

## TOWARDS



### **The evidence of Bible Prophecy for the Return of Jesus Christ to this Earth**

**DOES THE BIBLE...have anything to say about the days in which we live?  
Predict a Third World War?**

**Being based on a transcript of an address given in the Linden Grove Community Hall,  
Nunhead SE15, Saturday 12th November 1994 at 2.45 P.M.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This address was occasioned by reports in the national and local press about the views of the curate of Nunhead and the disapproval of his superiors in the Catholic Church leading to his suspension.

The newspaper reports refer to teachings by the curate which he claims are derived from the Bible. If you have read any of these reports, you will have noticed allusions to the return of the Jews to Israel as an example of Bible prophecy being fulfilled, and the expectation of the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. You will have read of the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth and the 1,000 year reign of Christ (known as the Millennium) in which all nations of the world will live in peace and harmony, with a just and honest government and a rejuvenation of the earth to make it like the Garden of Eden.

You will also have been made aware of predictions of an approaching Third World War, described in the book of Revelation as Armageddon.

On the 21st October, the 'Catholic Herald,' an official organ of the Catholic Church in this country, under the heading of "Time's up for priest", reported:

*"A Catholic priest, banished from his south London parish in the summer, has been told he will not be allowed to return to his work unless he renounces his millennial beliefs."* In 'The Daily Telegraph' the following day, the Bishop of Southwark was reported as saying that these views *"were incompatible with Catholic teaching."* Bishop John Jukes is on record as stating to the curate:

*“The views that you advanced, which are based on the prospects of the Second Coming of Christ in the year 2,000 are part of a set of views which have never been admitted by the Church. The reason for this is to be found in the text of St. Mark’s Gospel 13:32, and in the Acts of the Apostles 1:6. In other words, the Church has long held that it was not part of the mission of Jesus Christ to receive information from his heavenly Father for use in Christ’s human existence, of the end of this creation. If therefore this information has not been passed on to our Lord and Saviour, then a sensible conclusion is that the news has not been passed on to us either.”*

Evidently the controversy that has arisen within this parish of Nunhead has wider implications than a mere disagreement between a curate and his parish priest; and it is a matter of greater concern than the health of the curate. It is clearly a question of conflict of doctrine. On the one hand we have the assertion that the Bible teaches that there will be a Second Coming of Christ, a Kingdom of God on earth and a Millennium; and that there are prophecies which predict a global conflict in the epoch of the Jewish return to their ancient homeland; and on the other hand we have assertions that such concepts are incompatible with Catholic teaching, that such views have never been admitted by the Church, and that it was no part of the mission of Jesus Christ to pass on information concerning the end of the world to his followers.

Now this is not an issue that is impossible to resolve. The Bible and the New Testament in particular, are the foundation documents of the Church. Why then should it be considered a difficult task to find out what the Bible says, if anything, on these subjects?

Why should a public examination of Bible prophecy, be effectively censored, when on every hand, both within and without the Catholic Church, literally hundreds of men and women are claiming to receive visions and revelations from heaven about the end of the world? In this country and abroad, cults and sects proliferate under the broad banner of “Christianity”, publishing predictions and prophecies, claiming that such are revelations from God. But the question must occur to every thoughtful and rational man or woman: How can I be sure that such claims are true? After all, you may be convinced that God has spoken to you, but I have only your word on the matter; how do I know that? How can I know that it is not simply a question of your imagination? On the other hand, if it can be demonstrated that God has

spoken and that His words have been and are being fulfilled, it is surely one of the most powerful evidences for the existence of God and not a matter to be dismissed by the church.

### GENUINE PROPHECY

The immediate followers of Jesus Christ, the Apostles, (to whom modern bishops claim to be successors), believed that the prophecies of the Bible were given by inspiration of God. Peter, for example, states:

*“The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Peter 1:21*

Now it will be readily evident to anyone who carefully examines the Bible record, that a large amount of the text is prophetic. There are many predictions recorded in the Old Testament and in the New; not only so, but in the Bible there are frequent appeals made to the fulfillment of those predictions as a guarantee of its truth. A writer of fraudulent predictions would not readily propose the application of the test of fulfillment. But God said to Israel through Moses:

*“I will raise them up a prophet from among their brethren like you, and I will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him... And if you say in your heart, **“How shall we know the word that the Lord has spoken?”** When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, **if the thing follow not nor come to pass, that is the thing that the Lord has not spoken**, but the prophet has spoken presumptuously: you shall not be afraid of him.” Deut.18:18-22*

Here a conclusive test is invited: the validity of this message is made to depend on the predicted events actually taking place. Isaiah also makes a similar appeal, not only in respect of the validity of his message, but in proof of the very existence of God Himself, in contrast to the supposed utterances of idolatrous priests:

*“Produce your cause, says the Lord; bring forth your strong reasons, says the king of Jacob. Let them bring them forth and show us what shall happen: let them show the former things what they be, that we may consider them and know the latter end of them; or declare us things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods.” Isaiah 41:21-23. God also says: “He confirms the word of His servants and performs the word of His messengers.” 44:26, and of Himself He says: “Remember the former things of old, for I am*

*God and there is none else; I am God and there is none like me. Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand and I will do all my pleasure,” 46:9.*

The Lord Jesus applied the same rigorous test to his own predictions: John 14:29

“And now I have told you **before it come to pass**, that when it come to pass, you might believe.” The apostle Paul taught the early believers that God is not the author of confusion; and Peter taught that *“no prophecy of scripture is of any private interpretation.”* In other words, a harmony and consistency will be found to exist between all genuine God inspired prophecies. Isaiah puts it this way, 8:20: *“To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”* This then is the final arbiter: **What says the scripture?**

### THE HOPE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Now it is asserted that “the prospects of the Second Coming of Christ, the Millennium, (the thousand year reign of Christ on earth) and the Kingdom of God on earth, are part of a set of views which have never been admitted by the church”. With such a statement we respectfully do not agree; it is contrary to both historical and scriptural evidence. Firstly we draw attention to the writings of “the apostolic fathers”. In the **Epistle of Barnabas**, c.100 AD, the whole of the Greek text having been recovered with Codex Sinaiticus, we read the following:

