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TAKE HEED THAT NO MAN DECEIVE YOU

Matthew 24:4

"TAKE heed that no man deceive you", with these words Jesus began to answer the question His disciples posed of what would be the signs of His second coming and the end of the age. The Lord's first response was a warning, for the last days would be a time of great deception with false christs, false teachers and false doctrines abounding such that even the elect would find themselves deceived if they did not take heed. Jesus continued His answer saying, "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many". \(^1\)

There would be many who come in the name of Jesus Christ proclaiming the truth that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah of Israel, yet they would be false teachers and false prophets, who would teach and deceive many. The word for "deceive" is planao (planah'-o) ², which means to go astray from the truth, to err, seduce, wander, and be out of the way. "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." ³

The word used of seducers is goes (go'-ace) ⁴, which means a wizard (as muttering spells), an imposter, and a seducer! These false teachers are actually speaking spells and evil enchantments with the words of their false doctrines. This is the terrible time Jesus warned us would come at the end of the age "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning." ⁵

THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE

In the twentieth century, the world has witnessed the budding of the Fig tree, which is the restoration of the nation of Israel back to their land. This is the sign spoken of by the prophets signaling we are in the last days, and that the Lord is coming back soon. Jesus spoke of this sign in a parable. The Lord taught many parables, but this was the only one He instructed us to learn the meaning of, for this is the sign that He is standing at the door.

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (Matthew 24:32-33).

Israel is the fig tree, and her leaves came forth in the early part of this century. We are living in the last days spoken of by the prophets of Israel, and the Lord is now standing at the door. We are presently entering into the midnight hour, and the darkest part of the night lies just ahead. The purpose of this book is to reveal the mystery of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, hidden by God from those who are wise in their own eyes, and revealed unto babes. I shall give insight and understanding to the writings of the prophets, and reveal the true order of the events, which will precede the second coming of our Lord.

Two thousand years ago the religious leaders of Israel were looking for the coming of the Messiah, yet having misunderstood the true meaning of Bible prophecy, they missed their hour of visitation. Today, the religious leaders of the Christian Church are making the same mistake, having misunderstood Bible prophecy regarding the second coming of the Lord. Their hour of visitation is at hand, and the Lord is coming as a thief in the

night, in ways of which they are unaware. Once again, the Lord has raised up men of wisdom in the wilderness to speak the truth, and to warn the church of the impending judgment, which must begin in the household of God.

JUDGMENT BEGINS IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear" (1 Peter 4:17-18)?

The Judgment of God always begins within His house. God revealed his forthcoming judgments to the prophet Ezekiel, concerning ancient Israel. "The Lord said to him, 'Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst.' But to the others He said in my hearing, 'Go through the city after him and strike; do not let your eye have pity, and do not spare. Utterly slay old men, young men, maidens, little children, and women, but do not touch any man on whom is the mark; and you shall start from My sanctuary.' So they started with the elders who were before the temple." ⁶

Before addressing the issues of what is about to come, I shall first attempt to summarize the consensus view of end time prophecy held today by many within the church in America, and by the power of God's spirit, also correct the errors contained therein.

THE CHURCH IN AMERICA HAS BEEN DECEIVED

The Church in America is looking for the second coming of Jesus with the following assumptions and expectations:

- 1. The signs of Matthew 24:6-8 represent the signs that we are in the last days.
- 2. A union of 10 nations will rise to global power representing a revived Roman Empire.
- 3. The anti-Christ will rise to power and sign a 7-year peace treaty with the nation of Israel marking the beginning of the Great Tribulation, a 7-year time-period.
- 4. America is strangely absent from the prophetic writings.
- 5. The Church will be raptured out of the earth before the beginning of the 7-year tribulation.
- 6. The Church is looking forward to a great end time revival before the hour of judgment begins.

Each of these commonly held views are wrong. They views are based upon vain thinking with no scriptural basis whatsoever. Through the course of this text, I intend to address and correct these errors. Some will dismiss this message, refusing to believe the leadership of the Church could be deceived. Yet the Lord warned us specifically to "take heed that no man deceive you." The Lord does not give idle warnings, for the warnings and admonitions of the Lord are themselves prophecy of what would come. The Lord is actually saying: "In the last days, the majority will be deceived, take heed that it doesn't happen to you!" Not only is deception of the church possible, it was prophesied to happen! "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." ⁷

I have not written this book seeking to enter into a debate with theologians nor to introduce controversy or dissension, but the truth of God will always divide. My mission

is to publish the word of truth for the remnant, which my God shall call, and to provide a true witness to the word of prophecy. I shall do both through the grace of my Lord. I will show the biblical basis for this message, while revealing the true meaning of the prophecies including the order and the detail of events, which will shortly come to pass.

THE EARLY BIRTH PAINS OF THE KINGDOM

What then is the sign of the end of the age and the second coming of the Lord? Prophecy teachers point to the statements made by Jesus in Matthew 24 as the answer:

And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:6-8).

These *signs* Christ spoke of can been cited as the evidence that we are in the *last days*. Jesus said these signs are only the beginning of sorrows that the earth must endure before the great tribulation, but they are not the sign of the end of the age. Scripture warns us, *"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, <i>'Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."*⁸ The time of the end would witness scoffers who would deride the message of truth regarding the return of the Lord. The word used for scoffers is empaiktes (emp-aheektace') ⁹, which means a derider, and a false teacher, a mocker or a scoffer. At the time of the end, these scoffers will be found as false teachers within the Church itself.

THE PERSECUTION OF THE TRUE BELIEVERS

Present day prophecy teachers completely miss the next point the Lord makes in His discourse regarding the events of the end of the age:

"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:9-14).

Following the signs which are the "beginning of sorrows", the Lord tells us "then" the true believers will be delivered up to be afflicted "and they shall kill you and you shall be hated of all nations." An intense persecution will precede the Great Tribulation, and will come suddenly upon many as a snare! One day soon, the majority of the people in the Church will awaken and realize that their leaders, who did not warn them of the coming persecution, deceived them and lied. The "many" who consider themselves Christian will then be "offended" and "betray" one another. The American believers are emotionally and spiritually unprepared for the sudden and intense persecution, which is about to fall upon them, and when it comes, and it will surely come, the majority will be utterly devastated.

The word for "many" in the original Greek is polus (pol-oos'); which means most, plenteous or the majority. Jesus is warning us, in the midst of intense worldwide persecution, the majority of professing Christians will become offended, and betray one another. Only a faithful few will continue to hold the true profession of the faith—that Jesus Christ is Lord and He is the only way, the only truth and the only life.

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the world that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me." 10

The word in Greek for "offended" is skandalizo (skan-dal-id'-zo), which means to entrap, and to trip up (figuratively, to stumble or entice to sin, apostasy). Nominal professing Christians will stumble and fall under the persecution, and will deny the faith. These apostate believers will then turn on and betray the true brethren of the Lord. The word for "betray" in the Greek is paradidomi (par-ad-id'-o-mee), which means to surrender, to yield up, or to deliver. The Greek for "hate" is miseo (mis-eh'-o), meaning to detest and to persecute. Jesus has warned us that a worldwide persecution is coming "before" the tribulation. This persecution will be so intense that the majority of those claiming to be Christian will become offended and stumble into apostasy, and they shall then deliver up the chosen ones to persecution unto death! Only those who endure unto the end will be saved. The Greek word for endure is hupomeno (hoop-om-en'-o) 11 which means to remain, to bear trials, to persevere. Only those who remain faithful to the Lord, enduring patiently the trials of this persecution will be saved.

