live in your heart.**
This is **conversion and rebirth**, this is **baptism with the Holy Spirit**.

- John 3:3 *Jesus answered and said to him, **Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.***
- John 3:5-6 *Jesus answered, Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*
- Mark 1:8 *John the Baptist: I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.*
- John 1:33 *...Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.*
- Acts 1:5 *...for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.*
- 1 Cor. 12:13 *For **by one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body** (that is: the BODY of Jesus Christ) — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have **all been made to drink into one Spirit**.*

Baptism in water is inextricably bound up with rebirth and comes after it.

This is an act of obedience.

- Acts 2:38 ***Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the NAME of Jesus Christ...***
- Acts 10:48 *And he [Peter] commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*
- Rom. 6:3-11 *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been **united together in the likeness of His death**, certainly we also shall be **in the likeness of His Resurrection** Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- Gal. 3:27 *For as many of you as were baptized **into Christ have put on Christ**.*

THE NEW COVENANT MADE WITH ISRAEL

ROM. 9:4-5

The new covenant has been promised to Israel

Jer. 31:31-33 *Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah — not according to the covenant that made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

Luke 22:14-20 *When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. Then He took...the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the New Covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.*

Matt. 26:28 *For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

Mark 14:24 *And He said...This is My blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for many. see Hebr. 8:8-12; 9:15; 12:24; 13:20*

Luke 24:26 *Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?*
 Luke 24:46-47 *Then He said to them, Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

Matt. 28:19-20 *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...*

Matt. 28:20 *I am with you always, even to the end of the age...*

Call to all the people of Israel

Acts 3:19-21 *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, and that He may send Jesus Christ, Who was preached to you before 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.*

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The origin of the Church, the Body of Jesus Christ

- Acts 2: 1 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. [The day of Pentecost – the Jewish feast of weeks, 50 days after the Passover]*
- Vers 2 *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*
- Vers 3 *And there appeared unto them cloven tongues as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*
- Vers 4 *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
- Vers 5 *And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men out of every nation under heaven. ...*
- Vers 12b *"What meaneth this?"*
- Vers 22 *"Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, **a Man approved of God** among you by miracles, wonders, and signs, which God did through Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know— **Him, being delivered by the determinate will and foreknowledge of God**, ye have taken and by wicked hands have crucified and slain. The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified His Son Jesus, whom ye delivered up, and denied Him in the presence of Pilate when he was determined to let Him go.... the Prince of Life*
- Acts 3:13-15 *The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified His Son Jesus, whom ye delivered up, and denied Him in the presence of Pilate when he was determined to let Him go.... the Prince of Life*
- Acts 2:32 ***This Jesus hath God raised up, of which we are all witnesses.***
- Vers 33 ***Therefore, being exalted by the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He hath shed forth this which ye now see and hear.***
- Vers 36 ***"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."***
- Vers 37 *Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, **"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"***
- Vers 38 *Then Peter said unto them, **"Repent and be baptized, every one of you,***
- Vers 41 *Then those who gladly received his words were baptized, and that same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*
- Vers 42 *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread and in prayers.*
- Acts 8:1 *At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were **all scattered** throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria...*
- Acts 8:4 *Therefore **those** who were scattered went everywhere **preaching the Word.***
- Acts 9:31 *Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and **in the comfort of the Holy Spirit**, they were multiplied.*
- Acts 10:1-2 *Cornelius, a Roman Officer, ...a devout man and one who feared God... who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. He and his whole household came to faith.*
- Acts 10:45 *And those of the circumcision...were astonished,... because **the gift of the Holy Spirit** had been poured out on **the Gentiles** also.*

The coming of the Kingdom of God postponed

1. **Jesus Christ has come to find and to redeem** *the lost sheep of the house of Israel* (Matt.15:24) and — vicariously — die the death of sinners, in order to conquer death.

Israel — Acts 2:36-39

*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, Whom you crucified, both Lord [Kurios - Ruler] and Christ... Men...what **shall we do?** For **the promise is to you** [Israel] and to your children, and to all **who are afar off** (*), as many as the Lord our God will call.*

[(*) litt: the people of Israel (!) 'that went to the distance' (i.e. in exile abroad)]

If the people of Israel as a whole had accepted the Lord Jesus **after** His suffering, death, resurrection and ascension, **King Jesus would have returned there** and **then**, two thousand years ago. The Kingdom of God in heaven and on earth would have started there and then.

The majority of the Jewish people continued to reject the Lord Jesus as the coming Messiah sent from God. And then a hardening (blindness) in part happened to Israel.

...their minds were blinded; for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament, which veil is done away in Christ. - 2 Cor. 3:14-15, KJV

2. **The coming of the Kingdom of God postponed**

After many of the people Israel rejected Jesus Christ, the apostle Paul said: *From henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles. ... to bring salvation unto the ends of the earth*

Acts 13:46-48, 49 18:6; 28:16-29

Since then the Gentiles have been given **priority**, after their conversion and rebirth, **together with** the faithful remnant of Israel (Rom. 11:1-5) — to become part of the Body of Christ (the Church) formed on the day of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost), Acts 2; 15:8

The sequence is: first Jerusalem, then Samaria, then the Gentiles, individuals, Acts 2.; 8.; 10.

At first Paul preached the Gospel of the Kingdom of God; Acts 8:12; 28:23

later on he calls it the Gospel of Grace; Paul: *...the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God*

...among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God

Acts 20:24-25

3. **The Church — the Body of Christ — the dispensation of Grace**

Paul explains in Eph. 3 and in Rom. 16:25-26 that this period, a new period — the formation of the Church, the Body of Christ — was **a mystery** in Old Testament times.

By revelation the LORD made known this mystery to Paul, first to him (Eph. 3).

The Church consists of born again Jews and born again Gentiles (Christians, non-Jews).

Paul wrote his letters for the Church. The Church is a people **next to** Israel. The Church is **not** the continuation of Israel, it is not a 'spiritual Israel'.

The teaching that Israel has been replaced by the Church is false. Child baptism, as a means for supporting this dogma, is an unbiblical assumption too.

The New Testament tells us **nowhere** that the formation of the Church meant the end of **Israel as God's Salvation organ. God chose Israel**. And God does not forsake the works of His Hands.

'The time of mercy' is almost over — the Jewish people return to their own country Israel from all the countries in the world. This is in line with the yet to be fulfilled promises of God.

Israel, a royal priesthood, is waiting for the Messiah, the coming Kingdom of God.

Paul explains to the Gentiles God's judgment on Israel

2 Tim. 2:8

Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead

Rom. 11:28^a

Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake

Rom. 11:28^b

...concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.

Rom. 11:32

For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all.

Rom. 11:26

And so all Israel shall be saved, as it is written: There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob

THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE

God's intended Plan of Salvation

Eph. 1:10 ...*in the dispensation of the fulness of times* He [God] might gather *together in one all things in Christ*, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even *in Him* [**'dispensation'** - Greek: 'oikonomia' - stewardship, administration]

This dispensation, a new period, began with the formation of the Church, originally consisting of Jews-for-Jesus. But many non-Jews-for-Jesus, Christians, were soon added to the Church.

The Church — the Body of Jesus Christ

Eph. 2:20 [Ye] are built upon *the foundation* of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being *the chief corner stone*

Col. 1:13-18 ...He [Jesus Christ] is the *Head of the Body, the Church...* the firstborn from the dead,... He may have the preeminence.

Eph. 4:11-13, 15 And He [Jesus Christ] Himself gave some to be *apostles*, some *prophets*, some *evangelists*, and some *pastors and teachers*, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of *the Body of Christ*, *till* we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ...speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him Who is *the head — Christ —*

The Revelation of a Mystery — a People gathered for His Name — Jeshua, Jesus

Acts 15:14 *Simon [Peter] has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.*

Rom. 16:25-26 ...*the revelation of the mystery...* but now made manifest, and by *the Prophetic Scriptures* made known to *all* nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, *for obedience to the faith —*

Rom. 15:10-12 ...*Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people...Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!...In Him the Gentiles shall hope.* (Isai. 11:10)

Eph. 3:1-12 ...you have heard of *the dispensation of the grace of God* which was given to me (Paul) for you, how that *by revelation He made known to me the mystery...* *the mystery of Christ*, ...which *in other ages was not made known to the sons of men*, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the *Gentiles* should be *fellow heirs*, of the same *Body*, and *partakers* of His promise in Christ through the gospel... *preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ...*

Eph. 2:14 For He is our peace, Who hath made both one, and hath *broken down the middle wall of partition* between us

The Dispensation of Grace

Acts 20:24 *Paul: ... the ministry* which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the *Gospel of the grace of God.*

Rom. 1:5 ... by Whom we have received grace and apostleship, for *obedience to the faith* among *all* nations, for His name

Gal. 3:29 And *if you are Christ's*, (thus each person must first come *in* Christ) *then* you are *Abraham's seed*, and heirs according to the promise.