*“Attend, my children, to the meaning of this expression: ‘He finished it in six days’. This implies that the Lord will finish all things in six thousand years. And He Himself testified, saying, ‘Behold, today will be as a thousand years.’ Therefore my children, in six days, that is in six thousand years, all things will be finished. ‘And He rested on the seventh day.’ This means that when His son coming again shall destroy the wicked man and destroy the ungodly, and change the sun, moon and stars, then He shall truly rest on the Sabbath day.”*

In the writings of **Justin Martyr**, c.130 AD, we read:

*“For if you have fallen in with some who are called Christians, but who do not admit this truth, and venture to blaspheme the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob; who say there is no resurrection of the dead, and that their souls when they die are taken to heaven; do not imagine that they are Christians... but I and others who are right minded Christians on all points, are*

*assured that there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a thousand years in Jerusalem which will then be built, adorned and enlarged, as the prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah and others declare."*

The historian Edward Gibbon,(1737- 94) in his monumental work "**The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire**", says this:-



THE HISTORIAN EDWARD GIBBON  
1737 - 94

*"In the primitive church, the influence of truth was very powerfully strengthened by an opinion which, however it may deserve respect for its usefulness and antiquity, has not been found agreeable to experience. It was universally believed that the end of the world and the Kingdom of Heaven were at hand. The ancient and popular doctrine of the Millennium was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ. As the works of creation had been finished in six days, their duration in their present state was fixed to six thousand years. By the same analogy, it was inferred that this long period of labour and contention would be succeeded by a joyful Sabbath of a thousand*

*years, and that Christ would reign on earth till the time appointed for the last and general resurrection."* He says that **"it appears to be the reigning sentiment of orthodox believers, and that it contributed in a very considerable degree to the progress of the Christian faith."**

Now what do the Scriptures say? There are no less than 52 references in the NT to the Kingdom of God. It was the essential subject matter of the teaching of Jesus Christ, as we read in Matthew 4:23 *"Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom."* Also Luke 8:1 *"He went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the Kingdom of God; and the twelve were with him."*

These twelve disciples, were witnesses to his teaching, Acts 1:21, for three and a half years; and it is a legitimate question to ask, what impact did this teaching have upon them? What was their expectation? Jesus gave them a specific promise, Mat.19:28, *"When the Son of Man shall sit upon the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, ruling the twelve tribes of Israel."*

Consequently, the twelve had a very real interest in seeing their Lord and Master sitting on the throne of his glory. “The throne of his kingdom” – but what throne was that?

Well you know that the Virgin Mary was promised by the angel that her son would be great, Luke 1:32, and “*would be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God shall give unto him **the throne of his father David**, and he shall reign over **the house of Jacob** (or the nation of Israel) forever, and **of his kingdom there shall be no end.***” Now every Jew knew that there was only one location for the throne of David, and that was in Jerusalem the capital of Israel. And for the Messiah to sit



upon David’s throne and to rule over the house of Jacob, which comprised twelve tribes, requires that the ancient kingdom of Israel should be restored; that the Jews who were widely dispersed even in Jesus’ day, should be re-gathered; and that Jerusalem should again become the administrative capital of the Kingdom under a theocratic monarchy.

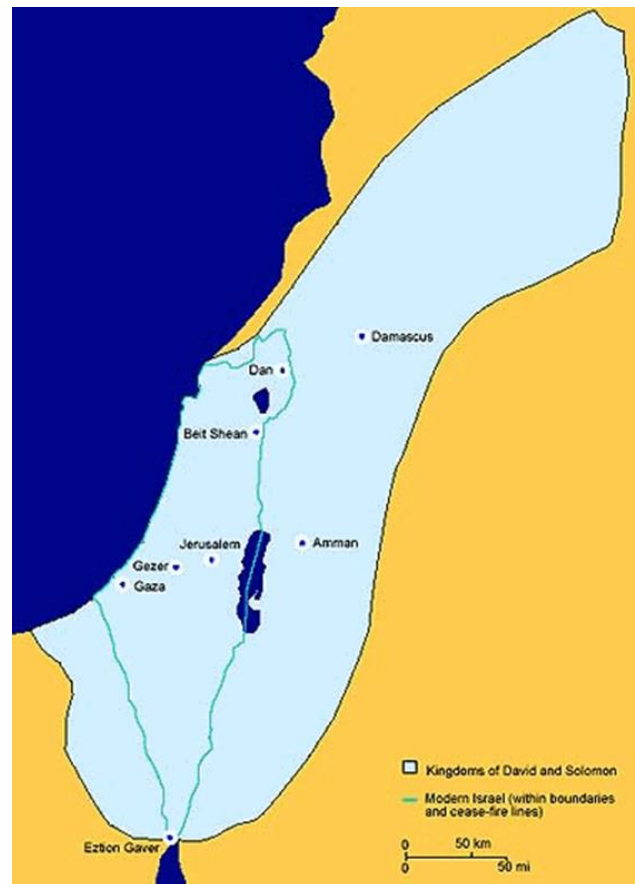
If this is accepted, then the bitter disappointment of the disciples on the Emmaus road, over the execution of Jesus, can be well understood. “*We trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed (or brought back) Israel.*” If this is accepted, then the expectation voiced by the disciples after his resurrection can be well understood: “*Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?*” Modern opinion has it that the disciples were so obtuse, so lacking in ability, that after 3 ½ years of listening to Jesus every day, traveling all over Judea hearing several discourses every day; and not only so, but for the last forty days (Acts 1) listening to him speaking of the things about the kingdom of God – yet they did not grasp his meaning? So obtuse indeed that they got it wrong! They didn’t really understand or they wouldn’t have asked such a stupid question! “*Will you restore the kingdom to Israel?*” Well, they

did not get it wrong! For Jesus did not attempt to correct them, he merely pointed out to them that they were not to know in detail, the times and seasons arranged in the Divine program. In voicing such an anticipation, the disciples were echoing, not only Jesus' teaching, but the hopes of all the prophets of the Old Testament. They all foretold the restoration of Israel as a nation, by which they understood the re-establishment of the kingdom of God.