Jesus warned of a worldwide persecution of the true believers. *All nations* will hate the chosen ones of the Lord. Dear reader, this includes the United States of America where up to the hour of this writing, believers have enjoyed unprecedented freedom. Yet in the Lord's own words, we know this will change and a time of violent persecution is

coming very soon in America. The flash points of judgment are all at hand; the spirit of greed, the spilling of innocent blood, perversion and pride cover our land.

A generation of American Christians have been watching the early birth pains convinced by their teachers that the next event would be the rapture of the church, yet what must follow next is persecution—intense persecution. The twentieth century has witnessed more martyrs for the name of Jesus Christ than any other. Today in many nations, thousands of believers are dying every day. America will witness such sorrows before the "sign of the end."

THE SIGN OF THE END OF THE AGE

Jesus tells us after the worldwide persecution of the church, then we will then see the sign which marks the beginning of the end of the age: the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place!

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:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:15-21)

This sign which marks the end of the age, and the beginning of the great tribulation, is the stopping of the daily altar sacrifice on the Temple Mount and the setting up of the abomination of desolation in the holy place. The Lord tells those in Judea to flee immediately, for this event marks the beginning of the great tribulation! Jesus also warns us to pray that our flight will not come in winter or on a Sabbath day. This warning is also prophetic. The Lord is actually telling us the great tribulation will begin during winter and on a Sabbath day. The warning is to His remnant. They are to pray that their flight would not come during this time. The remnant is to be in position early, before the world is snared on that day! We are also warned that those with child, still needing milk will experience woe on that day. This is also a spiritual prophecy, for those who are babes in the faith and still needing the milk of the word will have great trouble standing on that day.

What exactly does Daniel the prophet tell us about the abomination of desolation? In chapter 12, we learn that from the stopping of the daily sacrifice, which is the morning and evening oblation offering of the temple worship, to the setting up of the abomination that brings desolation, there shall be 1,290 days. "And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days." 12

Daniel prophesies about the abomination in chapter 11 writing that the anti-Christ "shall pollute the sanctuary" and "shall take away the daily sacrifice." ¹³ He shall then set up the abomination of desolation upon the holy place. Scripture warns that the Antichrist is "vile person to whom they shall not give the honor of the kingdom." ¹⁴ This man will be considered vile, and will have been passed over for the title of king. He is a prince who will be rejected and considered unworthy to rule. Daniel continues telling us "but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries." ¹⁵ The false Messiah will come in under the disguise of peace, and will conquer the earth with flattering words. We are also told "and after the league made with him, he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people." ¹⁶ The false Messiah will work deceitfully following a league or an alliance of a small group of people who have seized the kingdom by deception. Daniel continues, "he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his father's fathers." ¹⁷ He shall accomplish the goal, which his ancestors were incapable of, uniting a worldwide empire under a single crown once again.

And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. ... And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people. He shall enter peaceably even

upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers. (Daniel 11:21-24).

After he seizes power, the false messiah will exalt himself above every god, speak blasphemy against the God of heaven, and shall prosper until the time of the indignation is accomplished. (For that which is determined shall be done. The events of the Great Tribulation and the coming false Messiah have been determined, or predestined to occur; they shall be accomplished. The Scripture refers to this time as "the indignation." In Hebrew, this word is za` am (zah'-am) 19, which means fury especially of God's displeasure with sin. The proper translation is anger, indignation, or rage. The last days upon planet earth will be a time of the outpouring of God's wrath and judgment for the sins of mankind. This outpouring will continue until the indignation of the Lord is complete—in full!

"And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: ... And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak... against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done" (Daniel 11:31-36).

Some scholars teach that Antiochus Epiphanes fulfilled these prophecies when he desecrated the temple and stopped the daily sacrifice around 164 B.C. This is incorrect. Antiochus Epiphanes only foreshadowed these events. In Chapter 11, v. 27 instructs that this king will do mischief and speak lies, but he shall not prosper "for yet the end shall be at the time appointed." ²⁰ He will not succeed—for God has appointed the end to occur within the days of his rule. This tells us these events occur at the time of the end. In Daniel 12:1 we are also told "and at that time" which refers to the preceding events of chapter 11, "there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was." This is the time of the end, "the time of Jacob's trouble" ²¹, which was prophesied by Jeremiah. This is the Great Tribulation at the end of the age, and Israel shall be delivered out of it! God will yet preserve and deliver a chosen remnant in the midst of the most terrible time the world has ever known.

This is the time of the end when "the wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."²² The prophecy tells us "knowledge shall be increased" at the time of the end. In the secular world, the knowledge of mankind will greatly increase in the last days. In the spiritual world, the knowledge of prophetic truth will also be increased at the time of the end. Read this entire book dear reader, and witness the amazing knowledge the Lord is now revealing to His people.

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end" (Daniel 12:1-4).

The "abomination which makes desolate" is the "image of the beast", which will be set upon the Temple mount in Jerusalem. The apostle John was also given insight into these days in the book of Revelation. In John's vision of chapter 13, he saw a beast with 7 heads and 10 horns rising up from the sea. One of the heads was wounded unto death, and then healed, and the whole world wondered after the beast.

The horn, which was wounded, is the Antichrist. He will be given a mouth to utter blasphemy, and power to continue 42 months, which is $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. John saw another beast coming out of the earth, with two horns as a lamb, appearing to be innocent and harmless, but possessing the mouth of the dragon. This beast will speak for the great dragon. This is the false prophet, who will stand before the anti-Christ, and cause all the people of the earth to worship the beast, and to make an image of the beast. This is the abomination of desolation, which will be set upon the Temple mount. The setting up of the image of the beast is the abomination, for it profanes the holy place in Jerusalem. It also violates the law of the Lord our God, where men are commanded to worship only the Lord, and are prohibited from making and worshipping graven images. The false prophet leads mankind to worship the image of the beast, and the dragon, which gave his power to the beast.

"And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God... And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them... And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon, ... and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And... that they should make an image to the beast... And he causeth all... to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, ... Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six" (Revelation 13:6-18).

Satan has attempted from the beginning to counterfeit the work of the true Messiah. In his efforts to deceive mankind, the anti-Christ will appear to the nations as having received a "deadly wound" which is healed, presenting a counterfeit resurrection. He will then require that no one may buy or sell without his mark, which is the number of his name, 666. I will discuss the number of the beast in chapter 7 "Here is the mind which has wisdom".

DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS PROPHECY

The stopping of the sacrifices is also mentioned in Daniel's prophecy of the seventy weeks. This prophecy is the single most important prophecy in the entire Scripture, for in it, we are given insight into the timing of the coming of the Messiah.