Col. 1:26-27 ...revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is *Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Gal. 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are *all one in* Christ Jesus.

1 Cor. 12:13 For *by one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body* — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have *all* been made to drink into one Spirit.

THE LIFE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVERS

The new man, a new creation

- 2 Cor. 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*
- 1 Petr. 1:18-23 *...**having been born again**,...through the **WORD** of God which lives and abides forever*
- 1 Cor. 1:30 *... **of Him** you are **in Christ Jesus**, Who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption —*
- Col. 3:1-3 *If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above, where Christ is**,...Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ...*
- Hebr. 12:2 *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith*

The believers live under the law of the Spirit of Life

- Eph.1:7 *In Him [the Lord Jesus] we have **redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*
- Rom. 8:1-2 *There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are **in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*
- Col. 2:13-14 *Jesus ...having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*
- Rom. 6:14 *...**sin shall not have dominion over you**, for you are not under law but under grace.*
- Eph. 1:13-14 *In Him you 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**... Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*
- 1 Cor. 6:19 *... your body is the **temple** of the **Holy Spirit** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own*
- 1 Cor. 3:17 *... for the **temple of God is holy, which temple are ye.***

The Word of God

- John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said to him, **If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word**; and My Father will love him and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*
- John 6:63 *It is **the Spirit Who gives life**; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*
- Col. 3:16 ***Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly**...in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*
- 1 John 2:5 *...whoever keeps His Word, truly the love of God is perfected in Him. ...*
- Phil. 2:15-16 *that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God... **holding fast the Word of life** (see James 1:21-22)*
- Rev. 1:3; 22:10 *Blessed is he who... **hear the words of this prophecy**, and keep...**the time is near.***
- Rev. 3:8 → *...for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.*

Spiritual Armour

- John 15:5 *I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing**.*
- Eph. 6:10-17 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the **whole armour of God**, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...*
- 1 Peter 1:13 *Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and **rest your hope fully upon the grace**... brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ*

A holy life, walking in Christ Jesus

- Col. 2:6-7 *As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, ...abounding in it with thanksgiving.*
- Col. 1:23 *if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard*
- Eph. 2:8-10 *For **by grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*
- 1 Peter 1:15-16 *but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, **Be holy, for I am Holy**.*
- Eph. 5:2 *And walk in love, as **Christ** also **hath loved us**, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*
- Eph. 5:8 *...once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light*
- Gal. 5:16 *...Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*
- Eph. 5:10 *finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.*
- Col. 1:10 *that you may walk **worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God*
- Eph. 5:15-16 ***See then that you walk circumspectly**, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because **the days are evil**.*

In the world, not of the world

- 1 John 3:1 ***Behold** what manner of **love the Father** has bestowed on us, that we should be called **children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*
- John 16:33 *...**In the world you will have tribulation**...I have overcome the world.*
- John 15:19 *...because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*
- 2 Tim. 3:12 *...**all** who desire to live godly **in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution**.*
- Matt. 16:24 *...If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. (see Luke 9:24)*
- Phil. 1:29-30 *...been granted...not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake...*
- Rom. 8:17 *... **indeed we suffer with Him**, that we may **also be glorified together**.*
- 1 Peter 4:13 *but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.*

Prayer

- Col. 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you,...in psalms and hymns...*
- Phil. 4:4-7 ***Rejoice in the Lord always**. ...but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*
- Luke 18:1 *Then He spoke...that men always ought to pray and not lose heart*
- Luke 22:40 ***Pray that you may not enter into temptation**.*
- Luke 22:46 *Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation.*
- Eph. 6:18-19 ***praying** always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit ...to make known the mystery of the gospel*
- 1 Thess. 5:17-21 *...**Do not quench the Spirit**. ...*
- 1 John 5:14-15 *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we **ask** anything **according to His will**, He hears us. ...*
- Eph. 3:20-21 *Now to Him Who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, **to Him be glory** in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. **Amen**.*

THE END OF THE DISPENSATION OF THE CHURCH

Trials, false prophets, false teachers, many temptations and deceptions

Matt. 7:15

Luke 18:8b

...*when the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?*

2 Tim. 3:1

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

1 Tim. 4:1-2

*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, **speaking lies in hypocrisy**, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron*

1 John 2:18-19

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

***They went out from us**, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.*

2 Peter 3:3,4

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of His coming?... all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

2 Tim. 3:5

having a form of godliness but denying its power. ...

2 Peter 2:1-2

*...there were also **false prophets** among the people, even as there will be **false teachers** among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even **denying the Lord** who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. ...because of whom **the way of truth will be blasphemed.***

Matt. 13:33

***The Kingdom of Heaven** is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.*

leaven, 3 measures:

- the Pharisees - outward appearances and rigid dogmatism (tradition)
- the Sadducees - liberalism (Hellenistic, oecumenical)
- Herod - politics, infiltration, pursuit of power, oppression

[Matt. 13:24-35; 16:6-12; Mark 8:15]

Jude 1:11

***Woe unto them!** For they have gone in the way of **Cain**, and run greedily after the error of **Balaam** for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of **Korah**.*

[self-righteousness]

[debauchery]

revolution, rebellion]

2 Thes. 2:7,9-11

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work

The coming of the lawless one involves... power and signs and lying wonders, ... and with all the deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

*And **for this cause** God shall send them **strong delusion**, that they should **believe a lie***

1 Peter 5:8

*Be sober, be vigilant, because **your adversary the devil**, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour*

Luke 22:31,32

*The Lord Jesus: **Satan has asked for you**, that he may **sift you** as wheat.*

But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail

Matt. 26:41

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation;

the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

1 Pet. 1:6,7

*Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through **manifold temptations**; That **the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto **praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ***

Luke 18:8

...Nevertheless when the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth??

1 Peter 4:17

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God;

and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those

who do not obey the gospel of God?

(see Matt. 24:41; 7:23)

THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

The Return of the Lord Jesus for His Church shall take place **before** the **Great Tribulation**. The born again believers, Jews and non-Jews, *shall be caught up*, 'according to the election of Grace' and 'are **not appointed to God's wrath**' which will come. (1 Thess. 5:9)

Expectation

- Phil. 3:20 *For our **citizenship is in heaven**,
from which we also eagerly wait for the **Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ***
- 1 Peter 1:3 *Blessed be **the God and Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who according to His abundant mercy **has begotten us again to a living hope**
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*
- 1 Peter 1:5 *who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation
ready to be revealed **in the last time**.*
- 1 Thess. 1:9-10 *...and to wait for His Son from heaven, Whom He raised from the dead,
even **Jesus, Who delivers us from the wrath to come**.*
- 2 Thess. 1:10 *when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired
among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.*
- 1 John 3:2-3 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed
what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him,
for we shall see Him as He is.*
- Rev. 3:10 *And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
Because you have kept My command to persevere,
I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world,
to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly!
Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.*

The Rapture of the Church

The rapture takes place in **one split second** [indivisible moment - Greek: 'atomos' – **unexpectedly**].

- John 14:1-3 *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.
In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and receive you to Myself;
that where I am, there you may be also.*
- John 17:24 *...that they may behold My glory...*
- 1 Thess. 4:15-17 *For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until
the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.
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.
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.*
- 1 Cor. 15:50-58 *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor
does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you **a mystery**:
We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — in a moment,
in the twinkling of an eye [^[*]'atomos'], at the last trumpet.
For the trumpet will sound,
and **the dead will be raised incorruptible**, and we shall be changed.
[^[*] 'atomos' - lit. 'that which cannot be cut or divided' [The Companion Bible]]*

- Matt. 24:36-39, 43 **The Rapture will happen completely unexpectedly.**
The Bible uses for this event the example of the thief in the night.
- Matt. 24:36-42 one will be taken and the other left (Luk. 17:34-35)
- Matt. 24:42 **Watch** therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.
- Matt. 24:44 **Therefore you also be ready**,
for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

JUDGMENT ON THE BELIEVERS

The born-again believers will be judged according to 'the quality' of their life after conversion. It will take place when the Lord Jesus meets them.