It might be objected that, if this is the case, 'Why are there not more specific details about the nature of the Kingdom of God in the New Testament?' The answer is that the character of the Kingdom was already well understood by the Jewish people. They were all readers of the prophets of Israel, as Paul tells us (Acts 13:27). Passages from the prophets were read every Sabbath day, telling them about the restoration of Israel's Kingdom to its former glory. They knew about it and they anticipated it, as the contemporary manuscripts discovered at Qumran and elsewhere, clearly prove. The expectations were based on prophecies such as Daniel, Isaiah, Micah and Zechariah. In Daniel it is recorded that *"the God of Heaven should set up a kingdom that shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all other kingdoms and it shall stand for ever."* Isaiah proclaimed 2:2-4 *"The law shall go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations and rebuke many people and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war any more."*

Micah 4:8 *"Unto Zion shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem"*.

You know that when Christ entered Jerusalem he did so, riding upon a young ass, and the apostle John says that in doing so he fulfilled the words of the Prophets as it is written in Zechariah, *"Fear not daughter of Zion; behold*



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*your King comes sitting on an ass's colt*": but the immediate context in Zechariah's prophecy (9:9) goes on to say, that Messiah shall *"Speak peace to the nations and his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth."*

Some will object that the teaching of Christ had nothing to do with a literal restoration of the nation of Israel: indeed it is held that Jesus was referring to a Kingdom not on earth, but in heaven, and in proof of the fact his words to Pilate are quoted: "My Kingdom is not of this world." Often the same people who quote this passage maintain that **the Church** is the Kingdom, or that it refers to a Kingdom of grace in the hearts of believers. But since both the church and the believers are on earth, then the argument for a Kingdom beyond the sky is invalidated.

The obvious meaning of Jesus' words is that the Kingdom did not belong to the existing cosmos or (political) order, where Roman Imperial government held sway; but he was looking to the future, when as the prophets foretold the Kingdom of God would have universal dominion. That this was the hope of the original Christians can be seen from the promises made to them by Jesus: that they would *"eat and drink at my table, ruling the twelve tribes of Israel."*

To those who overcome and keep the works of Christ unto the end, Jesus says, Rev 2:26 *"I will give him power over the nations"*; consequently they rejoiced in the prospect of being made Kings and Priests and reigning on the earth, Rev. 5:10. As a result they looked for a time, when *"the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ."*(Rev.11:15) It was for such an event as this that Jesus taught his disciples to pray *"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done **on earth** as it is in heaven."* There can be no doubt for any impartial reader of the New Testament that Christ taught, and his followers believed, that he would come again. At his ascension, it was declared *"This same Jesus shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven."*

Peter preaching in Jerusalem fifty days after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ said, *"He shall send Jesus Christ which before was preached unto you, whom the heavens 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."* Acts 3:19 In the letter to the Hebrews it is written, 9:28 *"Unto those who look for him shall he appear the second time*

*without sin unto salvation.*” And if there is still any doubt the New Testament concludes on this theme *“Even so, come Lord Jesus.”*

### THE MANNER OF HIS APPEARING

Now the question arises, that if the Bible does teach the Second Appearing of Jesus Christ to establish the Kingdom of God, when will this event take place, what will be the nature of this event, and what bearing does it have on current world affairs? Can we expect a further conflict in the Middle East leading to a Third World War, in the run up of the Kingdom of God?

*“The Church,”* we are told by Bishop John Jukes, *“has long held that it was not part of Christ’s mission to receive information from his heavenly Father for use in Christ’s human existence of the end of this creation. If therefore this information has not been passed on to our Lord and Saviour then a suitable conclusion is that the news has not been passed on to us either”*. But there is no other book so devoted to the time of the end and outworking of the last things as that of the Revelation. In the very first verse we read; *“The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave unto him to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass.”* Contrary to learned opinion, Jesus Christ HAS received information from God, and furthermore, he has made it available to those who are prepared to read and learn the words of the prophecy it contains. You may think the Revelation a difficult book, and that is understandable, yet even in the gospels Jesus was not silent upon this matter. In Matthew 24 you can read his reply to his disciples’ question *“When shall these things be, what shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?”*

In Luke 21 there is a similar question, *“When shall these things be, what sign will there be when these things come to pass?”* Jesus had predicted the destruction of the pride of Jewish worship and architecture, the Temple in Jerusalem, and he predicted the time when the Jewish State would be brought to a disastrous end.

*“When you see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them that are in Judea flee to the mountains and let them that are in the midst of it depart out, and let not them that are in the countries enter there into. For these be the days of vengeance that all things that are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child and to those that give suck in those days for there shall be great*

*distress in the land and wrath upon this people and they shall fall by the edge of the sword and shall be led away captive into all nations and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. And there shall be signs in the sun and in the moon and in the stars: and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity: the sea and the waves roaring: Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things that are coming upon the earth for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”(v.20-27)*

Here we find a definite sequence of events: a sequence that is anchored to the history of the Jewish people. The predictions of Jesus and his Apostles were verified in the Destruction of Jerusalem in AD70 by the Roman general Titus son of the Emperor Vespasian. After a siege involving the most dreadful



SCULPTURE ON THE ARCH OF TITUS IN ROME  
COMMEMORATING THE DESTRUCTION OF  
JERUSALEM IN AD70. DEPICTING THE SPOILS  
TAKEN FROM THE TEMPLE, INCLUDING THE SEVEN  
BRANCHED LIGHT-STAND AND THE SILVER  
TRUMPETS

suffering of its inhabitants, the Romans broke into the city and the Temple was set on fire, and it is estimated that almost a million Jews perished in that campaign. The total devastation at that time, is evident in the archaeological excavations in Jerusalem under the old city known today as the Burnt House. As Jesus had foretold, the Jews were led captive into all nations and Jerusalem was trodden down for centuries.