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until

the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate" (Daniel 9:24-27).

Daniel's seventy weeks prophecy has fascinated scholars over the centuries. The seventy weeks represents weeks of years, which have been determined, predestined to occur upon both the nation of Israel and the Holy city of Jerusalem. Daniel writes that "from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks and sixty two weeks ... and after sixty two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself." ²³

Daniel has revealed the timing of the coming of the Messiah. He first refers to him as Messiah the Prince, speaking of Him in His second coming as ruler of the earth. He then refers to him as the Messiah who would be "cut off, but not for himself." This refers the first coming, when the Messiah would come not as a Prince, but as a servant who would die for the nation. In perfect literal fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy, Jesus Christ was born "sixty-two weeks" from the first decree to rebuild Jerusalem, after which He shed his precious blood on the Feast of Passover as the Holy Lamb of God. Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of His first coming exactly as Daniel prophesied almost 500 years earlier!

WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT

Isaiah spoke of the suffering of the Messiah of Israel declaring that He would be cut off, not for His own sins, but for the sins of the people. "He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities... and by His stripes we are healed." ²⁴

This is Yeshua, who is the Son of the Most High God. He was beaten and bruised for our sins, and wounded for our transgressions. Moreover, by the stripes, which were cut into His back, we are healed. He was taken on the Feast day of Pesach, which the Gentiles call Passover, and was brought as a lamb to the slaughter. On that day, they massacred my Lord. And it was for me that He died. Yes, for all of us who are the little flock of the Father, who Isaiah calls "the remnant." ²⁵ He did not even open His mouth in protest, and without a word of complaint, He laid His life down and was "cut off" from the land of the living. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." ²⁶ It pleased our Father in Heaven, to bruise His son that we His children might not perish but obtain life everlasting. Therefore, Jesus made His soul "an offering for sin" and the Father God declares, "My righteous servant shall justify many!"

"Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth... for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; ... He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be

satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities" (Isaiah 53:1-12).

THEY SHALL SMITE THE JUDGE OF ISRAEL WITH A ROD

The prophet Micah declares "they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek." This is Jesus for He is both King and Judge of Israel. Throughout the Scripture, the prophets testify that the Lord himself would come to save His people. And He did come, just as Daniel prophesied He would, and He was then "cut off, but not for himself." 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, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth-even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." 28

THE LORD SHALL PROVIDE HIMSELF A LAMB

Many of the prophets of Israel have spoken of the Lord coming Himself, to save His people, and to die in their place. Abraham's heart was torn when the Lord commanded him to offer up Isaac as a sacrifice and a burnt offering. In Genesis we read how the great Patriarch of the faith obeyed, and prepared to kill his only son. This commandment by the Lord foreshadowed the Lord sending His son to die for the people. Abraham and Isaac departed alone, leaving with only the fire and the wood. Isaac questioned his father, "My father... Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering." ²⁹ Abraham's answer was prophetic, for the Lord had determined to provide Himself, as the Lamb of God, to be the burnt offering for the sins of the world. His words in the Hebrew read "'Elohiym yir'eh low haseh la` olaah baniy." Truly the Scripture declares, "God will provide Himself a lamb."

THEY HAVE PIERCED MY HANDS AND FEET

David prophesied of the crucifixion of the Lord in Psalm 22. This prophecy includes the words spoken by the Lord as He hung upon the cross. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me" ³⁰ cried the Lord. The bulls of Bashan are the evil spirits, which attacked the Lord while on the cross. "Strong bulls of Bashan have beset me… they gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion… My heart is like wax, it is melted… and my toungue cleaves to my jaws." ³¹ The prophecy even describes the mocking of the crowd: "all they that see me laugh at me… He trusted in the Lord … let Him deliver him." ³² These very words of scorn were spoken against our Lord on that day. "Though hast brought me into the dust of death, for dogs have compassed about me…they have pierced my hands and my feet" ³³ cries the Messiah of Israel. Who has believed our report? To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? Who hears from God? Let him reveal it! The Lord has spoken! Hear Him!

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? ... Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the Lord that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him... Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help. Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset

me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet... They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture... Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns. I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee... For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he is the governor among the nations... They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this" (Psalm 22:1-31).

HERE O ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE!

Yeshua is the Messiah of Israel. He is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep, and having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them until the end. Even while the Lord hung on the cross, He continued to think about each one of His chosen ones. He endured all of this suffering so we could escape the wrath, which is soon to come. This is His Agape love. This is the death to self, which His gospel demands. He is the way, the truth and the life, and no one comes to the Father by any other name. Yeshua is the Lord, and let all the earth be silent before Him! Every one of the prophets of Israel testified of Him! Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, The Lord is One. Blessed be His glorious Name whose Kingdom is forever and ever!

HIS NAME IS WRITTEN KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

In exact fulfillment of the prophecies, Jesus Christ rose on the third day, as the first fruits of the resurrection from the dead. Jesus is about to return to this earth, and now He will be called "Faithful and True" for He will judge the entire earth. Each of us will stand before Him very soon. His eyes are as flames of fire, and His clothes have been dipped in blood. He is the lamb who was slain, and having endured the suffering of the cross and its shame, He now comes to smite the nations! He will tread them in the winepress of His fierce wrath! Jesus spoke of this judgment of the earth when He said "I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished! Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division." Yeshua was straightened until His baptism on the cross was accomplished. His words "I am coming to send fire on the earth" will now be fulfilled. "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it."

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Revelation 19:11-16).

THE SIXTY-TWO WEEKS AND THE FIRST COMING

The birth and death of the Messiah were prophesied exactly in Daniel's seventy weeks. Present day theologians assume the seven weeks must be added to the sixty two weeks, and that sixty nine weeks occurred between the 1st decree to rebuild Jerusalem, issued by Artaxerexes in the time of Nehemiah, until the first coming of Jesus Christ. They also assume the sixty-nine weeks was fulfilled at the time of the crucifixion. Both of these assumptions are incorrect, and inconsistent with the words of Daniel's prophecy and the true historical record. Sir Isaac Newton, one of the greatest minds the world has ever known, was a devoted student of the book of Daniel. He wrote "Observations upon the prophecies of Daniel and the Apocalypse of St. John" which was published six years after his death in 1733. Newton was an expert in both ancient history and ancient languages. He also studied the prophecies of Daniel in depth throughout his lifetime.