- 2 Cor. 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive **the things done in the body**, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*
- 1 Cor. 4:5 *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, Who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and **reveal the counsels of the hearts**. Then each one's praise will come from God.*
- Gal. 6:8 *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*
- 1 Cor. 3:10-17 *...For no other **foundation** can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is **Jesus Christ**.
Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.
If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.
Do you not know that **you are the temple of God** and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.*

Reward

Five different **crowns** or wreaths are mentioned in the New Testament — crowns appointed for the believers:

- the crown of life for the martyrs and those who are persecuted
James 1:12; Rev. 2:10
- the crown of glory for the elders, teachers and pastors
1 Peter 5:1-4
- the crown of rejoicing for the workers in the Kingdom of God
Phil. 4:1; 1 Thess. 2:19-20
- the crown of righteousness for faithful witnesses (martyrs)
and for all who have loved the appearing of the Lord Jesus
2 Tim. 4:1-8
- the crown of imperishableness for the 'quality' of believers' daily lives
1 Cor. 9:24-27

We can lose our reward

- Matt. 24:13 *...he who **endures to the end** shall be saved.*
- 1 John 2:28 *...**abide in Him**, that..., we may have confidence and **not be ashamed** before Him at His coming.*
- 2 John :8 *Look to yourselves, that we do not lose..., but that we may receive a full reward.*
- Rev. 3:11 *...**Hold fast what you have**, that no one may take your crown.*
- 1 Cor. 3:15 *If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss*
- 1 Cor. 9:24-27 *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.
And everyone who competes for the prize is **temperate in all things**.
Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.
Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty.
Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.
But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection,
lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

THE GREAT TRIBULATION — THE ANTICHRIST PERIOD

Rev. 4:1 ...*things which must take place after this...*(after the time of Grace)

The manifestation of the antichrist in all its horror for mankind and society.

Matt. 24:3-12 *Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things be? [the coming of God's Kingdom] And what will be the **sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?** ['age' - Greek: 'aion' - a certain time; compare 'the Dispensations'] And Jesus answered and said to them: **Take heed that no one deceives you ...***

The signs of the times: wars and rumours of wars, nation will rise against nation, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes, many will be offended, will betray one another, will hate one another, ...

...and you [Israel] will be hated by all nations for My Name's sake. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

Matt. 24:32-35 *Now **learn** a parable of the **fig tree** - the people of **Israel** will return And their land will be restored. Jesus: ...**My Words shall not pass away.***

The Great Tribulation

Dan. 12:1 *...there shall be **a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that same time.***

Matt. 24:21-29 *For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time...and the powers of heaven will be shaken. (Jer. 30:7)*

Dan. 7:7-8,23-25 *From a final world empire...that shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces... will arise a king... And he shall **speak great words against the Most High,...***

Dan. 11:31 *He shall place [in the temple in Jerusalem] the **abomination that maketh desolate.***
 Matt. 24:15 *When ye therefore shall see the **abomination of desolation**, spoken of by **Daniel** the prophet, stand in the Holy Place (whoso readeth, let him understand)...*

2 Thess. 2:3-12 *Let no one deceive you by any means, for that day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and **the man of sin** is revealed, **the son of perdition**, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

At the end of the Tribulation: the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken; and then shall appear **the sign of the Son of Man** in heaven. Then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven **with great power and glory** (Matt. 24:29-30, 27). The majestic, impressive, visible Second Coming of King Jesus - so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Shortly before the Great Tribulation the Lord Jesus will take His Church to Himself, suddenly and unexpectedly. After 'the Rapture' God will pour out His wrath and punishment over the world (Rev. 4; 5). *... the things which shall be hereafter – after the time of Grace, of the Church - (Rev. 1:19; 4:1)*

Matt. 24:36-44 ***But of that day and hour knoweth no man, ... but My Father only.***
suddenly → ***But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.** For as in the days that were before the flood,.. eating and drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And **knew not until** the flood came and took them all away; **so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.***

Luke 17:28,29 ***Likewise also** as it was in the days of Lot: they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; **but** the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.*

Dan. 12:9-10 *...**the words** are closed up and **sealed till** the **time of the end.** ...*none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.**

THE END TIMES — THE BOOK OF REVELATION**The time of the 'Apokalupsis' = disclosure, revelation**

- Rev. 1 **JESUS, the Coming J U D G E.**
 Rev. 1:1 *The **Revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave Him to show His servants — things, which must shortly take place.*
 Rev. 2; 3 *...These things says He..., Christ will judge the seven churches → These churches serve as models for the different periods in church history. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*
 Rev. 4 **The judgment throne.**
 Rev. 4:11 *You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by **Your will** they exist and were created.*
 Rev. 5 **The sealed scroll.**
 Rev. 5:8-9 The elders worship the Lamb Who has taken on the sins of the world.
 The **Lion of Judah**: *You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals*

The first series of judgments — 'the seven seals'

- Rev. 6 **The first six seals opened:** the first six judgments: 1. white horse: false peace
 2. fiery red horse: wars, revolutions 3. black horse: starvation 4. pale horse: death
 5. the souls under the altar 6. a great earthquake
 The inhabitants of the earth will be perplexed and realize that the wrath of Him Who sits on the throne and of the Lamb has come.
 Rev. 7 John hears about **the sealed 144.000 of the twelve tribes of Israel**. He hears also about **a great multitude, of all nations, coming out of the great tribulation**, and standing before the throne of God and before the Lamb.

The second series of judgments — the seventh seal opens 'the seven trumpets'

- The judgments **increase in severity and size.**
 Rev. 8 **Trumpets** sound: hail and fire, mingled with blood;
 something like a great mountain burning with fire is thrown into the sea; and a great star, called Wormwood, falls from heaven on the waters
 Rev. 9 **Creatures from the bottomless pit** torment the people **for five months**. (see Gen. 7:24).
 Four angels, held at the river Euphrates, release **a great army**, and **a third of mankind is killed.**
 Ezek. 38-39: Gog and Magog (?)

"The little book" open in the hand of a mighty angel;

- The little book John has to eat; it is sweet as honey in the mouth but bitter in the stomach.
 Rev. 10 *...**a mighty angel**... a rainbow on His head, His face was like the sun, and His feet like pillars of fire...cried with a loud voice... there should be **delay no longer**,... in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.*

The second period of Great Tribulation — three and a half years

- Rev. 11 **The temple** in Jerusalem measured, except for the court... (is given to the Gentiles).
 Rev. 11:2 The Gentiles will tread the Holy City underfoot for 42 months **(3.5 years)**.
 Rev. 11:3 Two **Witnesses will prophesy** in Jerusalem 1260 days **(3.5 years)**.
 Rev. 11:15 *The **seventh angel sounded** and there were great voices in Heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever!"*
 Rev. 12 **Israel** in great **distress**, 1260 days (42 months), but **protected** **(3.5 years)**.
 Rev. 12 The dragon, **Satan, cast to the earth**. The last battle ignites.

- Rev. 12:12 **Woe to ... the earth and the sea!** For the devil has gone down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.
- Rev. 13 The **beast** from the **sea** and the **beast** from the **earth**.
- Rev. 13:2-8 The beast rises up out of the sea, with seven heads and ten horns ...upon his heads **the name of blasphemy**. [compare Dan. 7:7-8, 11, 19-26]
The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority...
 for three and a half years (**3.5** years).
And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.[!]
All who dwell on the earth will worship him [the beast], whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb...
- Rev. 13:16-17 He causes all, ...to receive **a mark** on their **right hand** or on their **foreheads**, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark
- Rev. 13:15 and cause as many as would **not worship** the image of the beast to **be killed**.
- Rev. 14 **Announcement of the third series of judgments, the final judgment:**
 Matt. 13:36-43, 49-50 So shall it be at the end of the world (Greek: 'aiōn' - 'age', 'era')
- Rev. 14:9-10, 19-20 The great winepress of the wrath of God.
- Rev. 14:10 **Anyone who receives the mark of the beast,**
 ... shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God,
- Rev. 14:7** **Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come**

The third series of judgments — 'the seven bowls of wrath'

- Rev. 15; 16 **The seven bowls of wrath**, the heaviest judgments:
evil sores upon the people who have the mark of the beast;
 the living creatures in the sea will die;
 the water in rivers and springs becomes blood;
scorching heat from the sun;
the empire of the beast becomes full of darkness;
march of the kings from the East; demons spur on to war;
 the nations are gathered and led to Armageddon (see Ps. 21; 96; 97)
on the Day of the LORD, the Almighty God;
 an unprecedented, devastating earthquake (see Haggai 2:22-23)
- Joel 3:2,12 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat...
 for there **I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations**.
- Rev. 16:7 ...Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.