After the Bar Kochba rebellion in AD132 the city was renamed Aelia Capitolina and the land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem has been possessed by a succession of invaders:- Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Seleucids, Ptolemies, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Crusaders, Egyptians, Turks, British. During this same period of time the Jewish people have found their way into virtually every country in the world. Unlike other dispersed and conquered peoples the Jews never lost their identity and never renounced nor forgot their

desire and their intention to return one day to their ancient homeland. Every year as their feast of Passover is concluded, the participants proclaim “Next year in JERUSALEM”.



JEWISH FAMILY CELEBRATING  
THE PASSOVER

## CHRIST’S TEACHING ROOTED IN MOSES AND THE PROPHETS

But the Lord Jesus Christ was not the first to predict Israel’s dispersion. Long before, 15 centuries earlier, before ever the Israelites possessed any territory, before they conquered the land of Canaan, their future homeland, Moses, their great prophet and leader, told them exactly what would befall them. We refer you to the 26th chapter of Leviticus and the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy where this is shown in remarkable detail. Moses records how God made a covenant with Israel whereby the nation would receive wonderful benefits, if they observed His laws. The reason being that they were to be a witness to all nations of the blessings that would be added to a people who lived in harmony with the will and objectives of their Creator.

But that covenant was conditional: if they refused to discipline themselves by Divine principles and chose their own course of action, they would be the subjects of terrible calamities. In blessing or in cursing they were to be God’s witnesses, as Isaiah declares of the Jews, Is 43:10, *“You are my witnesses, says the Lord, that I am God.”* So it is written that if they refused to obey Gods law, *“I will bring the land into desolation and your enemies that dwell therein shall be astonished at it. I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out a sword after you and your land will be desolate and your cities waste.”*(Leviticus 26:32,33).

In the last month of his life Moses, the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy, set out a series of calamities that would overtake the nation, and if you read this chapter and analyze it carefully, you will find that it is actually a pre-recorded history of the nation, predicting their expulsion from the land, not once but twice; and how they would be scattered amongst all nations, how they would

be despised and persecuted and subjected to irrational hatred. *“Among these nations shall you find no ease, neither shall the sole of your foot have rest, but the Lord shall give you there a trembling heart and failing of eyes and sorrow of mind, and your life shall hang in doubt before you; and you shall have none assurance of your life. In the morning you shall say, Would God it were even, and at even you shall say, Would God it were morning, for the fear of your heart wherewith you shall fear and the sight of your eyes which you shall see.”* (Deuteronomy 28:65-67)

Noting the words of this prophecy: *“Neither shall the sole of your foot have rest,”* even today most Jews are but recent newcomers to their respective lands of residence. 90% of the Jewish people have lived in their new homes for no more than 100 years and the majority of large Jewish settlements go back no more than 60 or 70 years. And as for a *trembling heart and sorrow of mind*, we need only to recall the Diary of Anne Frank or the film Schindler’s List to



JEWISH FAMILIES BEING ROUNDED UP IN THE WARSAW GHETTO, BY NAZI SHOULDERS TO BE ANNIHILATED IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMP AT TREBLINKA

recall the horrors that have beset the Jewish people. Fifty years ago, as Prince Phillip’s 1994 visit to ‘Yad Vashem’ the holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, reminded everyone at the time of the persecution of the Jews. In 1939-45 These words of Moses were receiving a terrible fulfillment as the plans for the Final solution, the extermination of Jewry, were put into effect,

incurring the systematic destruction of 6 million in the Nazi Holocaust, with the cry of “Juden Raus” (Jews get out) and “Peres Judah.” (Perish Judah)

But where is the Third Reich today? The villa where the Nazi hierarchy held the Wannsee conference to plan the mass destruction of Jewry, is today owned by Jews who have turned it into a memorial of their suffering. The Jews remain, but out of the ashes of Hitler’s ambition the Jewish State of Israel came

into existence in 1948, notwithstanding the opposition of the British Government, and the attempt of seven Arab armies to destroy the newborn state, and drive the Jews into the sea. Hardly a day has not passed since 1948 that Israel has not been the focus of media attention as it has survived several major wars aimed at its destruction. You might ask why? You would not be the first to do so.

The American author Mark Twain wrote in 1898:

*“The Egyptian, the Babylonian and Persians rose, filled the planet with sound and splendour, then faded to dream stuff and passed away; the Greek and the Roman followed and made a vast noise, and they are gone; other people have sprung up and held their torch on high for a time, but it burned out and they sit in twilight now or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and now he is what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew, all other forces pass but he remains. WHAT IS THE SECRET OF HIS IMMORTALITY?”* Today there are 6.4 million Jews in Israel.

The Bible is explicit upon the subject of Israel’s dispersion and down treading, and their survival. The prophecies are so clear there can be no mistaking their meaning. If anything is emphasized more than their dispersion, it is the fact of God’s intention to ensure that the Jewish people would survive all the persecutions leveled against them, and further that the time would come when the Jews would be restored to their ancient homeland. Jeremiah 30:10 *“Fear not, O my servant Jacob, says the Lord, neither be dismayed O Israel. For I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of your captivity; and Jacob shall return and be in rest and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. 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 will I not make a full end of you, but I will correct you in measure and not leave you altogether unpunished.”*

Long ago God promised Abraham, the father of the Jewish race, *"I will bless him that blesses you and I will curse him that curses you."* Both ancient and modern history confirm the truth of this sentence. Pharaoh devised a policy whereby all the male offspring of the Hebrews were to be drowned, and forty years later



PHARAOH'S ADVICE  
 "FROM THE NILE TO THE NEVA  
 THAT WEAPON ALWAYS WOUNDS THE  
 ONE WHO WIELDS IT"

the cream of his armies drowned in the Red Sea. In more modern times the Alexander III the Tsar of all the Russias pitted himself against the Jews and drove them into the Pale of the Settlement, Poland and the Ukraine, within a generation his vast empire was convulsed in revolution and the Romanov dynasty was swept away. And who will not say that Germany came under that sentence? Hitler perished and Israel survived. More recently Saddam Hussein threatened to burn half of Israel, and Iraq was subjected to a storm of fire, again Israel survived.