Newton reasoned that the weeks of years represent Sabbath years, which occur every seven years on the Jewish calendar. Therefore, Daniel's prophecy of the seventy weeks must be understood from the Jewish calendar, which is lunar based, and not based on the solar calendar of the pagan world. Newton confirmed the sixty-two weeks were fulfilled at the birth of Christ. "Now Nehemiah came to Jerusalem in the 20th year of Artaxerexes, while Ezra continued there, ... and finished the wall the 25th day of the month of Elul, 36 in the 28th year of the king, that is in September in the year of the Julian Period 4278. Count now from this year three score and two weeks of years, that is 434 years, and the reckoning will end in September in the year of the Julian period 4712, which is the year in which Christ was born, according to Clemens Alexandrinus,

... and other ancients, and this was the general opinion, till Dionysious Exiguus invented the vulgar account, in which Christ's birth is placed two years later... How after these weeks Christ was cut off, and the city and sanctuary destroyed by the Romans, is well known." ³⁷

Newton also understood the seven weeks must represent the time between the second command to rebuild Jerusalem, following a second restoration of the nation of Israel, which would occur near the end of the age. The second coming of the Messiah, this time as a Prince, would then follow after seven Sabbath years or a total of forty-nine Jewish years from the issuing of the second decree. Newton wrote "This part of the prophecy, being therefore not yet fulfilled, I shall not attempt a particular interpretation of it, but content myself with observing, that as the seventy and sixty two weeks were Jewish weeks, ending with sabbatical years, so the seven weeks are the compass of a Jubilee, and begin and end with actions proper for a Jubilee, and of the highest nature for which a Jubilee can be kept: and that since the commandment to return and to build Jerusalem, precedes the Messiah the Prince 49 years; it may perhaps come forth not from the Jews themselves, but from some other...The manner I know not. Let time be the interpreter." 38 Forty-nine years is the cycle of time between the years of Jubilee. The Jubilee of the Lord is the year of redemption, and is also known as the favorable year of the Lord. The law of the Jubilee is contained in Leviticus, and the trumpet to announce the Jubilee is blown after the Day of Atonement, on Yom Kippur.

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE—SEVEN WEEKS OF YEARS

Newton wrote: "This prophecy of the Messiah... relates to both comings, and assigns the times thereof... We avoid also the doing violence to the language of Daniel, by taking the seven weeks and sixty two weeks for one number. Had that been Daniel's meaning, he would have said sixty nine weeks, and not seven weeks and sixty two weeks, a way of numbering used by no nation. In our way the years are Jewish weeks ending with sabbatical years, which is very remarkable... Others either count by Lunar years, or by weeks not Judaic: and, which is worst, they ground their interpretations on erroneous chronology..." ³⁹ The seven weeks then represent a Jubilee period of 49 years, seven sabbatical weeks of seven years each, followed in the fiftieth year, by the year of Jubilee.

The year of Jubilee was holy throughout all the land. It is the year of redemption of all property, freedom for slaves and a year of rest and restoration for both the land and the people of Israel. Daniel's prophecy of the seven weeks which precede the second coming of the Lord, uses the exact same words in the Hebrew as the law of Jubilee contained in Leviticus.

And thou shalt number seven Sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the Day of Atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family. A jubilee shall that fiftieth year be unto you: ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it of thy vine undressed. For it is the jubilee; it shall be holy unto you: ye shall eat the increase thereof out of the field. In the year of this jubilee ye shall return every man unto his possession" (Leviticus 25:8-13).

The trumpet to announce the Jubilee is a war trumpet, and it is blown on Yom Kippur. John heard the same war trumpet when he was caught up in the spirit to witness

the Revelation of the Day of the Lord. It began with the blowing of the war trumpet to announce the final Jubilee of Israel. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet." ⁴⁰ John is speaking of more than just a Sabbath day, for the Revelation is the Day of the Lord. The prophets declare in several places, the Day of the Lord begins during a Jubilee. The Messiah proclaims, "For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come." ⁴¹ The Jubilee is the favorable year of the Lord, and the year of redemption by God. In Isaiah 61, which declares the ministry of the Messiah, the Spirit prophesies of the second coming of the Messiah, this time in judgment: "To proclaim the acceptable (Jubilee) year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God." ⁴² The year of Jubilee is the key to understanding the fulfillment of the redemptive plan of God and will be discussed further in chapter 12 entitled "Return Oh Lord, How Long."

The second coming of the Messiah as Prince will be preceded by the final seven weeks of years and then the final Jubilee. The second coming begins in a way few understand, for the mystery of the revelation of Jesus Christ has been hidden from the beginning of time, only revealed to a few until this final hour. The Messiah of Israel is both a conquering King and a humble servant. In His first coming, Jesus Christ came as the suffering servant, and as the Passover lamb to die for the sins of His people. In the second coming, our Lord will come forth as the Lion from the tribe of Judah and as the Mighty Deliverer. His first coming was through a supernatural birth in the natural. His second coming will also begin with a supernatural birth, only this time in the spirit. A company of men will become born again totally, and filled with the Spirit without measure. These are the 144,000, who are pictured as standing with the Lamb in the book of Revelation. These men are the vanguard of the Lord, and they will fulfill in their lives, the second half of the seven-year ministry of the Jesus Christ, which occurs during the great tribulation. This is the mystery of the Revelation of the Word of God fulfilled literally, which is Christ in us, the hope of glory. Though it is hard to comprehend, dear reader hold your objections for a moment and open your heart and mind and consider that the second coming is in fact preceded by the revelation of Jesus Christ in His people during the great tribulation. This is what is revealed in Luke 17:30 when Luke wrote "In the day when the Son of man is revealed." The context of this verse is the beginning of the great tribulation, but we are told in Luke's account that on this day the Son of man will be revealed! This is at the same time that the abomination of desolation is seen on the temple mount, as declared by Matthew. On the same day, the Son of man is revealed within a remnant of His people as declared by Luke. Then the Lord will begin the second half of His seven-year ministry upon the earth.

Newton understood this, and reasoned that sometime during the twentieth century, Israel would be restored during a Jubilee year, and would then issue a decree to rebuild Jerusalem. After forty-nine years, the final Jubilee of Israel would begin, and then the Messiah the Prince would come forth to judge the entire earth! The final Jubilee was announced by the blowing of the war trumpet on Yom Kippur or October 11, 1997 on the secular Calendar. The Jubilee year is based on the sacred calendar of Israel, which begins in the month of Nissan. The trumpet on Yom Kippur announces the coming Jubilee and instructs Israel to forgo planting following the fall harvest. The 70th Jubilee of Israel began on March 28th, 1998 and concluded on March 18, 1999. We are now in the midst of the eighth week following the seven weeks of seven years and the eighth week ends in March of 2006. The great tribulation will therefore begin on or before March of 2006. This fulfills literally the prophecy that Messiah the Prince will come after seven sevens and before eight sevens. The eighth seven week period concludes in 2006 and therefore

the tribulation must begin no later than 2006 thus fulfilling literally the prophecy that the Messiah comes forth in His people after seven sevens perfectly.

The Messiah's first coming was preceded by 62 sabbatical weeks or 434 years based on the Jewish calendar, which Newton conforms perfectly from the decree issued by Artaxerexes till the birth of Christ. ⁴³ The prophecy foretold His coming into the world at the time of his birth exactly. Note Daniel tells us "and after sixty-two weeks shall Messiah be cut off." ⁴⁴ The Messiah is not cut off at sixty-two weeks but "after." He came exactly at the sixty-two weeks and then, later was cut off. Daniel also writes "he (the prince) shall confirm the covenant with the many for one week." ⁴⁵

Scholars all agree this is the 70th week of the prophecy, and in the midst of the 70th week, the prince shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to stop. This refers to the stopping of the sacrifices of the Temple mount.