The judgment on Babylon — The Mystery of lawlessness:

- Rev. 17 **A. the religious system** — Ecumenism, Roman Catholic Church, New Age, 'the World Church' and all the false religious movements
- Rev. 18 **B. the political-economic power system** — 'The New World Order'
- Rev. 18:4 ...**Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.**
- Rev. 19:9-10 These are the true sayings of God...
For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

LAST CALL TO REPENTANCE

- Acts 17:30-31 Truly, these times of ignorance **God overlooked**, but **now commands all men everywhere to repent**, because **He has appointed a Day** on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man [The Lord Jesus] Whom He [the LORD GOD] has **ordained**.
 He has given assurance of this to all by **raising Him from the dead**.
- Rev. 14:6-7 An everlasting Gospel: ...Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him
 Who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.

ISRAEL — THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE DIASPORA

The dispersion of the Jewish people among **all** the nations —
after the destruction of the temple in 70 AD on the 9th of the month Av.

Cause of the dispersion

- Deut. 28:58-68 *If you do not carefully observe all the words of this Law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, **THE LORD [JaHWeH], YOUR GOD,** then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues — great and prolonged plagues — ... Then the **LORD will scatter you among all peoples,** from one end of the earth to the other, ...*
- Neh. 1:8 *...If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations...*
- Deut. 28:37 *And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword **among all nations** whither the LORD shall lead thee.*
- Deut. 29:24-26 *Because **they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD** God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt; for **they went and served other gods** and worshiped them...*
- Jer. 2:11 *Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? **But My people have changed their Glory** for that which doth not profit.*
- Jer. 2:13** *They have **forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters,** And hewn them out cisterns — broken cisterns that can hold no water.*
- Rom. 9:30-10:3 *... going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*
- Isai. 29:9-14 *...**their fear toward Me is taught by the precept of men;**... for the wisdom..., and the understanding...shall be hid. (Mark 7:6-8)*
- Luke 19:42-44 ***If you [Jerusalem] had known,** even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! **But now they are hidden** from your eyes... For the days shall come upon thee that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee around, and keep thee in on every side. **And shall lay thee even with the ground, [trample down!]** and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another, **because you did not know the time of your visitation.***
- Luke 13:34 ***O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,** which killest the prophets and stonest them that are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and **ye would not!***
- Matt. 23:38 ***Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.***
- Matt. 24:1 ***And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple***
- Lev. 20:22; 26:33-34,43 *The **land** would become desolate, the **cities ruins.** Many would be hunted, fall by the sword and die of hunger and exhaustion. The **temple** would become **a ruin.** Both the temple of Solomon and the second temple would be **destroyed by fire,** both on the same day, the 9th of the month Av (July/August), in 586 BC and 70 AD, respectively (see 1 Kings 9:6-9).*
- Rom. 11:25-28 ***A mystery:** by rejecting the Lord Jesus — the Messiah sent by God — **after** His death, resurrection and ascension, a partial hardening has happened to Israel. Israel has been **put aside...** **until the full number of the Gentiles** [the Church] **has come in.** **Then** God will return to Israel.*
- Matt. 23:38-39 ***See! Your house is left to you desolate;** for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!***

ISRAEL PURIFIED - Israel in distress

The frequent idolatry, defilement and **desecration of the House of the LORD** led to:

- Ezek. 10:18 *Then **the glory of the LORD departed** from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims.*
- Ezek. 11:23 *And **the glory of the LORD** went up from the midst of the city [see Ezek. 1; 8-11], and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city.*
- *[the Glory of the LORD has not yet returned!]*
- Hos. 5:15; 6:1 ***The Lord:** I will return again to My place **Till they acknowledge their offense.** Then they will seek My face; **In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.** Come, and let us return to the LORD; ...*

Israel in exile, carried away from the land of their fathers; a prey to persecution and oppression.

Their land would be desolate for a long time (± 2000 years).

- Hos. 3:4 *For the children of Israel shall **abide many days without a king...without sacrifice***
- Deut. 28:65b, 65a *...there [in foreign countries] the LORD will give you **a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.***
- And among those nations you shall find no rest, **nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place;...***
- Ezek. 37:11 *They indeed say, **Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!***
- Joel 2:18-19 ***Then** will the LORD be jealous for His land, and **pity** His people... the LORD will answer and say unto His people: ... I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen*

Israel purified The LORD [JHWH]:

- Isai. 48:10-11 ***Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;** I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; For how should My name be profaned? **And I will not give My glory to another.***
- Jer. 30:11-17, 24 *For I am with you, says the LORD, to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet **I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, ... For I will restore health to you...***
- Because they called you an **outcast** saying: This is Zion... In the latter days you will consider it.*
- Ezek. 20:34-37 *I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered...I will make you pass under the rod, **and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.***
- Mal. 3:1-2 ***Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me;** and the LORD, Whom you seek, shall **suddenly come to His temple,** even **the Messenger of the Covenant,** Whom ye delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. **But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth?** ... (Rev. 11 and 19)*
- Mal. 4:4 ***Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb** for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments.*
- Hos. 2:13-23 *Therefore, behold, I [The LORD] will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness, And speak comfort to her... And I [The LORD] will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; **Then I will say to those who were not My people,***

You are My people! And they shall say, You are my God.

ISRAEL'S RETURN**Israel back to the land which God promised to their fathers**

- Gen. 15:18 *To your [Abram's] descendants I have given this land [**Canaan**], from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates*
- Jer. 23:1-8 *...Therefore, **behold**, the days are coming, says the LORD, that they shall no longer say, As the LORD lives, **Who** brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt, but, as the LORD lives, **Who brought up** and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and **from all the countries** where I had driven them. And they shall dwell in their own land.*
- Jer. 31:1-17 *...Thus says the LORD: The people who survived the sword, Found grace in the wilderness — Israel, when I went to give him rest... For thus says the LORD: **Sing** with gladness **for Jacob**, And **shout** among the chief of the nations; **Proclaim**, give **praise**, and say, O LORD, save Your people, The remnant of Israel! **Behold**, I will bring them from the North country, And gather them **from the ends of the earth**, Among them the blind and the lame, The woman with child, ... A great throng shall return there. They shall come with **weeping**, And with supplications I will lead them.**He who scattered Israel will gather him**, And keep him as a shepherd does his flock. For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, And ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion... **There is hope in your future**, says the LORD, that your children shall come back to their own border.*
- Isai. 43:3 *For I am the LORD [JHWH] thy God, **the Holy One of Israel, thy Savior**; ...*
- Isai. 43:4 *...thou wast precious in My sight, thou hast been honorable, and I have loved thee*
- Isai. 43:5 *Fear not, for I am with thee; I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;*
- Isai. 43:6 *I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Keep not back. **Bring** My sons from far and My daughters **from the ends of the earth***
- Jer. 16:16 *Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them...*
- Isai. 43:8 ***Bring forth the blind people** that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears.*
- Ezek. 39:27-28 *When **I** [the LORD] have brought them again from the people and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am **sanctified in them in the sight of many nations**, Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, Who caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen. But I have gathered them unto their own land, and have **left none of them** anymore there.*
- Ezek. 37:12-14 *Therefore prophesy and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, O My people, **I will open your graves** and cause you to come up from your graves, and **bring you into the land of Israel**.*

THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE — The Great Tribulation**Jerusalem will be besieged**

Matt. 24:21-22; Jer. 30:5-7; Dan. 12:1; Zeph. 1:15-18; Zech. 13:9

Zech. 12:1-3

The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel.

Thus says the LORD, Who stretches out the heavens,
lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him:
Behold, I will make **Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples**,
when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in **that day**
that I will make **Jerusalem a very heavy stone** [‘a burdensome stone’]
for **all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces**,
though **all nations** of the earth are gathered against it.

Zech. 14:1-7

...For **I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem;**
The city shall be taken...

Jer. 30:7

Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it;
And it is **the time of Jacob's trouble**, But he shall be saved out of it.

Rev. 11:2b

Gentiles will tread the holy city [Jerusalem] for 42 months**[3.5 years]**

2 Thes. 2:3-4

...and that **man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition**, ...
so that **he sitteth as God in the temple of God**, showing himself that he is God.