Speaking of Israel's return, Jeremiah foretold how it would be accomplished in two stages, Jeremiah 16:6. Firstly, "Behold I will send for many fishers

and they shall fish them, and after will I send many hunters and they shall hunt them from every mountain and from every hill and out of the holes of the rocks". And you know that is precisely what happened. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Britain was very religious, and many people read the Bible. Some of them on reading the Bible became sympathetic to the Jews and they also learned that Palestine at that time was not largely populated. So, a campaign began to establish a home for a persecuted people in Palestine a land without a people. Later the persecution of the Jews intensified and a Jewish journalist Theodore Herzl seeing the suffering of his people inspired the Zionist movement with his book "Der Judenstad"; (The Jewish State) and he and his



THEODORE HERZL  
 HE PREDICTED THAT IN 50  
 YEARS THERE WOULD BE A  
 JEWISH STATE

helpers tried persuasion to entice the Jews to go back to Palestine, but the wealthy and influential Jews were far too comfortable to even consider the possibility of emigration. Herzl was laughed to scorn by his own people at his suggestion of a Jewish State with a Jewish Prime Minister, but he was not discouraged. In 1897 he claimed not only to have laid the foundations of the Jewish State, but that it would be a reality within 50 years. But persuasion was not enough: it required the Hunters. What efficient hunters they proved to be! Written down for death if you had one Jewish grandparent, and how fanatical, hunting down Jews hiding in forests and mountains, even hauling Jews out of the sewers of the Warsaw Ghetto, to realize the Nazis final solution!

But Jeremiah continues *"I will bring you from the North Country, and gather you from the coasts of the earth; and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and he that travails together a great company shall return thither."*(31:8)

Ezekiel prophesied: *"I do not this for you sakes, O house of Israel, but for Mine Holy Name's sake which you have profaned among the nations wither you went; for I will take you from among the nations and gather you out of all countries and bring you into your own land."*(36:22,32) Isaiah adds his testimony 43:5 *"Fear not, I am with you, I will bring your seed from the east and gather you from the west, I will say to the north, give up; and to the south keep not back, bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth."*

Based upon such prophecies as these, a Bible student writing 174 years ago, long before the beginning of the Zionist movement, wrote: *"There is then a partial and a primary restoration of Jews before the manifestation of Christ, which is to serve as the nucleus, or basis of future operations in the restoration of the rest of the tribes, after he has appeared in the kingdom. The pre-adventual colonization of Palestine will be on purely political principles; and the Jewish colonists will return in unbelief of the Messiahship of Jesus, and of the truth as it is in him. They will emigrate there as agriculturists and traders, in the hope of establishing their commonwealth, but more immediately, of getting rich by commerce with India, and in cattle and goods, by their industry at home, under the efficient protection of the British power."*

The British did not control Palestine until 1920 when the League of Nations granted them a Mandate over Palestine.

The question is of course, are we living in the days spoken of by the prophets?

For nearly 19 centuries the Jews were exiled from their land; today the State of Israel is a fact. Since 1948 Jews have gone back to their ancient homeland in ever increasing numbers.



At one time it was thought impossible that large scale immigration could come from the North, but today Jews are free to leave the former Soviet Union and go to Israel. 75 years ago, on the basis of Bible prophecies, before Israel became a nation, it was asserted that the Falashas, the Black Ethiopian Jews would immigrate to Palestine. As Isaiah prophesied concerning the Jews, *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;* (Isa 43:6) Today that has become an established fact and during what was called operation Solomon thousands of Falashas were airlifted to Israel. Then the largest number of people ever to be transported in a single aircraft was achieved. Deserts have been made to blossom, swamps have been cleared, barren hill sides have been re-afforested and the land has been filled with people.

If the Jews return to Zion is the fulfillment of prophecy what is its significance? It means that the words of Jesus Christ have been and are coming to pass, *"Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled"*. Significantly as a result of the Six Day war in 1967 for the first time in more than 2000 years the administration of Jerusalem passed back into the hands of the Jewish people. For them alone has it ever been the Capital city of their nation in the past and today it is so regarded When the Old City was emancipated in 1967, having been Judenrein (free of Jews) for 19 years under Jordanian rule, when synagogues were destroyed and graveyards turned into latrines. The Israeli General, Moshe Dayan, declared *"We have returned, never to depart again."*

Ezekiel in the 37th chapter of his prophecy describes a vision of a valley full of dry bones, and he describes how these bones came together, and were covered in sinews and in flesh and he witnesses their resurrection and God said (verse 12) *"I will bring you out of your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves and bring you into the land of Israel."* And the Jews believe that this is what has happened to them. They were a people cut off, whose hope was lost. Whoever thought that they could survive the horrors of Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, Sobibor and Treblinka? But you can go to Jerusalem today and you can stand at the entrance to the Knesset, Israel's parliament building, as I have done, and you can see these massive Iron Gates a mangled mass of twisted shapes all welded together, and you can ask the attendant what all this is supposed to represent, and he will answer you in the words of Ezekiel, *"Don't you know what these are? These are the bones of the whole house of Israel"* But you look beyond those gates and it is so designed that their parliament building seems to rise up beyond this, Beyond is the evidence of New Life, the parliament of the resurrected Jewish nation of Israel.

### **THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES**

But there is a deeper significance to the words of Jesus, because if Jerusalem is no longer trodden down by the Gentiles, it means that we have come to the epoch in the purpose of God when the 'Times of the Gentiles' are fulfilled, and the time of restitution of all things spoken of by the apostle Peter, is beginning to take place.