THE SEVENTIETH WEEK OF DANIEL

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy" (Daniel 9:24).

Jesus began his ministry walking out of the wilderness of Jordan, and was first baptized by John, and then filled with the Holy Spirit. He then walked among His people as the Good Shepherd, the humble servant of God, who sought His lost sheep for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. Jesus then died for their salvation as the Holy Lamb of God. The modern scholars have made many errors regarding Bible prophecy. Jesus has a seven-year ministry upon the earth. This seven-year ministry is the 70th week of Daniel, and it is already half over. He is Messiah the Prince who will confirm his covenant with his people for one week, which is seven years. He has already confirmed the covenant by Grace and Truth. In His first $3\frac{1}{2}$ -year ministry as a humble servant sent to be the Holy Lamb of God, He walked in perfect obedience to the Law of the Lord. Jesus is about to begin the second half of His ministry on the earth. During this last $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, this is known as the "time of Jacob's trouble." He will again confirm His covenant with His people, only this time. He will be born again within His remnant as the Prince who is the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings. In His second $3\frac{1}{2}$ -year ministry on the earth, He will not come among us as a lamb.

No! This time, He will be revealed within the remnant of His people as THE LION FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH! "Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion: he shall not lie down until he eat of the prey, and drink the blood of the slain." ⁴⁷

AND TO ANOINT THE MOST HOLY

The Lord will accomplish the complete fulfillment of all prophecy during the 70th week. "Seventy weeks are determined... 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." Within the seventy weeks, transgression will be finished and sin will end. The Lord shall also "make reconciliation for iniquity." The word for "reconciliation" is kaphar (kawfar') ⁴⁹, which means to cover, to be merciful, and to forgive. The Lord will bring a complete cancellation of the charges against His saints during the seventy weeks. The vision of the prophets is also to be sealed up by the end of the seventieth week. The word "to seal up" is chatham (khaw-tham') ⁵⁰, which means to close up and to seal. The word for "vision" is chazown (khaw-zone') ⁵¹, which means a dream, or a revelation and the

word for "prophecy" is nabiy' (naw-bee') ⁵², which speaks literally of a prophet or an inspired man. The verse literally means, during the seventieth week, the Lord will give final pardon for sins, and seal up the revelation of the prophets of God. Prophecy and revelation continue unto the last days, and are only sealed up at the end of the seventieth week.

The final act of the seventy weeks is "to anoint the most Holy." The word "to anoint" is mashach (maw-shakh') ⁵³, which means to cover with oil, to anoint and to consecrate. Mashach is also the title of the Messiah, which means the Anointed One. After the sixty-two weeks, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit in fulfillment of this prophecy. The word for "most" in the Hebrew is kodesh (ko'-desh) ⁵⁴, which means a sacred or consecrated place, or that which is most holy. The Hebrew word for "Holy" in this text is kaadaashiym. The reference for this word is to the same kodesh, but the text actually reads kodesh kaadaashiym, which means the holiest of the holy places. Scholars assume this speaks only of the anointing of Jesus Christ in His first 3½-year ministry. This prophecy is dual, and will be fulfilled twice. This holiest place will be anointed again, during the second half of the seventieth week.

The scripture defines that which is considered most holy by the Lord. "Anything which a man sets apart to the Lord out of all that he has... is most holy to the Lord." 55 That which is the Lord's portion, and which has been set apart unto Him, is the most holy of the Lord. "And thou shall put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place." 56 That which has been set apart unto the Lord, shall have the mercy seat of God placed there in the spiritual. Remember that the New Covenant fulfills in the spirit, all of the substance of the Old Covenant, which was given to Israel in the natural. Jesus was born in the natural, under the law of the Old Covenant, and was anointed as the most holy place. Not a temple made with hands, but by the Lord. In the second coming, the Lord is preparing another temple to dwell in. This temple is also the "most holy" for it too, has been consecrated, and set apart for God. "And they shall call them, the holy people, the redeemed of the Lord: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken." 57 The redeemed of the Lord are the most holy, and they shall endure until the end of the tribulation, and they will see the sign of the Son of Man in the heavens!

This holy remnant is also called the holy seed in Scripture "Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, And the Lord have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land. But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof." This seed is the portion set apart unto the Lord. They are His special treasure, and in the last half of the seventieth week of Daniel, which is the great tribulation, the holy seed, which is the most holy, shall again be anointed. "And that which is left... it is a thing most holy of the offerings of the Lord made by fire." In the harvest of the earth, which is coming, the most holy shall endure the fire, and remain. "The most holy gifts, reserved from the fire, every offering of theirs... which they shall render to Me, shall be most holy." 60

The most holy are reserved from the fire, they are the Lord's portion. The fire, which is coming, will purify the people of God, but the most holy remnant are already pure. They are the first fruits of the Lord and need not be burned. "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name,

and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God." ⁶¹ The most holy place is the temple of the Lord in the heart of the sanctified believer. The Song of Solomon presents a picture of the remnant, hidden in the wilderness, and coming forth leaning on Him. "Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved?" ⁶² The Lord is their beloved, and they lean upon Him. They have no strength of their own, for their strength is in the Lord. The prophecy for the tribe of Benjamin is also a picture of the remnant: "Of Benjamin he said, The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him; and the Lord shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders." ⁶³

"And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory... and I fell upon my face. ...the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house. And I heard him speaking unto me out of the house; and the man stood by me. And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile... by their abominations that they have committed: wherefore I have consumed them in mine anger. Thou son of man, show the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern. And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, show them the form of the house, ... and all the ordinances thereof, ... and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them. This is the law of the house; Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy" (Ezekiel 43:2-12).

The Lord admonishes all believers to "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." ⁶⁴ Those who are accounted worthy to stand and endure the hour of testing are the most holy of the Lord. They have sanctified their lives to the Lord, and they stand separated unto God.

AND HE SHALL CAUSE THE SACRIFICE TO CEASE

Jesus, as the servant Messiah, confirmed His Father's covenant by keeping the law perfectly, and then dying as the Passover lamb for the sins of the world. Jesus came forth from the Father to confirm His covenant for one week. "He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease." 65 In the midst of the week, at the end of his first 3½ years of ministry, the Lord Jesus Christ gave His own life as the perfect sacrifice, and thereby did away with the need for the sacrificial system of the Old Covenant. "Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." 66

The prophecy also says because of "the overspreading of abomination, he shall make it desolate... even until the consummation." ⁶⁷ At the coming of Jesus Christ, the land was filled or "overspread" with abominations, and therefore it was made desolate until the "consummation." The "consummation" means until the time of the end. After the death of Jesus Christ upon the cross, in literal fulfillment the Romans came and stopped the temple sacrifice, destroying the temple and the nation, leaving the land desolate. The Romans enacted a property tax shortly after the death of our Lord based on the number

of trees on a piece of property. The Jews, being shrewd tax planners, promptly cut down most of the trees, and thus the land became a desolate wilderness. Again, the prophecy was fulfilled literally. The phrase "until the consummation" means that the sacrifice will stop, and the land will remain desolate until the time of the end. Only after the return to the land, which began in the late 19th century, did the Jews began to replant the trees and restore the land. Soon Israel will begin to rebuild the physical temple of the Lord, and their first step will be to restart the daily sacrifice. While Israel is rebuilding the temple, the Lord will rebuild His temple made without hands in the Spirit, the temple in the hearts of His people. Today in Israel, the Orthodox Jews are preparing to rebuild the temple. The altar has already been prepared, and the priesthood trained in the Levitical laws of sacrifice. All that remains is for the Jews to be given access to the temple mount. Following the next Arab Israeli war, they will be given permission to start the altar as the first step in rebuilding the temple. Once the sacrifice is started again, it will again be stopped and then the second half of the 70th week of Daniel will begin. The stopping of the altar on the temple mount and the subsequent setting up of the abomination of desolation will mark the beginning of the great tribulation! I will discuss the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ during the second half of the 70th week in detail in the chapter entitled "The Lord shall be the hope of His people."