Dan. 7:7-8, 23-25

...he [**the wicked one**] shall speak great **words against the Most High**, (Rev.13:5)
and shall wear out the saints of the Most High (literally ‘**exhaust**’,
he will **try to change times and laws**, [!]
and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

[1 year + 2 years + 0.5 year = **3.5 years**]

Dan. 11:31

And **armies shall stand on his part**, and they shall **pollute the sanctuary** of strength,
and shall take away the daily sacrifice, [see also Dan. 12:11-12]
and shall **place there the abomination that maketh desolate**.

Matt. 24:16-21

The Lord Jesus orders the people of Israel to flee with haste in the time of
the Great Tribulation!

Matt. 24:15!,16

Therefore when you see **‘the abomination of desolation’**, spoken of by Daniel
the prophet, standing **in the holy place** (whoever reads, let him understand),
then let **those who are in Judea flee to the mountains**. (see Mark 13:14)

Matt. 24:21

For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was **not since the beginning of the world**
to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Zech. 14:5

And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains

Hos. 2:14

Therefore, behold, I will allure her [**the woman Israel**],
and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortingly unto her.

Rev. 12:6

Then **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. [1.260 days = **3.5 years**]

Rev. 11:3

And I will give power to **My two witnesses**, and they will **prophesy**
one thousand two hundred and sixty days... [1.260 days = 42 months = **3.5 years**]

Zech. 12:9

It shall be in **that day** that I will seek to **destroy all the nations**
that come against Jerusalem. (compare Isai. 30:26!!)

Zech. 14:3-7

Then **the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations**, ...
It shall come to pass in **that day that there will be no light;**
The lights will diminish.

It shall be **one day** which is known to the Lord ... [compare Josh. 10:12-13]

THE DAY OF THE LORD IS AT HAND!

The Day of the Lord begins immediately after the Rapture of the Church (Rev. 1:10)

Rev. 11:15-18 ...*the four and twenty elders, who sat before God on their seats...*Saying,
We give Thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, Who art, and wast, and art to come,
because Thou hast taken to Thee Thy great power, and hast reigned.
And the nations were angry; and Thy wrath is come,...
*and shouldst **destroy them that destroy the earth.***

Dan. 2:20-22 *Blessed be the Name of God for ever and ever,*
for wisdom and might are His.
And He changeth the times and the seasons; (Dan. 7:25)
He removeth kings, and setteth up kings... He revealeth deep and secret things;...

Zeph. 1:1a *The word of the LORD which came [lit. **came to pass**] unto Zephaniah*
 Zeph. 1:14 → **The great day of the LORD is near;** it is near, and **hasteneth greatly**
 Zech. 14:6-7 *And it shall come to pass in **that day**, that the light shall not be clear nor dark.*
*But **it shall be one day** [Hebr. 'Yom'] which shall be known to the LORD,*
Neither day nor night; but it shall come to pass that at evening time it shall be light.

Isai. 61:2 **The day of vengeance of our God**
 Isai. 63:1-6 The winepress of God's wrath.
 Zeph. 2:2-3 the day of the LORD's anger
 Isai. 2:6-22 the day of the LORD against all that is proud, lofty, lifted up, high.
 Joel 2:11b ...*for the day of the LORD is **great and very terrible**, and who can abide it?*
 Zeph. 1:14b ... *even the voice of the day of the LORD; the mighty man shall cry...bitterly.*

Zeph. 1:15 **That day is a day of wrath,**
a day of trouble and distress,
a day of waste and desolation, [Hebr.: 'shoa', compare World War II]
a day of darkness and gloominess,
a day of clouds and thick darkness.

Zeph. 1:16 *A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities,*
and against the high towers.

Isai. 13:10 *For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light;*
the sun shall be darkened in his going forth,
and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

Isai. 13:13 The LORD: ...*will **shake the heavens,***
*and the earth shall **remove out of her place,** [compare Haggai 2:7-8, 22-23]*
*in the wrath of the LORD of hosts and **in the day of His fierce anger.***

Isai. 2:19-22 *And they [everyone on earth] shall go into the holes of the rocks,*
and into the caves of the earth,
for fear of the LORD and for the glory of His majesty,
when He ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Rev. 6:15-17 ...*and [they, everyone on earth,] said to the mountains and rocks:*
Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne,
*and from **the wrath of the Lamb!***
For the great Day of His wrath has come, and who shall be able to stand?

Isai. 26:8 *Yea, in the way of Thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for Thee;*
the desire of our soul is to Thy name, and to the remembrance of Thee.

Isai. 26:9 **With my soul have I desired Thee in the night;**
*yea, with my spirit within me will I seek **Thee early;***
*for when **Thy judgments** are in the earth,*
*the inhabitants of the world will learn **righteousness.***

Zech. 2:13 **Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD,**
for He is raised up out of His holy habitation.

THE RIGHTFUL JUDGMENT ON THE NATIONS

The Day of the LORD's anger

- Jer. 46:10 *For this is the Day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, ...of His adversaries.*
- Isai. 34:1,2a *Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people! let the earth hear, and all that is therein, the world, and all things that come forth of it.
For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, ...*
- Isai. 42:14 *The LORD: I have long time held My peace; I have been still and refrained Myself. Now will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once.*
- Jer. 25:30b *The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter His voice from His Holy Habitation; ...against all the inhabitants of the earth.*
- Jer. 25:31 *A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth, for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations...*
- Isai. 26:21 *For, behold, the LORD cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity;
the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.*
- Isai. 40:22 *It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth,
and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers,...*
- Isai. 40:23 *Who bringeth the princes to nothing;
He maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.*
- Isai. 40:24 *Yea, they shall not be planted, yea, they shall not be sown; yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth. And He shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them **away as stubble.***
- Isai. 2:12 *For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up, and he shall be brought low.*
- Isai. 13:11 *And I will **punish the world for their evil** and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause **the arrogance of the proud** to cease, and will lay low **the haughtiness of the terrible.***
- Zeph. 1:17 *And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD; ...*
- Isai. 24:1 ***Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty** and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.*
- Verse 3 *The land shall be utterly emptied and utterly spoiled; for the LORD hath spoken this word.*
- Verse 4 *The earth mourneth and fadeth away; the world languisheth and fadeth away; the haughty people of the earth do languish.*
- Verse 5 *The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.*
- Verse 6 *Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.*
- Isai. 13:9 ***Behold, the day of the LORD cometh**, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.*
- Isai. 13:12 *I will make a man more precious than fine gold, even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.*
- Isai. 13:14 *And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up; they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land.*
- Isai. 2:17 *And **the loftiness** of man shall be **bowed down**, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low...*

AND THE LORD ALONE SHALL BE EXALTED IN THAT DAY.

THE RETURN OF THE SON OF MAN, KING JESUS

Preceding His **visible Return** as **Judge** and **King** on **Mount Olive**, which is before Jerusalem, the Lord Jesus met already the born-again in the air. [1 Thess. 4:13-18]
At the end of the Great Tribulation Israel and **all** who inhabit the earth will **see Him** coming on the clouds of heaven.

- Matt. 23:39 ... *I say to you, you shall see Me no more **till** you say,*
BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!
- Acts 1:11 ... *This same Jesus, Who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come **in like manner** as you saw Him go into heaven.*
- Acts 3:17-21 ... **Repent** ye therefore and **be converted**, that your sins may be blotted out when **the times of refreshing** shall come from the presence of the Lord. And He shall send Jesus Christ, Who before was preached unto you, whom the heaven must receive **until the times of restitution of all things.** which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. ('restitution' - Greek: *apokatastasis* = restoration of the original state (Paradise))
- Matt. 24:29-31 *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**. 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. (Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-27)*
- Rev. 1:7 **Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him.**
And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. ...
- Jude 14,15 **Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints [angels] to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds...**
(angels... Hebr. 12:22; Dan. 7:10; Ps. 68:17; 2 Kings 6:15-17)
- Zech. 14:3-7 *Then the LORD will go forth
And fight against those nations,
As He fights in the day of battle.
And in that day **His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives**, which faces Jerusalem on the east. ...*
- Dan. 7:27 *And **the kingdom** and dominion, and the greatness of the Kingdom under the whole heaven, **shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High**, Whose Kingdom is an **everlasting** Kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.*
- Rev. 19:11-16 *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... and **His NAME** is called **The Word of God**...
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**. [Psalm 2]
He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.
And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:*

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

KING JESUS WILL JUDGE MANY PEOPLE WHEN HE COMES IN HIS GLORY

Matt. 25:31-32a *When the Son of Man shall come in His glory and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon **the throne of His glory**.*

And before Him shall be gathered all nations,...