What are we to understand by the term 'the time of the Gentiles'? It signifies the period of Israel's exile, when the land God describes as His would

be given over to foreign powers. Hosea 3:4 *“The children of Israel shall abide **many days** without a king, without a prince, without a sacrifice, without an image, and without priestly attire, and without idols ... afterwards shall the children of Israel return and seek the Lord their God.”* But how many days? The prophecy of Daniel refers to an interval of ‘seven times’, which, as many Bible students have demonstrated, is equivalent to a period of 2,520 years. This period of time forms a chronological bridge between the overthrow of the ancient kingdoms of Israel and Judah, and the timer of Israel’s establishment as a nation in the time of the end.

When General Allenby was given the task of driving out the Turks from Palestine, as Commander in chief - Egypt, he was very doubtful if he could succeed where others had failed. But General Sir Beauvoir de Lisle informed him that it was impossible for him to fail; de Lisle had been reading a book on prophecy written in 1886 which pointed out that the year 1917 was exactly 2520 years from Nebuchadnezzar’s capture of Jerusalem, and 1917 would be the year of its liberation. He also told Allenby that he was to remember that, when he entered Jerusalem, it was to be as a liberator and not as a conqueror. Riding in state was something reserved for someone higher than him. In the event, Allenby remembered this and walked into Jerusalem, with his troops singing the hymn: “Jesus shall reign where e’re the Sun, does his successive journeys run.” Until that year, dating in Palestine had been calculated according to the Muslim calendar, and by that reckoning Jerusalem was liberated in the year 1335, the last period mentioned in the book of Daniel, as the illustration of this Egyptian coin proves.



Jesus speaking to his disciples in the 24th chapter of Matthew, refers his listeners to the prophecy of Daniel. In the 2nd chapter of Daniel, there is recorded a vision seen by Nebuchadnezzar the king, which provides a visual illustration of the times of the Gentiles. Nebuchadnezzar was brought into the news in 1991 at the time of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait because he was Saddam Hussein’s hero! Like Saddam, he was a tyrant, and he had conquered the then known world; and he naturally wanted to know what would the future might bring and what would happen to

his Kingdom. Evidently, with such thoughts running through his mind he fell asleep, and he was shown in a dream a great image made of metals of decreasing value. He was shown how this image represented the fact that his Empire would be followed by three more; and indeed, the Babylonian empire was followed by the Persian, Greek and Roman. Rome was represented by the iron legs of the image, and after the illustration given, was divided into eastern and western dominions. In its long history, the time would come when it would be further divided: partly weak and partly strong. This state was represented by the feet and toes constructed by the mingling of iron and clay. The RSV describes this as a marriage or union between nations partly strong and partly weak.

Now the King viewing the entire image, saw a stone cut out of a mountain without hands which came and destroyed the entire image, grinding it to powder. The prophet's interpretation of the vision is in verse 44: *"In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it break in pieces the iron, the brass, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter."*

Now it is evident that the image represents a succession of Empires, even the most liberal of critics have conceded that! But it signified a great deal more, for Nebuchadnezzar was told that it related to the latter days – in Hebrew, *ACHARIT HAYAMIM*. When are the latter days? When the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. When is that? When Israel returns to its ancient homeland and Jerusalem is restored to its own people. But you will observe that the component parts of the image were broken in pieces together. If the Babylonian, Persian, and Greek Empires have passed away, how can they be broken in pieces together in the latter days, in the time of Israel's restoration as a nation? The answer is that the image represents a vast confederacy of nations that occupy the territory anciently possessed by those Empires. That is the explanation for the current drive for the Unification of Europe; for the end of the Cold War; for the destruction of the Berlin Wall, the dismantling of the Iron Curtain, and the new era of co-operation between East and West. The outcome will be a unified Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals in association with the nations of Asia and North Africa. A confederacy which,

notwithstanding the current peace process in the Middle East, will ultimately be opposed to the State of Israel over the status of Jerusalem in particular.

Daniel is not the only prophet to speak of this international development. Ezekiel in chapter 37 predicted the resurrection of the nation. But consider verses 21-22:

*“Thus says the Lord God, Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the nations where they be gone, and I 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, and one King shall be King to them all.”*

There is a sequence here:-

1. The restoration of the people to their ancient territory.
2. The revival of the nation.
3. The establishment of the monarchy:

*“One King shall be King to them all.”*

Two parts of the prophecy have received fulfillment. It awaits the fulfillment of the third, and this demands the return of Israel’s Messiah. Now read on into the 38th chapter of the prophecy, and as anticipated by Daniel, here we read again of a vast confederacy of nations, which the prophet declares, will launch a military invasion against the land of Israel in the latter years

*“After many years you shall be visited, and 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 always been waste, but is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely, all of them. You shall ascend and come like a storm; you shall be like a cloud to cover the land, and many people with thee.”*

What is the identity of this confederation? It is described as: *“Gog of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal”*; in addition to *“Persia, Ethiopia and Libya, Gomer and all his bands; the house of Togarmah and all his bands, and many people with thee.”* Some of these names are readily recognized today, others require identification. Josephus, the Jewish historian and contemporary with the apostle Paul, identified Magog with the Scythians who spread to the east and west of the Black Sea. Later the Jewish commentators of the 13th century specifically identified it with Germania.

The term 'chief prince' in the RV of the Bible is translated "The Prince of Rosh", because it was considered that ROSH should be a proper name and not an adjective. Again, according to historians drawing on ancient Jewish sources, Rosh is identified with Russia. If an Israeli wants to know if you are a Russian, he will say "*Rus?*" According to the heads of the Jewish academies of Pumbeditha and Sura in Babylon known as the Gaonim, "*Meshech and Tubal were located in Russia, corresponding to Muscovy in the west and Tobolsk in the east*". A majority of people thought that with the collapse of Communism Russia was no longer a threat. The rapid break of the Soviet Union has surprised everyone, but it had left the way open for Russia, the largest and most powerful of the republics, to dominate the scene.