THE OTHER PRINCE WHO IS COMING

In addition to revealing the timing of the first and second coming of Messiah, Daniel also reveals another prince shall come. He is mentioned when we are told "and the people of the prince that shall come, shall destroy the city and the sanctuary" 68 speaking of the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. This is the anti-Christ, who I shall refer to as the little prince. He comes in his own name, rising out of the empire, which was once ancient Rome, and he makes his appearance to the world, taking his seat of authority as a "prince." It is of this prince Jesus spoke saying, "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive." 69 Jesus Christ had come in His Father's name, and the nation had rejected Him as Messiah. The Lord prophesied another messiah would come one day in his own name, and him the nation would receive.

CONFIRMATION OF THE OTHER COVENANT

The little prince will also confirm a covenant with the many for a period of one week. In the midst of this confirmation, he too will stop the daily sacrifice on the temple mount and cause the oblation to cease. What is this covenant with the many? This covenant was made by Israel without the Lord. It was made in the flesh. In scripture it is called the "covenant with death," 70 because it was made with the sons of darkness, and will be confirmed by the anti-Christ. This other covenant was made with the "many." After Israel enters into a covenant of its own making, a peace treaty with the many, then the little prince who is to come, will confirm it for a period of seven years. The Hebrew word for "confirm" is "gabar" (gaw-bar'), which means to strengthen, or make stronger. Satan is still attempting to counterfeit all the works of the true Messiah, thus he creates his own covenant with Israel, and his false messiah will confirm this covenant for seven years.

Therefore, we know that the little prince shall confirm a peace treaty, which Israel will sign with her enemies. Some of the new Bible versions mistranslate this verse implying the little prince will make the covenant. This is not the true interpretation. He only confirms it. He makes it stronger, giving his seal of approval to it and his strength in supporting and enforcing it. Thus, the perfect counterfeit is in place. Jesus Christ confirms the true covenant between Israel and God His father, while the little prince confirms the covenant created by his father, the Devil. This confirmation sets the stage for the last half of the 70th week, which begins when the little prince stops the sacrifice, and then the great tribulation comes as a snare upon all mankind. Both princes will then fulfill their covenants with Israel; the true Messiah, Jesus Christ, comes as the LION OF JUDAH to deliver His "remnant" and to judge the entire earth, while the little prince comes as the "son of perdition" to cast the final deception upon the nations.

THE COVENANT WITH RABIN

On September 13, 1993, on the eve of Rosh HaShanah which begins the Civil New Year of Israel, exactly 3,000 witnesses gathered on the White House lawn to watch Yitzack Rabin and Yasser Arafat sign what would be called the Peace and Security agreement. The western news media would announce to the world, "Today, on the White House lawn, 3,000 witnesses gathered to observe the signing of the most historic peace treaty in the history of mankind, for today, after nearly 4,000 years of conflict, the descendents of Isaac and Ishmael have made peace." 72 Notice the name of the man who signed the treaty. Rabin. The word for "many" in the Hebrew is "la rabim." Rabin's name is inferred within the prophecy! The number 3,000 is also the covenant number of God. When Moses received the law and came down from the mountain, and saw the children of Israel had made the golden calf, three thousand died in the ensuing judgment. "And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men." 73 When the Holy Spirit fell on Pentecost, three thousand were saved, a sign that the Lord had accepted the New Covenant. "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."74

The Lord uses the same covenant number of 3,000 to alert us that this is the final covenant spoken of by the Prophet Daniel. This covenant with the many, the covenant Israel initiates with hell itself, it is the covenant with Rabin. The Lord also has given us other signs to witness we are at the door. The year 1997 was the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem. 3,000 years ago, David built an altar, and made Jerusalem the capital of Israel. Today, the descendents of David are preparing another altar, which will be started immediately after Israel takes back the temple mount. Isaiah speaks of this covenant and

the apostate leaders who would rule Israel in the last days: "Wherefore hear the word of the Lord, ye scornful men that rule this people in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves." ⁷⁵

Isaiah calls the leaders of modern apostate Israel "scornful men" for they reject the word of God, and the promise God made to Abraham through whom the Jewish people inherited the right to posses the land of Israel. God never gave actual ownership of the land to Israel, they are merely allowed to live there and they have no legal right to surrender the land of Israel to their enemies. "The land shall not be sold forever: for the land is mine." ⁷⁶

The Lord has never authorized signing a peace treaty with His enemies, or surrendering any part of the land. Isaiah calls the leaders of this apostate people who enter into such a treaty as "scoffers", for they mock the word of the Lord promising the land of Israel to Abraham and his descendants forever.

Rabbi Charlop wrote, "It is clear and simple that the Jewish People must never, Heaven forbid, cede any part of the Land. Any concession of a piece of land, whether large or small, that is blessed with the holiness of Eretz Yisrael, is considered a form of 'denying a connection to the Land.' Anyone upon whom rests the name of Israel is forbidden to deny his Judaism or his connection to the Land of Israel... We learn from our forefathers, that for as long as Abraham thought to share the Land with Lot, God did not speak with him. We see clearly that it is forbidden to agree to cede even part of the Land... and God is angered by this as if the entire Land was given over. I would like to point out that the ruling handed down by the Rabbis of Israel during the previous government - that there is a clear prohibition to withdraw from any part of Eretz Yisrael—is still true and valid today. In fact, this government is obligated even more to preserve the Land of Israel, and is forbidden to sign any document that means the handing over of parts of the Land. Furthermore, if such a document is signed, it has no validity. May Hashem preserve us and our Holy Land in our control." 77

Isaiah called the leaders of apostate Israel who entered into this agreement, scoffers. Prime Minister of Israel Yitzach Rabin mocked the promises of God and was quoted as saying the Bible is not a grant deed for the land of Israel. These apostate leaders of Israel who signed the covenant claimed they did not believe in "greater Israel," and God's promise to Abraham for the land in Genesis 12:7. "And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him." On the day of Rabin's assassination, the Torah teaching for the Sabbath, which began that evening, was the Abrahamic Covenant and this passage of Scripture. This promise to Abraham and his seed is the foundation of the faith of the elect and the Lord does not tolerate those who mock His holy word. This same promise is repeated in the law of the Lord, which was given to Israel before they entered into the land. We do well to heed this command!