Isai. 2:4 *And He shall judge among the nations, **and shall rebuke many people***

Micah 4:3 *And He shall...rebuke strong nations afar off*

Isai.11:4 *But with righteousness shall He judge the poor,
and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth;
and He shall **smite the earth** with the rod of His mouth,
and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked.*

Isai. 11:5 *And righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins,
and faithfulness the girdle of His reins.*

ARMAGEDDON

Isai. 37:16 ***O LORD of hosts**, God of Israel, Who dwellest between the cherubims,
Thou art the God, even Thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth;
Thou hast made heaven and earth.*

Ps. 99:1 *The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble!...let the earth be moved!*

Isai. 6:1,3 *Isaiah sees: ...**the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up**,
and His train filled the temple...*

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.

Dan. 7:9-10 *...**the Ancient of Days sat down**, Whose garment was white as snow
and the hair of His head like the pure wool.*

His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire...

the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

Dan. 7:13,14 *...and, **behold**, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven,
and came to the Ancient of Days, ...*

*there was **given Him dominion and glory and a [the] Kingdom***

Rev. 16:13-16 *The kings of the whole world are gathered to the place
called in Hebrew **Armageddon** (Meggido Hill).*

Joel 3:1-2 *For **behold**, in those days and at that time,
When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,
I will also **gather all nations**,and bring them down to **the Valley of Jehoshaphat**;
And I will enter into judgment with them there
On account of My people, My heritage Israel*

Micah 5:15 *I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, ... [Isai. 24; Jer. 25]*

Joel 3:12 *Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;
for **there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.***

Joel 3:14 ***Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!**
For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.*

God's judgment on the nations because of their attitude towards Israel

Zech. 1:14-15 *The Lord of hosts: **I am zealous for Jerusalem**
And **for Zion** with great zeal.*

*I am exceedingly **angry with the nations** at ease;
For I was a little angry, and they helped — but **with evil intent** [!].*

Joel 3:19-21 ***Egypt shall be a desolation**, And **Edom a desolate wilderness**,
Because of violence against the people of Judah,
For they have shed innocent blood in their land.
But Judah shall abide forever, And Jerusalem from generation to generation.*

for the LORD dwells in Zion.

Every knee shall bow

- Ps. 24:8-10 *Who is **this King of glory?**
The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O you gates!
Lift up, you everlasting doors!
And the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
He is the King of glory.*
- Ps. 68:4 *Sing to God, sing praises to His name;
Extol Him Who rides on the clouds,
By HIS NAME JHWH [JaHWeH],
And **REJOICE... BEFORE HIM.***
- Isai. 45:23 ***The LORD** [JHWH]: I have sworn by Myself;
the word is gone out of My mouth in righteousness,
and shall not return,
that unto Me every knee shall bow,
every tongue shall swear.*
- Ps. 72:11 *Yea, **all kings** shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him.*
- Rom. 14:11 *For it is written:
As I live, saith the Lord,
every knee shall bow to Me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.*
- Phil. 2:10-11 *...that at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow**, ...
and that every tongue should confess that **JESUS CHRIST IS LORD**,
to the glory of God the Father.
(Lord - in Greek: Kurios = legal Ruler)*
- John 12:13 [JHWH] **HOSANNA!** ['Save now, we pray']
[Ps. 118:25,26] **BLESSED IS THE KING OF ISRAEL**

THAT COMETH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He hath visited and redeemed His people

- Jer. 23:5-6 ***Behold, the days come, says the LORD, ... that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch; ... and this is His name ...: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.***
- Isai. 11:1-5 ***And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make Him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD; and He shall not judge after the sight of His eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of His ears. But with righteousness shall He judge the poor, and reprove with equity For the meek of the earth; ...And righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins, and faithfulness the girdle of His reins.***
- Israel comes to repentance; the LORD remembers His covenant with His people Israel**
- Hos. 6:1-3 ***Israel: Come, and let us return unto the LORD; for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up. After two days will He revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, And we shall live in His sight. ... [2 Peter: 3:8 ...one day is as a thousand years]***
- Lev. 26:40-44 ***But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me,... I will remember My Covenant with Jacob and My Covenant with Isaac ... I am the LORD their God. (see Ezek. 16:60-63)***
- Rom. 11:25-28 ***There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. For this is My covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the Gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.***
- Hos. 14:4 ***I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for Mine anger is turned away from him.***
- Hos. 6:2-3 ***After two days will He revive us [Israel]; on the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD; His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth. ('After two days...' compare Ps. 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8)***
- Ezek. 36:22-38 ***Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD: I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for Mine holy Name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen whither ye went. And I will sanctify My great Name Which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes... Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean; from all your filthiness, and from all your idols will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers: and ye shall be My people, and I will be your God. ...***

The Spirit of Grace and of Supplication

- Ezek. 37:14 **[I - the LORD] shall put My Spirit in you and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land. Then shall ye know that I the LORD, have spoken it and performed it, saith the LORD.**
- Zech. 12:10 **And I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of supplication; and they shall **look upon Me** Whom they have pierced, and they shall **mourn for Him as one mourneth for his only son**, and shall be in bitterness for Him **as one who is in bitterness for his firstborn**.**
- Ezek. 39:29 **Neither will I hide My face any more from them, for I have **poured out My Spirit upon the house of Israel**, saith the Lord GOD.**
- Jer. 31:34 **...for **they shall all know Me**, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD, for I will **forgive their iniquity**, and I will remember their sin no more.**
- Mic. 7:18-20 **Who is a God like unto Thee, who pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? ... He will subdue our iniquities. And Thou wilt **cast all their sins into the depths of the sea**. Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob and the mercy to Abraham, which **Thou hast sworn** unto our fathers from the days of old.**
- Zech. 13:1 **In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.**
- Isai. 66:8 **Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.**
- Zech. 3:9 **The LORD of hosts, ...I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.**
- Joel 3:21 **For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed, for the LORD dwelleth in Zion.**
- Isai. 45:25 **In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.**
- Luke 1:68 ***Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He hath visited and redeemed His people***

It is important to read **Ezekiel 36** in its entirety, then chapters **37, 38 and 39**.

And dwell on **Ezekiel chapters 40-48** which describe **the construction of the new temple**.

The new temple will be in Zion (Jerusalem) at the time of the coming of God's Kingdom on earth.

Then the Glory of the LORD will go from the Mount of Olives, through 'the Golden gate'

'which faces toward the east' and enter **the House of the LORD** and fill it. (Ezek. 43:4,5; 44:4)

Then the LORD will dwell in Zion,

and out of Zion His Word and Law will go out 'into all the earth'...

"In the last days"!

(Isaiah 2:1-4; Micah 4:1-2)

DELIVERANCE, ALSO FOR ISRAEL'S NEIGHBOURS

- Jer. 12:14-16 *Thus says the LORD: Against all My evil neighbours
who touch the inheritance
which I have caused My people Israel to inherit —
behold, I will pluck them out of their land
and pluck out the house of Judah from among them.
Then it shall be, after I have plucked them out,
that I will return and have compassion on them and bring them back,
everyone to his heritage and everyone to his land.
And it shall be, if they will learn carefully the ways of My people [!],
to swear by My name, 'As the LORD lives,'
as they taught My people to swear by Baal,
then they shall be established in the midst of My people.*
- Zech. 14:16-19 *And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations
which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year
to worship the King, the LORD of hosts,
and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.
And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth
unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts,
even upon them shall be no rain.
And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, upon whom there is no rain,
there shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen
who come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.
This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all nations
that come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.*
- Zech. 8:22 *Yes, many peoples and strong nations
Shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem,
And to pray before the LORD.*
- Ps. 102:15 *So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD,
and all the kings of the earth Thy glory.*
- Isai. 60:14 *Also the sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you,
And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet;

And they shall call you: The City of the LORD,
Zion of the Holy One of Israel.*

ISRAEL'S RESTORATION**The God-appointed time has come — rebuilding of the ruins, reconstruction of Zion**