Internal instability, economic, ethnic and religious factors did in fact propel Russia to adopt aggressive policies. Moreover the addition to NATO of 14 more member nations (10 former Warsaw Pact members and four former Yugoslav republics) certainly surprised the Russian government who had already enquired about membership. In 1999 Vladimir Putin became the President of Russia and signed a partnership for Peace program. During the twenty-six years since the Soviet Union's collapse the once-persecuted Russian Orthodox Church was transformed. With the collapse of communist society, there was a great void, and the government turned to pre-communist values by reviving the Russian Orthodox Church. This policy was enthusiastically supported by Vladimir Putin. Under Putin's presidency Russia has become the largest military power in Europe.

Putin as President has become an autocrat and his term of office extended to at least 2036. During this time to fulfill Bible Prophecy he will need to be successful in building a coalition which will embrace all the European Union countries and to bring into that alliance the nations named in Ezekiel 38.

Persia of course is modern Iran; Ethiopia the Cush of ancient times incorporating much of the Sudan and Libya extended further than today, referring to coastal North Africa. The Gomer of the Hebrews, were the Galatea of the Greeks and the Gauls of the Romans, occupying territory in Western Europe. Togarmah relates to the peoples of Turkey and Armenia. Taken together, there is presented here a **confederacy of nations from the Atlantic to the Pacific**, and from the farthest north to the deserts of Arabia; and it corresponds to the territorial equivalent of the image seen by Nebuchadnezzar.

The prophecy is clear. A vast military alliance led by Russia will seek to destroy the State of Israel. It will take place at the end of days; the terminology fits the present situation as at no other time in history. *“Brought back from the sword”* = the pitiful survivors of war; *“gathered out of many nations”* = Jews from virtually all nations of the world are now Israeli citizens. *“A land of un-walled villages”* describes the kibbutzim and the moshavim, all are familiar with these, (but some of these after 50 years have now become towns) Israel’s military power is the strongest in the Middle East. Israel’s agriculture achievements are well known as is the production of High Tec. Israel is a country to invest in. *“Rich and increased in goods”* – Tel Aviv has become the economic jewel in the eastern Mediterranean (and now in 2021 finds itself in the top 20 economies of the world) One of her leading industrialists described Israel as a future economic paradise: *“Our export index per capita is one of the highest in the world, higher even than Japan’s ... The growth rate of Israel’s economy, 6.4% last year, is one of the highest in a recession-beset world.”* One feature the prophecy requires is that *“they should dwell safely, all of them,”* Safely or confidently. There have been no wars with other countries since 1985, though internal conflicts with Arab terrorist organizations continue. (Their confidence is such that they feel they can make concessions for peace and these resulted in the Abraham Accords). Anticipating such a time, the Bible warns, *“When they shall say, Peace and safety: then sudden destruction comes upon them.”* Ezekiel describes the nature of the invasion *“like a storm to cover the land”*; how appropriate in view of the current display of modern military operations occurring in Eastern Europe.

Ezekiel also highlights an opposing alliance, Ez.38:13. *“Sheba and Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish and all the young lions thereof.”* Sheba and Dedan in Biblical times related to regions in and around Saudi Arabia, and without going into the wealth of evidence available on this point, Bible students have long identified the merchant power of Tarshish with Britain and her former colonies – countries bound together by the Anglo Saxon connection. It is interesting that as far back as 1655 in the days of Oliver Cromwell, in a submission to Parliament, Rabbi Menasseh ben Israel identified Britain as Tarshish. These are not new ideas. Throughout this century, whenever danger has threatened the peace of the world, Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have been found in co-operation together against a common foe. They were there in alliance against Saddam Hussein; and they will return again to the

Middle East, drawn there by events not of their choosing, because prophecy required them to be in that position, in order to oppose the Russo-European advance: *“Art thou come to take a spoil?”*

## THE REVELATION

At one time, statesmen in this country were influenced by Bible prophecy. When the armies of Napoleon were inflicting their opponents with shattering defeat, overthrowing the old European order, there was a belief among many that if Alaric, Attila and Genseric were the instruments of Providence for overthrowing the of Roman Empire, then doubtless Bonaparte was the scourge of God upon the modern nations. All ranks were impressed with this conviction and, among others, no less a person than William Pitt, the Prime Minister who seriously enquired whether the revolutionary changes effected by the agency of Napoleon had been outlined in the Bible. He was directed to the 16th chapter of the book of Revelation, which describes the outpouring of the vials of wrath. It wasn't just a random selection of Scripture; it was referred to because it was then understood that the last book of the Bible contained a sequential prophecy, unfolding the meaning of history from the times of the Apostles to the time of the second appearing of Christ.

This correspondence between history and the prophecy of the Revelation had been demonstrated by Joseph Mede and Sir Isaac Newton, one of the most brilliant scientists this country has ever produced. Much of the prophecy had been fulfilled, and the then current situation corresponded with the descriptions given in the first four vials. Events moved on through the 19th and 20th centuries and the major political development was the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire: and event which had been predicted by Mede 200 years before, on the basis of the information given under the sixth vial. This, as you can read, concerns the drying up of the Euphrates: that river being a symbol for the political power of Turkey, through whose territory it ran.

The collapse of Turkish power was finally brought about in 1917, when General Allenby (whose name in Arabic signifies 'Prophet of God') captured Jerusalem and the Turks were driven out of Palestine. The drying up of the Euphratean Power was to prepare the way for the Kings of the East: not as some have suggested, the Chinese, but the preparation for a new political and religious entity which will dominate the whole region. This preparation involves the return of the Jews and the establishment of the State of Israel,

which was made possible by the Balfour Declaration, and which has been the over-riding feature of political developments in the region for most of the 20th century.(and the 21<sup>st</sup>).

Concurrent with this development, the 20th century has seen the emergence of political philosophies, having their roots in the French Revolution, and which have had an international influence. These are represented by “the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet”. These are symbols for Eastern and Western Europe and the religious center signified by the word ‘prophet’; and it is not just coincidence that, at this juncture, the most influential center in Europe is the Vatican, the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church with 1.2 billion members. Those of you who know Latin will understand that the meaning of the word ‘Vatican’ it is ‘Prophecy’; and the major policy or ‘prophecy’ that has been advocated from this source for the last half of the century has been a socialistic United States of Europe, involving reconciliation with a converted Russia, in fulfillment of the prophecy of Fatima. The current Pope Francis is keen on uniting with other Christian denominations such as the Orthodox Churches and Protestants, as well as seeking dialogue with Islam.