"You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess serve their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. And you shall tear down their altars and smash their sacred pillars and burn their Asherim with fire, and you shall cut down the engraved images of their gods, and you shall obliterate their name from that place. You shall not act like this toward the Lord your God. But you shall seek the Lord at the place, which the Lord your God shall choose from all your tribes, to establish His name there for His dwelling, and there you shall come. And there you shall bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices,

your tithes, the contribution of your hand ...and rejoice in all your undertakings in which the Lord your God has blessed you.

You shall not do at all, what we are doing here today, every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes; for you have not as yet come to the resting place and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you... And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your sons, and daughters... Be careful that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every cultic place you see, but in the place which the Lord chooses in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you." ⁷⁸

The Lord does not tolerate mixing paganism with the worship of the true God of Israel, and we shall see in this text, that the modern Christian church has embraced many pagan rituals in the worship of God. The Lord does not change. Paganism remains an abomination before our God, and the tribulation which is immediately ahead, will cleanse the land of this wickedness! Both the idolater and their idols shall be consumed in the fire that is coming!

THE COVENANT WITH DEATH

Shimon Peres in his book *"The New Middle East"*, states the reason Israel entered into the Peace and Security Agreement is they are tired of war. He continues his discussion saying we have signed this agreement "so that the overflowing scourge of war will pass us by." ⁷⁹

His statements are almost an exact quote of the prophecy in Isaiah 28. After the treaty was signed, and the terrorist bombs began to explode in Jerusalem, Shimon Peres went to the scene of the bombing of bus number 18, which was targeted twice. The crowds greeted him by shouting "You have signed a covenant with death" again quoting literally the very words the prophet Isaiah spoke concerning this peace covenant. The name "Peres" was first written in the Bible 2,500 years earlier, in the judgment pronounced against the king of Babylon. 80 Peres is translated "Thy kingdom is divided." Shimon Peres was the architect of the peace plan through which Israel agreed to surrender her land for peace, thus dividing its kingdom. The name of the man responsible for this plan is Peres. The verdict: your kingdom is divided!

THE COVENANT WITH DEATH SHALL BE DISANNULLED

Isaiah continues saying, "this covenant with death will be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand." Isaiah reveals this treaty, signed with the forces of hell in the spiritual world, shall not stand. No, this covenant will not bring peace at all, for the other side of this covenant is war. A great war is coming! It will be called World War III before it is over! This is the battle spoken of in Ezekiel 38. Isaiah goes on to say that the critics of this agreement would complain, "The bed is too short on which to stretch out, and the blanket is too small to wrap oneself in." 81 The treaty would be deemed inadequate; it would not solve the conflict or bring peace, for it was signed with the father of lies.

After Rabin was assassinated in 1995, the leaders of the world gathered in Jerusalem at his funeral service. "Each speaker called for the confirming of the Middle East peace accord so that the life of Rabin would not be in vain. They called for an agreement with his grave to continue the peace process. We watched as the world leaders came and confirmed the Middle East peace process. Standing in the front row of Rabin's funeral were the world leaders and a prince of the Roman empire." ⁸² Jerusalem and the Middle East peace process had now been moved onto the center stage of world politics. The death of Rabin gave new meaning to the prophecy regarding the covenant with death.

The covenant with the many, the covenant with Rabin, now truly had become the covenant with the grave. The Lord gives a final warning admonishing you; do not mock this prophecy, unless you want the bands, which bind you to be made stronger! The prophet also tells us the timing of this prophecy, for it refers to events at the end of the age, for at that time the Lord will bring His judgment upon the entire earth! "Your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand... For the Lord shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act. Now therefore be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong: for I have heard from the Lord God of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth." 83

The Lord describes His judgment as "consumption." The word used is kalah (kaw-law') ⁸⁴, which means a complete destruction, to be utterly consumed—a determined full and utter end! The Lord has determined that a, "consumption" shall come in the whole land! And will you not fear Him? Indeed, in the days ahead all flesh shall learn the fear of the Lord! "For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness. For the Lord God of hosts shall make a consumption, even determined, in the midst of all the land." ⁸⁵

THE WAR OF EZEKIEL 38

The covenant with death will be cancelled by war! The prophet Ezekiel describes this war; in chapter 37, the prophet is shown a valley full of dry bones. This is a picture of the whole house of Israel, having been destroyed as a nation; they lay scattered among the gentile nations as dry bones. "Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost... Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel... and shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it." 86 In the midst of this judgment, Israel declares, "Our hope is lost." Most Americans cannot comprehend what it means to have lost all hope. Israelis have known this all too well. God begins speaking to these bones for they are His people, and though the Lord judged His nation Israel for rejecting His truth, He has never forsaken His people. In the last days, God promised to restore His chosen people to their own land a second time. As Newton declared, "Let time be the interpreter."

Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel... I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God... they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them... I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will... set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel" (Ezekiel 37:21-28).

Ezekiel continues prophesying that after Israel is restored to the land; then the Lord will call forth from the north a great nation from the land of Magog with many allies. This prophecy speaks to the ancient tribes who lived in the land that is now Russia. This is the land of Magog, they shall come along with Persia, Ehtophia, and Lybia in a great

alliance formed against Israel. The Lord says they will come against the mountains of Israel, "which have always been waste." This speaks of the desolation lasting almost 2,000 years until the land was restored. The prophet speaks of this attack against the land of Israel saying "thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword." The land of Israel fell under the sword of the Romans. This great army, which will attack Israel, is described as a "storm" and it "shall be like a cloud to cover the land." In the next war, Israel will be overrun, and her enemies will cover the land like a cloud.

"And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, and prophesy against him... Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, ... And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, ...Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them... and many people with thee... in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee" (Ezekiel 38:1-9).

Do not fear Israel, though these great armies shall come against you, the Lord himself shall defend Israel! God says at that time, "My fury shall come up in my face!" and "in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath," God will respond and fight Israel's enemies Himself! Then there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel! God is going to literally shake the entire nation when He strikes His enemies with the rod of His wrath. The Lord describes the sword, which He will call forth against the enemies of Israel. This sword will rain upon them with an overflowing rain of fire and brimstone! In addition, great hailstones shall fall to the earth and the ground itself shall shake for the wrath of the Lord, which is poured out. This prophecy describes the thermonuclear weapons, which Israel will use as its last line of defense. This is a literal prophecy. The "great hailstones" which shall fall are the byproduct of an atmospheric detonation. The intense heat of a nuclear weapon causes huge hailstones to form, and then fall from the sky. The ground will shake as well, when the enemies of Israel fall upon the mountains, under the fire of the wrath of God!

"And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face. For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God: every man's sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord" (Ezekiel 38:18-23).