- Jer. 31:1-28 The reconstruction of Israel in the near future.
Rom. 11:29 *For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. [!]*
 Jer. 46:27 *for, behold, I [the LORD] will save thee [the Jewish people] from afar off,
 and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and **Jacob shall return**,
 and be in rest and at ease, and none shall make him afraid.*
- Ezek. 38:12b a nation, ...that dwell in the midst of the land.
 Ps. 102:12-14 But Thou, o LORD, shalt endure forever;
 and Thy remembrance unto all generations.
 Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion:
 *for the time to favor her, yea, **the set time is come**.*
 For Thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof.
- Amos 9:11-15 The LORD: On that day I will raise up The tabernacle of David, ...
 I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old; ...
 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; ...
 They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; ...
 I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up
 From the land I have given them, Says the LORD your God. (Acts 15:16-18)
- Isai. 61:4 *And 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.
- Isai. 58:12 *And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places;*
 *thou shalt **raise up the foundations of many generations**,*
 and thou shalt be called:
 the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Paths to dwell in.
- Jer. 32:14-15,41 *For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel:*
 Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land. ...
 Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them
 in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.
- Hos. 1:10 *...the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea,...*
 and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them,
 *Ye are **not** My people, there it shall be said unto them,*
 Ye are the sons of the living God.
- Isai. 60:22 *A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation;*
 → *I the LORD will hasten it in his time.*
 Ezek. 36:11b *and ye shall know that I AM the LORD.*
- Ezek. 36:33-36 *Thus says the Lord GOD: On the day that I **cleanse** you from all **your iniquities**,*
 *I will also enable you to **dwell** in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt.*
 The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all
 who pass by. So they will say:
 This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden;
 and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.
 Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that
 I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate.
 I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it.
- Ps. 102:16 ***When the LORD shall build up Zion,***
 He shall appear in His glory.

JESUS, PRINCE OF PEACE

- Isai. 9:6-7 *For... **Unto us a Son is given**; And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called... Prince of Peace.
Of 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...*
- Luke 1:32,33 *...and the Lord God will give Him [the SON] the throne of His father David.
And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and of **His kingdom there will be no end**.*
- Ps. 72:1-8 *Give the king Your judgments, O God, ...
He shall have dominion also from sea to sea,
And...to the ends of the earth.*
- Ps. 89:14 *Righteousness and justice are the **foundation of Your throne**;
Mercy and truth go before Your face.*
- Isai. 60:17-18 *I will also make your officers peace, And your magistrates righteousness...
But you shall call your walls Salvation, And your gates Praise.*
- Zeph. 3:15** → ***The King of Israel, the LORD [JHWH], is in your midst**;
You shall see disaster no more.*
- Micah 5:4-5 *And He shall stand and feed His flock
In the strength of the LORD,
In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God;
And they shall abide, For now He shall be great
To the ends of the earth;
And **this One shall be peace**.*
- Ps. 96:10 *Say among the nations, **The LORD [JHWH] reigns**;
[It is clear: 'JHWH', 'JESHUA' – **ONE, the Same!**]
The world also is firmly established*

Finally peace

- Jer. 33:6 *Behold, I will ...to them the abundance of peace...*
- Ezek. 37:26 *...I will make a **covenant of peace** with them,
and it shall be an everlasting covenant...*
- Isai. 2:4 *They [the Gentiles] shall beat their swords into plowshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks;
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war anymore.*
- Isai. 32:18 *My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, ...and in quiet resting places*
- Hos. 2:18 *In that day I will make a **covenant** for them **with the beasts of the field**, ...*
- Isai. 11:6-10 *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down
with the kid: ...And the lion shall eat straw like the ox...
They [Gentiles] shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, [!]
for **the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD**...*
- And in that day there shall be a **Root of Jesse** [Jeshua],
Which shall stand for an ensign of the people;
to It shall the Gentiles seek,
and His rest shall be glorious.*
- Ps. 72:18-19 ***Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel**,
Who only does wondrous things!
And blessed be **His glorious name** forever!
Amen and Amen*

THE LAND OF ISRAEL WILL BLOSSOM AND BE FRUITFUL

- Jer. 31:4-5 **Again I [the LORD] will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel!**
*You shall again be adorned with your tambourines...,
 You shall yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria; ...*
- Hos. 14:5-6 **I will be like the dew to Israel; ...**
His beauty shall be like an olive tree, And his fragrance like Lebanon.
- Isai. 27:6 *Those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob;*
Israel shall blossom and bud, And fill the face of the world with fruit.
- Isai. 2:4 *... and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
 And their spears into pruning hooks*
- Amos 9:13-14 **Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, When the plowman
 shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; ...
 and they shall **plant vineyards**, and drink the wine thereof;
 they shall also **make gardens**, and eat the fruit of them.**
- Ezek. 34:29 **I will raise up for them a garden of renown,**
- Isai. 35:1-2 *The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them,
 And **the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose**;
 It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing.*
- Ezek. 47:1-12 At the door of the House of the LORD (the new temple):
*... **behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward**;
 for the **forefront of the house stood toward the east**,
 and the waters came down from under the right side of the house,
 at the south side of the altar.*
- verse 7 This water will become a river; at the bank of the river are many trees, on both sides.
- verse 8 The water flows eastward and into the Salt Sea; the water in the sea shall be healed.
- verse 12 *And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side,
 shall grow **all trees** for meat, whose **leaf shall not fade**,
neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed.
 It shall bring forth **new fruit according to his months**,
because their waters issued out of the sanctuary;
 and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.*
 (compare Revelation 22:1-2 — the New Earth)
- Zech. 14:8 *And it shall be in that day, **that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem**,
 half of them toward the former [eastern] sea and half of them toward the hinder [western]
 sea; in summer and in winter shall it be.*
- Ezek. 36:10 *And **I will multiply upon you man and beast**, and they shall increase and bring fruit.
 And I will settle you according to your old estates, and will do better unto you
 than at your beginnings; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.*
- Micah 4:4 The children of Israel...shall **sit** under his vine and **under his fig tree**,
And no one shall make them afraid;
For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.
- Zech. 3:10 *In that day, says the Lord of hosts,
**Everyone will invite his neighbour
 Under his vine and under his fig tree.***
- Micah 5:4,5a *And **He [King Jesus] shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD**,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God;
and they shall abide;
 for now shall He be great unto the ends of the earth.*

And this Man - King Jesus - shall be THE PEACE

JERUSALEM, CAPITAL OF GOD'S KINGDOM**Zion's redemption**

- Isai. 40:1-2 *Comfort, yes, comfort My people! Says your God.
Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her,
 That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned;
 For she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.*
- Isai. 62:1-7 ***For Zion's sake** I will not hold My peace,
 And **for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, Until** her righteousness goes forth...
 The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory.
 You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name.
 You [Jerusalem] shall also be **a crown of glory**
In the hand of the LORD,
 And a royal diadem
 In the hand of your God. ...
 And **give Him no rest till He establishes**
 And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*
- Zech. 2:12 *And the LORD will take possession of Judah
 as **His inheritance in the Holy Land**,
 and will again **choose Jerusalem**.*
- Zech. 12:6b *and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again **in her own place**,
even in Jerusalem.*
- Ezek. 5:5 *Thus saith the Lord GOD: This is Jerusalem.
 I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her.*
- Jer. 3:17 *At that time they shall call Jerusalem **the Throne of the LORD**,
 and **all the nations** shall be gathered unto it,
to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem*
- Zech. 8:3-6 *Thus says the LORD:
 I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem.
Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth,
 The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain.
 Thus says the LORD of hosts:
Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem,
 Each one with his staff in his hand because of great age.
 The streets of the city s
 hall be full of **boys and girls playing** in its streets.
Thus says the LORD of hosts: If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant
 of this people in these days,
Will it also be marvelous in My eyes?...*
- Zeph. 3:14-20 ***Sing, O daughter of Zion!**
 Shout...rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away your judgments, ...
 The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst:
 You shall see disaster no more. ...
He will rest in His love [KJV],
He will rejoice over you with singing.*
- Joel 3:17 *...Then Jerusalem shall be holy...*
- Ezek. 48:35 *...and the name of the city from that day shall be:*

JaHWeH SHAMAH – THE LORD IS THERE.

For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem

In God's Kingdom the new Temple which the prophet Ezekiel describes in Ezekiel 40-48 will be the center of worship for all nations.

Then the People of Israel will fulfil their mission as the LORD has commanded them.