But the effect for this drive for confederation will be: “to gather them together to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” In other words, the European Confederation will, as Ezekiel has shown, be brought into a final world conflict. The arena of that conflict is identified as a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon; and is it just coincidence that, at this precise time, places in the Holy Land, which for centuries were identified only in Arabic, should at the end of the 20th century be known by their Hebrew names, because this ancient Hebrew language of Israel has been revived? It is the only instance in history of an ancient language being revived as a modern tongue. There is no doubt in the minds of Israelis as to where Armageddon might be: it is in the land of Israel. You can go to the excavations at the ancient Tel of Megiddo and there on the wall of the Museum is a plaque bearing the following inscription in Hebrew:

*“Perhaps this is the reason Megiddo has been chosen to serve as the eternal symbol of hope for the future. Right here, beside you and around you, man’s most important conflict will take place in the last days, the greatest and final war. In the New Testament St. John predicts that the decisive battle*

*between the forces of good and evil to end all destruction and persecution will take place at Megiddo, or in its other name, Armageddon.”* Think about that! Jews publicly quoting from the New Testament!

What will be the immediate cause for a Euro-Asian confederacy taking action against Israel? Prophecy is quite explicit upon this point. It will be provoked by the issue of the future of Jerusalem which Isaiah describes as “the controversy of Zion.” In July 1980, the State of Israel placed itself in contravention of international law, annexing the city of Jerusalem and proclaiming the city as Israel’s “Eternal and indivisible capital.” During the attempts to achieve peace in the Middle East, Israel has made concessions to the Palestinians. Israel has made concessions to Jordan. Israel may even go as far as to make concessions to Syria over the Golan. (More recently concessions were made to the Arabs signing the Abraham accords) During all the negotiations, the Palestinians have laid claim to Jerusalem as their capital, the Jordanians have asserted their right to control the Muslim Holy places and the Vatican has called for the internationalization of Jerusalem and Vatican control over the Christian Holy places. Not only so, but Russia has reminded the Israeli government of its interest in its property in Jerusalem. All the Arab States call for the liberation of Jerusalem; and yet only for **one people** has it ever been claimed as their capital city, the people of Israel. All through the long years of their dispersion they have stated their intention one day to return. Their feast of Passover is concluded with the toast, “Next year in Jerusalem”.

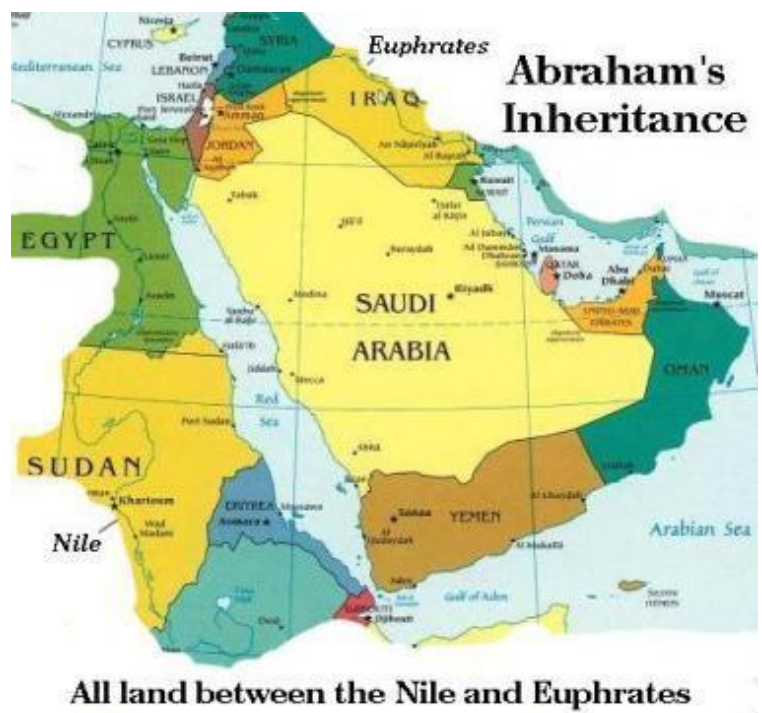
### **THE STATUS OF JERUSALEM WILL PROVE TO BE AN INSOLUBLE PROBLEM AND THE FLASHPOINT OF WORLD CONFLICT.**

In Zechariah’s prophecy, 12:3, we read, *“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.”* Joel also records: *“In those days and at that time, when I bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and I will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat and will plead with them there, for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations and parted my land.”* And in Zechariah 14:2 we read, *“I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle. The Lord shall go forth against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle; and his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives.”* Whose feet? Remember how the Apostles

were informed: *"This same Jesus shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go"*. (Acts 1:11) He stood on the Mount of Olives then, and he will stand there again. What will be the outcome of this War of this Great Day of God Almighty?

Divine intervention will take place, Israel will be delivered and come to recognize Jesus Christ as their Messiah. The nations will be humbled; for, as Daniel has shown, the Kingdom of God is to be established upon the ruins of all existing governments, so that it is written in the Apocalypse: *"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever."* And in Zechariah 14:9 similarly: *"The Lord shall be King over all the earth, and his name one,"* note verse 16.

Isaiah's vision of World Central Government and a New World Order will then become a reality, chapter 2: *"It shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow unto it; and many people shall say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the throne of the God of Jacob, and he will teach us of his ways and we will walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem; and he shall judge among the nations and rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."* This vision of a world peace is what the Apostle Paul described as the 'Hope of Israel', the hope of the promises made to the fathers, for which hope he was bound with a chain when on trial for his life. It is the substance of the Gospel, the Good News of a glorious new world soon to come. Thank you.



**DHH**