THE NEXT AND FINAL ARAB—ISRAELI WAR

The Intelligence Digest, a highly respected secular intelligence source has been reporting on the march to war in the Middle East. In their September 1997 report, they cite four reasons why war in the Middle East is imminent. "The next and final Arab-Israeli war could come as early as the second half of 1998... The feeling in the (Arab) war camp is that most of the major concessions have been gained (through the peace process)." 87 Second, Syria's massive accumulation of Scud launchers will allow them to

launch a massive chemical and biological strike against Israel, thus neutralizing the Israeli nuclear deterrent. Russia is also presently arming both Syria and Iran in a massive arms deal. Third, with Turkey and Israel as allies, Syria cannot attack Israel until Turkey is neutralized. "We know (Russia) is intentionally heading for a confrontation with Turkey over the seemingly small issue for Russia of supplying airdefense missiles to Cyprus... The Turkish prime minister... has warned that unless there is a change in policy 'Turkey is going to go to war with Russia'." ⁸⁸ Finally, the Russian Arab war camp could not attack Israel without first finding a way to neutralize America and the best way "would be by using nuclear armed terrorist to blackmail the US into inaction, but we have assumed that is unlikely... Until now that is... Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu pointed out that Iran would have acquired enough ballistic missile technology 'within a year to 18 months' so as not to require assistance. And because of this... Netanyahu warned 'There must be an appropriate response in the time that remains.' In other words, both Israel and Iran, and Turkey and Russia, are on an 18-month countdown to war. 1998 is beginning to look like a year to fear." ⁸⁹

The march to war continues unabated: "In the April 3rd Issue of Intelligence Digest, we reiterated our concerns about a possible war later this year (1998) between Turkey (backed by Israel and America) and Greece (backed by Russia and Syria) over the delivery of Russian S-300 air-defense missiles to Cyprus. This week Turkey has again renewed its threat to attack the missiles if they are deployed, ... senior Western diplomats are increasingly worried that none of Greek, Turkey, or Russia will back down over the missiles which could be delivered towards the end of summer, possibly by a joint Russian/Greece naval convoy... some hotheads in the Pentagon would actually welcome a war in the Eastern Mediterranean towards the end of summer... such events would more likely provide the spark for a 'final' Arab-Iranian attack on Israel. With Turkey occupied, Syria could hardly hope for a better opportunity."

The Terrorism and Security Monitor, April 1998, reports "THE US PREPARES FOR BIOCHEM ATTACK. US Defense Secretary William Cohen announced the creation of 10 new emergency teams to help domestic agencies respond quickly to attacks with chemical or biological weapons... the Pentagon is involved in a federal government effort to train first-response teams to deal with chemical, biological, or other (nuclear) emergencies in 120 of the largest US cities. Cohen stated 'This is not something that is a scare tactic. It is a reality, so we have to be prepared.' Acting Army Secretary Robert Walker 'The experts tell us it's not 'if' but 'when' a weapon of mass destruction will be used in this country.'91

The news continues to reveal evidence of the gathering storm, which as dark clouds now cover the horizon. Only those with an ear to hear, can discern the thunder of God's prophetic word, which warns His remnant, prepare for summer. "And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A basket of summer fruit. Then said the Lord unto me, the end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again pass by them any more."92 "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near."93 "Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away."94 After this Great War, the Lord will no longer hide His face from Israel. From that point forward, God says they shall know that He is the Lord.

The Peace and Security Agreement is silent on the subject of the city of Jerusalem. The architects did not even attempt to negotiate the holy city. They knew they would never get an agreement on Jerusalem; their strategy was to leave Jerusalem out of the peace process in hope that the parties would be so committed, that Jerusalem could be negotiated at the end. This strategy is doomed to fail. The Lord tells us, after the covenant with death is cancelled by the war, He will then rise up as in mount Perazim and He will be "wroth." 95

"For the Lord shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act." 96 The Lord will then begin to "do his work", that He calls "His strange work", and "to bring to pass His act, His strange act." The strange work of the Lord is the judgment of God, which begins with the next war. God refers to His judgment, as "His strange act" for the Lord takes no joy in the judgment of the wicked. It also appears as "a strange act" to the people of God, who in spite of the many warnings, will be taken completely off guard, and surprised when the judgment falls.

The prophet Zechariah speaks of the city of Jerusalem, which in the last days will become a "stumbling block" to all the nations. Jerusalem is to become a burden for all peoples, and all who attempt to come against Jerusalem shall be destroyed. This prophecy is already being fulfilled, as the nations of the world are all focused on the question of Jerusalem. The UN itself has spent the majority of its energies attempting to deal with the problem of Jerusalem. Over a third of the UN Security Council actions deal with Israel. The Lord proclaims, "though all the people of the earth be gathered together against Jerusalem" ⁹⁷ in that day the Lord himself will fight for His people. He will then open the eyes of Judah, while smiting all of Israel's enemies with blindness.

Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling... And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. In that day, saith the Lord, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness" (Zechariah 12:2-4).

The Lord declares in that day, He will defend Jerusalem Himself. And those that are feeble among His people shall be as valiant as David, and the house of David shall be as God, and as the angel of the Lord before them. The Lord himself will destroy these nations, which have gathered to come against Israel and to capture Jerusalem.

"In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before them. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem" (Zechariah 12:8-9).

The Lord then will pour out His spirit upon my brethren in Yisrael, and they shall see the light of the Lord. Their eyes will be opened and they will recognize Yeshua is Messiah, and they will know it was Him who they pierced. And everyone will mourn for their sin, and for the Lord whom they rejected. But the Lord, who is so rich in His great mercy, will pour out His spirit of healing. A fountain of the Holy Spirit will open for my brethren in Yisrael, and they will weep, and cast down on their faces before the Lord. And He will have compassion on them, as a Father who has found His lost son whom He feared was dead. Oh, there shall be such mourning, followed by such great rejoicing, when the remnant of Yisrael is turned again unto the Lord.

"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: 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 that is in bitterness for his firstborn." 98 "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.... And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends. 99

Following the next war, Israel will then take back the temple mount, and the Orthodox Jews will set up an altar and begin again the daily sacrifice. Thus, the stage will be set for the Great Tribulation to begin. The true Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, who Daniel calls Messiah the Prince, who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, will then begin to fulfill the second half of His seven-year ministry on this earth. He will once again confirm the covenant, which His Father made with Israel, only now He will come as the LION OF JUDAH and as THE JUDGE OF THE ENTIRE EARTH. To those whose robes are white, and who walk before Him in holiness and truth, washed in His blood, which He shed as the Lamb of God, He comes now as the **MIGHTY DELIVERER!**

To those who have rejected His truth and despised His grace, He comes with the full fury of the wrath of God! In addition, to the backsliders within the corrupt church of Laodicéa, He comes with a fire to purify and to cleanse, for the wedding feast is about to begin, and each of the guests must put on a robe of white. If we refuse to repent, and to cleanse our hearts by the washing of His word, if we are truly His, then He will do this work by FIRE! And the little prince, he is just a small bit player, who is only reading his lines, and he has only a small part in the story of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD, and THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL. BARUCH HASHEM! AMEN!

"Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" (Revelation 14:7).