- Exo. 19:6 ***And ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation...***
- Joel 3:17 ***...Then Jerusalem shall be holy...***
- Zech. 6:12 ***...Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying,
Behold, the Man whose name is The BRANCH.
And He shall grow up out of His place, and He shall build the temple of the LORD.
Even He shall build the temple of the LORD; and He shall bear the glory,
and shall sit and rule upon His throne. And He shall be a Priest upon His throne;
and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.***
- Zech. 6:13 ***Even He shall build the temple of the LORD; and He shall bear the glory,
and shall sit and rule upon His throne. And He shall be a Priest upon His throne;
and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.***
- Mark 11:17 ***... My house shall be called for all nations the house of prayer...*** (Isai. 56:7)
- Ezek. 43:4,5b ***And the glory of the LORD came into the house
by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east... ['the Golden Gate']
and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house.***
- Isai. 54:13 ***All your children shall be taught by the LORD,
And great shall be the peace of your children.***
- Isai. 29:18,24 ***In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book,
And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.
These also who erred in spirit will come to understanding,
And those who complained will learn doctrine.
And those who complained will learn doctrine.***
- Isai. 32:4 ***Also the heart of the rash will understand knowledge,
And the tongue of the stammerers will be ready to speak plainly.***
- Isai. 32:3 ***The eyes of those who see will not be dim,
And the ears of those who hear will listen.***
- Isai. 30:21a ***Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,
This is the way, walk in it***
- Jer. 31:34 ***No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother,
saying, Know the LORD, for they all shall know Me,
from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD.***
- Hab. 2:14 ***For the earth will be filled
With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD,
As the waters cover the sea.***
- Ps. 65:1 ***A Psalm and song of David: Praise waiteth for Thee, O God, in Zion;
and unto Thee shall the vow be performed.***
- Ps. 65:2 ***O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come.***
- Ps. 65:4 ***Blessed is the man whom Thou chooseth and causeth to approach unto Thee,
that he may dwell in Thy courts.***
- Ps. 68:29 ***We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house, even of Thy holy temple.
Because of Thy temple at Jerusalem shall kings bring presents unto Thee.***
- Isai. 2:3 ***Many people shall come and say,
Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the House of the God of Jacob;
He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.***

***For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.***

ISRAEL A LIGHT FOR THE NATIONS**The children of Israel**

- Zech. 2:10 THE LORD: ...*I am coming and I will dwell in your midst*
 Zech. 8:8-23 *They shall be **My people** and I will be **their God**, in truth and righteousness. ...
 So I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. ...*
 Dan. 7:27 *Then the Kingdom, ... Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.*
 Isai. 62:12 *The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD*
 Exo. 19:6 *And ye shall be unto Me **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation...***

Jeshua / Jesus — Leader and Commander for the people

- Isai. 49:6 The LORD: ...*It is a light thing that Thou [Jeshua / Jesus] would be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel. I will also give **Thee for a light to the Gentiles**, that Thou may be My salvation unto the end of the earth.*
 Isai. 55:4 *Behold, I [the Lord] have given Him for a witness to the people, **a leader and commander to the people.***
 Ps. 67:4 *O let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for Thou shalt judge the people righteously and govern the nations upon earth. ...*
 Matt. 12:21 ***And in His name shall the Gentiles trust.***

Israel, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exo. 19:6)

- Ps. 96:3 *Declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all people.*
 Isai. 42:6 **Israel, a light for the nations**
 Isai. 61:6 *... ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD; men shall call you the Ministers of our God*
 Isai. 43:21 ***This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise.***
 Isai. 66:19 *And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those of them who escape unto the nations: to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud..., to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, who have not heard My fame, neither have seen My glory; **And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles.***
 Zeph. 3:20 *...For I will give you fame and praise among all the peoples of the earth*
 Ps. 57:9 *I will praise Thee, O Lord, among the people; I will sing unto Thee among the nations.*
 Isai. 60:3 *The Gentiles shall come to Your light...*
 Ps. 117:1 *Praise the LORD, all ye nations! Praise Him, all ye people.*
 Zech. 8:20-23 *Thus saith the LORD of hosts: It shall yet come to pass that there shall come people and the inhabitants of many cities...saying, **Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts ...** Thus saith the LORD of hosts: In those days it shall come to pass that ten men out of all languages of the nations shall take hold, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you, for we have heard that **God is with you.***
 Isai. 2:3-5 *For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*
 Isai. 25:7 *And **He** [the LORD] **will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.** [!]*
 Ps. 72:19b *And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. **Amen and Amen.***

SATAN bound during the Millennium

Satan bound for 1000 years

- John 12:31 *Now is the judgment of this world;
now **the ruler of this world will be cast out.***
- Rev. 12:10 ***Now** salvation, and strength, and the Kingdom of our God,
and the power of His Christ have come,
for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God
day and night, has been cast down.*
- Col. 2:15 *The Lord Jesus ...**having spoiled principalities and powers,**
He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*
- Rev. 20:1-3 *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven,
having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old,
who is the Devil and Satan, and **bound him for a thousand years;**
and he cast him into the bottomless pit,
and shut him up, and set a seal on him,
so that he should deceive the nations no more
till the thousand years were finished.
But after these things he must be released for a little while.*

At the end of the thousand year reign of King Jesus, **Satan** will be released from his prison — for a little while. He makes a last attempt at rivalling God. He **incites many nations** (*) to revolt against the authority of God and follow him — the opponent of God — instead of King Jesus; it becomes clear that the recognition of theocratic Israel has been **pretended** by several nations.

(*) During God's Kingdom on earth,

all dominions shall serve and obey Him [King Jesus]. (Dan. 7:27)

Deut. 33:29 *...Your enemies shall submit to you, ...*

But many nations will not wholeheartedly submit — 'they give a **feigned and unwilling obedience**'
[footnote in The Companion Bible, 2 Sam. 22:45]

- Rev. 20:7-9 *Now when the **thousand years have expired,**
Satan will be **released** from his prison and will go out to **deceive the nations**
which are in the four corners of the earth,
Gog and Magog, to **gather** them together to battle,
whose number is as the sand of the sea.
They went up on the breadth of the earth
and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. ...*
- Isai. 11:4 *King Jesus ...shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.*
- 2 Thess. 2:8 *whom ['the man of sin...the son of perdition' (2 Thess. 2:3)] the Lord will consume
with the breath of His mouth [KJV: ...with the Spirit of His mouth...]
and destroy with the brightness of His coming.*
- Rev. 20:9b,10 *And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.
The **devil, who deceived them,**
was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone
where the beast and the false prophet are.
And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

THE FINAL JUDGMENT AT 'THE WHITE THRONE'

- Jude 14-15 Enoch prophesied: **Behold, the LORD comes** with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly...
- Rev. 20:11-15 Then I saw **a great white throne and Him who sat on it**, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw **the dead**, small and great, standing before God, and **books were opened**. And another book was opened, which is the **Book of Life**. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works... And anyone **not found written in the Book of Life** was cast into the lake of fire.
- 2 Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved **for fire until the day of judgment** and perdition of ungodly men.
- 2 Peter 3:12 ...the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and **the elements will melt with fervent heat**
- 1 Cor. 15:26 **The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.**
- Rev. 20:14 And Death and Hell were **cast into the lake of fire**.
This is the second death.

THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH

in which righteousness dwells

THE NEW EARTH

- 2 Peter 3:13 *Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*
- Isai. 65:17 ***For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth;***
And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.
- Rev. 21:1 *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth,*
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.
Also there was no more sea.
- Rev. 21:2-5 ***Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem,***
coming down out of heaven from God, ...
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,
and He will dwell with them,
and they shall be His people.
God Himself will be with them and be their God.
And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes;
*there shall be **no more death**, nor sorrow, nor crying.*
There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.
- Rev. 21:22 *But I saw no temple in it,*
for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
- Rev. 21:24 *And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light,*
and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.
- Rev. 22:5 *There shall be **no night** there:*
They need no lamp nor light of the sun,
for the Lord God gives them light.
And they shall reign forever and ever.

That God may be all in all

- 1 Cor. 15:24-28 ***King Jesus hands over the kingship to God the Father***
...when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.
For He must reign
till He has put all enemies under His feet...
Now when all things are made subject to Him,
then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him
Who put all things under Him,
*that **GOD MAY BE ALL IN ALL.***
- Rev. 21:5,6a *And He that sat upon the throne said,*
Behold, I make all thing new. ...
Write, for these words are true and faithful. ...
I AM Alpha and Omega,
the Beginning and the End...
- Rev. 22:20 *He Who testifies to these things says:*

SURELY I AM COMING QUICKLY.

NOTES